

LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES 1

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting Held at Leigh Village Hall on Tuesday 20th November 2018

Present: Cllr A Bennett (Chairman); Cllr S Scutt (Vice-Chairman) Cllr G Bugler; Cllr D West and DCllr M Penfold (to Item 13),

In attendance: 2 parishioners and Beverley Harrison – Parish Clerk.

ITEM
NO

AGENDA ITEM

Opening Remarks. The Chairman, Cllr Bennett, welcomed all attending the meeting. As usual, he explained that it was a Parish Council Meeting, whilst giving the opportunity, before this started, for any Leigh parish residents present to raise issues for the Parish Council's future consideration. No issues were raised from the floor.

1. **Apologies for Absence** were received from Cllrs Dixon, Read and Vincent; plus Helen Reed from NORDCAT. The Chairman noted that Cllr Read was unable to attend, due to early arrival of Percy Read, who was welcomed to Leigh as its newest resident and his parents congratulated.
2. **Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Bennett: as his house was scheduled (albeit incorrectly) as a site seeking planning permission at Item 9 (the correct address on the schedule should be 'Barn adjoining Stone House...'). Cllr Read, not present, had previously also declared an interest through his family relationship regarding the same application.

3. LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous Leigh Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 18 September 2018 had been circulated, released on the web pages and publicly displayed. There were no objections.

3.1. The Minutes were signed by the Chairman.

3.2. Matters Arising not included on the meeting agenda. See item 14.1

4. TRANSPORT

Helen Reed of NORDCAT was unable to attend the meeting as planned. Parish Clerk to carry forward the Item to the next PC meeting. It was noted that the NORDCAT bus was frequently in evidence in Leigh and being used.

5. FINANCES

The Chairman had circulated the financial spreadsheet, as at 17 October pre-meeting.

5.1. Current state. As at the date of the meeting the parish was slightly underspent compared to budget this FY.

5.2. 2019/2020 Budget / Precept – first draft. The Chairman had run an initial draft budget in preparation for submission of the bid for precept funding, due by 31 January 2019. Councillors were asked to review the draft and comment ready for finalization at the next meeting.

5.3. VAT Reclaim. The Clerk reported that a reclaim was being pursued, although it required research to produce bills and documents that proved when and where the parish had paid VAT. It was intended to have a list submitted by the next PC meeting.

LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES 2

ITEM
NO

AGENDA ITEM

5.4. Electronic Banking. Lloyds Bank had been approached about the availability of electronic banking, although the dual signature for payments presented a barrier; which was being addressed in a trial, but not generally available yet, as an option. D Cllr Penfold confirmed that other parishes were looking at its use.

6. PLAYPARK

6.1 Cllr Bugler reported that the contractor was delayed starting and was now expected on site week starting 26 Nov 18.

Cllr Bennett provided an update regarding funding of the currently defined project. From the minutes of 18 Sept meeting, Costs: Phase 1 - moving equipment from the old playpark in South Street to the new site near the hall: £16.1K (including £1k contingency); and Phase 2 - replacement of slide and steps £5K. Thus the expected total cost (not including VAT) of Phase 1 and 2 was £21.1K.

Funding now already either in hand, or soon available: Leigh PC playpark sub-account 15.2K; Playpark committee holding (from various fundraising initiatives) £3.1K (minutes 18 Sept); the remaining 50% of the CIL grant (to be released on presentation of associated invoices) £5.9K. Total £24.2K.

6.2 Cllr Bennett commented that bearing in mind the above healthy funding situation, the need for Leigh PC's further allocation of £2K (as originally budgeted for in this FY) may not be required. Cllr's Bugler and Scutt felt additional funding should be provided for additional new equipment (phase 3). The issue was left pending; Cllr Bennett asked for a costed estimate for phase 3 to be made available at the next meeting.

7. FOOTPATHS.

The Chairman invited Rachel Graham to update on the parish's footpaths. Rachel maintained contact with her predecessor, Trevor Evans to maintain continuity of activity. Some repairs had been reported and carried out. (Legally, the landowner is responsible for footpath access (hedge trimming and stiles/gates); DCC is responsible for the path itself). It was proposed that stiles should steadily continue to be replaced by gates, to improve access for people of all abilities. This was agreed, subject to the availability of funding on an annual basis.

