

LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting Held at Leigh Village Hall at 7-30pm on Tuesday 21st January 2020

Present: Cllr A Bennett (Chairman) Cllrs G Bugler, C Dixon, S Scutt, D Vincent and A Ward.

Also 3 members of the public.

ITEM NO

DISCUSSION AND DECISIONS

Opening Remarks. The Chairman welcomed those present and described the process of the formal Council Meeting (including that there was no automatic right of interjection from the floor). He asked whether there were any other subjects of concern, to be discussed before opening the formal meeting – there were none.

1. Apologies for Absence: Nil. (CCllr Penfold)

2. Declarations of Interest: Nil

3. LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of Previous Leigh Parish Council Meeting on 19 November 2019 had been circulated and displayed, with no requests for additions or corrections.

3.1. Chairman signed the Minutes for the record.

3.2. Matters Arising from the previous meeting were covered as identified in the following items.

4. PARISH CLERK – ADDITIONAL HOURS WORKED

As a matter arising from Item 7 of previous meeting; it was proposed to delay the previously agreed payment for any extra hours worked in the later part of the year by the Parish Clerk at the end of the financial year. This was to allow for potentially shorter hours worked later in the year, which would probably reduce the overall average over the year.

Proposer: Cllr Scutt; Seconded Cllr Vincent; Agreed unanimous

5. FINANCES – OVERVIEW AND END OF YEAR FORECAST

The Chairman referred to the current financial spreadsheet that had been circulated to all councillors. There was £8558.24 in the Play Park sub-account and £8325.72 in the Village Green sub-account, leaving £4952.78 unallocated balance. It was estimated that by the end of the current financial year there would be an underspend of about £800 against the budget.

5.1. Financial Regs 2.2 – Cllr Dixon completed and signed off a bank reconciliation as at 31 December 2020.

6. PAYMENTS SCHEDULE.

A schedule of payments was presented for agreement, including:

6.1. Standing orders already agreed worth: £400, and two grants, total value £800, agreed at previous meeting, Item 5.3. All already included on the spreadsheet.

LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

ITEM
NO

DISCUSSION AND DECISIONS

6.2. Invoices for payment, listed as attached, totaled **£307.60** were authorized as a block;

Proposer: Cllr Vincent, Seconded: Cllr Scutt; Agreed unanimously.

6.3. There were no projected extra payments before the next meeting.

7. DRAFT 2020/21 BUDGET AND PRECEPT

Leigh's in-year (19/20) precept on a Band D property is £37.35. An application for the Parish's 2020/21 precept to cover the parish budget was to be submitted by 31st January 2020. Four precept options, based on the percentage uplift charged to the parish properties generating the income, had been circulated in advance to permit its detailed consideration by the Councillors. There were no further questions other than to clarify timings.

It was proposed that 2% precept increase produced the best outcome, with £38.33 PA charged on a Band D property, resulting in a parish application for £8974.

Proposer: Cllr Dixon; Secunder: Cllr Bugler; Agreed unanimously

8. VILLAGE GREEN PROJECT.

Cllr Scutt provided a Village Green working group update. The group was working towards a 1 March 2020 opening date, although weather conditions needed to improve first as well as receipt of planning permission and fencing works.

8.1. Fencing work. The contractor would resubmit his prices as there had been a gap since the first bid during which prices may have increased. Work could not start before receipt of planning permission from Dorset County.

8.2. Planning Permission. See Item 10.2. about change of use planning permission, which was due response in early February. There had been minor adjustment to access points during the application, which would require reflection when fencing was added.

8.3. Insurance. The increased insurance premium to include the Village Green, was based on an assessment of 500 person per month footfall, which was considered excessive, as well as only applicable after 1 March 2020 at the earliest. Matter being referred back to the insurers. The increased premium was reflected in the budget.

9. PLAYPARK

Cllr Bugler, provided an update on behalf of the Play Park Sub-committee. The ground around the climbing frame was extensively waterlogged ground which had necessitated closure of the Play Park. Drainage had been included in the main project, but the installation varied from specification and had proved insufficient. After a site meeting it was agreed that the original specification would be installed – allowing for drainage downhill to the boundary hedge and that costs would be split between the contractor and the Play Park. Accordingly, it was proposed that £480 (incl: VAT) should be authorized towards the works.

LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

ITEM
NO

DISCUSSION AND DECISIONS

Proposed: Cllr Vincent; Seconded: Cllr Scutt; Agreed unanimously.

9.1. Equipment purchases. It had been planned that a replacement slide would be sourced once the associated mound had settled. The Sub-committee also needed to meet following replacement of key members.

10. PLANNING

10.1. Planning Matters. The following applications were or had been listed on the public planning site for LPC consultation (LPC Parish Clerk "In-tray"):

10.1.1. WD/D/19/002718. Land South of South Street. End date for consultation was 6 Jan '20, prior to which an LPC response of no Council objection was submitted. There had also been extensive local correspondence, which was reflected separately on the Dorset Planning website.

10.1.2. WD/D/19/003181. Land Use Consultation (adjoining parish) at Higher Stockbridge Farm with respect to an adjacent large scale solar panel farm; was issued on 12th January 2020. Any input is required by 4 February 2020. It was noted that there had been general canvassing of opinion around the area.

10.2. WD/D/19/002257 – Field West of Village Hall. LPC application for partial change of use and fencing. Consultation closed – see Item 7 – Village Green. Permission still awaited.

10.3. Pre-planning Permission Query – Chetnole Road. As a matter arising from the previous meeting (19th November 2019) Item 11.4, the Chairman had written to Mr Turville to provide feedback on discussions during the meeting and to provide agreed contacts for adjoining residents. Letter dated 25 November 2019.

