

LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Leigh Parish Council on Tuesday 18th January 2022 in Leigh Village Hall (Committee Room).

Present: Cllr A Bennett (Chairman); Cllrs C Dixon, J Dixon, S Scutt, S Vincent, & A Ward.

In attendance: Members of the public x 2 for start and part Item 12 brought forwards, Dorset Cllr M Penfold; Beverley Harrison (Parish Clerk)

Opening Remarks. The Chairman welcomed all attending the meeting, which was in a smaller area than usual. Accordingly, he asked whether anyone objected to the room arrangements – none were received. He also described process for the meeting and for any input from members of the public attending.

1. Apologies for Absence: Nil

2. Declarations of Interest: Nil

3. LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

3.1. The minutes of Leigh's Parish Council Meeting on 16 November 2021 were circulated and displayed with no further input. Accordingly, the minutes were agreed and:

3.1.1. The Chairman signed a copy for the record.

3.1.2. Matters Arising not covered elsewhere on the meeting's agenda were:

3.1.2.1. Item 12. Standing Orders and Processes:

3.1.2.1.1. **Standing Orders** Leigh's Standing Orders are based on the 2014 NALC Template, since updated in 2018 – parish revision by Cllr Bennett carried forward.

3.1.2.1.2. **Asset Register.** Updated and circulated before the meeting by Cllr Ward. It was to be circulated again in connection with its inclusion in annual returns

3.1.2.1.3. **Risk Registers.** Cllr J Dixon had recirculated his revision of the Risk Register reporting that it was much as presented at the previous meeting which had not included scoring. The updates were accepted by the council.

3.1.2.1.3.1. Cllr J Dixon readdressed potential risks of the currently agreed Parish IT and information storage in Item 14. The Chairman asked Cllr J Dixon to submit his storage recommendations for the next parish council meeting.

4. FINANCES OVERVIEW:

The accounts spreadsheet updated and reconciled to 31 December 2021 reflected a balance of £21542. Funds were allocated as - Main fund: £7523; Ring-fenced sub-accounts were: Play Park £1991; Village Green £2775; Heritage Signage £273; CIL £7480 and R&R £1500

4.1. The forecast unallocated balance (main account) for year-end of FY21/22 (see Item 6 Schedule) was estimated to be around £5000, allowing for projected spends for the remainder of this FY.

LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

4.2. General Account Budget for FY 22/23 The Chairman had recirculated version 2 of the original draft parish budget following the previous meeting. No disagreement had since been received. It was therefore proposed that a budget spend of £9950 from the General Account for FY 2022/23 be agreed. Assuming the recommendations concerning the precept were agreed (see next item), this would result in a negative budget for FY 2022/23 of -£356.

Proposer: Cllr Bennett; seconded Cllr Scutt. Unanimous agreement.

5. APPROVAL OF PRECEPT.

In accordance with the circulated documents, Leigh's Parish tax base (properties being taxed) had increased for 2022/23, a welcome reverse of the decline experienced in the previous FY. In the light of the agreed parish budget, Item 4.2, it was proposed that Leigh parish submits its request for a precept of £9594 for FY 2022/23. This would manifest as a 2% increase for a Band D property, to £40.28 for the year.

Proposer Cllr Bennett; Seconded: Cllr C Dixon. Unanimous agreement

Clerk's Note: Precept confirmed dispatched and confirmed received by Dorset Council on 24 Jan '22.

6. APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS

A consolidated schedule of payments was prepared and circulated for review and agreement by Councillors in the meeting as attached with the main minutes:

6.1. Payments made since previous meeting, Value: £1326-47 (Loan DD and Tree purchase.)

6.2. Payments for agreement in meeting – See the attached Schedule £1722-21; less £28-00 cancelled by claimant.

6.3. Payments expected before next meeting. Village Hall rental for meetings held in 2020 were still to be invoiced locally. See Item 8.2 for future grass cutting costs.

7. **PLAYPARK UPDATE.** Cllr Scutt had received and circulated an estimate for works required following the RoSPA safety report (May 2021), which would be retrieved and recirculated. The works and their need were considered in meeting as Cllr Scutt requested release of parish CIL funds to match the quoted spend. The RoSPA report was a requirement for insurance cover and part of the parish risk management. The contractors invoicing had already corrected their work in response to the same report.

7.1. Councillors expressed concern at the size of the quote, *versus* the risks considered that were seen as negligible. It was decided that closer investigation was needed, including seeking further quotations for the same work. It was agreed to discuss the matter at the March parish council meeting when the report and perhaps more options would be available.

8. **VILLAGE GREEN UPDATE.** Cllr Ward stated that there was little to report.

8.1. The Village Green Policy statement(s) agreed at the previous meeting and being uploaded to the Policies area of the Leigh Village website.

8.2. Grass cutting. The Village Green was cut, with the Play Park, by one

LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

contractor pending decision about a formal way ahead. Details had been negotiated by Graham Bugler, whilst a parish councillor. For previous years grass cutting was invoiced at the end of each month of the grass cutting season. The annual total was approaching the £2000 threshold; above this figure required councils to invite bids for the contract. As there was no written contract, the Clerk undertook to discuss, availability and provisionally agree proposed costs with the existing supplier for the forthcoming season. For discussion formal agreement in meeting 15 March 2022.

9. CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVE.

Cllr C Dixon reported that there had been no meetings since the last council meeting and that response was awaited about the grant application agreed at the previous meeting.

10. FLOOD ALLEVIATION. The Chairman reported that further to the previous meeting's observations, more research was being conducted to further alleviate the risk of flooding in the village.

10.1. East stream – Beer Hackett Stream [ST623084]. The 'leaky dams' (c.1 mile upstream of the Bridge Garage) were working as intended, but the recent spate water had simply overwhelmed their capacity (a known risk). Downstream of the bridge, there was some buildup of natural debris in the river that inevitably added to the restricted river backing up. The Chairman was in contact with the river-side landowners with the intention of arranging a small work party to remove the worst of the obstructions within 250m downstream of the bridge.

10.2. West stream, R Wriggle tributary at Chetnole Road Bridge - [ST614085] Two properties had reported water ingress. A search for a suitable site where a 'leaky dam' upstream of the bridge might be established was being undertaken; the Chairman was in contact with the associated landowners. It was considered that the Southwest Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG SW) might consider support (as it had for the above East stream project). Site / ground visits were being arranged to discuss options.

11 PLANNING

11.1. To consider Parish Planning Matters. Updates since previous meeting.

- 2021/05103 Frampton Farm DT9 6HJ – Open Schooling Arena. Nil objection or comment
- P/VOC/2021/05531. Huntsbridge Farm DT9 6JA, removal of agricultural provision, deadline 11 Jan 2022. It was noted in meeting that there was no parish council objection.

11.2. The Chairman in his draft letter to Dorset Council (Item 14.1) had included reference to parish planning issues regarding ongoing cases of non-compliance. Inappropriate occupation or use was not being correctly investigated, challenged or enforced by County.

11.3. Cllr C Dixon was attending on-line DAPTC Planning Training.

12. HIGHWAYS & BYWAYS

12.1. Cllr C Dixon reported that road marking refreshment was in progress to assist with traffic calming. There had also been some road surface patching of potholes on

LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

Yetminster Road towards the village centre. Community Speed Watch training was complete.

12.2. Three Gates Speed Limit Proposed Extension. The Chairman reported that the parish had received the raw information from the traffic survey commissioned by Dorset Council and was awaiting the next Dorset Highways proposal from those survey results

12.3. Bound Lane T638. This Item was discussed after Item 3 to permit Mr and Mrs B Read to update then depart. The Clerk reported that she had an appointment booked at the County Record Office to check the parish minutes from the 1970s.

Clerk's Note: Further to the in-meeting discussions about use of by-ways, information was received subsequently from GLEAMS and circulated on 24 January 2022. This covers the wider issues in Glover Landscapes Report and covers aspects of track use, discussed in meeting. The consultation closes for response to DEFRA by 9 April 2022 and may be answered by anyone ie: 'Please ask everyone you know who would like to see an end to off-roading to take part.' Link is: <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/future-landscapes-strategy/government-response-to-the-landscapes-review/>

13. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED.

The Clerk listed correspondence received and circulated for review and commented upon further as necessary:

13.1. DAPTC Training. The current training list was circulated to all. A number of courses, all online, were booked, although Councillor Induction training was outstanding for at least 2 more Councillors. The current training arrangement is on-line and time efficient.

13.2. It was clarified that the parish had confirmed its local SSI contact registration for Beer Mill Mead (Candle Auction land).

13.3. The Clerk had circulated correspondence, dated 17 January 2022, to all councillors about the Dorset Plan.

13.4. NALC guidance about councillor allowances policy was revised and re-issued.

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

14.1. The Chairman had drafted and circulated his proposed letter to the CEO of Dorset County addressing four issues of concern to Leigh parish council. It was unanimously agreed that he should release it as Leigh Parish Council's view.

14.2. The Chairman had been approached about any proposed village celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee over the weekend Friday 3rd – Monday 6th June 2022. It was agreed that the parish council would support organizers of such an event.

15. DATE(S) OF NEXT MEETINGS:

Next Leigh PC meeting is at 7-30pm on Tuesday 15 March 2022, in the Village Hall.

15.1. Meetings in 2022 until the Parish Council AGM are on Tuesdays: 15 March and (AGM) 17 May 2022.

LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

15.1.1. Leigh Village annual meeting is scheduled for 7pm on Tuesday 17 May 2022.

15.2. Parish Council agendas and minutes are uploaded to a section the Leigh Village Website. Please address any accessibility matters, or requests for copies of minutes to the Parish Clerk on leigh@dorset-aptc.gov.uk

15.3. The Chairman proposed (as per previously circulated email) that consideration be given that Leigh Parish Council Meetings be moved to the second Tuesday (as opposed to the 3rd as at present) of alternate months, commencing after the AGM in May. The adjustment would be to facilitate inclusion of the chairman's parish council updates in the Wriggle Valley Magazine by its submissions for publication deadline is 12th of the month. Similarly, parish councillors were asked to consider commencing parish meetings at 1830 to achieve earlier ending to meetings.

15.3.1. Changing to the 2nd Tuesday would result in meeting dates of 12 July; 13 September; 8 November all in 2022 and 10 January 2023.

While the change to the 2nd Tuesday of alternate months was supported, it was agreed to return to the issue at the next meeting.