

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LEEDS PARISH COUNCIL
Held in Leeds Village Hall on Tuesday 11th February 2014 at 7.30pm.

Present: Mr Govett
Mr Springford
Mr Wallace
Mrs Young

In attendance: Mrs Sherrie Babington – Clerk, MBC Councillor Parvin, Police and members of the public.

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Govett,

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Parish Cllrs China, Fort and Gallihawk, KCC Cllr Gary Cooke and the police.

2. Declaration of Interests.

No interests were to declared.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

Minutes of the meeting of 10 December 2013 – These were proposed by Cllr Young and seconded by Cllr Springford.

Minutes of 14 January 2014 – These were proposed by Cllr Young and seconded by Cllr Springford. The Minutes from both meetings were therefore approved as a true record, and 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 from Langley to hear discussions regarding the problems with the B2163.

Cllr Govett spoke regarding this matter and stated that he would give an update under Highways Matters.

A resident raised concerns regarding the poor condition of Forge Lane. Cllr Springford stated that Caring Lane would be closed for a week from the following Monday and the proposed diversion route was currently Forge Lane. He spoke regarding his concerns about this and the general poor condition of the rural lanes in the area.

Cllr Parvin stated that he had also received complaints regarding Forge Lane and the large potholes along this.

Cllr Govett reported on correspondence received regarding damage to a residents car and he raised concerns about the number of incidents that he was hearing about caused by the poor condition of the roads.

A resident spoke regarding the meeting held on January and she stated that she did not support the appointment of a Special Constable and felt that this would be a waste of money. She stated that several members of the Women's Institute felt that quite a few people had left the

meeting before the vote took place and she felt that the whole of the parish should be able to vote on this matter.

Cllr Govett explained that the decision to appoint a Special Constable lay solely with the Parish Council and a show of hands in support of this had been sought at the meeting to gauge the view of the public present at that time. He stated that a vote was in favour of the appointment of the Special Constable.

He stated that this matter would be discussed further under the relevant agenda item.

6. Report from Kent County Councillor.

Cllr Govett stated that KCC Cllr Gary Cook had sent his apologies to this meeting, however he would be present at the meeting on 11 March.

He gave a report on the progress of the works and the B2163.

He reported that the proposed weight restriction was being progressed and KCC Cllr Cookes Members Fund request had been approved. He stated that no revised timetable had been given and the estimated time was still for April/May.

He spoke of his concerns that the road would be opened to single traffic and spoke regarding the possible problems associated with this.

7. MBC Ward Councillors Report.

Cllr Peter Parvin attended the meeting.

He spoke regarding the progress of the Borough Councils Local Plan and reported that there were no major housing projects in the Leeds area, he stated that this included land at Junction 8.

He informed members that the Local Plan would be out for full consultation towards the end of February, he spoke regarding the Roxhill proposed development and confirmed that this site has not been allocated in the Local Plan.

Town Centre – He spoke regarding the flooding and the procedures that have been put in place regarding this.

8. Highways Matters.

a. General Report.

Cllr Govett spoke regarding the meeting held last month and reported that following this, he and the Chairman had met with Langley Parish Council who were supportive of the 7.5 tonne weight limit.

He reported that Langley Parish Council had asked for the support of Leeds with regards to having a 30 mph speed limit through Leeds and Langley to keep this consistent.

Members discussed this and it was agreed that Leeds Parish Council would support Langley in this campaign.

He confirmed that both he and the Chairman intended to meet with other Parish Councils in the area in the near future.

Cllr Govett reported that Willington Street was the preferred HGV route for Kent County Council.

b. Update on the appointment of Peter Brett Associates.

Cllr Govett stated that at the December meeting the Parish Council approved the appointment of Peter Brett Consultants to undertake highways work for the Parish Council.

He stated that their Consultant, Gary Heard had attended highways meetings with the Parish Council in January and following this he had been given a briefing to draft a report to support the

reduction in the weight limit through Leeds.

He circulated a draft report to all councillors for consideration.

