

**The Minutes of the Meeting of Leeds Parish Council on Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> July 2021  
at 7.00pm in the Leeds and Broomfield Village Hall.**

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

***Also, present: Parish Clerk, Mrs Sherrie Babington, KCC Cllr Gary Cooke and one member of the public.***

***The meeting was chaired by Councillor China.***

**1. Apologies.**

Apologies were received from Cllr Greeff.

**2. Declaration of Interests.**

No interests were declared.

**3. To elect a Vice Chairman.**

It was agreed that this item would be deferred until the next meeting.

**4. Appointment of Committees, Representatives to Outside Bodies.**

It was agreed that this item would be deferred until the next meeting.

**5. Minutes of the previous meeting.**

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

These were proposed by Cllr Fort as a true record, seconded by Cllr China and agreed by all present.

The minutes were then signed and dated by the Chairman.

**6. Matters arising from the Minutes.**

No matters were raised.

**7. Parish Councillor Vacancy.**

It was agreed that the Parish Councillor Vacancy would be considered at the September Parish Council Meeting.

**8. Public Comments and Observations.**

No matters were raised.

**9. Highways Matters.**

Cllr China reported that a complaint had been received from a resident regarding police travelling through the village with their sirens on during the night. This was discussed and agreed that it was not parish council issue and police only use their sirens in the emergency.

Cllr Bernini reported on work that the Parish Council had undertaken regarding traffic since the last meeting:

- The PC was awaiting the results of the speed survey from KCC
- He had been in contact with KCC and had received a template letter from Freight to send to local businesses to encourage their drivers to use designated routes.
- He had contacted other parishes who had similar issues with traffic.
- AMPR cameras were a long-term solution with automatic fines.
- Lorry Watch - He stated that data driven evidence of the issues needed to be collected as content was needed to take this matter forward. He suggested that a resident may wish to work with the parish council to take this scheme forward.

Dedicated email addresses for these parish councillors were discussed and it was agreed that this was something that should be looked into. The Clerk was asked to place this as an agenda item for the September Parish Council meeting.

**10. Financial Matters.**

*a. Financial Statement*

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

**11. KCC Councillors Report.**

KCC Councillor Cook reported that Kent County Council were pressing ahead with the reconnect program for young people to reconnect following Covid. He stated that this was a one-off fund from government.

He reported that weather had put Kent County Council behind on their spring pothole blitz, however as the weather improves the work would restart.

He confirmed that KCC would not be leaving Maidstone despite rumours on social media, A restructure of working practices at KCC would mean that part of the building would be converted to residential properties.

He reported that work at now started on a second domestic waste site in Maidstone.

**12. MBC Councillors Report.**

MBC Cllr Fort gave members an update on matters concerning Maidstone Borough Council. She reported that they were seeking to change the electoral arrangements to one election every four years rather than one third each year.

**13. Planning Matters.**

21/502993/LBC The Old Store Upper Street Leeds Maidstone Kent ME17

Listed building consent for demolition of 2no. internal stud partitions, 1no. door and 1no. cupboard door. Insertion of replacement kitchen units and island units.

Ledian Farm – Cllr Fort stated that the PC were given a briefing regarding the stage 3 plans, and she spoke about the parking concerns and issues associated with the launch.

She reported that Inspired Villages Phase 3 consisted of 40 low density houses, she suggested that the Parish Council needed to monitor the situation closely as she was concerned regarding the lack of parking at the development.

She confirmed the site had been put forward, but not accepted by Maidstone Borough Council and therefore did not form part of the Local Plan, and she suggested that the Parish Council needed to carefully consider the planning application when it was submitted to MBC.

**14. Parish Maintenance.**

Cllr China reported on the maintenance undertaken in Leeds.

He reported that the grass has been cut on Lower Street and unfortunately the contractor had mowed the rosebushes. He stated that he was looking into this to establish who was responsible.

It was reported that the roundabout on the M20/A20 and the verges had not been cut and were currently obstructing visibility.

Cllr Bernini stated that he would follow this up with KCC.

**15. Leeds Playing Field.**

Cllr China reported that the Loose Lions Football Club had requested the Parish Council consider granting them a 10-year lease, and that they take over responsibility for the playing field, as this would help them in seeking funding from the FA to improve the facilities at the site. He asked members for their views on this request.

This was discussed and it was agreed that a 10-year lease was not possible, as the playing field was a registered charity and separate to the Parish Council, and therefore a community asset.

It was agreed that responsibility of the playing field would be retained by the Parish Council, and the Loose Lions Football Club would be given reassurances that it was able to have long-term use of the playing field, but not a 10-year lease. It was further agreed that the Parish Council would support them with funding applications if necessary.

Cllr China reported that parking had become an issue at the site, and the football club had asked if they were able to extend the on-field parking by laying mesh down to protect the ground. This was discussed and it was agreed that the Parish Council had no objection provided that the club financed this.

***Action: Clerk to liaise with Loose Lions Football Club.***

Members discussed the issue with the closed footpath to the rear of the playing field.

Cllr Fort stated that to date no response had been received from the developer, to the PC request to have the footpath reestablished. She suggested that the Parish Council now considered going down the route of submitting an application to Kent County Council to have the route made a Public Right of Way.

The Clerk briefed members on the process for this and stated that she would circulate the forms and guidance for members to consider. This was agreed.

***Action: Clerk to circulate forms for councillors' information.***

**16. Street Lighting.**

Cllr China reported on street lighting. No issues were raised.

- 17. Date of next meeting.**  
14<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

***There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed to the press and public at 8.50pm.***

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

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