

The Minutes of the Meeting of Leeds Parish Council on Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025  
at 7pm in the Leeds and Broomfield Village Hall.

*Councillor's present: Bernini  
China  
Fort  
Springford*

*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 the Parish Clerk, Sherrie Babington (sickness), Cllrs Greeff (work), Razzell (personal) and Ingram (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. 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.

**4. Matters arising from the Minutes.**

There were no matters arising.

**5. Public Comments and Observations.**

No matters were raised.

**6. Highways Matters.**

Concern raised over lack of action on water leak on Foley Hill.

*Clerk to correspond with KCC Highways for action.*

Concern raised over lack of give-away signs over bridge at the bottom of Penfold Hill.

*Clerk to correspond with KCC Highways.*

Grit bins filled in Old Mill Rd & junction of Forge Lane & Old Mill Rd; it was assumed others on the Parish have also been filled.

7. Clerks Report.

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

8. Chairman's Report.

To receive the Chairman's Report.

The Chairman reported on a meeting he had with the schools headteacher Fiona Steer. Items discussed:

- The marking out of bays in the church car park & safe access in and out of the car park for pedestrians.
- Safety of pupils and adults when crossing the main road due to absence of a lollipop person.

This was discussed by members, and it was agreed that the marking out of bays had been previously discussed and decision made not to proceed as it felt there would be little or no benefit.

Safe access via a gate to the right of the main barrier to be explored, Cllr China to look into options.

***Clerk to write to Ms Steer advising decision on bay marking and possible safe access route for pedestrians.***

He reported that the leaves on the pavements in the village were an issue, and severe on Penfold Hill. Fly tipping in Old Mill Rd and excess rubbish around the frontage of the Biffa site on the junction of OMR & the A20.

It was agreed that Cllr Bernini would liaise with KCC HIPS team.

Cllr China to contact Steven Warring for his team to clear the leaves and litter pick on Penfold Hill and remove large rock on the path between the Village Hall and the Church.

***Clerk to contact Hollingbourne PC to see if they can get action to have the Biffa site cleaned up as location within their area.***

He reported that the tennis courts had now been locked with a combination padlock and that he would looking getting a notice put on the gate advising key holder was the parish Clerk.

He advised that a resident had complained about a householder in Farmers Close disposing of rubbish onto the sports field some of which food refuse which is having a detrimental effect on dogs eating it!

***Clerk to send letter to resident once house number identified.***

9. 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 was circulated to all members for their consideration.

Following discussions, it was agreed that the 2025.2026 precept would be set at £50310, an increase of 8.65%.

**10. KCC Councillors Report.**

Cllr Cooke was not in attendance.

**11. MBC Councillors Report.**

Cllr Fort advised that talks taking place around Local Government Devolution.

**12. Planning Matters.**

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

24/504742/FULL - Caring Stud Caring Road Leeds Kent ME17 1TH

Demolition of existing buildings, structures, and hardstanding. Erection of a four-bedroom dwelling with associated amenity space, landscaping and access.

Determined by MBC see below.

24/504954/LBC - Tower Cottage Upper Street Leeds Kent ME17 1RZ

Listed Building Consent for the installation of a log burner into the current open fireplace (located in the living room)

**b. MBC Decisions and Appeals**

24/504742/FULL

Caring Stud Caring Road Leeds Kent ME17 1TH

Demolition of existing buildings, structures, and hardstanding. Erection of a four-bedroom dwelling with associated amenity space, landscaping and access.

Application Permitted

**c. Other Planning Matters**

Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (As Amended) – Planning Appeal Householder Application

Location: 2 Elnothington Cottages Ashford Road Hollingbourne Maidstone Kent

Proposal: Erection of a single storey rear extension.

Appeal Reference Number(s):

APP/U2235/D/24/3357256

Appeal Starting date: 7 January 2025

An appeal has been lodged in relation to the above for the following reason:

The Council has refused permission for this application.

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.

The Planning Inspectorate/Secretary of State has decided that this does not offer an opportunity for interested parties to comment further at the appeal stage. However, any representations that have already been made to the Council regarding the original planning application have already been forwarded to the Inspector and will be considered by the Inspector when deciding the appeal.

Should you have made any previous representations, and you wish to withdraw them from consideration you can do this online at <https://acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk>. If you do not have access to the internet, you can send your comments to:

Gemma Carey, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Bristol, BS1 6PN, , quoting above reference(s).

**13. Parish Maintenance.**

To receive an update on Parish Maintenance.

Church car park pothole repair, quote of £1250.00 received this deemed excessive Cllr Bernini to see if the contractor who installed the church path lights can offer a more reasonable price.

**14. Leeds Playground, Playing Field, Tennis Courts & Pavillion.**

*To receive a report on Leeds Playing Field.*

Quotation received for refurbishment of the tennis courts, £30k for resurfacing, £17K for new fencing and £6K for adding five a side goals and basketball court.

Cllr Bernini to see if contractor who did church path lights will provide alternative prices.

***Clerk to investigate if funding available.***

Awaiting cost of replacement low level barrier supports from Steven Waring, Cllr China to chase up.

**15. Street Lighting.**

*To receive a report on Parish Street Lighting.*

No issues were reported.

**16. Parish Council Events.**

VE Day event planned, PC awaiting further details from resident group.

**17. Items for next Agenda.**

Tennis Court funding, Church pothole repair, siting of memorial bench on sports field and pedestrian access for Church car park.

**18. Date of next meeting.**

11<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

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

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

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