

	<u>MINUTES</u> <u>LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING</u> <u>MONDAY 13 JULY 2026 AT 1930</u>
	<u>Present – Councillors</u> Steve Humphries (SH) – Chairman Julie Taylor (JT) Leonora Stewart (LS) Alfie Southwell (AS) Members of the public – 6
1.	<u>OPENING REMARKS by CHAIRMAN</u> • The chairman thanked everyone for attending and welcomed the audience to the meeting. • There were no declarations of interest.
2.	<u>APOLOGIES for ABSENCE</u> • Councillor Alan Bennett (AB) and the Clerk, Kaye Elston (on gardening leave) – these were accepted. • Councillor Sam Vincent (SV) – not present and no apologies sent.
3.	<u>LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES 12 MAY (ANNUAL AND BI-MONTHLY) AND EXTRAORDINARY MEETING 15 JUNE 2026</u> Minutes of 12 May 2026 annual and bi-monthly parish council meetings and the extraordinary meeting on 15 June were formally approved and signed by the Chair.
4.	<u>COUNCILLOR CHRISTOPHER KIPPAX</u> Cllr Chris Kippax was not in attendance, so no update or information was provided.

5. **FINANCES OVERVIEW**

5.1 Reconciliation of bank account

The parish council approved the bank reconciliation

Balance – £22,385.47 (as at 03/07/26)

5.2 Sums allocated to various subaccounts:

Play Park (£230.01 ring-fenced)	£1,011.88
Village Green	£1,084.09
Repair and Replace Fund	£5,365.59
Village Green Legal Fees	£5,283.09
FUNDS SUMMARY TOTAL	£12,512.24
Non-ring-fenced funds	£10,113.23

6. **6.1 INVOICES RECEIVED: PRE-APPROVED AND PAID**

- TA Holder (05/05/26) grass cutting – £290.00
- Leigh Village Hall (18/05/26) hire – £25.00
- DAPTC (18/05/26) membership – £264.44
- Lloyds (19/05/26) service charge – £4.25
- Playsafe LTD (26/05/26) RoSPA report – £133.20
- KM & RI Roberts (26/05/26) minute taking – £50.00
- Sarah Brockway (28/05/26) payroll – £20.00
- Zurich (01/06/26) insurance – £802.46
- TA Holder (01/06/26) grass cutting – £360.00
- HMRC (01/06/26) – £93.60
- Mrs Kaye Elston (01/06/26) – £154.80
- Public Works Loans (10/06/26) – £1,231.47
- ICO (11/06/26) registration – £47.00
- Lloyds (19/06/26) service charge – £4.25
- Sarah Brockway (29/06/26) payroll – £20.00
- HMRC (30/06/26) – £93.60
- Mrs Kaye Elston (30/06/26) – £140.80
- TA Holder (02/07/26) – £240

6.2 FORTHCOMING PAYMENTS for APPROVAL

- Rely Ltd (HR support) – £510
 - AS paid this on behalf of the council due to the meeting timings, although the payment was agreed by all councillors via email. All present councillors in agreement to now reimburse AS.
- Fence/gate post repairs:
Following the May meeting, SH has contacted two contractors to obtain prices for the previously discussed works. TA Holder quoted £800, and

	SCR Tree Care quoted £925. All present councillors unanimously agreed to accept TA Holder's quote. 6.3 <u>PAYMENTS/INCOME RECEIVED</u> • Donations received from community for village green freehold purchase legal fees ◦ Cash (deposited by the Clerk – 16/06/26) – £230.00 6.4 <u>GRANT REQUESTS</u> • No requests received. 6.5 <u>BUDGET MONITORING 2026/27</u> • AS reported that as we are still close to the beginning of the new financial year, we are still on track with our spending and there are no areas of concern. 6.6 <u>VAT RECLAIM</u> • In the absence of a clerk, JT and SH have agreed to look into the VAT reclaim. 6.7 <u>INSURANCE POLICY</u> • The parish council has accepted the renewal price from Zurich, with the premium being paid on 01/06/26.
7.	<u>AUDIT 2025/26</u> • External audit – submission ◦ The exception paperwork has been submitted by the outgoing clerk prior to her gardening leave. This has been acknowledged by the external auditor. • Audit recommendations list ◦ SH ran through the auditor's recommendations list, which was discussed at the extraordinary meeting on 15/06/26 (minuted accordingly) to update the councillors that weren't present. • Financial regulations ◦ These have now been finalised and are published on the website. • ICO registration ◦ The parish council is now registered with the ICO.
8.	<u>PLANNING APPLICATIONS</u> • Unauthorised use of land south of Brookfield Farm, Wriggle River Lane, update ◦ AS was due to discuss this in more detail with Ward Councillor Chris Kippax. However, due to his absence at the meeting, a decision on the parish council's next steps will wait until the September meeting. • P/MPO/2026/03340 Brookfield Farm, Wriggle River Lane, Batcombe, DT2 7BG – Discharge requirements of planning obligation dated 10/02/17

