

# LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of a Meeting of Leigh Parish Council held 'on-line' at 7-30pm on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

Logged in: Cllrs Bennett (Chairman); Bugler, Dixon and Ward.

In attendance (logged in): DCllr Penfold; Public: Julia Jepson (to end Item 7), Bob Cutler (for Item 8); Shaun Travers (of Boon Brown to end of Item 10.2); Parish Clerk.

### ITEM NO

### AGENDA ITEM

#### Opening Remarks.

The Chairman opened the 'virtual' meeting confirming that it was quorate. Members of the public were also logged in as listed and they could be invited to speak during the meeting as appropriate.

*Members of the public had been invited to attend the virtual meeting as usual (by contacting the Parish Clerk in advance).*

1. Apologies for Absence: Cllrs Scutt and Vincent. It was noted that current government restrictions precluded involvement of Cllr Vincent.

2. Declarations of Interest: Nil

Attending as a member of the public DCllr Penfold only makes input as invited by the Chairman and took no part in the planning matters discussed at Item 10.

3. **LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES**

The minutes of the previous online Leigh Parish Council Meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2020, previously circulated and displayed were formally adopted.

3.1. Chairman to sign (when circulated as hard copy)

3.2. Matters Arising were included in the following meeting's agenda.

4. **FINANCES OVERVIEW: Current Year**

The LPC Accounts Spreadsheet reconciled to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020 had been circulated (and included the next year's proposed budget required – see Item 6).

The Chairman reviewed spending to date against budget. It was agreed that it remained appropriate to now release the donations to St Andrew's Church Fabric Fund and NORDCAT respectively, see Item 5 below.

4.1. External Audit: previous year 2019/20 was just approaching completion following review by PKF Littlejohn. Their invoice for the Audit was for £360 (incl: VAT) see Item 5.

4.2. Review of LPC Bank account signatories: All council bank transactions required 2 signatures, currently of a 3 possible councillors. Anticipated Parish Council changes were likely to reduce that slight flexibility and ideally more signatories should be added. **It was agreed that** Cllrs Bennett and Dixon be added as signatories and that the additions be included with the already intended introduction of on-line banking.

5. **APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS**

A consolidated schedule of payments (Annex A) was provided for review and

# LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

ITEM  
NO

## AGENDA ITEM

agreement by Parish Councillors – including:

5.1. Payments made since previous meeting, a single payment and direct debit, £405 in total had been agreed at the previous meeting or by email.

5.2. Payments for consideration in meeting; were listed to the value of £7371.36 and yet to be reflected on the spreadsheet pending cheques being raised. £832-50 was to be paid out of the Village Green fund and £6148-86 for payments on behalf of the Play Park. It was further agreed that grants already included in the in-year budget would be released, and added to the schedule, namely:

5.2.1. St Andrews Church (Fabric fund) £500

5.2.2. NORDCAT - £300. The company had had minimal visibility during the pandemic; it would be contacted to confirm need.

Payments proposed by Cllr Bugler and seconded by Cllr Dixon. Agreed.

5.3. Expected payments pending next meeting(s) were also listed for consideration and planning, primarily the 6-monthly PWLB Loan repayment of £1231-47 due (DD) on 10 December.

## 6. PARISH BUDGET 2021/22 – first draft

Precept submission is due by 31 January 2021. The Chairman identified the likely remaining in-year spend and the likely end-of-year position. For FY 2021-22, budget requirements were likely to be similar (c. £10k), although some costs had still to be finalised, and the fingerpost refurbishment project would be an additional cost, adjusted as funds permitted.

6.1. For this meeting, he had included a 1% uplift to the proposed FY 2021-22 precept; this would result in a c. £500 deficit. Following discussion, he agreed for the next draft to demonstrate the effect of a 2% and 3% uplift, pending receipt by LPC of the tax base figures from Dorset County.

## 7. PLAYPARK UPDATE

Cllr Bugler updated the meeting on works and improvements ongoing. The Play Park remained open with suitable notices in place and was in regular use.