10.4. Adoption Statements: Dorset Council and Bournemouth, Christchurch, Poole (BCP) Council as Mineral and Waste Planning Authorities adopted the BCP and Dorset Mineral Sites Plan 2019 and the BCP and Dorset Waste Plan 2019 on 31st December 2019.

10.5. Planning Peer Review. Cllr Dixon reported back about a Dorset Council (DC) Planning Peer Review (15 January 2020 in Dorchester) that she had attended. She noted that it seemed an exercise for Dorset Council to listen to issues of concern about planning. She had sought input from LPC she had passed on their comments, especially about enforcement.

10.6. WD/D/19/001434 – The Poplars Retrospective Application. Following from Item 10.5, above, the Chairman referred to the recent retrospective planning application for 'The Poplars' at Three Gates. He noted that this application was now recorded on the DC planning site as having been withdrawn – so the significant extension, already built was now without planning approval. The Chairman undertook to write to DC's Chief Executive concerning this.

11. LPC STANDING ORDERS.

Parish Council Standing Orders are based on the NALC template that is updated to include current legislation as it applies, and as reflected in much larger publications. LPC adopted its current Standing Orders using NALC Standing

LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

ITEM NO

DISCUSSION AND DECISIONS

Orders template dated 2013 in January 2014. The NALC template was revised initially in April 2018 then re-issued July 2018 and is referenced in the recently adopted LPC Financial Regulations. (The template covers eventualities for bigger more complex councils, which makes it a little non-user-friendly for many Parish Councils).

LPC considered adoption of the July 2018 template Standing Orders adjusted to Leigh's needs, as far as possible, which had been circulated a number of times. It was decided to remain with its January 2014 LPC Standing Orders. The Parish Clerk undertook to email a re-issue of the amendments applicable, as there were regulation changes to be reflected, either in the Standing Orders or to correct the adopted Financial Regulations.

12. **ANNUAL LITTER PICK.**

This had been proposed during January 2020. Paul Orchard was well advanced organising the activity, although it was looking as if it would run into February. Once more it was hoped to log particular hot spots.

13. **FOOTPATHS.**

This item is carried over from the previous meeting. Rachel Graham reported that she had identified 6 x sites for gates, although there were a number of land issues still to be resolved with the assistance of the LPC Chairman. It was agreed that the gates were robust and lasting well, although it would take longer use to be sure. It was asked that the invoice for the gates be available before the end of the financial year. Rachel also noted that from her walking the routes, hedges needed cutting back by landowners to assure efficient access to the gates being placed by LPC.

LPC recorded its appreciation of Rachel Graham's continued preparedness to act at Leigh's 'Footpaths Champion' on behalf of the parish.

14. **FINGER POSTS.**

It had been noted at the previous meeting that there were a number of heritage road direction finger posts in the parish. The post causing concern about repair was on the other side of the parish boundary. It had been observed that the parish or local fund raising was needed if the posts were to be retained in their traditional finger post form. A similar arrangement had occurred with local retention of the traditional old GPO-type red phone boxes. (It might be considered that a modern DC funded sign is an acceptable option.) The local posts need surveying to identify the extent, and cost, of work. Previous work had left maintenance issues and some posts had not retained some of the traditional features, largely because the top DCC/grid ref round top was lost, but also that plastic letters were now falling away.

14.1. Chetnole had run a successful refurbishment and it was hoped that something similar could be arranged, drawing on Chetnole's experience, in Leigh. The Parish Clerk noted that at least one resident was interested in the task and understood it enough to achieve a cost. Being referred.

Parish Clerk / Secretary's Note: The post at the top of Totnell Hill was found knocked over on 25 January.

LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

ITEM NO

DISCUSSION AND DECISIONS

15. CLIMATE EMERGENCY.

Cllr Dixon had produced points for consideration for the meeting, to assist her development of a draft Parish Policy on the Climate Emergency, which opened the discussion in-meeting. Matters considered included: better recycling and understanding it; car sharing and its practical application – eg safe parking and publicity; electric car charging points. It was considered essential to assure intelligent involvement of young people.

The DC (authority) level declaration of a climate emergency had been discussed at the Clerks' Seminar not least that there would need to be a point at which emergency actions are accepted as routine.

16. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED.

Other correspondence not otherwise covered during preceding minutes included:

- NORDCAT had acknowledged receipt of the £300 grant from LPC and expressed thanks as well as providing a short update on provision for Leigh.
 - St Andrew's Leigh, Fabric Fund cheque had been delivered to the outgoing Treasurer, who had provided verbal thanks and confirmed that a representative would be available to update at the Parish AGM in May.
- Hastoe had notified that No 5 Club Cottages, Leigh was becoming available on a share option. Referred to village website. Email points of contact are the Parish Clerk or website www.hastoesales.com.
- DAPTC had asked for PCs' nominations for a Royal Garden Party by 24 January 2020.
- The DAPTC website has been updated.
 - DAPTC training course availability had also been released, whilst explaining the new booking arrangements, through the DAPTC website and using an Eventbrite. Changes included slightly varied administration, but they should still go through the Parish Clerk. Future changes were also contemplated, such as parishes paying in advance.

Newsletters and other correspondence circulated as occurring.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: LPC meetings run based usually on the third Tuesday bi-monthly per odd numbered / alternate month. The following meeting dates are booked for LPC meetings in 2020:

17 March; 12 May (incl: AGM at 19:00) date out of routine; 21 July; 15 September; 17 November 2020. All Tuesdays at 19:30.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 20:55.