

**The Minutes of the Meeting of Leeds Parish Council
held by Zoom on Tuesday, 13th October 2020 at 7.00 PM.**

***Councillors present: China
Govett
Greeff
Ingram
Martin
Springford***

Also, present: Parish Clerk, Mrs Sherrie Babington.

The meeting was chaired by Councillor Govett.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Fort and KCC Councillor Gary Cooke.

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 China as a true record, seconded by Cllr Springford 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.

No matters were raised.

6. KCC Councillors Report.

KCC Councillor Cooke gave his apologies to the meeting and a written report was noted in his absence.

Relief Road – Members discussed the potential development in the area and the need for a relief road.

Cllr Govett asked members for their views on a relief road if this was financed by development.

This was discussed and debated by members.

Cllr Greeff stated that the housing numbers in the Local Plan would inevitably mean that more traffic would end upon the B2163.

Cllr Springford stated that he was of the opinion that development was needed to finance the relief road.

Cllr China stated that he was concerned about the housing numbers and the impact it would have, he stated that he felt that the infrastructure was needed before the development took place. Cllrs Martin and Ingram agreed with this view.

This was discussed further, and members agreed that a relief road was needed, but the PC needed to know further details about proposed route/s and location of new houses.

Penfold Hill Drainage – Cllr China stated that KCC Councillor Cooke was meeting with the Drainage Officer in site at Penfold Hill to discuss the flooding issues.

Cllr Springford stated that he felt there was a need for a more sustainable drainage system to be installed at the bottom of the hill.

It was agreed that Cllr China would seek a debriefing following the meeting. Cllr Martin stated that she was available to attend the site meeting if necessary.

HGV Signage – The Clerk was asked to clarify the wording of the HGV signage with Cllr Cooke.

Action: Clerk to action.

Road Closures – Cllr China stated that a meeting was due to be held by Zoom to discuss the road closures and the issues associated with this.

It was agreed that this matter would also be raised with Cllr Cooke.

Action: Clerk to action.

7. MBC Ward Councillors Report.

MBC Councillor Fort gave her apologies to the meeting.

8. Highways Matters.

Cllr China stated that the additional CCTV Camera had been approved by members and would be erected to face the highway. This was due to be installed in the near future.

Cllr Govett asked if the PC wished to consider having CCTV signage erected on the PC lamp columns, to inform drivers that there was CCTV in the village.

This was discussed and it was agreed that this was something that the PC should consider taking forward.

9. Correspondence Report.

The correspondence received during the month was noted by members.

10. Planning Matters.

New Applications Received

20/503997/FULL Merriams Farm Caring Lane Leeds Maidstone Kent ME17
Retrospective application for a change of access road surface materials from
grasscrete and concrete to block paving. (Amendment to planning permission
18/503583/FULL)

MBC Decisions

20/504140/SUB
Leeds Abbey Farmhouse Lower Street Leeds ME17 1TL

Submission of details pursuant to conditions 4 (details of methodology, replacement bricks, pointing, flashings, pots, and cowls) and 5 (method statement) of application 20/501290/LBC.

Application Permitted

20/503380/FULL

10 Burgess Hall Drive Leeds Maidstone Kent ME17 1SH

Remove existing conservatory and erection of single storey side and rear extension

Application Permitted

20/503073/ADV

Ledian Farm Upper Street Leeds Maidstone Kent ME17 1RZ

Advert application for 4 no. non illuminated hoarding signs, 1 free standing sign, and 4 no flags.

Application Permitted

20/503944/SUB

Abbey Farmhouse Lower Street Leeds Maidstone Kent ME17 1TL

Submission of Details to Discharge Condition 6 (Tile Samples) Subject to 20/501290/LBC

Application Permitted

11. Financial Matters.

Financial Statement

The Financial Statement was circulated to all members present and agreed.

12. Parish Maintenance.

Cllr China spoke regarding the damage to the signs at Forge Lane, caused by the Spanish Lorry. He stated that to date KCC had not taken any action to have the illuminated sign replaced.

Action: Clerk to liaise with KCC Reba riding this matter.

Cllr Martin stated that the light from the lamppost from the Church Car Park to the Village Hall was being obscured by overgrown vegetation.

Action: Cllr China to liaise with Steven Waring regarding this.

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

Cllr China reported that there was an issue with the toilets at the pavillion, he asked for approval to appoint a contractor to repair these. This was approved.

Action: Cllr China to action.

14. Street Lighting.

Cllr China reported on this matter. He stated that he had reported a number of streetlights to the contractor for repair.

15. Urgent Matters.

Abbey Farm – Cllr China stated that following a site meeting with Cllr Fort and himself, where they met two of the developers representatives, they were advised by them that whilst they had planning permission to renovate the two existing tiled roof buildings into new living accommodation they were now to seek planning permission to demolish the existing barn and replace with a new single dwelling. If successful, the wooded area behind the sports field would form part of the land owned by the purchaser of the new and refurbished buildings.

Cllr China & Fort advised the developers representatives that many of the Leeds residence had for many years used the paths within the wooded area behind the sports field to exercise and walk their dogs and were looking to the PC to apply for a public right of way within the area since the access points had been sealed off and notices had been put in place. The developer's representatives were sympathetic to the proposal and would look favourably towards a PROW.

Cllr China advised that the process in applying to the KCC for a PROW could take up to 4 years.

Cllr Greeff suggested that the PC could consider applying for a licence to use the land as this may be a speedier process. This was discussed, and it was agreed that the Clerk would seek legal advice regarding PROW and licences **Action: Clerk to action.**

Cllr Govett informed the PC that he would be moving from the parish and therefore tendering his resignation as a Parish Councillor and Chairman of the PC. He thanked the Parish Council, Councillors, and the Clerk for their support over the years and wished the Parish Council luck for the future. Members thanked Cllr Govett for his work on the Parish Council.

16. Date of next meeting.
10th November 2020.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed to the press and public at 7.55pm.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Dated: _____