

The Minutes of the Statutory Annual meeting of Leeds Parish Council
held in St Nicolas Church at 8.15pm on 13th of June 2014

***Councillors present: Young
Wallace
China
Springford
Fort***

Also: Parish Clerk, Sherrie Babington, PCSO Richard Kirby, KCC Cllr Gary Cooke and members of the public.

The meeting was chaired by Councillor Fort.

1. To Elect a Chairman.

Nominations were sought for the role of Chairman.

Cllr Young nominated Cllr Fort as Chairman, this was seconded by Cllr Wallace and agreed by all present.

There being no further nominations received, Cllr Fort was elected to the role of Chairman,

2. To receive the Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Cllr Fort signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took the role of Chairman.

3. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Parish Councillors Govett and Gallihawk and Borough Councillor Peter Parvin.

4. Declaration of Interests.

No interest were declared.

5. To elect a Vice-Chairman.

Nominations were sought for the role of Vice-Chairman.

Cllr Fort nominated Cllr Govett as Vice-Chairman, this was seconded by Cllr Springford and agreed by all present.

There being no further nominations received, Cllr Govett was elected to the role of Vice-Chairman.

6. To consider Committees and Representatives to Outside Bodies.

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

7. Minutes of the previous Meeting.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by Cllr China as a true record, These were seconded by Cllr Fort and agreed by all present.

8. Matters Arising from the Minutes.

There were no matters arising.

9. Public Comments and Observations.

A resident asked about the Ten Bells Public House and why this had been demolished. The Chairman

stated that Parish Council had no knowledge of this and she had been in contact with Maidstone Borough Councils Enforcement Department who were looking into this matter. She stated that a retrospective planning application was due to be submitted by the applicant.

She confirmed that the Parish Council was not happy with this action as it had held a lots of discussions with the contractor regarding the new development before it was sold on.

10. KCC Councillors Report.

KCC Councillor Gary Cooke gave a short report to the meeting. He spoke regarding the void in Upper Street and informed members that Kings Cottages had been affected by another hole in their back garden. He stated that this did not affect the highway, but unfortunately it did have consequences for the residents.

He praised KCC Officer Katie Lewis for her work with regards to the void in Upper Street and the excellent way that she had kept all parties informed of the progress.

11. MBC Ward Councillors Report.

Apologies were received from MBC Councillor Peter Parvin.

12. Highways Matters.

a. General Report.

No further matters were reported.

b. B2163.

No matters were reported.

13. Special Constable Update.

This item was deferred until The next meeting.

14. Police Report.

PCSO Richard Kirby gave his report to the meeting.

15. Correspondence Report.

The Clerk's Report and correspondence was noted by members.

16. Planning Matters.

New Applications Received

No new applications received.

MBC Planning Decisions

14/0019 ARNOLD FARM, BACK STREET, LEEDS, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1TF

An application to discharge conditions relating to MA/12/1231 - Removal of existing lean-to storage building and erection of a replacement general purpose agricultural storage building and covered access - Being details of condition 3 (Materials)

Approved/Granted

14/0179 LAND OPPOSITE WILD ACRES, CARING LANE, LEEDS, KENT, ME14 4NJ

An application for a Certificate of Lawfulness for an Existing Use or Development being the use of the land for commercial equine use in breach of condition 6 attached to MA/96/1011

Refused

14/0071 LEEDS CASTLE, ASHFORD ROAD, HOLLINGBOURNE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1PL

Advertisement consent to display two freestanding signs, five banner signs and two flag signs on flag poles (all non-illuminated) as shown on drawing number(s) 5191/01, 5191/02, 5191/03, 5191/04, 5191/05, FWDP Ref: B1 & FWDP Ref: B11 received on 15/01/201

Approved/Granted with Conditions

13/2228 ARNOLD FARM, BACK STREET, LEEDS, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1TF

Retrospective application for the erection of polytunnels in connection with soft fruit production as set out in the Planning, Design and Access Statement and drawings DHA/10008/01 and DHA/10008/02 received on the 21st December 2013.

Approved/Granted with Conditions

17. Financial Matters.

a. Financial Statement.

The Financial Statements for the Parish Council and that Leeds Playing Field were circulated to members. These was proposed by Cllr Fort and seconded by Cllr Young.

The cheques for payment were then signed by two authorised signatories.

b. 2013/2014 Accounts and Annual Return.

The 2013/2014 Accounts and Annual Return for the Parish Council has circulated to all members. It was proposed by Cllr Young to accept these, this was seconded by Cllr Fort and agreed by all present.

The Accounts and Annual Return were signed by the Chairman.

18. Parish Maintenance.

Cllr Fort suggested that the overflow car park at the church should be cut in mid June. This was agreed by all present and Cllr China stated that he would liaise with Contractors, Paul Waring regarding this matter.

19. Leeds Playing Field.

Cllr Young reported that she had now secured a new football team to use the Playing Field. She stated that the Loose Lions would take on the pitch from the 1 August 2014 and they would mark the pitches and erect the new goalposts.

Action: Clerk to forward hire forms to new football team.

It was reported that the door to the Pavilion had been vandalised. Cllr China stated that he would action this matter.

It was agreed that the new tennis net and posts would be progressed and Cllr China was asked to deal with this matter.

It was also agreed that the litter bin needed to be installed as soon as possible.

Action: Cllr China to action Pavilion and Tennis Courts.

20. Street Lighting.

Cllr China reported that he and Cllr Wallace had plotted all the street lights on the map, recommending which ones should be turned off.

This was discussed and KCC Cllr Gary Cooke spoke regarding KCC approach to reducing their street lighting.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would identify the lights to retain and let the others go out when they had come to the end of their life.

Cllr Cooke stated that he would look at KCC is protocol regarding this.

It was agreed to discuss this further at the next meeting.

Action: Clerk to place item on next agenda.

21. Joint Parish Group and Local Plan.

Cllr Cooke stated that the KCC response to the Local Plan had been generally well received by the Joint Parish Group.

22. Public Comments and Observations.

It was reported that the footpath on Folly Hill, KH244 was overgrown and you need cutting back and the stile was unsafe near Forge Lane.

Action: Clerk to report to KCC.

A resident asked when the Parish Councils financial accounts would be published. The Clerk explained the audit process.

23. Urgent Matters.

It was reported that the school has now appointed a new permanent Headteacher. It was agreed that the Parish Council should send a letter welcoming the new Head to the school and to invite to a future meeting of the Parish Council.

Action: Clerk to progress.

24. Date of next Meeting.

10 June 2014.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed to the press and public at 9:10 PM.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Dated: _____