

**The Minutes of the Meeting of Leeds Parish Council
held by Zoom on Tuesday, 9th February 2021 at 7.00 PM.**

***Councillors present: China
Bernini
Fort
Greeff
Ingram
Martin
Springford***

Also, present: Parish Clerk, Mrs Sherrie Babington and KCC Councillor Gary Cooke and PCC Matthew Scott.

The meeting was chaired by Councillor China.

1. Apologies.

No apologies were received.

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 Martin as a true record, seconded by Cllr Fort 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. PCC Matthew Scott.

The Chairman stated that the Police and Crime Commissioner, Matthew Scott would join the meeting later, and therefore this item would be deferred until he joined.

6. Public Comments and Observations.

No matters were raised.

7. KCC Councillors Report.

KCC Councillor Cooke gave his report to the meeting and referred to his written report circulated to all members.

He spoke regarding his position within the Conservative Party and a recent article in the Downs Mail.

He confirmed that the elections would take place on 6th May 2021 and he was the official candidate for Maidstone Southeast.

He reported that the gritters had been out gritting the road for the past three days.

Cllr China spoke regarding the side roads in Leeds and asked if these could also be gritted. Cllr Cooke confirmed that KCC would only prioritise the gritting of the main routes within Maidstone, and the Winter Programme set out the salting routes for the whole of Kent.

A general discussion took place regarding the gritting routes and the salt bin provision in the parish.

8. MBC Ward Councillors Report.

MBC Councillor Fort gave her report to the meeting.

She reported on the Local Plan Review and the site allocations.

Cllr Fort reported that the future of the Hazlett Theatre was now secure following a change of decision by MBC.

9. Highways Matters.

Cllr Greeff spoke regarding the 17 tonne weight restrictions in the parish and suggested that there seemed to be some confusion over the status of the signs and the B2163.

Cllr Cooke stated that the police need to be reminded that the signs were a legal weight restriction and any vehicles over 17 tonnes were prohibited from using the B2163 unless for access.

Cllr China stated that enforcement was needed. He spoke regarding the confusion following the recent police operation at Lorry Watch and suggested that the police should have had a clear understanding of the signage before undertaking the operation, as the PCSO was of the opinion that the signage was only advisory.

Cllr Cooke confirmed that the PCSO was incorrect as the 17-tonne sign was a mandatory and the law. He suggested that this was raised with the PCC when he joined the meeting.

10. Correspondence Report.

The correspondence received during the month was noted by members.

Village Sign – Members considered correspondence regarding the refurbishment of the village sign. It was agreed that this should be undertaken, and Cllr China stated that he would seek an quotation for the removal of the sign by Streetlights.

Action: Cllr China to progress.

5. PCC Matthew Scott.

The Chairman welcome the Police and Crime Commissioner, Matthew Scott to the meeting.

He spoke regarding the issues relating to Leeds with the overweight traffic using the B2163 and the recent Lorry Watch Police Operation in the parish, and the confusion over the 17-tonne weight restriction.

Matthew Scott stated that he would look into this matter and come back to the Parish Council via the Clerk.

The Chairman referred to an accident that occurred in the Parish involving a Spanish HGV, and the lack of action taken by the police. Matthew Scott stated that he would also look into this for the PC.

A general discussion took place regarding police matters, the policing of Parish and the enforcement of the 20mph speed limit in Leeds.

Following the discussions, the Chairman thanked Matthew Scott for joining the meeting.

11. Planning Matters.

New Applications Received

21/500321/FULL Arnold Hill Cottage Back Street Leeds Maidstone Kent
Erection of entrance gates and ragstone walls with an enlarged driveway.

MBC Decisions

20/505331/FULL

The Nook Forge Lane Leeds Maidstone Kent ME17 1RS

Erection of a part single, part two storey rear extension together with alterations to the existing conservatory.

Application Permitted

20/505352/SUB

Leeds Abbey Farmhouse Lower Street Leeds Maidstone Kent ME17 1TL

Submission of details to Discharge Condition 6 - Samples subject to 20/501290/LBC.

Application Permitted

20/505327/LBC

Fox Cottage Upper Street Leeds Maidstone Kent ME17 1RX

Listed Building Consent for repointing and refurbishment of brickwork and associated gutters; removal of lath and plaster internal wall to expose original beams; investigation of rising damp on ground floor by partially removing the lath and plaster wall, and replace like for like; removal of lath and plaster from the loft room to inspect associated beams - replace/repair beams and roof tile as necessary, and thermal upgrading; partial removal of lath and plaster wall to create an opening for a new bathroom and improvement of fire loading and insulation in accordance with BS EN 13501-2 and BS476 Part 21.

Application Permitted

Other Matters.

Cllr China reported that a steel fence had been erected around the site at the rear of the playing field.

Cllr Fort stated that the developer was currently working on the site, and she suggested that following the site meeting with Fernham Homes, it may be the appropriate time to write to Fernham Homes to seek their views on reinstating the footpath on Abbey Farm.

This was discussed and agreed by members. It was suggested that should they not be willing to reinstate the footpath then the Parish Council may wish to apply for the footpath to be recognised as a Public Right of Way.

Action: Cllr Fort/Clerk to write to Fernham Homes.

12. Financial Matters.

a. Financial Statement

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

13. Parish Maintenance.

Cllr China reported that the drains were blocked at the bottom of Penfold Hill.

Cllr Cooke stated that he would report these to KCC for action.

14. Leeds Playing Field, Tennis Courts, Pavilion, and Children's Play Area.

No matters were raised.

15. Street Lighting.

Cllr China reported on the street lighting.

He reported that the demolished and corroded lamp posts had now been replaced. There had been another accident at the build out, as a result the lamp had been removed by KCC and made safe.

He stated that he would liaise with Streetlights and make arrangements to have this repaired.

16. Urgent Matters.

Church Car Park – Cllr China confirmed that a letter had been sent to Leeds Castle to ask them to remove the reference to parking at the Church Car Park off their website.

17. Date of next meeting.

9th March 2021.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed to the press and public at 8.30pm.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Dated: _____