

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LEEDS PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Held in Leeds Village Hall on Tuesday 8th April 2014 at 7.30pm.**

**Present: Cllrs Fort**  
**Govett**  
**China**  
**Springford**

**Also: Parish Clerk, Sherrie Babington, PCSO Richard Kirby, KCC Councillor Gary Cooke, MBC Councillor Peter Parvin, press, and public.**

**The meeting was chaired by Cllr Fort.**

**1. Apologies.**

Apologies were received from Parish Councillors, Young, Wallace and Gallihawk and Borough Councillor Peter Parvin.

**2. Declaration of Interests.**

No interests were declared.

**3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.**

The minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by Cllr Govett as a true record, these were seconded by Cllr Fort 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 tabled a letter that he had written to KCC expressing his concern at the way some of the works were being carried out and the lack of 7 days a week working. Gary Cooke responded saying that the extent of the sewer replacement was much greater than first expected once this work is completed the site will return to 7 day working. KCC believe that the project is still on course to be completed towards the end of May.

**6. Kent County Councillor Report.**

Kent County Councillor Gary Cooke gave a report to the meeting.

He confirmed that the weight restriction is moving ahead with pre-works and consultation being worked on now.

Concern was expressed over the planned closure of Willington Street for resurfacing once the B2163 is open. Gary reiterated his formal statement that was put on the website

*I wish to allay fears that have been created as a result of "news" on the web site to the effect that Leeds and the B2163 would be used as a diversion while Willington Street is closed for resurfacing. It*

*may well be that this misconception has come about due to the fact that the works planned for Willington Street will only be undertaken once the road through Leeds has reopened.*

*This has to be the case due to the fact that Willington Street acts as a diversion for the B2163 while this remains closed. It does not follow that the reverse would be true!*

*I can confirm that KCC would not consider the B2163 through Leeds as an appropriate diversion route as Willington Street is the designated lorry route and there is a weight restriction on the B2163. KCC are looking at how these works might be phased and how the traffic might be best managed through each phase. KCC is also looking at working extended hours to minimise the duration of the works. However, please be assured that these plans do not include the B2163 which as stated above would not be deemed an appropriate diversion route.*

**7. Ward Councillors Report.**

Ward Councillor Peter Parvin gave a report to the meeting.

**8. Highways Matters.**

*a. General Report.*

No further matters were reported.

*b. Update on Scoping Work by Peter Brett associates re B2163.*

No matters were raised.

**9. Special Constable Update.**

Cllr Govett informed the meeting that he had met with Police Inspector Thompson and a recruitment day was held on 5 April 14. It was successful and 3 potential volunteers are requesting further information.

**10. Police Report.**

Richard Kirby PCSO attended the meeting and advised that there had been no reported crime for the past 4 months this coincides with the closure of the road.

**11. Correspondence.**

**1. Government's Community Energy Strategy**

The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) published the Government's Community Energy Strategy which sets out proposals for local communities to generate their own energy, reduce the energy they do use, manage energy more efficiently and collective purchasing of energy or switching to save money on energy.

The Government says doing so will enable communities to control their energy bills and help transform the energy system. Apparently over 50% of people surveyed by DECC said that saving money on bills would be the major motivation for getting involved with community energy schemes. An 18 page summary of the Community Energy Strategy is attached. The full version of the Strategy and further information on what Government support is available can be accessed via the following weblinks.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/community-energy-strategy> and  
<https://www.gov.uk/community-energy>

**2. DCLG Consultation: S106 Consultation**

DCLG published a consultation on "Planning performance and planning contributions". The DCLG announcement and consultation document can be accessed via the following weblink <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/charges-adding-thousands-of-pounds-to-building-costs-to-be-axed>.

**3. DCLG Consultation: Draft Transparency Code for Parish Councils with a turnover not exceeding £25,000**

The new Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 sets out a new audit framework. Under the new framework parish councils with an annual turnover not exceeding £25,000 will be exempt from routine external audit but will be subject to new transparency requirements.

The proposed new transparency requirements are set out in the attached consultation from DCLG. The Government proposes that the code will be mandatory for parish councils with an annual turnover not exceeding £25,000. Turnover will be calculated as the higher of a Council's gross income or gross expenditure in a given year. The consultation also sets out proposals on what information should be published, whether there should be a threshold above which individual items of expenditure must be published and whether there should be any exemptions. The consultation proposes that the information is published electronically and seeks views on how much additional cost there might be as a result of the proposals in relation to staff time and cost to publish the required data.

***The deadline for comments to DCLG is Friday 9 May.***

**4. CPRE Solar Workshops**

At our Planning Conference on 22 March, CPRE Protect Kent referred to 2 Solar Workshops that they are running over the course of the next month. We agreed to circulate details to all member Councils as they will be of interest to any parish with a current or likely solar farm application. CPRE Protect Kent advise that the Workshops will help Councils to write an effective planning response to the application whether they want to oppose or improve what is being proposed. The dates are as follows:

- 11 April at the CPRE office in Charing, situated at Queens Head House on the A20 in Charing;
- 2 May at Hadlow College, Hadlow campus ( details to follow).

The timing of both events is 10am to 1pm. The cost of the event is £10.

**12. Planning Matters.**

No applications were received.

**13. Financial Matters.**

The Financial Statements for the Parish Council and Leeds Playing Field were proposed by Cllr Govett and seconded by Cllr Fort.

The cheques for payment were signed by two members of the Parish Council.

**14. Parish Maintenance.**

It was agreed that a Spring Clean Up Day would be held on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2014.

**15. Leeds Playing Field.**

It was agreed to have the tennis courts cleaned and install new nets.

- 16. Street Lighting.**  
No matters were raised.
- 17. Joint Parish Group.**  
No matters were raised.
- 18. Public Comments.**  
No matters were raised.
- 19. Urgent Matters.**  
No matters were raised.
- 20. Date of Next Meeting.**  
13th May 2014.

*There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed to the press and public at 9:00 PM*

*Signed* \_\_\_\_\_

*Dated* \_\_\_\_\_