

The Minutes of the meeting of Leeds Parish Council
held in St Nicolas Church on Tuesday, 9th June 2015 at 7:30 PM.

Councillors present: Beale
Bowles
China
Fort
Govett
Springford

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 Cllr Martin.

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 ask KCC Councillor Cooke if he had any news on the high kerbs outside Ashbank Cottages.

Councillor Cooke confirmed that it was not possible to put in high kerbs in that location and KCC were now considering chevrons as an alternative.

It was reported that the anti-skid surface on the corner near Ashbank Cottages was breaking up. Councillor Cooke stated that he would liaise with Kent Highways regarding this matter.

A resident raised concerns regarding the increase in HGV lorries using the B2163. He suggested that a CCT camera installed on the road and programmed to identify large overweight vehicles could be installed at a cost of £1500. He stated that this may be preferable to Lorry Watch.

Cllr Fort asked about the CCTV camera system and whether someone would have to go through the data on a monthly basis as this would use man hours.

Cllr Bowles stated that the Parish Council was currently monitoring HGV's in the village and the police had also carried out to spot checks on Penfold Hill.

He stated that as part of the Lorry Watch Scheme he was in liaison with the Police, Trading Standards and the companies of a number of HGVs that had used the village.

Concerns were raised regarding inappropriate name of Belgravia Place given to the Ten Bells development. The Parish Council agreed with these concerns and the Clerk was asked to write to the developers to ask them to change the name to something in keeping with the parish.

Action: Clerk to progress.

6. KCC Councillors Report.

KCC Councillor Gary Cooke stated that he had circulated a written report on general items and would report further under Highway Matters.

7. MBC Ward Councillors Report.

MBC Councillor Fort gave a report to the meeting. She reported on the new administration of Maidstone Borough Council and forthcoming meetings.

8. Highways Matters.

Cllr Govett reported that he and Cllr Fort had attended a meeting at Kingswood with neighbouring parishes to discuss the bypass/relief road.

He stated that this had been attended by representatives from Leeds, Kingswood and Broomfield, Otham, East Sutton, Langley and Sutton Valence.

He reported that a good discussion had taken place regarding the possible funding for a spur road which may be dependent on development in the area.

He stated that part of the solution for funding would be for local parishes to take development in their area to finance the spur road and he felt that it would be beneficial to engage with KCC and MBC to have a say in the location of possible development in the area.

The Chairman stated that the Parish Council had taken a view to support the spur road and there seemed to be a ground swell of support from other parishes, however each seemed to have its own view on possible routes.

Councillor Cooke stated that the route had not yet been discussed and this was likely to be a challenge. He stated that the route would be a KCC plan in terms of a new road and would be part funded by government and LEP funding. He stated that European funding was also being considered, however there did need to be an element of enabling development.

The Chairman stated that he understood that the road would be a KCC plan and he was considering where the Parish Council's could work together over future development in the area.

A discussion took place regarding the possible problems that could occur when development was considered for rural areas and the neighbourhood plans that were being undertaken by some parishes.

Councillor Cooke confirmed that data would be considered at the forthcoming Joint Transportation Board meeting in early September.

Cllr Beale spoke regarding the care home development in the village and Cllr Fort updated her on the current situation regarding this.

9. Police Report.

PCSO Thomas Maybank attended the meeting and gave a crime report to all present.

10. Correspondence Report.

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

Members discussed a letter received from Leeds and Broomfield School asking for a financial donation from the Parish Council towards laptop computers.

Cllr Bowles declared an interest in this item and withdrew from discussions.

Councillor Cooke spoke regarding this matter, he informed the meeting that he had visited the school and met with the Executive Head and the Head of the school. He spoke in support of the letter submitted to the Parish Council.

He confirmed that he was putting £1000 of his budget towards this project and stated that he hoped that the Parish Council would match this.

Cllr Govett stated that the Parish Council had a budgeted allocation of £1000 for grants and donations.

This financial request was discussed positively by members and it was agreed that this should be placed as a financial item on the next agenda for formal consideration by the Parish Council.

Action: Clerk to place item on next agenda.

11. Planning Matters.

No planning matters were raised or discussed.

12. Financial Matters.

a. Financial Statement.

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

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

13. Parish Maintenance.

Cllr Beale spoke regarding the maintenance of the village and possible planting of the verges. She circulated some plans for planting to members for consideration and stated that the total cost of this project would be £5000.

A discussion took place regarding these planting proposals and whether permission was required from Kent County Council. Councillor Cooke stated that he would liaise with KCC regarding this matter.

The Chairman suggested that these proposals should be considered at the next meeting.

He spoke regarding the number of projects that the Parish Council wished to consider for the parish and stated that these should all be discussed by the Parish Council.

It was suggested that the Parish Council should had an agenda item at the next meeting to enable it to review its budget, reserves and the long-term projects that the Parish Council wished to undertake.

This was agreed by all present.

Action: Clerk to place item on the next agenda.

14. Church Car Park.

Cllr China informed members that the height barrier for the car park would be installed on Friday 19th June 2015.

He reported that there was still a problem with rubbish collecting around the recycling bins. This was discussed and it was agreed that a notice would be put up regarding this.

15. Leeds Playing Field and Pavillion.

Cllr China reported on the progress of the Playing Field and Pavilion.

16. Street Lighting.

Cllr China circulated a report to all members outlining the options available for the street lighting.

He recommended that the Parish Council adopted a strategy to retain the street lighting throughout Leeds and to replace the bulbs with LED lighting as and when they had failed.

He stated that when all lights had been installed with LED fittings this would reduce the Parish Council's energy tariff by 40%.

This option was discussed by members and it was proposed by Cllr Fort to adopt this strategy, this was seconded by Cllr Springford and agreed by all present.

It was agreed that Cllr China would liaise with the contractor regarding this matter.

Action: Cllr China to progress.

17. Parish Council Meeting Venue.

The Chairman stated that the Parish Council had considered the future venue for Parish Council meetings and he had asked the Clerk to liaise with the Village Hall Committee regarding booking this for parish meetings from September 2015.

The Clerk confirmed that the hall was available on a regular basis from September 2015. It was agreed by members that this should be booked for future Parish Council meetings.

Action: Clerk to progress.

18. Joint Parish Group and Local Plan.

No matters were raised.

19. Public Comments and Observations.

No matters were raised.

20. Urgent Matters.

Cllr Fort reported that the footpaths were overgrown between Foley Hill and Forge Lane. It was agreed that the Clerk would liaise with Rochester Bridge Trust regarding this problem.

Action: Clerk to progress.

21. Date of next meeting.

14th July 2015.

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

Signed: _____

Chairman

Dated: _____