

**The Minutes of the meeting of the Leeds Parish Council held in St Nicolas Church,
Leeds on 8th July 2014 at 7:30 PM**

Councillors present: China
Fort
Govett
Wallace
Young

Also present: Parish Clerk, Mrs S Babington, KCC Cllr Gary Cooke, MBC Cllr Peter Parvin and representatives from the police.

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Fort.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Councillors Gallihawk and Springford.

2. Declaration of Interests.

No interests were declared.

3. To appoint Committees and Representatives to Outside Bodies.

A list of the Committees and Representatives to Outside Bodies was circulated to all present, this was approved subject to agreed alterations.

Action: Parish Clerk to circulate details to all councillors.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting were circulated to all present. These were proposed by Cllr Young as a true record of the previous meeting, this was seconded by Cllr China and agreed by all present.

The Chairman signed and dated in minutes.

5. Matters Arising.

There were no matters arising.

6. Public Comments.

A resident spoke regarding the reinstatement of the verges within the parish. Cllr Cooke stated that he was undertaking an inspection of the parish with the Highways Inspector during the next week and these areas would be inspected.

A resident spoke regarding the problem of vehicles parking on the pavement at the bottom of the Old Mill Lane and stated that this was causing a problem.

Cllr China asked if it was illegal to park on the pavement. Cllr Cooke and PCSO Kirby spoke regarding this matter.

PCSO Kirby suggested that it may be staff from the Biffa site parking on the pavements. Cllr Cooke stated that he would inspect this area to ascertain the current situation.

7. KCC Councillors Report.

KCC Cllr Gary Cooke gave his report to the meeting. He spoke regarding the problem of overweight

lorries using B2163 now that it had reopened and a discussion that had taken place regarding the downgrading of the road. He confirmed that the Parish Council would not receive any support from KCC regarding this matter and stated that he was hopeful that the weight limit would be reduced to 7.5 times.

Cllr Cooke spoke regarding the proposed weight limit reduction and stated that this was to be reported to the Joint Transportation Board meeting in September/October 2014.

He confirmed that traffic counts and data collection to support this was currently being undertaken and the existing evidence and data was also being looked into.

He reported that the Joint Transportation Board would make a recommendation, David Brazier from KCC would then make a decision and if approved a Traffic Order would be submitted and the reduction would be implemented.

A discussion took place regarding the enforcement of a 7.5 tonne weight limit.

Cllr Cooke spoke regarding the KCC proposals for a Bypass and stated that in his view this was a good solution. He stated that under the new leadership at Maidstone Borough Council there was a better line of communication between MBC and KCC and they were currently looking at ways that they could work closer together.

Members discussed the KCC response to the MBC Local Plan and Cllr Govett suggested that the Parish Council needed to discuss this in order for the Parish Council to have a view on the proposals for the Bypass.

Cllr Cooke stated that he had generally had good feedback to the proposals. He stated that the Bypass would be a two lane carriageway capable of taking the traffic away from Leeds village. He spoke regarding the benefits of the road and the assistance that such a road would give to the Castle. Cllr Fort spoke regarding the feedback to the Village Design Statement and the Parish Plan and a positive view expressed by residents for a relief road.

A general discussion took place regarding the Bypass and the history of this within the parish.

Cllr Govett asked if the Parish Council should seek the views of the parishioners in order to put its view forward.

Cllr Fort stated that the Parish Council had spent a lot of time and effort on the Parish Plan, Village Design Statement and referendums in the past to establish the views of residents. She stated that the Parish Council was elected to represent the Parish and therefore she felt that the Parish Council should make a decision behalf of its residents.

This was discussed further and it was generally agreed that the Parish Council did support the proposals put forward by KCC with regards to a Bypass for the village.

Cllr Govett proposed that Parish Council support the KCC proposals and response to the Local Plan regarding the proposals for the Spur Road (Bypass). This was agreed by all present.

Action: Proposal carried confirming the Parish Council's support for the KCC response to the Local Plan regarding the Bypass.

8. Ward Councillors Report.

MBC Cllr Peter Parvin gave his report to the meeting.

He spoke regarding the Local Plan and the new administration at the Borough Council.

9. Highways Matters.

No further matters were reported.

10. Special Constable Update.

Cllr Govett stated that he had not received a further update since the police confirmed that they were pursuing the recruitment of one Special Constable.

11. Police Report.

PCSO Richard Kirby attended the meeting and gave a report to all present.

12. Correspondence report.

The correspondence report was circulated and noted by all present.

13. Planning Matters.

Members discussed the Ten Bells applications and their concerns regarding these. It was agreed that the Clerk would liaise with the Planning Officer to establish the current situation.

14. Financial Matters.

a. Financial Statement.

The financial statement was circulated to members for consideration. This was agreed (Govett/China) and the cheques were signed by two authorised signatories.

15. Parish Maintenance.

The Clerk informed the meeting that she had spoken with Chris Brace regarding the maintenance and stated that he was happy to continue on the same basis, working approximately five hours a week. This was agreed by members.

Action: Clerk to liaise with Chris Brace.

16. Playing Field and Pavilion.

Cllr China reported that he was in the process of obtaining quotations for the plumbing work at the Pavilion.

Tennis courts – Cllr Govett spoke regarding the tennis courts and the condition of these. This was discussed and it was agreed that the Parish Council would place a sign on the tennis courts to warn users that they did so at their own risk.

Damage to the pavilion – Cllr China reported that to undertake repairs to the vandalism at the pavilion would cost approximately £1000. This was discussed and it was agreed that the work should be undertaken.

Action: Cllr China to progress.

17. Street Lighting.

Cllr China reported that to reduce the street lighting by 24 lights and disconnect these would cost in the region of £10,000.

Cllr Fort suggested that the Parish Council should let the lights die naturally and then take the decision whether or not to repair them.

This was discussed and agreed by all present.

CLlr China spoke regarding the Parish Council's energy bill for the Pavilion. The Clerk was asked to liaise with EDF Energy regarding this matter and to request that the meter was read.

Action: Clerk to action.

18. Joint Parish Group.

No matters were raised.

19. Public Comments and Observations.

No matters were raised.

20. Urgent Matters.

No matters were raised.

21. Date of next meeting.

9th September 2014.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed to the press and public at 9:15 PM.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Dated: _____