7.1. Each gate bought (c.£160) by the parish council was matched by a second free gate (2 for 1) provided by DCC.

7.2. The Chairman asked the Parish Clerk to send Rachel the Minutes from the July 2018 meeting which detailed the more recent gates purchased, in order to match purchase against fit.

7.3. £600 was allocated in the draft budget for FY 2019-20. On this basis, it was agreed that Rachel should go ahead with an order for 3 (+ a further 3 at no charge to the parish) gates.

7.4. Leigh PC recorded its thanks to Rachel Graham, and Trevor Evans, for their valuable work on the village footpaths.

8. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Cllr Scutt reported the re-launch of the Neighborhood Plan Working Group under the new chairmanship of Jonathan Dixon. There had been two meetings of the steering

LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES 3

ITEM
NO

AGENDA ITEM

group, the most recent of which was with the previous consultant, Jo Withenden. The Questionnaire was being redrafted and funding was being applied for again, in order to fund a print of questionnaires for delivery to parish households. It was also hoped to hold public awareness days to seek consensus and update parishioners. A Facebook page was established for the activity and receiving support from a wider grouping. Leigh PC expressed its appreciation that Jonathan Dixon had taken chairmanship of the group.

9. PLANNING

9.1. The following changes were noted since the previous meeting:

9.1.1. WD/D/18/002161 – Black Barn Farm DT9 6JD. Full Request: Extensions, new garage and access variation. Response submitted: Supported. Planning Approval 30 Oct 18.

9.1.2. WD/D/18/001955 – Land E of Drovers Cottage, Chetnole Rd. Full request for erection of 3 x dwellings. Response submitted, supported, with comment about density. Planning Approval 1 Nov 18

9.1.3. WD/D/18/001951 – Tinkers End, Higher Totnell, DT9 6HZ. Full request for single storey and 1st floor extensions. PC response submitted 12 Oct 18, supported. Planning approval 20 Oct 18.

9.1.4. WD/D/18/001950 – Cross Farm DT9 6HP. Full permission; enclosure and cover of existing manure store. Response submitted 20 Oct 18 – supported. Planning approval 14 Nov 18.

9.1.5. WD/D/18/001438 – Iles Farm. Solar panels on outbuilding. PC response: supported. Planning approval awaited.

9.1.6. WD/D/18/001926 – Rookery Farm Buildings – Nil response required, agricultural determination. The point was discussed, as the build was still subject to planning regulation.

9.1.7. WD/D/18/001199 – Brookside Cottage, Fence Panels, retrospective. PC response (Object) 24 Sep 18. Planning permission subsequently refused on 24 Oct 18. Enforcement, post refusal, was queried, although it was noted that a planning appeals process also applies first. See 9.2.

9.1.8. WD/D/18/001420 – Creg-ny-Baa. Extension and Loft Conversion. LPC Response, supported with Comment. Planning approval applied 27 Sep 18 and work had started. It was noted that there had been much comment, although PC input was in accordance with planning limitations.

9.1.8. WD/D/18/000838 – The Cross House, DT9 6HL. Listed building consent – windows. Approved 24 Oct 18.

9.1.9. Addition: WD/D/18/002583. Change of use for agricultural buildings to residential use (barn adjacent to Stone House). Cllrs Bennett and Read had declared an interest. It was agreed, after discussion in the meeting that the planning application would be supported. (Clerk to action.)

9.2. Cllr West and the Parish Clerk attended the WDDC planning seminar on 8 Oct 18. The PDF notes on the presentations had been circulated immediately after the briefing. It was noted that much of the briefing was about Neighbourhood plans,

LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES 4

ITEM
NO

AGENDA ITEM

although the revised updated planning process update in the new local government structure was also briefed. Changes to the site were being noted in parallel with reminders about processes remaining in place such as enforcement reporting.

10 FLOOD ALLEVIATION.

Cllr Bennett had circulated updates regarding the possible introduction of one major choke point immediately above the point where Beer Hackett stream crosses Longbridge Drove. A trial bore to 1m had produced clay samples that had been tested for their capacity to support the required steels and results were being assessed for their impact on the project. A fluid engineer was offering some support regarding the calculations on a *pro-bono* basis, pending the provision of more data.

In parallel, at the suggestion of Roy Hayes of FWAG(SW), the feasibility of establishing up to 5 smaller choke points, upstream of the major choke point, was being considered. These would require less work, and would work in conjunction with the above major choke; depending on size, they might even make the major choke point unnecessary. FWAG is keen to see progress in order to provide 60% funding support for the entire project; if Leigh parish council were prepared to underwrite the remainder, the 5 minor chokes could be established this winter.

