

The Minutes of the Meeting of Leeds Parish Council
held in Leeds and Broomfield Village Hall on Tuesday, 12th July 2016 at 7:30 PM.

Councillors present: *Beale*
Bowles
China
Fort
Govett

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

The meeting was chaired by Councillor Govett.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Martin and Springford.

2. Declaration of Interests.

No interests were declared.

3. 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, this was seconded by Cllr Bowles and agreed by all present. The Minutes were then signed and dated by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes.

There were no matters arising.

5. Public Comments and Observations.

A resident attended the meeting to speak regarding the tennis courts. She offered to assist the Parish Council with cleaning these.

Cllr China stated that the Parish Council had looked at having the courts resurfaced however the cost was very high.

He stated that the Parish Council had purchased new nets and these were due to be put up as soon as the courts had been swept.

The resident stated that she had experience in submitting grant applications for such projects and she stated that she would be happy to assist the parish council if they wished to apply for grants.

The Chairman thanked her for the offer of assistance and stated that the Parish Council would like to apply for grants to refurbish the tennis courts and the children's play area at the playing field.

A discussion took place regarding the benefits of setting up a community group who would be willing to take on the responsibility of the tennis courts.

Councillor Cooke stated that he would look favourably on grant funding the setting up of a new community group.

6. KCC Councillors Report.

KCC Councillor Cooke referred to a written report that he had circulated to the Parish Council.

He informed members that Kent County Council were in the midst of a pothole blitz. Councillor Cooke reported that the swathe cut scheduled to be undertaken in the parish had been delayed and was now due to be undertaken as soon as possible.

He stated that Kent County Council were looking to undertake a second weed spray due to the excessive growth this year but no date has been confirmed for this as yet. A discussion took place regarding maintenance in the parish and the areas that KCC were responsible for.

Councillor Cooke spoke regarding the proposed relief road and stated that KCC were moving towards an agreement with MBC on the Joint Transportation Strategy.

He stated that the draft Local Plan included an Integrated Transport Strategy which had not been agreed by Kent County Council. He stated that Highways England had stated that the submission was week in relation to motorway junctions and therefore MBC had commissioned its own transport survey.

A discussion took place regarding the Local Plan.

Councillor Cooke stated that as it stands Kent County Council were going to object to the Local Plan in its current position.

7. MBC Ward Councillors Report.

MBC Councillor Fort gave her report to the meeting.

She informed members that the Woodcut Farm application had been refused by Maidstone Borough Council, however this was an allocation in the Local Plan and therefore it was likely that it would go to appeal.

8. Highways Matters.

Bollards for Wykeham Grove - it was agreed that costings would be sought for two bollards at the junction of Wykeham Grove. The Clerk was asked to liaise with Kent Highways regarding this matter.

Action: Clerk to progress.

9. Police Report.

PCSO Thomas Maybank gave his report to the meeting.

A discussion took place regarding a burglary in the parish and the action taken by the police regarding this.

Special Constable – PCSO Maybank confirmed that the Special Constable had pulled out of policing the parish. He stated that he had asked the Specials Coordinator if another Special Constable could be found.

10. Correspondence Report.

The correspondence received during the course of the month was noted by members.

Members considered a request from a resident to use the pavilion for art classes. It was agreed that the pavilion could be used at a cost of £10 per hire for the first three months after which the charges would be reviewed.

Members considered a request from a resident to undertake Lure Coursing for greyhounds at the Playing Field. It was agreed that this would not be allowed as the field was a public open space used by members of the public.

11. Planning Matters.

Cllr Govett informed the meeting that he and Cllr Fort had met with the Deputy CEO of Leeds Castle regarding their progress and development. He stated that they had indicated that they were willing to work with the local community. This was discussed and it was agreed that the Parish Council would seek a follow-up meeting in six months to see how the Parish Council could work with the castle regarding community events.

12. Financial Matters.

a. Financial Statement.

The Financial Statement was circulated to all members. This was discussed and approved by all present. (Fort/Bowles).

The cheques for payment were then signed by two authorised signatories.

13. Parish Maintenance.

Members discussed the maintenance undertaken within the parish.

Cllr China stated that Steven Waring had undertaken an initial cut of the parish and a second cut would be undertaken in the next few weeks to get the overgrown vegetation under control.

Concerns were raised that the grass cuttings had been left but Cllr China stated that this was due to this being the first cut. He stated that he would liaise with Steven Waring regarding this matter.

The Chairman thanked Peter and Lesley Martin for their maintenance work in the parish.

Members discussed the frequency of the cuts in the parish and it was agreed that this should be undertaken every two weeks in the months of July, August and September.

Cllr China raised concerns regarding the signage at the build-outs and stated that these were in urgent need of being cut back. Councillor Cooke stated that he would liaise with Kent Highways regarding this matter.

Members agreed to undertake renovations to the bench in the parish at a cost of £65.

14. Leeds Playing Field and Pavillion.

Cllr China reported on the tennis courts and playing field.

He reported that the annual safety inspection of the play equipment had highlighted the need for the removal of the igloo climbing frame for health and safety reasons. It was agreed that this should be removed as soon as possible at a cost of £250.

Action: Cllr China to progress.

15. Street Lighting.

No matters were raised.

16. Joint Parish Group and Local Plan.

Members discussed correspondence received from the KALC requesting financial assistance to representations for parish councils at the Local Plan Public Inquiry.

This was discussed by members and it was agreed that Parish Council was supportive of KALC, JPG and CPRE representing parishes at the Public Inquiry, however it could not consider making a financial contribution towards the cost of representation without knowing an amount.

17. Policy Review.

Members considered circulated Standing Orders and Financial Regulations and it was proposed by Cllr Fort to adopt these, this was seconded by Cllr Govett and agreed by all present.

18. Public Comments and Observations.

No matters were raised.

19. Urgent Matters.

Councillor Cooke reported that he had undertaken a visit to the Leeds and Broomfield School. He stated that the computer system jointly funded by his fund and the Parish Council was a positive addition to the school.

Cllr Fort spoke regarding Cllr Martin's suggestion of having a parish defibrillator housed at the pub. Cllr Bowles stated that this would cost in the region of £1500. He stated that the Community Responders were very quick to react to calls to Leeds Parish. It was therefore agreed not to progress this further.

20. Date of next meeting.

13th September 2016.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed to the press and public at 9.10pm.

Cllrs Govett and Fort gave their apologies for the September PC meeting.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Dated: _____