

**The Minutes of the Meeting of Leeds Parish Council
held by Zoom on Tuesday, 12th January 2021 at 7.00 PM.**

***Councillors present: China
Greeff
Fort
Martin
Springford***

Also, present: Parish Clerk, Mrs Sherrie Babington and KCC Councillor Gary Cooke and three members of the public.

The meeting was chaired by Councillor China.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Ingram.

2. Declaration of Interests.

No interests were declared.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting were circulated to all members.

These were proposed by Cllr Martin as a true record, seconded by Cllr Fort and agreed by all present.

The minutes were then signed and dated by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes.

There were no matters arising.

5. Parish Councillor Vacancy.

The Chairman reported that three applications for the vacancy had been received, and with members permission he proposed that this matter be considered as a confidential item at the close of the meeting. This was agreed.

The Chairman stated that all three applicants had joined the meeting this evening, and he invited each one to address the Parish Council and speak regarding the reasons they wished to join the Council.

All three candidates spoke regarding their application and reasons for applying for the vacancy. The Chairman thanks them for their input and stated that the Parish Clerk would contact them in the morning regarding the Parish Councils decision.

6. Public Comments and Observations.

A resident spoke about the road closure due to a water leak, and the need for the water pipes to be replaced along the whole of the B2163.

7. KCC Councillors Report.

KCC Councillor Cooke gave his report to the meeting and referred to his written report circulated to all members.

He spoke regarding the support that KCC had in place for Coronavirus and stated that KCC had now opened County Hall as a testing site.

He reported that KCC Budget was due to increase its budget by 5%. He said that he had voted against the increase and he spoke regarding the reasons for this.

Cllr Cooke spoke regarding the liaison between KCC and MBC over the relief road.

8. MBC Ward Councillors Report.

MBC Councillor Fort gave her report to the meeting.

She reported on the Local Plan Review and the site allocations.

Cllr Fort reported on the current situation regarding the Hazlett Theatre and stated that its future was due to be reconsidered by MBC.

A discussion took place regarding the Covid support from MBC and KCC.

9. Highways Matters.

Cllr China reported that the PCSO had stated that a police operation regarding HGV lorries was due to take place in the parish in the coming weeks.

Cllr Springford spoke regarding the road closure signs in the parish and stated that a sign had been in place in Forge Lane since Christmas with no road closure.

This was discussed by members.

10. Correspondence Report.

The correspondence received during the month was noted by members.

11. Planning Matters.

New Applications Received

20/505327/LBC Fox Cottage Upper Street Leeds Maidstone Kent ME17

Removal of brickwork and associated gutters; removal of lath and plaster internal wall to expose original beams; investigation of rising damp on ground floor by partially removing the lath and plaster wall, and replace like for like; removal of lath and plaster from the loft room to inspect associated beams - replace/repair beams and roof tile as necessary, and thermal upgrading; partial removal of lath and plaster wall to create an opening for a new bathroom and improvement of fire loading and insulation.

20/505331/FULL The Nook Forge Lane Leeds Maidstone Kent ME17 1RS

Erection of a part single, part two storey rear extension together with alterations to the existing conservatory.

20/505979/FULL Wildacres Caring Lane Leeds Maidstone Kent ME17 1TJ

Demolition of garden building and erection of replacement garden building to form home office, ancillary to main dwelling.

MBC Decisions

20/505590/TCA

Briar House Upper Street Leeds Maidstone Kent ME17 1SL

Conservation area notification to reduce height of one Cedar to 12m, remove branches that are less than 3m from the ground, and remove branches that cross blue line as shown on photograph 2.

No Objections

20/504736/FULL

Spout House Caring Lane Leeds Maidstone Kent ME17 1TJ

Erection of new two bay garage.

Application Permitted

20/504737/LBC

Spout House Caring Lane Leeds Maidstone Kent ME17 1TJ

Listed Building Consent for erection of a two-bay garage.

Application Withdrawn

20/503981/LBC

Arnold Hill Cottage Back Street Leeds ME17 1TF

Listed Building Consent for erection of entrance gates and walls with an enlarged driveway.

Application Withdrawn

12. Financial Matters.

a. Financial Statement

The Financial Statement was circulated to all members present and agreed.

The Clerk reported that the signatories on the bank account needed to be changed in order to register for internet banking. Members gave authority for this to be actioned. (China/Greeff)

b. 2021/2022 Budget and Report.

The Clerk circulated the draft budget and report to all members for their consideration.

This was discussed and it was proposed by Cllr Fort to keep the Band D tax base the same for 2021/22 and have no increase to members. This was discussed and agreed.

The Clerk explained that in order to achieve this the precept figure would be reduced to £34489 for 21/22.

This was proposed by Cllr Fort, seconded by Cllr Greeff and agreed by all present.

Action: Precept approved £34489 for 2021/2022.

c. Request for Financial Assistance for the Church Clock.

A request for financial assistance toward repairs to the church clock was considered by members.

Following a discussion regarding the written request from the PCC, it was proposed by Cllr China to give a financial donation of £3000 to the PCC to assist with the repairs to the church clock, this was seconded by Cllr Greeff and approved by all present.

Action: Clerk to raise Cheque for next Financial Statement and liaise with the PCC.

13. Parish Maintenance.

Cllr China spoke regarding the litter in the parish and suggested that a litter pick should be arranged as soon as it was permitted.

Cllr Greeff stated that there was a need for a litter bin at Burberry Lane, near to Battle Hall. The Clerk was asked to liaise with MBC regarding this.

Action: Clerk to liaise with MBC regarding additional litter bin.

A general discussion took place regarding the litter and fly tipping in the parish.

14. Leeds Playing Field, Tennis Courts, Pavilion, and Children's Play Area.

Cllr China reported that the tennis courts had been closed in line with Government Regulations.

He stated that the additional CCTV camera had been installed at the playing field and was now facing the Highway as agreed.

15. Street Lighting.

Cllr China reported on the street lighting.

16. Urgent Matters.

Church Car Park – Cllr China reported that concerns had been raised regarding the use of the Church Car Park during the current lockdowns. He stated that cars were parking in the car park in order to walk to Leeds Castle. He said that he would liaise with the PCSO regarding the matter.

Christmas Lights – Members discussed the Christmas lights in the village, and it was agreed that the PC would thank residents for the efforts regarding the festive lighting displays in the Parish Magazine.

It was also agreed that the PC would liaise with Leeds Castle to see if they would assist with the installation of the Parish Councils Christmas Tree lights next year.

17. Date of next meeting.

9th February 2021.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed to the press and public at 8.25pm.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Dated: _____