

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LEEDS PARISH COUNCIL
Held in the Playing Field Pavillion on Tuesday 10th September 2013 at 7.30pm.

Present: Mrs Fort
Mr Gallihawk
Mr Govett
Mr Wallace
Mrs Young

In attendance: Mrs Sherrie Babington – Clerk, KCC Councillor Gary Cooke, Representative from Kent Fire Brigade, Representative from Kingswood and Broomfield Neighbourhood Watch and members of the public

The meeting was chaired by Councillor Fort.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Councillors Springford, China, MBC Councillor Parvin and the police.

2. Declaration of Interests.

No interests were declared.

3. Public Comments.

Residents of Ashbank Cottages attended the meeting to report that there had been two accidents at Ashbank Cottages in the last eight weeks, the latest being the day before the PC meeting.

They informed members that Richard Emmett, Highways Officer had visited the site following the accident and he had indicated that should another accident occur then the bollards at the cottages would be removed as KCC were not responsible for protecting property only lives. The resident confirmed that the bollards had now been replaced; however they raised concerns at the comments made by KHS Officers.

Councillor Cooke stated that he would look into this matter as the bollards were needed to protect life and property.

A resident asked if anything could be done to slow the traffic down as speed was a problem in that area of the village.

It was suggested that speed bumps along the route would assist with this problem.

Councillor Cooke stated that he would look into what could be done but the immediate issue was the enforcement of the speed limits by the police.

Councillor Govett spoke regarding the speed cameras and asked who was responsible for making a decision on where these were located. He stated that a speed camera could be a more permanent deterrent.

A general discussion took place regarding the options which could be considered to ease the speeding problems in the village.

Councillor Cooke suggested starting a Speedwatch in the parish as he felt that this would assist with the problems.

Councillor Govett spoke regarding the possibility of Leeds PC assisting KCC with the funding of measures to try to assist with the problems.

Councillor Cooke stated that he would look into the issues raised and report back to the next meeting.

A resident from The Milers attended the meeting to raise concerns regarding the road surface at Milner's. She stated that this was in a very poor condition. In 2010 she stated that she had written to Councillor Cooke regarding this problem; however nothing had been done about the road. She stated that she had registered this problem on the KCC website as a fault and was currently awaiting action.

Councillor Cooke stated that the Milner's was not an adopted road according the KCC records. He stated that there was an issue as to whether this was correct and KCC were of the opinion that this was the case. He agreed that the road condition was poor and suggested that he would follow this up with KHS.

Councillor Gallihawk declared an interest in this matter.

The Chairman introduced Mr Evans from Kingswood and Broomfield Neighbourhood Watch to the meeting. She stated that he had attended to speak on the scheme and the possibility of assisting with setting up a group within Leeds.

Mr Evans gave a presentation on the Neighbourhood Watch Schemes and the benefits of having a Neighbourhood Watch in the Parish.

The Chairman thanked Mr Evans for his presentation.

A representative from the Kent Fire Service attended the meeting and gave a presentation to all present.

Action: The Clerk to forward a plan of fire hydrants to all members

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

The minutes from the previous meeting were circulated to all present. These were proposed by Councillor Fort, seconded by Councillor Wallace and agreed by all present. These were then signed and dated by the Chairman of the meeting.

5. Matters Arising.

There were no matters arising.

6. Police Report.

The police were not present at the meeting.

7. Parish Council Website.

No matters were raised.

8. MBC Borough Councillor Report.

Borough Councillor Peter Parvin gave his apologies to the meeting.

9. KCC Councillors Report.

KCC Councillor Gary Cooke gave his report to the meeting.

He reported on the KCC budget and the savings that needed to be made over the next few years.

He reported that he would be funding a parish clean up again this year.

A discussion took place regarding Lorry Watch and the problems encountered with this. Members raised concerns regarding the lack of feedback. Councillor Cooke stated that he would take this matter up with the KCC Lorry Watch Co-ordinator and come back to the PC.