7.1. Repairs to climbing frame. The climbing frame steps had been re-engineered after a long wait. The invoice was greater than the estimate and there were some concerns about the finish of the job. After discussion, the payment was approved – see Item 5.2.

7.2. Repair/ replacement cargo net. Cllr Bugler reported that a new net was fitted having been obtained at a competitive rate. See Item 5.

7.3. New slide project. Julia Jepson was invited to update the meeting on progress towards purchasing and fitting a replacement slide. At the previous parish council meeting a cap of £10K, including VAT, was set for the slide installation, although enquiries about required ground works were still to be resolved and they had been addressed to Toy Barn. The revised estimate was £11151 inc VAT and included groundwork to reshape the top of the mound and project management. Spoil from the reshape would be used to reduce the

# LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

ITEM  
NO

## AGENDA ITEM

slope incline on one side and negated the need (and cost) for steps. The PP cash float could contribute £1000 towards the overall cost.

7.3.1. A £5000 deposit was required to order the slide, whilst available stocks permitted, and this was agreed in-meeting to secure the equipment.

7.3.2. The weather and ground conditions were expected to decide the subsequent timing.

7.3.3. The Parish Council agreed to the revised specifications and associated quote. The PC also thanked Julia Jepson and the Play Park Committee for their hard work to bring the works so much closer to resolution.

## 8. VILLAGE GREEN UPDATE – Including:

8.1. Tree planting. Cllr Ward introduced Bob Cutler who provided an extensive brief about tree planting proposals on up to 4 areas of the Village Green based on a plan of the area. It was advised that tree species being close to the boundary with the agricultural land to the south of the green be agreed with the tenant to avoid damage to either stock or the trees. Size of saplings to be planted and their protection was agreed in broad terms, as was sourcing. It was considered that some residents might be keen to sponsor young trees; if so, it was felt that the PC should retain control of the list of trees available to be planted. The Parish Council thanked Mr Cutler for his hard work and substantive input to facilitate the project.

8.2. Benches. Cllr Ward opened discussion about the requirement for and type of benches to be introduced on the Green where it was considered they would receive good use. As for tree planting it was hoped that there might people prepared to sponsor benches.

8.3. Air Ambulance - emergency use of site. The Chairman described potential use of the Green by the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance as an emergency landing site, which included after dark (but no later than 2 am, under DSAA's current operations). This agreement was to be published in the forthcoming Wriggle Valley Magazine.

## 9. CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVE. Cllr Dixon had circulated her notes in advance of the meeting. She reported that she had responded to the consultation survey on behalf of the parish and that she intended to log in to the meeting on the following evening. She noted that the Dorset Council Strategy was necessarily ambitious but did not cascade in its entirety to the local parish councils such a Leigh, which it was felt needed to focus on the possible. The village already had assets and was doing things that required preservation and development rather than necessarily introducing new initiatives. The parish council could encourage education and networking on the climate change issues. It was noticeable that in general people were interested and engaged about the issues but were sometimes uncertain of what to do.

Cllr Dixon particularly recommended that:

- Councillors read the Strategy, on link:  
<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/emergencies-severe-weather/climate->

# LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

ITEM  
NO

## AGENDA ITEM

[emergency/documents/climate-and-ecololgical-emergency-strategy.pdf](#) at 71 pages it was a slow detailed read, but it would bring them up to speed.

- Perhaps an information meeting might be arranged when they were possible.
- Referring to Item 8, Village Green development and plans were in line with the overall strategy. There were also other areas of common land under varying degrees of parish control.
- Transport was a significant matter for the village as many had to travel to facilities and work outside the village. Development of electrical charging points for vehicles, and safer cycling and walking routes, and initiatives to reduce car journeys were felt important.
- The parish council should share information and encourage networking on the climate change issues.”

