

The Minutes of the Meeting of Leeds Parish Council on Tuesday, 11th July 2023
at 7.00pm in the Leeds and Broomfield Village Hall.

*Councillor's present: Bernini
Ingram
Springford*

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

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman, Cllr Bernini was elected as Chairman of the meeting, proposed by Cllr Ingram, seconded by Cllr Springford.

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 were received and accepted from Cllrs China (holiday) and Greeff (work).

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. Parish Councillor Vacancy.

There were no applicants to consider.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting.

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

These were proposed by Cllr Springford as a true record, subject to an agreed alteration, seconded by Cllr Bernini 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.

Church Warden, Brian Hardy attended the meeting to speak with the Parish Council about the Big Strim event at the church yard, he stated that this had been successful, and another one was needed. It was agreed that a further event would be arranged for August.

Representatives from the Loose Lions Football Club attended the meeting to speak to the Parish Council about the team and the development of the club. They stated that they were looking for a ten-year lease which would enable them to develop and upgrade the pavilion through grants.

The Chairman thanked them for attending the meeting and advised the football team to put together their plan for the Parish Councils consideration.

Residents attended the meeting to raise questions regarding the forthcoming road closures overlapping with SEW road closures as KCC Highways were resurfacing Penfold Hill.

Cllr Cooke stated that he would check the road closures to ensure that this was not an issue.

He spoke regarding the proposed diversion routes for the SEW road closures and apologised for the scrapping of the one-way routes that had been previously agreed by KCC and SEW. He spoke regarding the new agreed diversion routes.

He stated that the diversion routes would be under regular review to ensure that they were operating effectively.

A discussion took place regarding the bus service and the changes to the bus routes whilst the SEW work was ongoing. Cllr Cooke confirmed that a shuttle bus service would be put in place for the school buses.

He reported that Operation Stack was in operation again, he had spoken to Helen Whateley MP regarding this as it should only be used as an emergency measure not to regulate traffic.

Sycamore Trees on Foley Hill – Cllr Cooke stated that he would investigate what action KCC were due to take regarding this matter.

7. Highways Matters.

Cllr Bernini reported on highway matters. He stated that a traffic survey was being undertaken by KCC to identify different issues in the village regarding speed. There were two reasons for this, the first being the extension of the 20mph zone through the village and secondly the St Nicholas Cottage situation.

He stated that the PC were pushing for additional chevrons and marker posts outside of St Nicolas Cottage.

Cllr Cooke stated that he was concerned about the nature of the road surface outside of the cottage.

8. Clerks Report.

The Clerk's Report was noted by members.

Maidstone's Armed Forces Day Flag Raising Ceremony - 19 June

The Mayor, Cllr Gordon Newton, is marking the Armed Forces Day by holding a flag raising ceremony on Monday, 19 June at 10.30 in Jubilee Square, which includes a performance of the Gurkha Khukuri dance. The flag will then fly for the duration of the week from the Town Hall mast.

The mayor would like to invite you and your spouse/partner to join him at the Town Hall for coffee at 10.15 prior to the ceremony. Following the event light refreshments will be served in the Council Chamber. The event is due to finish at approx. 11.15.

9. Chairman's Report.

In his absence the Chairman submitted the following report to members:

KALC meeting 26/06/23

- Replacement of PCSO's with beat officers. Delays expected full implication unlikely till 2024, clerks will be advised dates.
- The Parish Charter still being formulated.

Leeds Rd closure meeting at The Great Danes 29/06/23

- SEW and KCC Highways in attendance, around 40 in the audience including Gary Cooke.
- KCC announced that the one-way systems proposed had been declined and replaced with road closures. those affected being Caring Lane at the A20 end. Broomfield Rd at the A20 end. Duck Pond Lane at the Chartway St end. George Lane at the Burberry Lane end. Burberry Lane at the junction with Upper St, Upper St at the junction with Forge Lane. Old Mill Lane at the junction with Forge Lane. Back St at the junction with Avery Lane.
- Another meeting proposed two weeks after the start of the works on the 24/07/23, date, time and venue to be announced by SEW.

