

The Minutes of the Meeting of Leeds Parish Council on Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025  
at 7pm in the Leeds and Broomfield Village Hall.

*Councillor's present: Bernini  
China  
Ingram  
Razzell  
Springford*

*The meeting was chaired by Cllr China.*

**1. Apologies.**

Members who cannot attend a meeting shall tender their apologies to the Parish Clerk prior to the meetings, under Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, the members present must decide whether the reason(s) for a member's absence shall be accepted.

Apologies and reasons for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs Greeff (work), Fort (holiday).

**2. Declaration of Interests.**

To receive Declarations of Interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda, in accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 in respect of members and in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 in respect of officers.

**No interests were declared.**

To consider any Dispensation requests received by the Parish Clerk and not previously considered.

**There were no dispensations to consider.**

**3. Minutes of the previous meeting.**

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

These were proposed by Cllr Bernini as a true record, seconded by Cllr China and agreed by all present. The minutes were then signed and dated by the Chairman of the meeting.

**4. Matters arising from the Minutes.**

There were no matters arising.

**5. Public Comments and Observations.**

A resident attended the meeting to raise concerns regarding football parking at weekends, which was blocking roads, causing excessive mud on pavements, and noise issues. He stated that the playing field car park was often full, leading to overflow parking on Brogden Crescent, Farmers Close, and surrounding roads.

The Parish Council discussed the issue and agreed that it was the football club's responsibility to manage parking appropriately. It was noted that the PC had the right to terminate the club's contract if parking was not adequately marshalled. Cllr China reported that he had contacted the football club and suggested they liaise with the landowner opposite the playing field to explore the possibility of using

the land for additional parking. Cllr Bernini referred to the contract agreement stating that there was a clause requiring them to oversee parking.

It was agreed that the Parish Clerk would write to the Loose Lions Football Club to remind them of their contractual obligations regarding parking management and request a parking plan for review at the next parish council meeting.

***Action: Parish Clerk to write to the Loose Lions Football Club.***

The resident also raised the possibility of implementing double yellow lines on affected roads, stating that this had previously been suggested but not pursued.

**6. Highways Matters.**

Members discussed the recent road closures. Cllr Springfield reporting that this was due to a water leak where water had been running from a drain. He confirmed that the issue had now been resolved in Forge Lane and Old Mill Lane but stated that traffic had caused damage to the verge.

Concerns were raised about the diversion signage, as the current arrangements were poorly managed.

Cllr Bernini highlighted the frequent, inconsistent, and unplanned road closures within the parish and the impact these were having on emergency services.

Cllr Razzell suggested the possibility of installing ANPR cameras. Members noted that the previous AMPR cameras these were a pilot scheme, and the Parish Council had never received feedback on the outcome.

Cllr Springfield raised concerns regarding periodic paper spillages in the parish and questioned whether members were aware of the responsible company.

Cllr China confirmed that the culprit was unknown, but when reported, the spills were cleared efficiently.

Members discussed signage at the bridge, Cllr Bernini confirming that he would be progressing this matter with KCC.

He also reported that he had engaged with Kent Highways regarding the possibility of a pedestrian crossing near the school but was informed that this was not feasible.

***Cllr Razzell gave his apologies and left the meeting at 7.50pm***

**7. Clerks Report.**

The Clerk's Report was received and noted by Members.

**8. Chairman's Report.**

To receive the Chairman's Report.

The Chairman reported that loud noises from a bird scarer had been reported from the farmer's field.

**9. Financial Matters:**

**a. Financial Statement.**

To receive and approve the financial statement and payments – report circulated with meeting papers.

The financial statement was approved proposed by Cllr Bernini seconded by Cllr China and agreed by all present.

**10. KCC Councillors Report.**

Cllr Cooke was not in attendance.

**11. MBC Councillors Report.**

Cllr Fort gave her apologies to the meeting.

The Clerk reported on the current position regarding Devolution and the MBC Community Governance Review. It was agreed that this item should be placed on the next and future agendas.

***Action: Clerk to progress.***

**12. Planning Matters.**

**a. To consider Planning Applications Received.**

25/500195/full - Land at Haven Farm North Street, Sutton Valence

Section 73 application for variation of condition 31 (Alright to provide a zebra crossing instead of a toucan crossing on the A274 pursuant to 22/ 504692/ hybrid for hybrid planning application consisting of full planning application for the erection of 105 dwellings, retail space [423m2] access off north street and site infrastructure works common following demolition/ removal of existing structures. Outline planning application [with all matters reserved] for the development of a doctor's surgery with associated car park and their phase development of five times self-built plots.

***No Objections***

**b. MBC Decisions and Appeals**

No decisions to report.

**c. Other Planning Matters**

No matters were raised.

**13. Parish Maintenance.**

To receive an update on Parish Maintenance.

Concerns were raised regarding the litter on Penfold Hill, and it was suggested that a litter pick was needed.

**14. Leeds Playground, Playing Field, Tennis Courts & Pavillion.**

*To receive a report on Leeds Playing Field.*

The Chairman reported that an issue with the toilets had arisen but had now been resolved.

He informed members that the football team had raised concerns about a slippery surface outside the pavilion and requested that the Parish Council fund the hire of a jet wash to address the problem. Following discussion, it was agreed that it was the responsibility of the club to ensure the pathway was kept clear and brushed off after each game.

The Chairman reported that the small barrier posts had now been repaired.

Members discussed the tennis courts potential grant funding for their refurbishment.

Cllr Bernini stated that he was seeking alternative quotations for the refurbishment, and the Clerk was asked to explore possible grant opportunities.

It was further agreed that the Parish Council would liaise with local businesses and developers to seek donations towards the refurbishment.

Members agreed that a sign was needed for the tennis courts, and the Clerk stated that she would obtain a quotation for this alongside an operational sign for the play area.

***Action: Clerk to progress.***

The Chairman reported that a request had been received for a memorial bench to be placed at the playing field.

The Clerk advised that in order to progress this, the Parish Council would need a formal policy covering the management, ownership, and maintenance of any memorial benches. It was therefore agreed that this matter would be placed on the next agenda, and the Clerk would draft a Memorial Bench Policy for consideration.

***Action: Clerk to progress.***

The Clerk reported that a formal request had been received from the police to access the CCTV system in the church car park.

Members approved the request, and it was agreed that the Clerk would liaise with the police regarding the matter.

***Action: Clerk to progress.***

**15. Street Lighting.**

*To receive a report on Parish Street Lighting.*

No issues were reported.

**16. Parish Council Events.**

VE Day event planned for May 2025.

**17. Items for next Agenda.**

- Devolution

**18. Date of next meeting.**

11<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

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

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_