## 10. PLANNING

To consider Planning Matters. Following updates since previous meeting:

- **WD/D/20/002250 & 002251.** GUYERS COTTAGE, CHETNOLE ROAD, LEIGH, SHERBORNE, DT9 6HL. Added 15 Nov '20. Two applications, one for enabling works and other for installation of heat pump. (Listed building). It was agreed in meeting that there were no objections to either application. (Parish Clerk to action).
- **WD/D/20/002109** KEEPERS COTTAGE, BATCOMBE ROAD, LEIGH, SHERBORNE, DT9 6JA. Two and one storey extension. Consultation complete 24 October 2020. Supported. Response awaited.
- **WD/D/20/000941 & 000942:** LOWER TOTNELL FARM DT9 6HT, changes to old dairy building to increase accommodation. Council (previous meeting) response provided before expiry. Decision awaited. (Clerk's Note: approval for both since received.)
- **WD/D/19/003181** LAND AT, HIGHER STOCKBRIDGE FARM, HIGHER STOCKBRIDGE FARM, STOCKBRIDGE – Installation of a renewable energy scheme. Parish response made by 24 September 2020 and outcome awaited.

10.1. **Yetminster & Ryme Intrinseca Neighbourhood Plan.** Statutory consultation of 6-weeks was complete as deemed necessary. The Clerk reported checking the documents and making appropriate acknowledgement to the consultant by 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

10.2. **Site to east of Holly Tree House (referred as Farm) on Chetnole Road – DT9 6HJ.** Moving this item up the agenda, the Chairman invited Shaun Travers of Boon Brown to introduce two new proposals for the land adjacent to Holly Tree House, on the north side of Chetnole Road. Boon Brown had not been involved in the first proposals, which had been refused planning permission (although the Parish Council had tentatively supported the outline planning permission).

Mr Travers was seeking an informal feel for the local need before any new plans might be considered for submission to Dorset Council. He presented two draft plans, which had been circulated pre-meeting; these were discussed. The recent

# LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

## ITEM NO

## AGENDA ITEM

development on the south side of Chetnole Road (now well advanced) impacted upon the discussion; this had highlighted the limitations of the narrow road. It was considered that the addition of more houses immediately opposite would now seriously overload the area, and inevitably mean much additional car use for almost any journey (even to the limited village facilities).

The PC therefore resolved it could not support either of the plans presented, but nevertheless thanked Mr Travers for his engagement at this early stage. Mr Travers in turn thanked the PC for its time.

11. **COVID -19.** The Leigh Lifeline was still functioning and supporting the Village.

12. **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED.**

See Item 13. The Clerk reported that a steady number of newsletters and updates were being received and forwarded either in general or specifically as required.

Training Courses were being publicized for on-line delivery and whilst they should still be booked through the Parish Clerk there was a steady move to a revised payment in advance.

13. **ITEMS OF AN URGENT NATURE – SUBJECT TO CHAIRMAN’S APPROVAL**

13.1. Annual Litter Pick (2021) The Chairman notified that it was planned to arrange the annual litter pick around the week of 11 January 2021.

13.2. Pedestrian Access Between Village Hall and Green. The Chairman referred to correspondence received from the Village Hall Committee regarding the possible establishment of a gate between the Hall main parking area and the Green. The PC was supportive of the concept, but at the moment felt it was not in a position to provide a share of any associated funding.

13.3. Longbridge Drove Damage. The Chairman noted damage inflicted the previous Saturday. The incident had been reported to the Police and Dorset Council. On-going.

DCllr Penfold left before the end of the meeting, having attended as public and with no direct input. When invited to comment she thanked Cllr Dixon for her extensive input at Item 9. She referred to her regular meetings with the local MP and asked if there was any input. None reported at the time.

14. **DATE(S) OF NEXT MEETINGS:**

Next scheduled LPC meeting at 7-30pm on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

14.1. Meetings are agreed as 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday in alternate (odd) months, and subsequent meeting dates in 2021 would be: 16 March, 18 May, 20 July, 21 September and 16 November 2021

- 18 May 2021 is the Parish Council AGM at 19:30 preceded by the Parish AGM at 19:00 / 7-00pm. (Not held in 2020)

Usual location, or virtual option, for each meeting to be agreed in line with Government guidelines for each date.

**The meeting was closed at 21:55**