	relating to planning permission number WD/D/16/002063 to convert barn to dwelling concerning use restriction. – NO OBJECTION
9.	<u>EMAILS AND POTENTIAL CHANGE TO GOV.UK</u> The clerk email is to be changed in line with the auditor's recommendation. The email address will utilise the @leighvillage.org.uk domain, which is owned by the parish council.
10.	<u>PLAY PARK</u> RoSPA update: The annual inspection of the play park has been completed by RoSPA with the usual findings being reported upon, which are all low risk. The only medium risk that has been identified is the wear to the chains on the swings. SH has been to the play park to inspect the chains and has confirmed there is more than 75% of the chain material still intact, and there has been no further deterioration from last year's inspection. All present councillors unanimously agreed to continue to monitor the chains for wear throughout the year.
11.	<u>VILLAGE GREEN</u> Purchase of the freehold: JT provided an update that the Edwards family is now looking for the parish council to pay for their legal and land agent fees, which total £2,850 + VAT. AS advised that there are sufficient funds available to finance this, although careful budgeting will need to be put in place for the next financial year. It was discussed, and all present councillors unanimously agreed that the parish council should proceed with the purchase of the freehold of the village green, despite these new costs. JT and AS are to discuss with Porter Dodson the next steps and ensure that the parish council is suitably protected.
12.	<u>FOOTPATHS</u> LS provided the following updates: - Miz Maze path – Dorset Council has said that they would not replace any fencing that is in a state of disrepair along the footpath, but some fencing could potentially be re-erected if salvageable. LS is going to pursue Stuart Semple, senior ranger, to see if Dorset Council is willing to carry out the works. - Mount Pleasant – The footpath bridge has had some of the treads repaired by Dorset Council. - Long Bridge Drove - There is still evidence of horses using the drove, despite the closure being in place. - The bridge is now unstable and is unsafe. LS is to chase Stuart Semple for a date when the bridge is to be replaced. - The newly resurfaced footpath is being disturbed by potentially a dog or a badger. LS frequently fills these divots when passing. - Dog poo – LS has reported frequent sightings of dog poo being left either on footpaths or in bags that have been hung in the hedgerow. Dog poo bags are provided free of charge by the parish council at three locations within

	the village, along with a waste bin adjacent to each dispenser. SH agreed to put a memo in the next WVM.
13.	<u>RIVERS</u> SH reported that AB had been to a meeting hosted by YRCT and had reported that they are actively looking to improve the quality of the water in the River Wriggle and its tributaries, along with reducing the incidence of unwanted flooding.
14.	<u>TRANSPORT</u> Nothing to report.
15.	<u>PARISH TRAFFIC CALMING AND SPEED AWARENESS</u> 20 mph application – public consultation: SH informed the audience of the current Dorset Council public consultation, which is ongoing until 17 July 2026. DC is looking for all opinions, whether in support, objecting or neutral, on the proposed plans. All the information is on the village noticeboard and can also be found on the DC website. SH opened up the floor for the audience to make their comments on the proposed 20 mph scheme – four members of the audience supported the application, one objected and one abstained. SH recommended that all audience members go onto the DC website and register their comments. - Parish council response to the public consultation: All present councillors unanimously agreed to submit the following response to the DC public consultation: <i>Leigh parish council has followed the correct process in applying for a 20 mph speed limit within the village, starting with listening to residents' concerns of motorists driving too fast, narrow and twisting areas with limited space for pedestrians and not feeling safe. This led to both speed and 20 mph surveys taking place within the village, which indicated that Leigh would be suitable for a 20 mph limit and the use of SIDs at two locations. The parish council then proceeded to carry out a local village survey to gauge support for applying for a 20 mph limit, and the majority of respondents responded in favour. So with this all in hand, a 20 mph limit application has been made for the village.</i> <i>After looking at all the evidence and support, along with the work that has gone into this application, the parish council is in full support of a 20 mph limit being implemented within the village. It is felt that this would help make the village a safer place for pedestrians, improve the environment and protect the community.</i>
16.	<u>INFORMATION CIRCULATED</u> - DAPTC newsletters - NALC newsletters - Communications from Cllr Chris Kippax
17.	<u>CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED</u> None received.

18.	<u>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u> • Clerk: SH updated the other councillors that the outgoing clerk has now been removed from the banking system, and the passwords will be changed for the clerk email account and DAPTC account. The parish council will be advertising for a new clerk in due course.
19.	<u>DATE(S) OF NEXT MEETINGS:</u> Next scheduled meeting at 1900 on Tuesday 8 September Subsequent meetings (hall booked) as agreed: 10 November 2026, 12 January, 9 March, 11 May, 13 July, 14 September and 9 November 2027 (bookings confirmed)

Meeting closed at 2100.

Signed

Steve Humphries 8 September 2026
Chairman, Leigh Parish Council