

The Minutes of the Annual Statutory Meeting of Leeds Parish Council on Tuesday, 14th May 2024
at 7.15pm in the Leeds and Broomfield Village Hall.

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

Also, present: Parish Clerk, Mrs Sherrie Babington, and members of the public.

The meeting was chaired by Cllr China.

1. To receive the Declaration of Acceptance of Office for Elected Councillors.

All members signed their Declarations of Acceptance of Office.

2. To elect a chairman.

To receive and consider nominations for Chairman.

Cllr Greeff nominated Cllr China as Chairman, this was seconded by Cllr Bernini and agreed by all present.

Cllr China accepted this position and took the chair.

3. To receive the Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Cllr China signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

4. To elect a Vice-Chairman.

To receive and consider nominations for Vice-Chairman.

Cllr Bernini was proposed as Vice Chairman by Cllr China, this was seconded by Cllr Fort, and agreed by all present.

5. 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 were received and accepted from Cllrs Ingram (work), Cllr Fort (personal reasons) and Springford (work).

6. To appoint Committees & Representatives and outside bodies.

The appointment of Committees, representatives and outside bodies were deferred until the next meeting.

Planning

All Councillors

Finance

Cllrs. China
Cllr. Fort

Highways

Cllr. Fort
Cllr. Bernini
Cllr. Greeff

Representatives

Footpaths	Cllrs. Springford
Police Liaison	Cllr. Ingram
KALC	Cllrs. China
Playing Field/Pavillion	Cllr. China
Environmental/Maintenance	Cllrs. China
Street Lighting	Cllrs. China
Parish Magazine	Cllrs. Fort, China
JPG	Cllrs. Fort
School Liaison	Cllr. Greeff
Public Transportation	Cllr. Springford
Website	Parish Clerk
CCTV	Cllrs. China & Greeff

Other Appointments & Memberships

Internal Auditor - Martin Thomas and Co
External Auditor - Mazars
Bank – Cooperative
Kent Association of local Councils (KALC)
Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE)

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. Matters arising from the Minutes.

There were no matters arising.

10. Public Comments and Observations.

Members discussed an email from a resident giving his views on the playing field and the use of this by the football team on a long-term basis. They also noted his point about taking out the hedge, however agreed that this would take down the security of the recreation ground.

The Clerk was asked to respond to the resident to confirm that no decision had been made regarding the long-term use by the Loose Lions.

Action: Clerk to action.

11. Highways Matters.

Cllr Cooke reported that a joint meeting with neighbouring parishes would now be progressed with KCC and the police. He confirmed that he and KCC Cllr Prendergast were taking this forward.

It was reported that there was still a water leak on Foley Hill. Cllr Cooke confirmed that this had been reported to Southern Water and was waiting for their action.

Cllr Greeff confirmed that the old well had now been repaired by KCC.

He asked Cllr Cooke about the pilot scheme for cameras in Leeds. Cllr Cooke confirmed that this had been completed and he was awaiting feedback from KCC.

Members stated that there had been a noticeable increase in HGVs travelling through the village in the past year.

It was reported that the box junction near to the George needed repainting. Cllr Bernini stated that he would take this forward with KCC.

Members discussed the mitigation measures outside of St Nicolas Cottages. Cllr Bernini stated that he would check the plans to ensure that this had been completed.

Cllr China raised the issue of a safe crossing point outside of the school. Cllr Cooke reminded him that this had been explored previously and it was deemed unsuitable for a safe crossing.

Cllr Bernini stated that he would update the PC Highways Improvement Plan and submit this to KCC.

12. Clerks Report.

To consider the Clerks Report.

MAIDSTONE'S CIVIC PARADE AND SERVICE

SATURDAY, 18 MAY 2024

Maidstone's Civic parade and service will be held on Saturday 18 May. The parade will provide the opportunity to welcome the mayor-elect into office and for 36 Engineer Regiment to exercise their Honorary Freedom of the Borough by marching through the town with bayonets fixed. The parade will pass the Town Hall at 11.30 on its way to All Saints Church for the civic service, which commences at 12.00.

The mayor-elect is pleased to invite your Parish Chairman to attend the civic service and join him for refreshments in the Holy Named Chapel following the service.

13. Chairman's Report.

To receive the Chairman's Report.

The Chairman spoke regarding the rubbish collection issues at MBC.

14. 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.

b. 2023/2024 Accounts, Internal Controls and AGAR.

