

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

Present: Mr China
 Mr Gallihawk
 Mr Govett
 Mrs Young

In attendance: Mrs Sherrie Babington – Clerk, KCC Councillor Cooke, MBC Councillor Parvin and members of the Public.

The meeting was chaired by Councillor Govett.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Councillors Fort and Wallace.

2. Declaration of Interests.

No interests were declared.

3. Parish Councillor Vacancy.

Members agreed to advertise this vacancy during the summer and consider it further at the September meeting.

4. Public Comments.

No matters were raised.

5. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

The minutes from the previous meeting were circulated to all present. These were then proposed by Councillor Young seconded by Councillor China and agreed by all present. These were then signed and dated by the Chairman.

6. Matters Arising.

Playing Field Play Area – Councillor Young reported that she had held a meeting on site with a contractor to seek an estimate for the refurbishment and replacement of the play equipment at the playing field. She reported on the quotation received.

It was agreed that in order for the equipment to be replaced that grant funding would be required.

Councillor Young reported that a quotation for new tennis courts was due in the near future.

7. Police Report.

The police were not present at the meeting.

The Clerk was asked to liaise with the police regarding their attendance at Parish Council meetings.

Action: Clerk to action.

8. Parish Council Website.

Councillor Govett spoke regarding the website; he stated that he was in the process of drafting a brief for the redesign and transfer of the website. He stated that he felt that the budget allocated by the PC was sufficient for the update of this.

He stated that he would finalise the brief and circulate to for approval before seeking quotations for the new website. This was agreed by all present.

Action: Councillor Govett to progress.

9. Code of Conduct.

The Clerk circulated a report to all members regarding the requirement of the Localism Act and the need to adopt a new Code of Conduct from 1st July 2012.

Members considered the NALC Model Code of Conduct and the Kent Model Code of Conduct in order to determine which they would wish to adopt. Following a discussion it was proposed by Councillor Young to adopt the Kent Code of Conduct, this was seconded by Councillor China and agreed by all present.

The Clerk circulated Register of Interest forms to all councillors and explained the requirements to complete this.

Action: Clerk to progress and further action regarding this matter.

10. MBC Borough Councillor Report.

Borough Councillor Peter Parvin gave his report to the meeting.

He spoke regarding the LDF and Junction 8.

11. KCC Councillors Report.

KCC Councillor Gary Cooke gave his report to the meeting.

Safety improvements at the school - He reported that the road lay out at the school had now been completed and was a clear safety enhancement. He reported that the 20mph signs for the speed limit would be in place in the near future.

Village Gates – He circulated plans for the village gates to all present. It was reported that the northern end gate would stay where it was but the road surface would incorporate a rumble strip.

A discussion took place regarding the safety audit for the village gates and the reasons why the build-outs would not be installed.

Councillor Cooke stated that the rumble strips would have a positive effect.

Councillor Gallihawk asked about the noise associated with the rumble strips, Councillor Cooke stated that he felt that this would not be a problem.

Councillor Cooke stated that he had not yet approved the plans and he wished to have a view from the PC in the first instance.

Councillor Govett asked about the noise of the HGV's travelling over the rumble strips.

The location of the village gates were discussed, Councillor Cooke stated that these were placed in the original proposed location.

Councillor Govett spoke regarding the possibility of moving the gate further down the hill towards the castle to limit the noise and to slow the traffic further.

Councillor Cooke stated that he would check on the details, he reiterated that he had wished to finalise the plans.

Members stated that they were concerned regarding the location of the northern gate and the affects from the noise on local residents and businesses.

Councillor Cooke stated that the plans were exactly the same as previously approved, however without the build-outs.

Councillor China asked about the effectiveness of rumble strips.

Councillor Govett stated that he accepted that the Parish Council had previously agreed to rumble strips through the Chairman of the PC, however now that the build-outs were not in place he felt that their effectiveness would be reduced especially for HGV's.

Councillor Cooke confirmed that he would ask the questions regarding the northern gates, but would approve the plans for the southern gates. He stated that he would also ask about the noise issues and if he was given a clear no, then he would seek to progress the scheme at the northern end of the village.

Members agreed to this and Councillor Cooke stated that he would seek the reassurances from officers regarding the noise issues.

Verges – Councillor Cooke informed members that Kent Highways were now receiving a high level of complaints regarding overgrown verges, as a result KCC were now looking to work with local parishes and use their Members Highways Fund to cut these. He stated that he would look to devolve funds from his budget to cut the verges.

Councillor Govett asked for further details as to how much could be devolved to parishes; Councillor Cooke stated that he would seek to establish the cost of cutting verges.

It was agreed that the PC would be willing to undertake this scheme with a view to having something in place for next spring.

Councillor Cooke informed members that he had recently been out inspecting parishes with an officer from KCC and had identified a number of matters that needed to be addressed for Leeds. He spoke regarding having new signs on the A20 to deter HGV's from entering the village. He spoke regarding Lorry Watch and the Parish Councils involvement in this.

Junction 8 – Councillor Cooke explained the LDF and the site specific allocations at junction 8. He stated that Leeds Caste had made representations. He stated that MBC recognised that that development at J8 was inevitable; he stated that he was against warehousing and felt that any development would need to be sympathetic with the local surroundings.

Councillor Govett thanked Councillor Cooke for his report.

12. Correspondence & Clerks Report.

Members noted the Clerks Report and the correspondence received during the course of the month.

The playing fields were discussed and the need to upgrade these. It was agreed that a quotation for improvement to the play area should be sought with the view of seeking grant funding for the work.

13. Planning Matters.

No planning matters were reported.

14. Financial Matters.

a. Financial Statement.

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

15. Parish Maintenance.

No matters were raised.

16. Playing Field.

It was reported that the Mote Park Rangers Football Team no longer wished to hire the football pitch for the next season.

Councillor Young stated that she would liaise with the Football League regarding the future hire of the pitches. It was agreed that the PC would consider football or rugby hirers.

Action: Councillor Young to progress.

Councillor Young stated that she would arrange for the lock on the pavillion to be changed.

Action: Councillor Young to progress.

17. Highway Matters.a) Village Gates.

No further matters were raised.

b) Road Safety Improvements at School.

No further matters were raised.

c) General Matters.

No matters were raised.

18. Joint Parish Group & LDF.

No matters were reported.

19. Further questions from public.

No matters were reported.

20. Urgent Matters.

Village Hall Hire – This was discussed and it was agreed that Councillor Young and Govett would attend a Village Hall Management Committee Meeting to try to progress the hire of the village hall for village groups.

21. Date of next Parish Council Meeting.

Tuesday 11th September 2012 at Leeds Pavillion.

There being no further business the meeting was closed 9.05pm.

Signed _____

Dated _____