10. Correspondence & Clerks Report.

1. Consultation on the Registration of new town or village greens

DCLG is currently consulting on Registration of new town or village greens: proposed amendments to the Commons Act 2006, which was issued on 5 July. The deadline is Monday 19 August – see web link <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/registration-of-new-town-or-village-greens-proposed-amendments-to-the-commons-act-2006> .

2. Onshore wind turbines and solar farms

An announcement by DCLG that communities should have a greater say on developments on onshore wind turbines and solar farms. DCLG has just published Planning Guidance on this which confirms that the need for renewable energy does not automatically override local environmental and heritage protections and the concerns of local communities. The guidance can be accessed via the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/greater-community-say-on-wind-turbines-and-solar-farms>

DCLG has also published Planning Guidance on shale gas, which can be accessed by the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/local-planning-and-shale-gas>.

3. Kent Downs AONB Management Plan 2014 – 2019

The draft review of the Management Plan sets out the vision for the future of the Kent Downs AONB landscape, seeks to address key issues and threats and sets out aims, objectives and policies for the positive management of the Kent Downs for the next 20 years. Consultation closes on the 27th September 2013.

The Management Plan is divided into chapters on our website <http://www.kentdowns.org.uk/publications/consultation-on-draft-management-plan-2013>.

4. Mayors Charity Evening

The Worshipful the Mayor of Maidstone Councillor Clive English is delighted to invite you to a Charity Evening Cruise on the Allington Belle a Mississippi style paddle boat on the River Medway, Maidstone on Friday, 20 September 2013 7.30 pm – 10 pm.

Tickets cost £22.50 per person.

5. Consultation on National Waste Planning Policy

DCLG recently issued a consultation seeking views on the draft of updated national waste planning policy for England – Planning for sustainable waste management (see <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/updated-national-waste-planning-policy-planning-for-sustainable-waste-management> The deadline for responses is 23 September.

6. Consultation - Greater Flexibility for Change of Use.

The DCLG proposals are intended to support the Government's priorities for making better use of existing buildings, supporting the high street and rural communities, providing new housing, developing more free schools and contributing to the provision of child care for working families.

For more detail on the DCLG consultation and the specific proposals please use the following web link <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/greater-flexibilities-for-change-of-use>

11. Planning Matters.

New Applications Received

MA/13/1300 Wildacres, Caring Lane, Leeds.

Erection of a single storey side extension with terrace.

MBC Planning Decisions

13/0561 1 & 2, RUTLAND COTTAGES, BACK STREET, LEEDS, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1TE

Two storey rear extension to number 2 Rutland Cottages and first floor rear extension to number 1 Rutland Cottages.

Approved/Granted with Conditions

13/1300 WILDACRES, CARING LANE, LEEDS, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1TJ

Erection of a single storey side extension with terrace as shown on drawing no.s CL/439/02 and CL/439/BP01 received on 23/07/13.

Approved/Granted with Conditions

12. Financial Matters.

a) Financial Statement.

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

13. Parish Maintenance.

No matters were raised.

14. Playing Field.

Members discussed the marking of the football pitches at the playing fields and it was agreed to accept the quotation received from Steven Waring to undertake this.

Action: Clerk to progress.

It was agreed that Councillor Young would arrange to have the old posts removed and for the plumbing at the pavillion to be repaired.

Action: Councillor Young to action.

15. Playing Field Litter Bin.

It was reported that the bin had now been delivered and it was agreed that Councillor Young would progress the installation of this.

16. Street Lighting.

No matters were raised.

17. Highway Matters.

a) General Matters.

No further matters were raised.

b) Lorry Watch.

No further matters were raised.

18. Joint Parish Group & LDF.

Councillor Fort updated members on this matter.

19. Further questions from public.

No matters were raised.

20. Urgent Matters.

No matters were raised.

21. Date of next Parish Council Meeting.

Tuesday 8th October 2013 at Leeds Pavillion.

There being no further business the meeting was closed 9.00pm.

Signed _____

Dated _____