To receive and agree the 2023/2024 Accounts, Internal Controls and AGAR.

i. To approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2023/24, Section 1 of the Annual Return for the year ending 31 March 2024. The Chair of the meeting and the Clerk to sign.

ii. To approve the Statement of Internal Control in support of the Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements for 2023/24, Section 2 of the Annual Return for the year ending 31 March 2024 and the supporting Bank Reconciliation as of 31 March 2024 and if necessary, the explanation of the significant variations from last year (2022/23) to this year (2023/24) and the explanation of any difference between Box 7 and Box 8 on Section 2 to be sent to the External Auditor. The Chair of the meeting to sign.

The Clerk confirmed that the accounts would be put before the June PC meeting for formal approval, following the conclusion of the internal audit.

15. KCC Councillors Report.

Cllr Cooke gave his report to the meeting.

16. MBC Councillors Report.

Cllr Fort gave her apologies to the meeting.

A report was given by MBC Cllr Gary Cooke.

17. Planning Matters.

a. To consider Planning Applications Received.

No applications to consider.

b. MBC Decisions and Appeals

23/503198/TCA

Ringers Upper Street Leeds Kent ME17 1SL

Conservation Area Notification: To reduce one silver birch tree (T1) to height of 14m and spread of 8.5m, reduce one beech tree (T2) to height of 14m and spread of 8.2m, reduce one oak tree (T3) to height of 14m and spread of 9.6m and reduce one silver birch tree (T4) to height of 16m and spread of 11.4m.

No Objections

23/503198/TCA

Ringers Upper Street Leeds Kent ME17 1SL

Conservation Area Notification: To reduce one silver birch tree (T1) to height of 14m and spread of 8.5m, reduce one beech tree (T2) to height of 14m and spread of 8.2m, reduce one oak tree (T3) to height of 14m and spread of 9.6m and reduce one silver birch tree (T4) to height of 16m and spread of 11.4m.

No Objections

c. Other Planning Matters

Notification of Appeal Lodged with the Planning Inspectorate
Proposal: Conversion of the existing kennels to a 3-bedroom residential dwelling,
conversion of outbuildings to provide ancillary residential accommodation, and change
of use of land to provide private amenity, parking and landscaping.
Location: Caring Stud Caring Road Leeds

An appeal has been lodged by Mr Charles Plumley in relation to the above for the following reason: The Council has refused permission for this application.

The Planning Inspectorate/Secretary of State has decided that the appeal will be determined on the basis of Written Representations.

The Council has been asked to give notice of the appeal to owners and occupiers of properties near the site as well as other interested parties. Any comments and/or representations received in relation to this application have already been forwarded to the Planning Inspectorate and will be considered by the Inspector when deciding the appeal. If you wish to make comments, or modify/withdraw your previous representation, you can do so online at <https://acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk>. If you do not have access to the internet, you can send your comments to:

Daniel Reid, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Bristol, BS1 6PN, , quoting reference(s) APP/U2235/W/24/3337645.

Please note you must do this by 21 May 2024.

You can get a copy of one of the Planning Inspectorate's "Guide to taking part in planning appeals" booklets free of charge from the Planning Portal at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-appeals-procedural-guide/proceduralguide-planning-appeals-england>

You may view the application online at www.maidstone.gov.uk/planningsearch - please use the planning application reference.

You can access online services at any public computer.

Before commenting you should read the full 'Have Your Say' guidance available via the link above.

When determined a copy of The Planning Inspectorate's appeal decision notice will be available to view on our public website. Please search quoting the original planning application reference number. <https://pa.midkent.gov.uk/online-applications/>

18. Parish Maintenance.

To receive an update on Parish Maintenance.

Cllr China suggested a village walk with Steven Waring to discuss the village maintenance and look where potential costs could be reduced.

19. Leeds Playground, Playing Field, Tennis Courts & Pavillion.

To receive a report on Leeds Playing Field.

Loose Lions Football Club

a request from Jody Earle (LLFC).

The club wish to use the facilities each Wednesday in the month of June for training.

This request was considered and approved subject to an additional charge and clarification of times and parking arrangements.

Action: Clerk to respond to Loose Lions.

20. Street Lighting.

To receive a report on Parish Street Lighting.

No matters were reported.

21. Church Yard Lighting.

To receive a report on Church Yard Lighting.

Cllr China reported that the work had now started, and the trenches had been completed, the lights were still being manufactured and would be installed as soon as they were available.

22. Resilience/Emergency Plan.

Work in progress.

23. Parish Council Events.

Members discussed the D-Day Celebrations planned for 6th June 2024.

24. Items for next Agenda.

25. Date of next meeting.

11th June 2024.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed to the press and public at 8.35pm.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Dated: _____