

**The Minutes of the meeting of Leeds Parish Council**  
**held in St Nicolas Church on Tuesday, 14th July 2015 at 7:30 PM.**

***Councillors present: Beale***  
***Bowles***  
***China***  
***Govett***  
***Martin***

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

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

**1. Apologies.**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Fort, Springford, KCC Councillor Gar Cooke and the Police.

**2. Declaration of Interests.**

No matters were raised.

**3. Minutes of the previous meeting.**

The Minutes of the previous meeting were circulated to all members. These were proposed by Cllr China 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 her idea to have a Walk-in Day Centre in the Village Hall for the over 60s in the local community.

Mrs Cogger stated that this was an initiative to give people the opportunity to meet other people in the local community. She stated that she was hoping to hold an Open Day in the Village Hall to promote this and ascertain views and ideas.

She asked for the Parish Council's views on this.

The Chairman stated that the Parish Council would be happy to assist with the advertising of the Open Day on the Parish Councils website and email circulation. It was also agreed that the Parish Council supported the principles of holding a Walk-in Day Centre in the Parish.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Cogger for taking the time to attend the Parish Council meeting.

**6. KCC Councillors Report.**

KCC Councillor Gary Cooke gave his apologies to the meeting.

**7. MBC Ward Councillors Report.**

MBC Councillor Fort gave her apologies to the meeting. A written Report was noted in her absence.

**8. Highways Matters.**

Cllr Govett reported that KCC had not given an update on the relief road or possible routes at present.

He stated that the Parish Council position was still in support of a spur/relief road.

**9. Police Report.**

Apologies were received from PCSO Thomas Maybank.

The Chairman spoke regarding the Special Constable and stated that as far as he was aware a Special Constable was currently in training.

Cllr Bowles spoke regarding Lorry Watch and stated that the police were in favour of AMP cameras in the Parish. He stated that he was looking into systems available for Leeds.

**10. Correspondence Report.**

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

**11. Planning Matters.**

**15/504674/FULL Ringers Upper Street Leeds Kent ME17 1SL - No Objections.**

Removal of fence from southern side of driveway to be placed on northern side including gates across drive for enclosure.

**12. Financial Matters.**

*a. Financial Statement.*

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

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

*b. Budget Review/ Grant Funding.*

The Chairman referred to a budget monitoring report circulated to all members and spoke regarding large projects that could be considered within the parish.

Tennis Courts - The tennis courts in the Playing Field were discussed and it was agreed that these were in need of refurbishment/replacement. It was therefore agreed that the Parish Council would seek grants to finance this.

Planting on the verges within the Parish – Cllr Beale stated that the verges in the parish that were under the ownership of KCC could not be planted up to 1.8 m from the roadside. She stated that the planting plan she had put together could still be possible in some areas of the Parish however there was no permission to have raised flower beds. It was agreed that members would consider this matter further at a future meeting.

*c. Request for Financial Assistance from Leeds and Broomfield School.*

The Chairman referred to a letter from Leeds and Broomfield School seeking financial assistance to purchase laptops for the children attending the school.

This was discussed and it was proposed by Cllr Martin to approve a grant of £1000 for the school laptops, this was seconded by Cllr China and agreed by all present.

It was also agreed to match fund any fundraising by the Friends of Leeds and Broomfield School for the laptops up to £1000.

The Clerk was asked to invite to the Headteacher to attend the September Parish Council meeting.

***Action: Clerk to liaise with school.***

**13. Parish Maintenance.**

The Chairman referred to the verges in the Parish and the poor condition that these were in. He asked whether the Parish Council would consider increasing the maintenance hours that the contractor worked within Leeds in order to enhance the area.

This was discussed and it was agreed that the Parish Council would finance 15 hours a week maintenance in May, June, July and August, 8 hours maintenance in September, October, March and April and ad hoc hours would be allocated for November, December, January and February.

The Clerk was asked to liaise with the contractor currently undertaking this maintenance to inform him of the increased hours.

***Action: Clerk to progress.***

Cllr Beale spoke regarding the green waste generated from maintenance around the Parish. The Chairman stated that Cllr Fort was looking into having a green bin for this.

It was reported that the hedges along Burberry Lane where in need of cutting back.

***Action: Clerk to liaise with Strutt and Parker.***

**14. Parish Spring Clean by KCC.**

It was reported that Gary Cooke had asked Kent County Council to do a further clean up of the Parish in the autumn.

**15. Church Car Park.**

Cllr China reported that there was fly tipping in the Church Car Park to the rear of the recycling bins. It was agreed that he would liaise with the Borough Council to have this removed.

***Action: Cllr China to progress.***

It was reported that the cost of a replacement notice board for the car park would be £230. This was approved by members.

***Action: Progress replacement of car park notice board.***

Recycling Bins - The recycling units in the car park where discussed and it was noted that these were attracting fly tipping.

The Clerk confirmed that it was a Parish Council responsibility to keep the area around the recycling bins clear as Maidstone Borough Council had passed over this responsibility the previous year. This was discussed further and it was agreed that the Parish Council would arrange to have the recycling bins removed as Maidstone Borough Council now offered a full kerbside recycling service.

***Action: Clerk to liaise with MBC regarding the removal of the recycling bins.***

**16. Leeds Playing Field and Pavillion.**

Cllr Beale reported that the benches at the playing field and in the parish need to be renovated. It was agreed that Cllr China would seek a quotation for this.

***Action: Cllr China to progress.***

**17. Street Lighting.**

Cllr China reported that he had instructed the contractor to undertake the repairs to the street lighting as agreed at the last meeting.

**18. Joint Parish Group and Local Plan.**

The Chairman referred to a Motion put forward by the KALC Area Committee to challenge the housing numbers in the MBC draft Local Plan. Members agreed to support this motion.

***Action: Clerk to liaise with KALC.***

**19. Public Comments and Observations.**

No matters were raised.

**20. Urgent Matters.**

The Chairman reminded members that the Parish Council meetings would be held in the Village Hall from September onwards.

**21. Date of next meeting.**

8th September 2015.

***There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed to the press and public at 9.28pm.***

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

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