

# **Leigh Parish Council – Annual Report May 2026**

Over the past year, Leigh parish council has:

- Sited 2 new benches and football goals on the green. The parish council are extremely grateful to The Pop Inn for their very generous donation to pay for these new village assets.
- Been able to start the process of buying the freehold of the village green after the passing of Mrs Edwards. The parish council are extremely grateful to all of those, in and around the village, that have contributed towards the recent fundraising appeal to help pay towards the legal fees involved.
- Achieved another good ROSPA report for the condition of the play park, with very minimal repair works required.
- Continued to work with Dorset council to ensure that our footpaths remain as accessible as possible. Leigh pc is most grateful to Leo Stewart for her continued hard work on this.
  - Landowners are reminded that they are responsible for the condition of stiles, gates etc along with keeping the side vegetation clear and the footpath open.
- Under the leadership of Andrew Little, been able to complete another successful January litter pick. Leigh pc is very grateful to Andrew for organising this and to all of those who gave their time and get involved.
- Received another good audit, with minimal actions required.
- Run a very successful Defibrillator & CPR training course, with the help of Graham Bugler and the Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance, raising £237 for the charity.
- Continued to maintain the defibrillator (sited at the village hall) for emergency use. Leigh pc is grateful to Graham Bugler for his continued work maintaining this vital piece of equipment. The protocol remains unchanged; to call 999 in an emergency and wait for the code to the defibrillator to be given, if the situation requires it.
- Been actively working with Dorset County Council regarding traffic calming measures within the village, which include:
  - Applying for a 20mph scheme, which has now progressed to stage 2 – public consultation (further updates to follow in due course)
  - “Pedestrian on road” signs have now been sited at the 3 main entrances into the village.
- Continued to maintain the village green for all to use and enjoy. Leigh pc reminds dog owners that it is their responsibility to immediately remove any fouling by their dog – it is not the role of others to do this. Dog poo bags are available free of charge from the dispensers and bins are provided around the village. Also, that if there are any issues on the green or any other parish council owned property, then these are to be reported to the parish council directly via the clerk without delay.
- Kept the parish charge down to a 3.5% increase, on a band D property, for the current financial year.

The parish council finances continue to be in good health, with income balancing operating expenditure, and capital expenditure funded from established funds. The repayment schedule of the fixed rate loan (to purchase the 99 year lease of the village green) is up to date. All financial details will be available through the end of FY 2025-26 accounts when published.

Steve Humphries

Chairman, Leigh parish council

14<sup>th</sup> April 2026

