

LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the 11th July 2023 Leigh Parish Council meeting (7:00 PM) in Leigh Village Hall

	<u>COUNCILLORS PRESENT</u>
	Steven Humphries – Chairman SH
	Charlie Adey CA
	Alfie Southwell AS
	Julie Taylor JT
	Sam Vincent SV

1.	<u>THE CHAIRMAN</u> Started the meeting and welcomed County Councillor Mary Penfold as an observer.
2.	<u>APOLOGIES</u> Cllr A Bennett Cllr M Read
3.	<u>MINUTES</u> 3.1 Minutes of the 9th May 2023 Leigh Parish Council meeting, previously shared and approved by all via email, were signed. 3.2 There were no matters arising from the minutes that were not covered in the agenda for this meeting.
4.	<u>FINANCES REVIEW</u> 4.1 The Clerk, Christopher Cook, asked the Councillors if they had read the Bank reconciliation and accepted it. The reconciliation was accepted unanimously. 4.2 The clerk asked the Councillors if they had read and accepted the Financial Spreadsheets. The financial spreadsheets, including the sums allocated to various sub-accounts, were accepted unanimously.
5.	<u>SAFEGUARDING LPC's FINANCIAL PLANNING</u> The Chairman explained that Cllr AB wished to hand over responsibility for Financial Planning to someone else on the Council. This covers forecast spreadsheets and most importantly, calculating the Precept for the following year. Cllr AS suggested that he may be suitably qualified to take on this task. He further suggested that he would be in contact with Cllr AB on Cllr AB's return, to discuss the matter with him. The Chairman agreed with this suggestion.

LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

6.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS

6.1 The following had been received and were accordingly approved for payment by the Parish Council:

Invoice Date	Payee	Goods / services received	Amount	Budget line
16 May 2023	Playsafety Ltd	Play Park inspection	£98.40	PP
	St Andrew's Church	Donation for 2022/2023	£520	VAR
	Barker-Fox Associates	Internal audit fee for 2021/2022	£158.10	VAR

There was discussion over the proposed donation to NORDCAT. It was decided to delay payment of this until there was clarity over the future of the local bus service.

6.2 The Clerk also requested advance approval for the necessary purchase of paper for the LPC printer. This was unanimously approved. Subsequent to the meeting, £5.50 was spent acquiring 500 sheets of 80gsm copier paper.

There was extensive discussion over the need for repairs and renewals to various gates, posts and fences for which the LPC had responsibility. It was decided to await detailed quotes before approving any expense on these.

7.

AUTHORISATION OF BANKING ARRANGEMENTS

The Clerk advised the Councillors that the bank procedures for changing authorities and access and for adding and removing signatories appears to have been greatly simplified. It appears that the Clerk is now able to give effect to all the necessary changes required by Council, on-line. When all Councillors are registered for on-line banking, the Council will return to requiring 2 signatures for approval of payments.

The Clerk asked for and the Councillors agreed to provide the limited information that would be required by the bank to give effect to these changes.

The Clerk has undertaken to e-mail Councillors for the relevant information and thereafter to make the necessary changes.

8.

PLAYPARK UPDATE

Cllr. CA gave an update on Playpark and confirmed that the new equipment was all installed and had proved to be popular.

The ROSPA inspection report was positive, raising only a few minor points, none of which required immediate action.

She further reported that various repairs and improvements had been carried out to, for example, the treads on the rockers, the A frame and the mats.

A complaint from one villager was discussed. This was a demand that the grass in the wildflower meadow be cut right down. It was agreed that the grass in the Playpark area was kept cut to a sensible height and that the wildflower meadow would cease to be a wildflower meadow if it were cut right down. It was unanimously decided that the present policy on mowing would continue.

Finally, there was a unanimous vote of thanks for Cllr. CA for all the excellent, hard work she has put in to achieve the present facilities and condition of the Playpark.

LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

9.	<p><u>VILLAGE GREEN UPDATE</u></p> <p>Cllr. MR not being able to attend the meeting, the Chairman had been in contact with him about this. Cllr. MR has agreed to fill the hole in the path with some stone, as a temporary measure. He will look into diverting the rain water to avoid potential future problems.</p>
10.	<p><u>FOOTPATHS UPDATE</u></p> <p>Cllr. SV stated that he had read widely about the various aspects regarding maintenance of footpaths. He had learned of grants available up to 100% of cost, from Dorset Council, for the repair and maintenance of footpaths. Each landowner is responsible for the footpaths on their land and therefore each landowner could apply for a relevant grant.</p> <p>There was then discussion about the possibility of LPC organising a collective application for such a grant, to cover all the footpaths in Leigh. The Chairman offered to include a piece about the availability of these grants, in his piece in the next Wriggle Valley Magazine.</p> <p>A question was raised about the fence along the river between the shop and Miz Maze. It was agreed this was not the responsibility of LPC and that therefore the Council would not repair or replace it for fear of establishing a future liability where none now existed.</p>
11.	<p><u>COMMON GROUND UPDATE</u></p> <p>The Chairman advised the Councillors that the 3 pieces of Common Land owned by the Council were at:</p> <p>Totnell Copse - this is let to the owner of neighbouring land on a lease expiring in March 2024. When the lease comes up for renewal, the Chairman will invite bids for the lease.</p> <p>Longbridge Drove - no-one had shown any interest in taking this on.</p> <p>Stake Ford - this land is bid for annually in the Candle auction.</p> <p>The Council asked the Clerk to search for the actual leases of the lands.</p>
12.	<p><u>RIVERS UPDATE</u></p> <p>Cllr. SV advised that he had attended the recent Wriggle Valley interest group. The 2 main concerns are flooding and water quality. There was also discussion about rubbish removal from river banks. They will act collectively to find out if there are any grants available for maintenance and improvement.</p> <p>Cllr. SV has a wealth of information available for any individual Councillor who may be interested. He will also attend the next meeting of the interest group on the 9th August.</p>
13.	<p><u>PLANNING</u></p> <p>Application P/PAAC/2023/01907</p> <p>This has been dealt with by e-mail already. The County Council decision is awaited.</p>

LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

14.	<p><u>D-DAY 80th ANNIVERSARY on 6th JUNE 2024</u></p> <p>After much discussion it was agreed that possible celebrations could range from a single lit beacon to a full scale event such as that held for the coronation. It was decided that the chairman would mention the Anniversary in his article in the next Wriggle Valley Magazine. If someone or a group of people do come forward to organise something for the day, Cllr. SV agreed to have a bonfire on his land.</p>
15.	<p><u>UNAUTHORISED ENCAMPMENT POLICY</u></p> <p>The Council agreed unanimously to adopt the policy proposed by DAPTC. Cllr CA agreed to post this on the web site.</p> <p>It was further agreed that advance authorisation be given for the expenditure of £600 as the fee payable to Dorset County Council for a Section 62 Order under the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act of 1994, should there be an incident of Unauthorised Encampment.</p>
16.	<p><u>CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED</u></p> <p>The Clerk reported that an e-mail contact had been made by the Internal Auditor, Paula Harding, requesting access to a few more folders/files. These were immediately provided.</p>
17.	<p><u>ITEMS OF AN URGENT NATURE</u></p> <p>There were none.</p>
18.	<p><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u></p> <p>The next meeting is at 19:00 on Tuesday 12^h September 2023.</p>