Cllr Bennett proposed that Leigh PC earmarked up to £3,000 to fund work on the 5 smaller choke points.

10.1. Decision: After discussion it was put to the vote that up to £3,000 be allocated to fund work regarding establishing 5 choke points. 2 For; 0 Against and 1 abstention – Carried.

11. LITTER PICK. Regrettably, there remained a constant need for tidying up in the village. This was best achieved when the verges had died back. Paul Orchard was arranging for kits to be available the week starting 21 January 2019.

The council recorded its appreciation of Paul's continued preparedness to lead on this annual task. If any additional parishioners were prepared to join the 'gang', they are encouraged to contact the Parish Clerk.

12. COMMEMORATIVE SILHOUETTE. Cllr Bennett referred to the Commemorative profiles erected in some of the surrounding villages and sought views about establishing something in the village (in addition to the plaque in the church) to further mark those 9 parishioners who had given their lives.

It was agreed that councillors would consider the issue and possible options (eg renaming a marked footpath or bye-way) and return to it at a future meeting.

13 APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS

The following invoices and payments were approved:

13.1. Repayment of a Test (Clay) Invoice: £90. Proposed by: Cllr Bugler; Seconded by: Cllr West.

13.2. Leigh Village Hall, Playpark Lease: £50. Proposed by: Cllr Scutt; Seconded by: Cllr Bugler.

13.3. Clerk's Salary & Expenses.

13.3.1. Salary for 10 weeks (14 Sept – 15 Nov '18; 9 x Tax Weeks)

LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES 5

ITEM
NO

AGENDA ITEM

£336-28. Proposed by: Cllr Bugler; Seconded by: Cllr Scutt.

13.3.2. Expenses: Printing & Post £6-26. Proposed by: Cllr Scutt;
Seconded by: Cllr Bugler.

13.4. Defibrillator Costs: New pads are on order, and Cllr Bugler undertook to pay then reclaim the cost. An agreement for a telephone line had been received for £62-40. It was proposed that up to £200 be authorized to cover the entire annual costs. Proposed by: Cllr Bugler; Seconded by: Cllr West

13.5. Wreath for Remembrance Service 11 Nov 18: £18-50. Proposed by: Cllr Bennett; Seconded by: Cllr West.

14 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED.

14.1. Local Elections 2019. Cllr Scutt expressed concern regarding a recent newsletter from DCC. This had identified that parish and town councils would in future have to pay 50% of the cost of elections at which parishioners voted (previously these costs were covered by DCC). Did this directive cover elections to Unitary authorities as well as elections for parish council office?

14.1.1. D Cllr Penfold undertook to investigate the intention.

14.1.2. Post meeting note: D Cllr Penfold provided a response the next day: The DCC Elections department have confirmed that there will be no charge to PC for any Unitary elections held, meaning that any election charge will be just for PC elections. If there were 7 or less candidates, then no charge would be incurred (as the need to conduct a formal poll would be unnecessary).

14.2. Leigh Cross – potential maintenance repairs. Cllr Bugler had noted that some facing slabs around the base of the Cross base were loose and would require re-fixing before further deterioration over the winter or stones being lost. The Clerk volunteered to re-fix the stones when the weather was good enough. The Council expressed its appreciation of this generous gesture.

14.3. Club Corner Cottages – Hastoe Housing. A 2-bedroom house was vacant, and Hastoe Housing had sought local occupants. It was considered appropriate that such availability should be notified on the Village website. As at the meeting date potential occupants were being considered and allocation was in hand.

14.4. Mr E Price: letters 21 and 28 September. See Item 9.1.8. The consultation about the property had generated direct correspondence with the PC, to which the Chairman had responded.

15 ITEMS OF AN URGENT NATURE – SUBJECT TO CHAIRMAN'S APPROVAL

Included in the main minutes.

16 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS:

Next meeting 7-30pm on Tuesday 15th January 2019.

- Future LPC dates based on 3rd Tuesday at 7-30pm (with Hall booking):
 - 19th March 2019

LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES 6

ITEM
NO

AGENDA ITEM

- 21st May 2019; Meeting linked with Village AGM to start at 19:00 / 7pm
- 16th July 2019