

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LEEDS PARISH COUNCIL
Held in the Leeds Playing Field Pavillion on Tuesday 10th April 2012 at 7.30pm.

Present: Mr China
Mrs Fort
Mr Govett
Mr Martin
Mrs Young

In attendance: Mrs Sherrie Babington – Clerk, Representative from Direct Technical Street Lighting and members of the public.

The meeting was chaired by Councillor Fort.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Councillors Wallace, Cutler and Borough Councillor Peter Parvin.

2. Declaration of Interests.

No interests were declared.

3. Public Comments.

No matters were raised.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

The minutes from the previous meeting were circulated to all present. These were then proposed by Councillor Govett seconded by Councillor Young and agreed by all present, subject to an agreed alteration.

5. Matters Arising.

Website – Councillor Govett spoke regarding the website and the PC budget allocated to enhance this. He stated that he would look into seeking a quotation regarding this.

Action: Councillor Govett to progress.

6. New Councillor – Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Councillor China signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Councillor Fort informed members that Councillors Cutler and Martin had both tendered their resignation as councillors. She reluctantly accepted these resignations and expressed her thanks to both members for their support to the Parish Council.

The vacancies were discussed and it was agreed that the PC would circulate flyers to advertise the vacancies following the statutory notice period.

7. Police Report.

The police were not present at the meeting.

The Clerk confirmed that she had invited the police to attend the Annual meeting of the Parish.

8. Parish Council Website.

Alan James gave his apologies to the meeting and sent a written report in his absence. This was noted by members.

9. Street Lighting.

A representative from Direct Technical attended the meeting to speak regarding the possible energy saving options open to the Parish Council with regards to its street lighting.

He spoke regarding the EU Directives and the lamps currently in use by the parish and their life expectancy.

The unmetered energy supply contract was discussed and it was suggested by Direct Technical that the PC could possibly save 40% on its energy bills.

It was noted that the PC needed a UMS Certificate for its street lighting and then it was free to seek alternative supplier options.

The Chairman thanked Mr Bonner for attending the meeting and his offer to assist the PC with their street lighting.

10. MBC Borough Councillor Report.

Borough Councillor Peter Parvin gave his apologies to the meeting.

11. KCC Councillors Report.

KCC Councillor Gary Cooke attended the meeting.

He reported that the Officers at KCC had accepted that they had 'messed up' regarding the village gates and build-outs.

He confirmed that the funding was definitely in place and the plans for the build-outs had been approved.

He confirmed to members that the gates and the build-out would be put right.

He confirmed that the build-outs would be a 1 metre raised section and a rumble strip. He confirmed that they would definitely be installed to plan at the lower end of the village; however there was currently some query over the top end of the village. He stated that he was in the process of sorting this.

Councillor Cooke reported on the village school and the road improvements that were due to be put in place in that area, along with the 20mph zone. He stated that there was no need to delay this work.

Councillor Cooke offered to attend the next meeting with a Highways Officer to speak regarding this matter. He stated that this would also give members the opportunity to discuss the road and the problem with lorries.

This was agreed by members.

Councillor Cooke spoke regarding the Village Primary School admissions and informed members that Leeds School was not full; it had an intake of ten, however it still had vacancies. He stated that this did raise concerns regarding the future viability of the school.

Councillor Govett asked if there was anything that the Parish Council could do to assist with regards to the school.

Councillor Cooke spoke regarding their Ofsted Standards and the results of the Leeds School Ofsted Report.

Councillor Fort asked for the statistics for the children attending the school and whether the children living in the parish attended Leeds School.

Councillor Cooke stated that Kingswood School also had the same problems.

Councillor Govett suggested that the Parish Council should liaise with the school more. Councillor Cooke stated that the residents should recognise that they should either use the school or lose it.

A general discussion took place regarding the difficulties surrounding the future viability of the school, church and the Ten Bells Public House.

A resident spoke regarding the 'Unsuitable for HGV' sign's that had been put in place at Hollingbourne and Caring Lane, he asked why a similar sign had not been put up along the B2163 on the access to the village.

A discussion took place regarding a Bypass and Councillor Cooke stated that this would cost in the region of 80 million.

Councillor Govett suggested putting highways questions to KCC Officers when they attended the next meeting.

12. Correspondence & Clerks Report.

The Clerk reported on the correspondence received during the course of the month.

Members considered a request from a resident to hire the playing field and pavillion for a child's birthday party in June 2012. This was approved subject to a charge of £5 per hour and a £50 refundable deposit.

