

# LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023 Leigh Parish Council meeting (7:30 PM) in Leigh Village Hall

<b><u>COUNCILLORS PRESENT</u></b>	
Steven Humphries – Chairman	SH
Charlie Adey	CA
Alan Bennett	AB
Mark Read	MR
Alfie Southwell	AS
Julie Taylor	JT
Sam Vincent	SV

1.	<b><u>APOLOGIES</u></b>  None																																			
2.	<b><u>MINUTES</u></b>  Minutes of the 14 March 2023 Leigh Parish Council meeting, previously shared and approved by all via email, were signed.																																			
3.	<b><u>FINANCES REVIEW</u></b>  The Immediate Past Chairman, Councillor Alan Bennett, gave a summary of the 2022/2023 financial performance and the resulting year-end balances. He pointed out that the VAR budget set in January 2022 had been met more or less precisely. Aside from sums ringfenced for specific projects (see agenda item 3.2 for details), this left £5,700.08 of uncommitted funds on 31 March 2023 (the end of the financial year). At the same time last year, this sum stood at £4,940.99  The Clerk, Christopher Cook, drew attention to the additional funds received since the 2022/2023 year end. These were £6,464 from the Play Park Committee, as their contribution to the new play park equipment, and £4,992 from Dorset Council, as the first instalment of the precept due.  The Clerk apologised for being unable to include these figures in the reconciliation provided with the minutes. This was due to the delay in Lloyds completing the processing of the application to add him to the account's list of authorised signatures.																																			
4.	<b><u>APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS</u></b>  The following had been received and were accordingly approved for payment by the Parish Council: <table><tr><th>Invoice Date</th><th>Payee</th><th>Goods / services received</th><th>Amount</th><th>Budget line</th></tr><tr><td>5/4/23</td><td>Dorset Council</td><td>Emptying x2 litter bins</td><td>£311.58</td><td>VG</td></tr><tr><td>1/4/23</td><td>DAPTC</td><td>Annual Membership</td><td>£187.54</td><td>VAR</td></tr><tr><td>1/6/23</td><td>Zurich insurance</td><td>Annual insurance</td><td>£592.72</td><td>VAR</td></tr><tr><td>8/5/23</td><td>Sturgess photo</td><td>Coronation event photos</td><td>£170.00</td><td>VAR - Misc</td></tr><tr><td>18/3/23</td><td>Mrs Plaxy Arthur</td><td>Coronation mugs</td><td>£250.00</td><td>VAR - Misc</td></tr><tr><td>Recurring 1<sup>st</sup> of each</td><td>C. Cook salary</td><td>Commencing 1 June 2023</td><td>£213.44</td><td>VAR</td></tr></table>	Invoice Date	Payee	Goods / services received	Amount	Budget line	5/4/23	Dorset Council	Emptying x2 litter bins	£311.58	VG	1/4/23	DAPTC	Annual Membership	£187.54	VAR	1/6/23	Zurich insurance	Annual insurance	£592.72	VAR	8/5/23	Sturgess photo	Coronation event photos	£170.00	VAR - Misc	18/3/23	Mrs Plaxy Arthur	Coronation mugs	£250.00	VAR - Misc	Recurring 1 <sup>st</sup> of each	C. Cook salary	Commencing 1 June 2023	£213.44	VAR
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	<p>month 3/4/23</p> <p>C.Cook      Expenses – Ink for Brother printer      £34.90      VAR</p> <p>There was discussion over the benefit of purchasing Microsoft 365 subscription service (or equivalent) for the Clerk's computer. Cllr CA agreed to research the best offer. The Council agreed the necessity, and pre-authorised up to £100 for the purchase.</p> <p>Post-meeting note: Cllr CA proposed the purchase of Microsoft 365 through the Amazon offer for £29.99. This was approved by Council via email.</p>
5.	<p><b><u>AUTHORISATION OF BANKING ARRANGEMENTS</u></b></p> <p>The Clerk advised the Councillors of the progress or lack thereof in relation to the bank issuing him with access to the LPC bank account and facilities.</p> <p>Cllr. AB proposed that all Councillors on the Committee be given authority to be one of the two necessary signatories for bank transactions. This was agreed unanimously. The Clerk will initiate the necessary paperwork from the bank.</p> <p>Cllr AB agreed to contact Lloyds to identify the reasons for the slow processing.</p>
6.	<p><b><u>PLAYPARK UPDATE</u></b></p> <p>Cllr. CA gave a detailed update on progress with the new equipment installation by Active Gardens – it was anticipated that this would be completed within the next two months.</p> <p>The Council was unanimous in its thanks to the Playpark committee for its fundraising and hand over of the recent cheque for £6,464. This meant that, once the FY 2022-23 VAT reclaim was made, the Play park sub-account now had sufficient funding to cover the current expansion.</p> <p>The safety mats under the children's swings were now worn beyond economical repair. Active Gardens had quoted £828 + VAT to replace the mats (16) while they were on site for the equipment expansion. Council approved this plan; costs to be covered by the Repair and Replacement fund.</p> <p>The annual RoSPA safety inspection would take place in the next few weeks. With regard to the pending new equipment, if the installation was not completed before the RoSPA inspection, it was agreed that their inspection of the new equipment could wait until this time next year.</p>
7.	<p><b><u>VILLAGE GREEN UPDATE</u></b></p> <p>Cllr. MR informed the meeting that the cinder footpath running parallel to the road had a significant dip in it, with a large muddy puddle regularly forming. This meant difficulty for those using the dedicated parking for church attenders. Council asked him to propose a solution for its approval at the next meeting.</p>
8.	<p><b><u>FOOTPATHS UPDATE</u></b></p> <p>Cllr. SV brought the meeting up to date on local footpaths and the various stiles, gates and fences needing attention. SV undertook to investigate which land owner or other person/authority was responsible for which repair/replacement.</p> <p>The fencing originally installed alongside the river at the Miz Maze housing development was now in disrepair. It was agreed that Dorset Council should be</p>

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	<p>contacted to remove it. It was felt that the fence did not need to be replaced, the vegetation having matured since the c.1992 development.</p> <p><u>Dorset Council DMMO 2021.</u> Cllr AB referred to the 2 May 2023 notification by the Planning Inspectorate that an inspector had now been appointed regarding the issue of Bailey Drove being improperly re-classified as a BOAT by the Supreme Court. A decision is awaited.</p>
9.	<p><b><u>HIGHWAYS</u></b></p> <p>Cllr. AB addressed the meeting on his continuing attempts to elicit action from the County Council on the expansion of the existing 40mph limit in Totnell to include Three Gates – this had been ongoing for 2+ years. He expressed his disappointment at the apparent lack of interest or response from the council. He undertook to propose to the council a recommendation at the next meeting.</p>
10.	<p><b><u>PLANNING</u></b></p> <p>Cllr. AB reported to the meeting on the continuing saga of the application P/PAAC//01907. The Council's formal position regarding the 'prior approval' process had been made within the stipulated deadline. Dorset Council's decision is now awaited.</p>
11.	<p><b><u>CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED</u></b></p> <p>The Clerk reported that none had been received.</p>
12.	<p><b><u>ITEMS OF AN URGENT NATURE</u></b></p> <p>A vote of thanks was given to the Coronation Committee regarding the previous weekend's events.</p>
13.	<p><b><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u></b></p> <p>The next meeting is at 19:00 on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023.</p>
14.	<p><b><u>VOTE OF THANKS</u></b></p> <p>A unanimous vote of thanks was recorded for the outgoing Chairman, Councillor Alan Bennett.</p>