

**The Minutes of the Meeting of Leeds Parish Council**  
**held in Leeds and Broomfield Village Hall on Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at 7:30 PM.**

**Councillors present:** *Beale*  
*Bowles*  
*China*  
*Govett*  
*Martin*

**Also, present:** *Parish Clerk, Mrs Sherrie Babington, KCC Councillor Cooke and members of the public.*

**The meeting was chaired by Councillor Govett.**

**1. Apologies.**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Springford and Fort.

**2. Declaration of Interests.**

No interests were declared.

**3. Minutes of the previous meeting.**

The Minutes of the previous meeting were circulated to all members. These were proposed by Cllr China as a true record, this was seconded by Cllr Bowles 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 attended the meeting to raise concerns regarding the parking on rural lanes in the parish during the firework event held at Leeds Castle. She stated that the Castle had failed to put cones out for the Saturday night fireworks and this had resulted in vehicles parking dangerously in the parish, blocking footpath's and parking on the verges. Concerns were also raised that the police were not in attendance for this event as was usual in previous years.

She stated that she had spoken with Leeds Castle and they had no sensible response, however they had put cones out for the Sunday night event.

***Cllr Bowles declared an interest in this discussion and withdrew from making comments.***

Councillor Cooke stated that he was disappointed with the Castle recently, he stated that the local community put up with a lot from Leeds Castle events and he suggested that he, Ward Councillor Gill Fort, and Parish Chairman Cllr Govett set up a meeting with the Castle Management to discuss these matters. It was agreed that Cllr Govett would liaise with Cllr Fort regarding a meeting with Leeds Castle.

***Action: Meeting to be arranged with the Leeds Castle.***

A resident asked if Leeds Parish had an appointed Special Constable that could police events at Leeds Castle.

The Chairman stated that the police had appointed a Special Constable, however he had elected not to police Leeds Parish and therefore to date a dedicated Special Constable had not been allocated to Leeds Parish.

Street Lighting – It was reported that a street light in Burbury Lane was obscured by foliage and needed cutting back.

Cllr China stated that he had spoken with the contractor regarding this work and a quotation had been received to cut back the foliage away from the street lights. It was agreed to go ahead with this work at a cost of £75.

Cllr Bowles stated that Kent Highways had inspected the vegetation along Burbury Lane and it was within the accepted standards.

Cllr Martin stated that she felt that the vegetation should be cut back substantially and the land owners should be responsible for undertaking this.

This was discussed and it was agreed that the Clerk would write to the land owner, Strutt and Parker to request that this area was cut back as soon as possible.

**Action: Clerk to progress.**

A resident in attendance at the meeting asked the Parish Council if they could consider installing an outdoor gym at the playing field.

Cllr Govett stated that the Parish Council was looking at grant funding options for the refurbishment of the play area and this could be considered at some point in the future.

It was reported that the pavements in the village were not being swept on a regular basis.

It was noted that Maidstone Borough Council were responsible for the sweeping the footpath's and it was agreed that the Parish Council would raise this with Ward Councillor Gill Fort.

## **6. KCC Councillors Report.**

KCC Councillor Cooke circulated his update report to all members along with open letter from himself to the Planning Inspector regarding the Local Plan.

He spoke regarding the letter to the Planning Inspector and stated that he had hoped to speak at the Local Plan Public Inquiry, but due to regulations he was now unable to.

He stated that there was a need for the Planning Inspector to recognise the argument for a relief road and the application for housing on the Sutton Road should not be progressed without this.

He spoke regarding the Public Inquiry and representations from Rt Hon Helen Whately MP to the Planning Inspector.

Councillor Cooke stated that it would be helpful if the Parish Council could publish the letter on its website to encourage residents to write to the Planning Inspector.

A discussion took place regarding the potential relief road.

Councillor Cooke stated that he planned to hold an open meeting for all residents in February 2017 to discuss the relief road.

