	MINUTES **LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** **TUESDAY 12th SEPTEMBER 2023**	
	PRESENT - Councillors Steve Humphries – Chairman (SH) Sam Vincent – Vice-Chairman (SV) Mark Read (MR) Alfie Southwell (AS) Julie Taylor (JT) **PRESENT - Officials** Christopher Cook – Clerk (CC)	
1.	**OPENING REMARKS by CHAIRMAN** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and read out the apologies for absence.	Chairman
2.	**APOLOGIES for ABSENCE** **Councillors** Charlie Adey (CA) Alan Bennett (AB) **Dorset Councillor** Mary Penfold	
3.	**LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES** 3.1The Minutes of 11th July 2023 Leigh Parish Council Meeting, as circulated and displayed, were unanimously agreed as a true and fair record. The Chairman signed them as such on behalf of the Council. 3.2. There were no matters Arising that were not already on this meeting's agenda.	Chairman

4. **FINANCES OVERVIEW** Clerk/RFO

4.1. Reconciliation of bank account (shared file)

£11,439.96 as at 30th August 2023

All Councillors agreed they were happy with the reconciliation, as shown.

4.2. Sums allocated to various Sub Accounts

On 30th August 2023, the sums allocated to the subsidiary accounts stood at

Play Park	- £957.73
Heritage Signage	£365.59
Village Green	£1,016.50
Community Infrastructure Funds	0
Repair and Replace Fund	£3,000.00
National Lottery Environment Talks Fund	£1,137.24
Sub Total of Allocated	£4,561.60
Unallocated	£6,878.36
TOTAL FUNDS	£11,439.96

All Councillors were happy with the allocations and breakdown as shown.

A number of matters were raised for discussion and action:

a) SH pointed out that the works required under Heritage Signage had all been completed. He proposed and it was unanimously agreed therefore to transfer the balance from the Heritage Signage sub-section to the Repair and Replace Fund sub-section.
b) SH reminded the meeting of the fund-raising successes of CA in her role on the Play Park Committee. Subject to future discussion with that committee, the hope was expressed that at least some of those funds would be transferred to Leigh Parish Council's Play Park sub-section, to cover various equipment bought and other expenses already incurred and paid for.
c) SH pointed out that the grass cutting was being paid for from the Village Green sub-section. In the past it had been covered by the Community Infrastructure Funds sub-section. The point was made that this cost would have to be considered carefully in the budgeting process due to start soon.

5.	**REVIEW and ACCEPTANCE of AGAR for 2022/2023** 5.1 Annual Governance and Accountability Return Part 1 of the AGAR was unanimously accepted. Part 2 of the AGAR was unanimously accepted. It as unanimously agreed that publication of the of the Notice of Public Rights be posted. 5.2 Public notice dates Were agreed as being from 15th September to 14th October 2023 inclusive.	Clerk/RFO
6.	**SAFEGUARDING LPC's FINANCIAL PLANNING** AS and AB will be meeting soon to start the budgeting process for next year.	Chairman / Cllr Southwell
7.	7.1 **INVOICES RECEIVED – APPROVAL for PAYMENT – SHARED FOLDER** Barker-Fox Associates – Internal Audit 2022/2023 £102.08 7.2 **FORTHCOMING PAYMENTS for ADVANCE APPROVAL** SH informed the meeting of the latest news on the renewal/repair of the fences, gates and posts previously discussed. Although he had asked for separate quotes for the various individual works potentially needed, he had received a single lump sum quote of £1,200 for all the work. There followed extensive discussions as to what works absolutely must be done and which were "nice to have". SV, MR and AS contributed significantly to the discussions with each offering various forms of help, if and when the Council decides to proceed with the works. Further discussions will take place and individual quotes obtained before any work is undertaken. MR then briefed the meeting on the potential cost of repairs to the path, as previously discussed. He had been quoted on 2 options: a) Laying a mesh grid topped by stones - £1,675 + VAT b) Concreting over the final section where the existing stones are currently being washed away - £1,399 + VAT. SH expressed the belief that it was a public footpath and therefore the responsibility of Dorset Council. It was generally agreed that the sums quoted were too great for the matter involved. It was further agreed that while it would be a "nice thing to do" it was not really the Parish Council's responsibility. As several Councillors observed, no-one is forced to walk along that particular route anyway.	Clerk/RFO

8.	**AUTHORISATION OF BANKING ARRANGEMENTS** The forms to add AS, SV and JT to the list of signatories with access to view the bank accounts, were signed by CC and by SH. CC is to send these to the bank for action.	Clerk/RFO
9.	**PLAYPARK UPDATE** As she was unable to attend, CA had sent a written report to SH. SH briefly covered the matters not already covered under item 4.2. CA was minded to suggest to the Play Park Committee that part of the funds be spent on a shelter in the Play Park and on protectors for the new posts in the Play Park to protect them from the strimmers.	Cllr Adey
10.	**VILLAGE GREEN UPDATE** There were no issues to report.	Cllr Read
11.	**FOOTPATHS UPDATE** SV reported that he was to attend a meeting in October where efforts would be started to bring together local landowners to apply for existing funds to cover the installation of self-closing gates in place of existing gates and many stiles. The challenge is in bringing all the landowners together to act.	Cllr Vincent
12.	**COMMON GROUND UPDATE** SH assured the meeting that the lands would be advertised when and where appropriate. He also pointed out that he had mentioned the leases in his most recent article in the Wriggle Valley magazine. Discussion followed as to who could lease the grounds, how they would be chosen if more than one applicant applied, the restrictions on the leaseholders and the nature of the grounds.	Cllr Humphries
13.	**RIVERS UPDATE** SV reminded the Council that he had already attended a "set-up" meeting of the Wriggle River Improvement Group (WRIG). This is a group set up to seek grants from a number of different sources, to make improvements to the river environments, including possible protective fencing. The Yeovil Community River Trust has been one of the driving forces behind the establishment of the WRIG. A further update will be provided after the next meeting of the WRIG.	Cllr Vincent
14.	**UPDATE on LOCAL BUS SERVICES** Discussion and updates were exchanged between SH, JT and CC re the recent correspondence about seeking alternative bus providers for the villages. It was generally agreed that there appeared to be confusion around exactly what was being proposed. It was further agreed that the existing plans and actions of the NORDCAT group were serving well and that therefore the Council need do no more.	Cllr Taylor

15.	**D-DAY 80th ANNIVERSARY on 6th JUNE 2024** A range of ideas was discussed by those present. The final decision was that a "Champion" from among the village community must be found to lead on this.	All
16.	**CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**. Dog waste bins- A letter was received asking who was responsible for emptying the dog bins. In reply, the writer was advised that Dorset Council has that responsibility. Full fibre broadband- Unfortunately, the funding from Dorset Council for the installation of full fibre broadband has been used up. Thus, there will be no further extension of such facility in the foreseeable future unless circumstances change. Local bus services- See item14. Internal auditor- See item 4. Bank- See item 8.	Clerk
17.	**ITEMS OF AN URGENT NATURE – SUBJECT TO CHAIRMAN'S APPROVAL** SH raised the matter of the Parish Council's response to the discussion document from Dorset Council on housing. Dorset Council had advised that the 2020/2021 Plan had now been scrapped and that they were simply sounding out the various parish and town councils before preparing a new plan. It was agreed to accept AB's suggested response which broadly stated that the Parish Council did not wish to see the nature of the village changed by new development.	Chairman
18.	**DATE(S) OF NEXT MEETINGS**: Next Scheduled LPC meeting at 7-00pm on Tuesday 14th November 2023, subsequent meetings (Hall booked) as agreed.	Chairman