

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting Held at Leigh Village Hall at 7-30pm on Tuesday 17th September 2019

Present: Cllr A Bennett – Chairman; Cllrs G Bugler, S Scutt, M Read and D Vincent

In attendance: C/Cllr M Penfold; 10 x members of the public

ITEM NO	Discussion & Decisions
	The Chairman welcomed those present, including a higher than usual turnout of residents. As usual, he described that it was a formal Parish Council Meeting, and as such there was no right of interjection from the floor during the meeting. However, any Leigh parish residents present were welcome to raise issues for Parish Council consideration before the formal meeting commenced. One item was raised – it was agreed that this would be answered under Item 9. Any subsequent input from the floor during the meeting was at the Chairman's discretion.
1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr Dixon
2.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. Cllr Vincent – Item 7.5
3.	LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES The draft minutes of the previous Leigh Parish Council Meeting on 16 July 2019 were circulated and publicised, with no further corrections requested. 3.1. The Chairman signed the minutes as having been agreed. 3.2. Matters Arising were included in the subsequent meeting agenda.
4.	FINANCES – OVERVIEW The current financial status was circulated to Councillors as at 5 September 2019. The overall balance remains £20602, with £16635 in 'ring-fenced' project funds, leaving £3968 unallocated. It was observed that budgeted expenditure was currently less than expected at this stage. See Item 5. The second 50% installment of the parish precept is due payment at the end of September. 4.1. Current LPC Financial regulations adopted January 2018 are due update following issue of the revised NALC Model Financial Regulations template issued 22 August 2019. Carried over to next meeting. 4.2. The Chairman asked the Clerk to report her additional hours worked (compared to the 4 hrs per week as per contract) from May 2019 until the November 2019 at the next LPC meeting.
5.	PAYMENTS SCHEDULE. As attached for agreement: 5.1. Payments made since previous meeting. Value: £433.56, as listing agreed retrospectively. Proposed: Cllr Bugler; Seconded: Cllr Scutt 5.2. Invoices identified for payment (and the cheques raised) valued at £638.00 were reviewed and authorized for payment in meeting, less the Gregory's balance, pending clarification or issue of a new invoice. Proposed: Cllr Bugler; Seconded: Cllr Vincent

ITEM NO	Discussion & Decisions
	<p>5.3. Projected payments, likely before next meeting, were noted.</p> <p>5.3.1. See Item 7 re Insurance following lease of the village green.</p>
6.	<p>AUDIT. F/Y 18/19 accounts are still with the external audit as at 17 September 2019, after answering queries about the significant (ie. greater than 15%) variance compared to the previous years. This variance was due to the expenditure on the Play Park. Certification by the external auditors is expected shortly.</p> <p>The statutory right of review of the previous year's accounts was complete by 2 August 2019 and the public notice removed. Layout of the accounts was slightly adjusted to make AGAR preparation a little easier in subsequent years, not least 2019/20 when there would likely be another variance of 15% to be clarified (due to the purchase of the Village Green land).</p>
7.	<p>VILLAGE GREEN PROJECT.</p> <p>Project Update. The leasehold commenced with effect 3 July 2019, to run for 99 years. Volunteers had been sought to form a separate sub-committee. Pre-meeting, a number of draft documents had been circulated amongst the council members.</p> <p>7.1. Village Green Sub-Committee. It was proposed that the sub-committee would be: Cllr Scutt (Chair); with members Joan Carter, Steve Humphries and volunteer to be confirmed – held over to next meeting</p> <p>Proposer: Cllr Bugler; Seconded: Cllr Vincent</p> <p>7.2. Sub Committee terms of Reference. The PC would set the broad strategy (see below). The Sub Committee would then develop associated detailed plans and costings, for subsequent approval by the PC.</p> <p>7.3. Draft Action Plan. In order to give clear steers to the Sub Committee. several broad policy matters were discussed and agreed as below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Grass Surface.</u> In the interests of cost effectiveness, it was agreed that the in-situ grass should remain, at least for the time being. It was hoped that with regularly cutting and appropriate occasional rolling, an acceptable surface would be forthcoming. The result would be reviewed in due course and action adjusted if necessary. • Vehicles would be kept off the Green in order to preserve the surface. The Chairman had discussed car parking with the Village Hall Chairman: the Village Hall car park was available for those using the Green; the half of the field immediately to the south of the Green would be used for 'overflow' stemming from specific Village Hall or Village Green events (sufficient notice would need to be given to the tenant farmer). • Exercising of dogs on the Green would be permitted, subject to proper supervision, especially with regard to fouling. Waste bins, and appropriate signage would be provided. • The boundaries, fencing and access points were to be defined. • Structures were not permitted, although trees and benches could be