Action: Clerk to progress.

13. Planning Matters.

New Applications Received

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| MA/12/0317 | The Old Boathouse, Old Mill Road, Leeds.
Application for the removal of conditions 2 and 15 of planning permission MA/03/0046 to enable unrestricted use as a dwelling house. |
| MA/12/0513 | Leeds Castle, Ashford Road, Hollingbourne.
Re-erection of former picnic shelter building in new location. |

MBC Decisions

12/0025 THE TOWER HOUSE, UPPER STREET, LEEDS, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1RU

Erection of single storey extension to Leeds north elevation and alterations to existing outbuilding ("The Old Stables").

Approved/Granted with Conditions

12/0026 THE TOWER HOUSE, UPPER STREET, LEEDS, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1RU

An application for listed building Leeds consent for the erection of single storey extension to north elevation and alterations to existing outbuilding.

Approved/Granted with Conditions

12/0217 THE BARN, FULLING MILL FARM, CARING LANE, LEEDS, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1TJ

New external door and window.

Approved/Granted with Conditions**12/0218 THE BARN, FULLING MILL FARM, CARING LANE, LEEDS, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1TJ**

An application for listed building Leeds consent for new external door and window, internal alterations including removal of staircase, new services and associated works.

Approved/Granted with Conditions**14. Financial Matters.****a. Financial Statement.**

The financial statements for the Parish Council and Playing Field Accounts was presented to Councillors and approved. (Fort/Young).

b. Village Hall Hire.

Councillor Govett reported on his recent discussions with the Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee, David Costello, regarding the possibility of the PC hiring the village hall for the use of the Parish Council for its meeting and also for village groups at a reduced rate.

He referred to an email received from Mr Costello in response to the proposals put by the PC and stated that he felt that this proposal had been misunderstood.

It was agreed that Councillor Fort should liaise further with the Village Hall Management Committee to try to seek an agreement with them with regards to the future hire of the hall.

Action: Councillor Fort to progress.

Members discussed the PC's proposals to assist new village groups in starting up regular meetings in the village hall, it was agreed to continue to advertise this opportunity until a formal agreement had been reached with the Management Committee.

It was agreed that a flyer could also be circulated around the village to advertise this.

15. Parish Maintenance.

The new Village Warden, Mr Brace attended the meeting to meet members and to discuss the maintenance of the parish. Members discussed the role and the areas in need of attending on a regular basis.

The work sheet issued by the Clerk was approved by all present.

Members agreed to the purchase of tools for the Warden which fell within the budget approved at the previous meeting.

Mr Brace informed members that he would be attending a Control of Pesticides course to allow him to use weed killer around the parish. Members supported this.

The Chairman thanked Mr Brace for attending the meeting.

The Clerk was asked to liaise with Paul Waring to request that the hedges at the Church Car Park were cut back.

Action: Clerk to action.

16. Leeds Playing Field & Pavillion.

Councillor Young reported that four windows had been smashed at the Pavillion; Councillor Young was given authority to have these repaired.

Action: Councillor Young to action.

It was agreed that she would also seek to have a security light installed at the pavillion.

Action: Councillor Young to action.

17. Broadband in Leeds.

Councillor Fort informed members that Councillor Wallace was representing the PC on a Committee of Parish Councils to try to seek funding to have faster broadband in Leeds. Members gave their support to this project and the PC inclusion on the Committee.

18. Queens Diamond Jubilee.

Councillor Young reported on the arrangements for the Village Jubilee event.

Members considered a request for a financial donation of £500 towards the cost of this event. It was proposed by Councillor Govett and seconded by Councillor Fort that a budget of £500 would be allocated to the Jubilee event; however the PC would hold this budget until it was needed.

Action: Budget of £500 allocated.

19. Highway Matters.a) Village Gates.

No further matters were raised.

b) Road Safety Improvements at School.

No matters were raised.

c) General Matters.

No matters were raised.

20. Joint Parish Group & LDF.

No matters were reported.

21. Further questions from public.

No further matters were raised.

22. Urgent Matters.

Councillor Govett spoke regarding the Village School and the comments raised by Councillor Cooke. He asked if there was anything that the Parish Council could do to assist with its future viability in some way.

A discussion took place regarding this matter.

23. Date of next Parish Council Meeting.

Tuesday 8th May 2012 at Leeds Pavillion.

There being no further business the meeting was closed 10.00pm.

Signed _____ **Dated** _____