Meeting with Helen Whatley 30/06/23

- Four PCs represented, Chart Sutton, Downswood , Bearsted and Leeds.
- Helen wanted to know what if any were the current problems with respective Parishes, she would then follow them up and attempt to get answers etc.
- For Leeds I advised three main issues, one being the six-month road closures of Upper St, another the state of the roads (potholes etc) and thirdly situation regarding a relief road and in particular the removal from the local plan of the section of land to be kept available for it.
- Other items raised were bus services in the area, replacement of PCSO's with beat officers and the hose pipe ban.

10. Financial Matters.

a. Financial Statement

The Financial Statement was circulated to all members present and agreed. (Fort /Bernini)

11. KCC Councillors Report.

KCC Councillor Cooke gave his report to the meeting.

He reported on the KCC budget, the Libraries Consultation, the Community Warden Consultation, and his duties as Chairman of KCC.

12. MBC Councillors Report.

Cllr Fort gave her report to the meeting.

She spoke regarding the MBC pledge to purchase and build 1000 affordable homes and the biodiversity move to make Maidstone carbon neutral by 2030.

She confirmed that the church lighting project may need planning permission and therefore she would take pre planning advice from MBC to seek to clarify this further.

13. Planning Matters.

a. To consider Planning Applications Received.

23/502229/FULL - 2 Ashbank Cottages Lower Street Leeds Maidstone Kent

Conversion of outbuilding into habitable space including the erection of a single storey link to outbuilding with a rear extension.

b. MBC Decisions and Appeals

23/501900/FULL

1 Brogden Farm Cottages Old Mill Road Leeds Maidstone Kent ME17 1RT

Replace boundary fence and garden shed.

Application Permitted

23/500205/FULL

Ledian Farm Upper Street Leeds Kent ME17 1RZ

Erection of 1no. assisted living unit (in place of previously approved energy centre no longer required due to amended, more sustainable energy strategy) with associated landscaping.

Application Permitted

22/505703/FULL

Old Mill Farm Penfold Hill Leeds Kent ME17 1RJ

Erection of polytunnels with associated drainage and landscaping.

Application Permitted.

c. Other Planning Matters

Public Consultation on draft Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-39 Further Proposed Changes Consultation Document (Regulation 18)

Public Consultation on draft Kent Mineral Sites Plan Including Details of Nominated Hard Rock Site (Regulation 18)

The Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan was adopted by the County Council in July 2016, and was partially updated as part of the Early Partial Review (EPR) in September 2020. This along with the Kent Mineral Sites Plan (2020) set out the Council's strategy and policy framework for minerals and waste development in Kent and plan for both mineral supply requirements and waste management capacity.

The County Council is currently undertaking a statutory five-year review of the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan as amended by the Early Partial Review (2020).

Please find attached consultation letters in relation to the draft Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-39 Further Proposed Changes and draft Kent Mineral Sites Plan Including Details of the Nominated Hard Rock Site.

The consultation is taking place from Tuesday 13th June 2023 until midnight on Tuesday 25th July 2023.

Comments can be submitted via our website www.kent.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste, via email to mwlp@kent.gov.uk or by post to Minerals and Waste Planning Policy, 1st Floor, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX.

Should you have any queries or wish to speak to a member of the team, then please contact us on 03000 422370 or via mwlp@kent.gov.uk.

14. Parish Maintenance.

No matters were reported.

15. Leeds Playing Field.

The Clerk reported that a quotation for an additional CCTV camera has been sought for £890 plus vat. This was approved by members.

16. Street Lighting.

No matters were reported.

17. Resilience Plan.

The Resilience Plan for Leeds was being progressed.

18. Parish Council Events.

It was agreed to discuss the 80 Year Dday celebrations at the September PC meeting.

19. Items for the next agenda.

No matters were raised.

20. Date of next meeting.

12th September 2023.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed to the press and public at 8.20pm.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Dated: _____