

	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>MINUTES</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>TUESDAY 14th NOVEMBER 2023</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Commencing at 7 p.m.</u></p>	
	<p><u>PRESENT - Councillors</u> Steve Humphries – Chairman (SH) Sam Vincent – Vice-Chairman (SV) Alan Bennett (AB) Mark Read (MR) Alfie Southwell (AS) Julie Taylor (JT) Charlie Adey (CA)</p> <p><u>PRESENT - Observer</u> Mary Penfold – Dorset Councillor</p> <p><u>PRESENT - Officials</u> Christopher Cook - Clerk</p>	
1.	<p><u>OPENING REMARKS by CHAIRMAN</u> The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed his pleasure at the full turnout.</p>	Chairman
2.	<p><u>APOLOGIES for ABSENCE</u> None</p>	Chairman
3.	<p><u>LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES</u></p> <p>3.1 The Minutes of 12th September 2023 Leigh Parish Council Meeting, as previously circulated and displayed, were accepted unanimously and signed by the Chairman.</p> <p>3.2. There were no matters arising that are not already on this meeting's agenda.</p>	Chairman

4.	<p><u>FINANCES OVERVIEW</u></p> <p>4.1. <u>Reconciliation of bank account (shared file)</u></p> <p>Council approved the Bank Reconciliation:</p> <p>£14,878.79 as at 31st October 2023</p> <p>4.2. <u>Council approved the sums allocated to various Sub Accounts</u></p> <p>On 31st October 2023, the sums allocated to the subsidiary accounts stood at</p> <table><tr><td>Play Park</td><td>- £957.73</td></tr><tr><td>Village Green</td><td>£426.50</td></tr><tr><td>Community Infrastructure Funds</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>Repair and Replace Fund</td><td>£3,365.59</td></tr><tr><td>National Lottery Environment Talks Fund</td><td>£1,137.24</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Sub Total of Allocated</td><td>£3,971.60</td></tr><tr><td>Unallocated</td><td>£10,907.19</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>TOTAL FUNDS</td><td>£14,878.79</td></tr></table> <p>SH mentioned that £500 from the Village Hall had been paid in yesterday and therefore since the balances above had been arrived at.</p> <p>The Council unanimously thanked the Village Hall Committee for the refund.</p>	Play Park	- £957.73	Village Green	£426.50	Community Infrastructure Funds	0	Repair and Replace Fund	£3,365.59	National Lottery Environment Talks Fund	£1,137.24			Sub Total of Allocated	£3,971.60	Unallocated	£10,907.19			TOTAL FUNDS	£14,878.79	Clerk/RFO
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5.	<p><u>REVIEW BANK AUTHORITIES</u></p> <p>The Clerk drew attention to the requirements of Section 150 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972. It was agreed that past practice was in line with the requirements in the Act and that future requests for payment would be raised by the Clerk and authorised on-line by 2 Councillors from the list of authorised signatories.</p>	Clerk/RFO																				
6.	<p>6.1 <u>INVOICES RECEIVED – APPROVAL for PAYMENT – SHARED FOLDER</u></p> <p>There were no new invoices awaiting approval for payment. The Clerk simply reminded Councillors that the next repayment due to PWLB, of £1,231.47, was due on 11th December.</p> <p>SH raised the matter of the new pay scales which affected how much is payable to the Clerk. The new rate was approved.</p> <p>There is thus an amount, £138.96, of back pay due. This was also unanimously approved.</p>	Clerk/RFO																				

	<p>6.2 <u>FORTHCOMING PAYMENTS for ADVANCE APPROVAL</u></p> <p>£20 to Royal British Legion for wreath. AB explained the background to this purchase and the Council unanimously approved the payment.</p> <p>The Clerk is to raise the cheque and send it to AB for passing on to the RBL.</p>	Cllr Bennett
7.	<p><u>IN YEAR 'UNCOMMITTED' FINANCE</u></p> <p>AB spoke to this item and reported that LPC will have underspent against budget by around £84. The Council approved £1,500 to be transferred from uncommitted funds to R & R and the grant of £520 to be paid to St Andrew's Church. The £300 donation to NORDCAT is to be held off as well as the £500 transfer to the Play Park fund.</p> <p>CA is hoping to retrieve further funds from the Play Park as contributions towards what the Parish Council has already paid for.</p>	Cllr Humphries and Cllr Bennett
8.	<p><u>BUDGET SETTING for FINANCIAL YEAR 2024-2025</u></p> <p>Expenditure in excess of the normal is expected next year to be £4,465. This includes, inter alia:</p> <p>Increase in Clerk's wages - £455</p> <p>Transfer to Village Green account for Grass Cutting - £2,000</p> <p>Election costs - £1,500</p> <p>Increase in Insurance Premiums</p> <p>Additional work and maintenance on the Defibrillator</p> <p>It is anticipated that there will be an overspend beyond income of around £4,500 next year.</p> <p>It is proposed to partially offset this deficit by increasing the Parish band charge by 4%. Other reductions in the deficit will be achieved by reducing the amounts transferred to Repairs and Replacement and also to the Play Park account.</p> <p>The budget setting was unanimously approved.</p>	Cllr Humphries and Cllr Bennett
9.	<p><u>PLAYPARK UPDATE</u></p> <p>CA advised that there is around £10,000 in the Play Park's account. She further advised that she has submitted the paperwork for a transfer of around £5,000 to the Leigh Parish Council in repayment for the Tractor and other items purchased by the Parish Council for the Play Park.</p>	Cllr Adey
10.	<p><u>VILLAGE GREEN UPDATE</u></p> <p>MR informed the meeting that there was nothing to report on this occasion.</p>	Cllr Read
11.	<p><u>FOOTPATHS UPDATE</u></p> <p>SV advised the Parish Council that meetings were being arranged and discussions would take place to determine the</p>	Cllr Vincent

