

The Minutes of the Meeting of Leeds Parish Council on Tuesday, 12th November 2024
at 7pm in the Leeds and Broomfield Village Hall.

*Councillor's present: Bernini
China
Ingram
Razzell*

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

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), Springford (personal), Fort (work).

2. Parish Councillor Vacancy.

Cllr Razzell signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took his place around the table.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. Matters arising from the Minutes.

There were no matters arising.

6. Public Comments and Observations.

No matters were raised.

7. Highways Matters.

The Clerk confirmed that the salt bins in need of filling and replacement had been reported to KCC.

Members discussed the water leak on Foley Hill and KCC Cllr Cooke confirmed that this was being investigated by Kent County Council.

He reported that the box markings outside of the George had now been completed. Enforcement of the lines was discussed by members.

8. Clerks Report.

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

9. Chairman's Report.

To receive the Chairman's Report.

The Chairman reported that he had met with Helen Whateley MP and raised issues regarding the Haven Farm Development Traffic Plan. He spoke regarding other matters that were discussed at the meeting including the A2 speed reduction project and Operation Brock.

He stated he had received reports of antisocial behaviour at the sports field and raised concerns about the tennis courts being used for dog training.

This was discussed and it was agreed that Cllr China would arrange for the tennis courts to be locked for winter.

Action: Cllr China to action.

Cllr Cooke stated that he would liaise with the Community Safety Team at Maidstone Borough Council regarding the antisocial behaviour

10. 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. 2025/2026 Budget.

The draft budget to be circulated ahead of the next PC meeting and when MBC have released their Band D figures in late December. The Precept figure to be approved by the end of January 2025.

11. KCC Councillors Report.

Cllr Cooke gave his report to the meeting.

He reported on the new EU Entry System being implemented at the Ports, stating that this had been deferred at present but would eventually be implemented. Trials had been an issue with traffic, meaning Operation Brock needed to be put in place more often.

He stated that Kent had been promised a permanent solution to Operation Brock, but this was still not in place. He gave his views on the options that could be considered as a permanent solution, and this matter was discussed by members.

He spoke regarding the KCC Community Warden Scheme and stated that this had been maintained in Kent. The role was focused on vulnerable and isolated people. He stated that following the review two had been retained in the Maidstone area and it was now a discretionary service.

He reported on the KCC budget and the pressure that this was under.

12. MBC Councillors Report.

Cllr Cooke gave his report as Ward Councillor and tendered the apologies of Ward Councillor Fort. He stated that Maidstone Borough Council were now pursuing a new Local Plan and a new call for sites would be undertaken. He spoke regarding the preferred view of the new administration of the Borough Council with regards to housing.

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

No new applications to consider.

b. MBC Decisions and Appeals

24/503768/LBC

1 Stanley Cottages Lower Street Leeds Maidstone Kent ME17 1RL

Listed Building Consent for internal alterations and repairs including Installing a new bedroom floor joists and replacement existing timber post with a new timber support post along with a supporting beam.

Application Permitted

24/504061/SUB

Ledian Farm Upper Street Leeds Kent ME17 1RZ

Submission of details pursuant to condition 12 (Drainage Verification Report for Blocks 4-11) subject to application 19/506387/FULL.

Application Permitted

c. Other Planning Matters

No matters were raised.

14. Parish Maintenance.

To receive an update on Parish Maintenance.

Members discussed the School Transport Plan submitted to the Parish Council from Leeds and Broomfield School seeking to address the issue of parking.

It was agreed that the PC would offer to meet with the school to try to assist them. It was agreed to that Cllrs China and Bernini would attend this meeting and KCC Cllr Cooke would also attend.

Action: Clerk to arrange a convenient time for the meeting to take place with the school.

Cllr China reported that there was an issue with leaves covering the pavements in the parish that needed to be addressed. It was agreed that he would liaise with Stephen Waring regarding this matter.

The overgrown hedges on Foley Hill/Upper Street were discussed and it was agreed that Rochester Bridge Trust would be contacted regarding cutting these back.

Action: Clerk to liaise with Rochester Bridge Trust.

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

To receive a report on Leeds Playing Field.

The Chairman reported that the low-level barrier uprights were in need of maintenance. It was agreed to that he would seek a quotation for this

Action: Cllr China to action.

16. Street Lighting.

To receive a report on Parish Street Lighting.

The Chairman reported that the Christmas Tree lights were all in working order and would be switched on by the 6th of December 2024.

17. Resilience/Emergency Plan.

The Resilience Plan was adopted by members.

18. Parish Council Events.

The Chairman reported that the Christmas event in the village would take place on the 6th of December 2024.

Cllr Bernini spoke regarding the Leeds Castle Firework event and the issues with parking that this had caused in the village. He stated that a summary response to Leeds Castle had been fed back to them for their future events planning.

19. Items for next Agenda.

No matters were raised.

20. Meeting Date from January 2025.

It was agreed that due to the hall being unavailable on any other evening that the parish council meetings for 2024 would remain on the second Tuesday of each month in the Village Hall.

21. Date of next meeting.

14th January 2025.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed to the press and public at 8.40pm.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Dated: _____