ITEM NO	Discussion & Decisions
	<p>sited.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The water trough would be removed, but the supply point left and secured for occasional use. • Wording of general signage to be developed. • It was agreed that the target date for the Green being ready for use should be 1 March 2020. <p>7.4. Risk and Asset Registers. The field was being recorded with the Land Registry. The field was to be added to the Parish Asset Register.</p> <p>7.4.1. Public Liability Insurance. Following initial notification of an addition to the Asset Register Zurich Insurance had provided quote of £200 + - dependent on timing for Public Liability. The need for this additional charge was questioned and Parish Clerk asked to forward the correspondence.</p> <p>7.5. <u>Annual rent per acre for agricultural purposes.</u> A figure of £90pa per acre was set; this reflected an element of goodwill, based on the assistance the tenant was prepared to offer in establishing the Green. Rent was due from 3 July 2019, to be collected by the Parish Clerk iaw Financial Regulations.</p> <p>7.6. <u>Fencing.</u> See 7.3. An initial quotation had been obtained for fencing the area and this was referred to the Sub-Committee.</p>
8.	<p>PLAYPARK</p> <p>It was reported that the Play Park had been settling in its new location, with minor issues appearing. These were being monitored. Much of the equipment had been repainted through volunteer effort; it was anticipated this would be completed before the winter.</p> <p>8.1. Two benches have been purchased and now sited. They will be added to the inventory. Action by Clerk.</p> <p>8.1.1. The PC expressed its appreciation for a generous donation to supply one of the two benches.</p>
9.	<p>PLANNING</p> <p>To consider Planning Matters. Listed on public planning site as:</p> <p>9.1. WD/D/19/001434 - THE POPLARS, THREE GATES, LEIGH, SHERBORNE, DT9 6JQ - Erect extension to agricultural barn to house livestock, agricultural machinery repairs and mechanics welfare facilities(retrospective). The PC had registered its strong objection on 8 Sep 19.</p> <p>9.1.1. The Chairman, in answer to a question from the floor by the applicant, replied that, in addition to the concerns expressed in the PC's formal objection, he considered the overall impact of the site was most unwelcoming and out of keeping with Leigh and its</p>

ITEM NO	Discussion & Decisions
	<p>environment. Given the retrospective nature of the application, and that it was almost impossible to see into the site from the road, it made the Council most suspicious of the applicant's intentions with regard to current and any future development on the site.</p> <p>9.2. WD/D/19/00159 – Ashbrooke, Chetnole Rd, DT9 6HL, Change of use of land to garden and garage off existing Drive. Awaiting approval</p> <p>9.3. Update planning information had been circulated regarding:</p> <p>9.3.1. WD/D/19/000775 – Brookside, Chetnole Rd, DT9 6HJ - retrospective planning permission – partial meeting of conditions.</p> <p>9.3.2. WD/D/19/000139 & 000140 – Lower Totnell Farm – partial meeting of conditions.</p> <p>9.4. <u>Possible future application for 3 houses on north side of Chetnole Road</u>. The Parish Clerk had received a letter on behalf of the landowner seeking the PC's opinion; this letter had been circulated to the residents in the immediate area, asking for comment. Some residents had provided this via email, and some expressed their view at the meeting. Main issues identified were flooding, numbers and type of houses, and the risk of it being the 'thin edge of a wedge' regarding possible development on the remainder of the field. The Chairman undertook to write in reply, reflecting these points.</p>
9.1	<p>NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN. There was still no volunteer to be chairman leading the project, which remained frozen at public pre-consultation stage.</p> <p>9.1.1. Dorset-wide short notice consultation about development sites availability (circulated 16 Sep 19)</p>
10	<p>CANDLE AUCTION</p> <p>10.1. Correspondence between the Chair of Trustees of the Leigh Candle Auction and the owners of 50% of the field 'Alton Mead' had been circulated to LPC pre-meeting. There had been no contact with the owner (understood to be in Australia) of the other half of the field for a long period. The correspondence sought the PC's views, should an application (yet to be made) that 50% of the land had been 'abandoned' be successful. This half could then be 'gifted' to the PC, with the <i>quid pro quo</i> that the Candle Auction would then only benefit from the auction of the keep from that half of the land – but year-round, as opposed to solely the winter keep as now.</p> <p>10.2. It was noted in the meeting that the matter had been raised in 2014 and it was decided to refer to the previous minuted discussion and include the matter in the next Agenda. Clerk to action. (Matter discussed 16 Sep '14 – Item 5.5 and a decision made not to pursue minuted 18 Nov 2014 Item 8.1). In the meantime, the Chairman would write in reply that the PC was wary of pursuing this line.</p>
11	<p>LITTER BINS.</p> <p>See LPC Minutes 19 March 2019; Item 10.2 - a litter bin, previously near the Post</p>

ITEM NO	Discussion & Decisions
	<p>Office and Village Stores, had been relocated on request to the Village Hall Committee. The unintended consequence was that dog waste was now being placed in the Village Stores bin. An additional bin and its emptying would be at a cost to the Parish. Further review of waste bins especially for dog waste was ongoing for the Village Green Project – see Item 7. It was agreed that issue be included in the Village Green Committee’s work.</p>
12	<p>CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED.</p> <p>12.1. <u>Resilience Funding Request to Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks Resilient Communities Fund</u>. The Chairman reported that the parish had applied but not been awarded a grant towards the flood alleviation works carried out earlier this year.</p> <p>12.2. <u>Canvassed opinion about future building Chetnole Road</u> – Covered in Item 9.</p> <p>12.3. <u>Totnell Copse</u>. Reference was made to significant tree surgery and possibly even felling in ‘Totnell Copse’. The Copse is identified as common land, and as such, the Parish is custodian. A discussion as to any arrangement between the PC and Higher Totnell Farm was inconclusive. The Chairman undertook to contact the owner of Higher Totnell Farm in order to progress the issue.</p> <p>12.4. Series of County and Dorset APTC notes about surveys, meetings and courses, recently received were being forwarded or uploaded to the Village website.</p>
13	<p>DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS: LPC meetings run based on the third Tuesday bi-monthly per odd numbered / alternate month. 19 November 2019 is the date of the next meeting.</p> <p>13.1. The Village Hall is booked for LPC meetings in 2020: 21 January; 17 March; 19 May (incl: AGM at 19:00); 21 July; 15 September; 17 November 2020. All Tuesdays at 19:30.</p>