	ownership of the various lands on which the footpaths were and therefore who was responsible for those footpaths.	
12.	<u>COMMON GROUND UPDATE</u> SH informed Council that no expressions of interest had so far been received. He further advised that he was still in the process of drawing up the necessary paperwork for the process and for the leases. AB offered to help with preparing the paperwork.	Cllr Humphries
13.	<u>RIVERS UPDATE</u> SV updated Councillors on the latest meeting of the regional Rivers Committee. One of the members of that committee, Yeovil Rivers Trust, had submitted a claim to DEFRA on behalf of other members, including Leigh Parish Council, for a substantial grant towards flood defences. The outcome of the application should be known in January and any funds granted would be spread over 3 years.	Cllr Vincent
14.	<u>UPDATE on LOCAL BUS SERVICES</u> JT advised that the potential alternative services being considered by Toby Hartwell, were far more expensive and offered no greater service than the existing NORDCAT provision. It was unanimously agreed that Council was happy to continue with NORDCAT and saw no advantage in changing.	Cllr Taylor
15.	<u>TREES</u> SH informed the meeting that he had applied for some trees that were being offered free of charge, for delivery in March. He had applied for 2 'Copse' packs and 2 'Hedge' packs. Each pack containing 15 saplings.	Cllr Humphries
16.	<u>LITTER PICK</u> AB suggested that the Council formally approach Andrw Little to ask him to organise the annual litter pick in January. AB further reminded everyone of the superb job he had done organising this year's litter pick.	Cllr Bennett
17.	<u>D-DAY 80th ANNIVERSARY on 6th JUNE 2024</u> Discussion took place with SH leading on the e-mail from Sam Sanderson on this subject. Among the ideas discussed were: A bonfire at Miz Maze. A path illuminated by lanterns leading to the bonfire. Some form of recognition of the contributions to the war efforts of the Land Girls.	All
18.	<u>ELECTIONS MAY 2024</u> SH reminded everyone of the circular sent to each Councillor about the elections. More information will be forthcoming as time moves on and the elections draw nearer. AB suggested that steps be taken to publicise the opportunities to the wider village population. SH offered to include a piece in his contribution to the Wriggle Valley Magazine. CA suggested that she could put on the web site whatever information CC posted on the notice board together with a paragraph from SH.	Chairman

19.	<p><u>SPEED LIMITS</u></p> <p>An article on Speed Indicator Devices (S.I.D.) had been circulated. CC read out an article reporting that Yetminster and Ryde Intrensica Parish Council had applied for a 20mph limit throughout their parish. This application apparently had the support of a substantial majority of the villagers.</p> <p>CA suggested that the Council could prepare a proposal for a S.I.D. based on work previously undertaken by AB and the information ascertained by SH as to cost. This could then be held ready to put forward for a grant, should a suitable opportunity present itself.</p>	Clerk
20.	<p><u>CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED.</u></p> <p>Village Hall path Audio books Notice board at Village Hall</p> <p>CC confirmed with Councillors that they had all received the correspondence referred to and invited any questions or comments. The only one was by SH who advised that he had volunteered to repaint the village notice board frame.</p>	Clerk
21.	<p><u>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u></p> <p>SH invited MR to comment on his planning application, which had been received after the agenda for this meeting had been circulated. MR informed the meeting that it was a simple conversion of some old farm buildings into holiday cottages. The Councillors agreed unanimously with the application. SH raised the matter of the use of the defibrillator and the correct procedures to use. A poster showing a flowchart detailing the correct procedure has been posted on the village notice board by CC subsequent to the meeting. SH has included the same information in his article in the Wriggle Valley Magazine and CA will post the same to the village web site and thence to the local WhatsApp and Facebook groups. SH remarked on the e-mail from Alastair Dennis on the BOAT (Byeways Open to All Traffic) application for Bailey Drove. It was unanimously agreed that the Council would encourage Alastair to proceed with his request to Dorset Council for a TRO or S116 order to be applied to Bailey Drove. SH went on to raise the matter of dog mess bags. SH volunteered to e-mail AM to check that she was still happy to continue restocking the dispensers with the bags. CC raised the matter of inviting our local M.P., Chris Loder, to the next Parish Council A.G.M. It was agreed to do so.</p>	Chairman
22.	<p><u>DATE(S) OF NEXT MEETINGS:</u></p> <p>Next Scheduled LPC meeting at 7-00pm on Tuesday 9th January 2024, subsequent meetings (Hall booked) as agreed.</p>	Chairman