Cllr Govett spoke regarding the 7.5 tonne weight limit and stated that KCC planned to reopen the road and then collect the data to support this, however he suggested that the data was already available as this had been used in support of the 20 mph speed reduction in the parish.

He asked members their thoughts on a way forward should KCC not come forward with the data that was available from 2009.

This was discussed further and it was agreed that Cllr Govett should write a formal letter to KCC regarding this matter and seeking answers on the data available.

Members approved the draft report put forward by Peter Brett Associates.

Action: Cllr Govett to write formal letter to KCC.

Action: Cllr Govett to approve draft report with Peter Brett Associates.

c. Parish Council support for Highways Action Group Formation.

Cllr Govett spoke regarding the need for the Parish Council to focus on highways matters and the suggestion to create a Committee to deal with this. He stated that the Parish Council would need to follow up issues and it would be more beneficial for people to be available to attend meetings with KCC during the working day if necessary.

This was discussed further and it was agreed to form a Highways Committee consisting of Parish Councillors and other interested parties to deal with highway matters.

This was proposed by Cllr Govett, seconded by Cllr Young and agreed by all present.

It was reported that there was mud on the footpath near to the bridge at the Castle.

The Clerk was asked to report this to KCC Highways.

Action: Clerk to progress.

9. Special Constable Update.

Cllr Govett reported that following the last meeting he and the Chairman had met with Langley PC who were also keen to pick up on the idea of a Special Constable.

He stated that he had also met with Police Inspector Thompson regarding the progress of this and it had been agreed a Recruitment Day for the Special Constable would be arranged in the Village Hall in March.

He stated that the police would promote this event, however the financial commitment for the publicity would come from the Parish Council.

It was agreed that the Village Hall should be booked from 9 AM to 3 PM for this event.

Action: Clerk to liaise with Village Hall re booking.

Cllr Govett spoke regarding the cost of the appointment of a Special Constable and stated that the overall bill to the Parish Council was likely to be less than anticipated as the expenditure would be focused on the cost of the advertising for the recruitment. He asked for members support regarding the advertising of this event. This was agreed by all present.

12. Planning Matters.

New Applications Received

MA/13/2228 ARNOLD FARM, BACK STREET, LEEDS, MAIDSTONE, KENT

Retrospective application for the erection of polytunnels in connection with soft fruit production

MA/14/0075 LAND NORTH OF, HORSESHOES LANE, LANGLEY, KENT

Outline application for the erection of 15 two storey dwellings with access to be considered at this stage and all other matters reserved for future consideration.

MBC Planning Decisions

13/1910 NEW HOUSE, UPPER STREET, LEEDS, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1RY

An application for a Certificate of Lawful Development for a proposed development being the erection of a single storey rear extension and conversion of existing garage to living accommodation, as described in application MA/13/1910, including e-mails.

Approved/Granted with Conditions.

13/1946 WINDMILL COTTAGE, FORGE LANE, LEEDS, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1RT

An application for the erection of replacement stable block

Approved/Granted with Condition.

13. Financial Matters.

The financial statement was circulated to members for consideration. The cheques for payment were proposed by Cllr Young and seconded by Cllr Wallace.

14. Parish Maintenance.

Cllr Wallace asked if there had been any progress in replacing the sign at the church car park. The Clerk stated that she would progress this matter.

Action: Clerk to progress.

15. Leeds Playing Field.

A discussion took place regarding the current hire arrangements for the playing field.

16. Street Lighting.

Cllr Wallace stated that he and Cllr China would progress with a review of the current street lighting in Leeds.

It was suggested that the Parish Council make this the focus of their Annual Meeting in May. This was agreed by all present.

17. Joint Parish Group.

No matters were raised.

18. Public Comments and Observations.

A resident spoke regarding the proposed retirement village in the Parish. Cllr Young reported that the work would be starting at approximately seven months time.

19. Urgent Items.

No matters were raised.

20. Date of the Next Meeting.

11th March 2014.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed to the press and public at 9:37 PM.

Signed _____

Dated _____