Cllr Govett spoke regarding route options and stated that as soon as these were available the Parish Council needed to consider them.

The Chairman (Cllr Govett) asked members to reiterate the Parish Councils support for the relief road, whichever route it took, given this has been the PC position for over a year. This was discussed and Cllr Martin stated that she was concerned about giving her support when she was not clear on the route that this would take as this may affect her own property. Councillor Cooke stated that the selected route was likely to be the one that would have the least impact on residents and homes.

Cllr Govett stated that route options would come from KCC and there would be a public consultation period led by the KCC.

He stated that on two previous occasions the Parish Council had supported the need for a relief road (whichever route option) and he wanted to once again to confirm that the Parish Council were collectively supportive of this.

Cllr Govett again re-iterated that every Parish Councillor should make decisions for the good of the whole of Leeds Parish community and not for parochial person reasons.

A discussion took place regarding the relief road and Cllr Martin again raised concerns regarding the possible routes that this could take and the impact this may have on her own property and suggested that she may have to resign as she felt conflicted as one of the routes may go behind her own property.

Councillor Cooke stated that all councillors had the right to declare an interest in a matter and to withdraw from discussions/decisions rather than having to resign from the PC if they felt that they had an interest that would prevent them from making representations on behalf of the whole of Leeds village as a community and all the residents that they represent and are elected by.

Following a further discussion, the Parish Council reiterated its support for a Leeds-Langley relief road for the B2163, regardless of the route option KCC propose.

Councillor Cooke spoke regarding his activities during the course of a month and a visit to the Leeds and Broomfield School. He reported that OFSTED had visited the school and he was hoping for a positive outcome. He stated that he would inform the Parish Council of the outcome as soon as it had been announced.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Cooke for his report.

**7. MBC Ward Councillors Report.**

MBC Councillor Fort gave her apologies to the meeting.

**8. Highways Matters.**

Cllr Govett spoke regarding the proposals for Upper Street and the options for the road improvements. He confirmed that the preferred option of residents was option one and this had been agreed by the Parish Council.

Cllr Govett confirmed that the Parish Council had agreed to finance fifty percent of the cost of the road improvements, this was proposed by Cllr China, seconded by Cllr Beale, and agreed by all present.

Councillor Cooke stated that he would liaise with KCC to have this scheme progressed.



Cllr China informed members that a quotation had been sought to mark out the church carpark, tennis courts and playing field carpark, at a total of £1500.

He stated that he did not feel that there was a need for the church car park to be white lined and therefore he had asked for a breakdown of costs.

This was discussed and it was agreed that delegated authority would be given to Cllr China and Bowles to progress this project and the costs would be formally ratified at the next Parish Council meeting.

***Action: Cllr China to report to next meeting.***

It was reported that the new litter bins were due to be installed at the playing field by MBC in the near future. It was agreed that an extra bin was needed at the playing field and it was resolved that the Parish Council would liaise with Cllr Fort regarding this matter.

Cllr China reported that new lights would need to be purchased for the Parish Council's Christmas tree. This was approved by members.

***Action: Cllr China to progress.***

**14. Leeds Playing Field and Pavillion.**

Cllr China reported that the Football Team had renewed their annual hire agreement for the football pitch and pavilion.

Cllr Govett stated that it was good to see that the field was being used.

**15. Street Lighting.**

Cllr China reported on the street lighting repairs and maintenance.

**16. Joint Parish Group and Local Plan.**

It was reported that the Public Inquiry for the Local Plan was currently underway.

**17. Public Comments and Observations.**

A resident asked for clarification of the ownership of the land outside of the church car park as vehicles were parking on the verges near to the church.

The Chairman stated that the Parish Council would look into this matter and asked the Parish Clerk to undertake a land registry search to establish ownership of this piece of land.

***Action: Clerk to progress.***

**18. Urgent Matters.**

No matters were raised.

**19. Date of next meeting.**

13th December 2016.

***There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed to the press and public at 9.05pm***

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_