

LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE SMALL HALL, HIGH STREET, LEIGH ON MONDAY 9TH JANUARY 2017 AT 8.00PM

PRESENT: Cllr. C. Stratton-Brown (Chairman), Cllr R. Britain, Cllr P. Croft, Cllr A. Johnston, Cllr J. Kaye, Cllr G. Marchant, Cllr L. Provan and Cllr S. Smith

APOLOGIES: Cllr R. Lake

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs L. Kleinschmidt (Clerk). Mr Matt Boughton (Tom Tugendhat's office), Mr Richard Streatfeild (Chairman HWCAAG), Mr Martin Barraud (Chairman GON), County Cllr Pearman, District Cllr Lake and members of the public attended the meeting for the Open Session only.

Open Session

Cllr Stratton-Brown welcomed Richard Streatfeild, Martin Barraud and Matt Boughton, thanking them all for their commitment and hard work in fighting the negative impact of aviation over the area.

Richard Streatfeild said that there is no easy solution to fair and equitable dispersal of arriving aircraft into Gatwick Airport. There are layers of complexity and it is almost impossible to get consistency from those regulating and those flying the aircraft at Gatwick. The High Weald Councils Aviation Action Group, of which Leigh Parish Council is a member, has been trying to find a solution that will ensure that communities across the HWCAAG area are not unduly burdened by aircraft noise and there is a fair and equitable dispersal of flights. In 2010, the overflight in Leigh was only minor, in 2014 20-30% of aircraft arriving at Gatwick came in over Leigh. Now, when Gatwick is busy, aircraft line up and join the ILS (Instrument Landing System) further out and the majority of arriving aircraft come in over Leigh, Chiddingstone Causeway and Hever. In 2013 there was a change at Gatwick which saw an increase in air traffic movements from under 50 to over 55 per hour. Cowden, who used to have 50% of arriving aircraft overhead, suddenly had none as the aircraft were lining up further out to fly on a single flight path approach. HWCAAG believe that there should be maximum dispersal over the whole RMA (Radar Manoeuvring Area) where there has been historic overflight. The CAA has said that it is technically feasible by using PBN (Performance Based Navigation) to have the maximum number of routes across the RMA and onto the ILS. The HWCAAG has prepared a proposal with a number of routes across the RMA, two nautical miles apart, and by using this method every community would see a huge improvement on the impact currently experienced. Aircraft would be flown higher and would glide on a 3 degree Continual Descent Approach from 10,000ft onto the ILS. This will reduce the noise impact considerably. Aircraft over Leigh would be at a height between 4,652ft and 4,970ft.

Cllr Stratton-Brown asked what technology would allow this? Richard said that aircraft will soon have a new PR-NAV (Precision Based Navigation) system onboard. This will allow pilots to follow a very tight flightpath as opposed to manual vectoring which is the current practice. There are two problems, firstly not all aircraft – some foreign airlines in particular – will not have PR-NAV and the capability therefore for multiple routes, but these few aircraft could be managed by Air Traffic Control. The second problem for NATS is the difficulty of designing a system allowing multiple routes. Hopefully the aviation industry will listen to communities and implement these measures. Richard asked residents to discuss this proposal with the Parish Council, who can then decide whether to give their support. No-one wants an intensive flight path over their house, but by spreading the aircraft over the whole area it reduces the impact on everyone.

Mr Mark Hammer asked whether there are any commercial reasons why GAL will listen? Richard said that the impact of the old vectoring system is very close to the World Health Organisation's classification of dangerous noise levels, and therefore GAL has to respond. He said that the HWCAAG proposal for maximum respite will cost the airlines and Air Traffic Control money to implement. The airport could be supportive as they do not want negativity from MPs and local councils.

Cllr Marchant asked how likely it is that this proposal will be implemented? Richard said that the proposal has support from member Town and Parish Councils and therefore there is a good chance it will succeed. Richard added that there are three options (i) do nothing and Leigh suffers from an intolerable impact of overflight, (ii) do something so that overflight is a little more like 2013 but this will only be possible during non-busy periods.

(iii) do something radical such as this proposal, which HWCAAG do not think will severely impact any community, Hever currently has 100% approaching aircraft below 3000ft which is not sustainable for residents or the community.

Jonathan Cook said that since Christmas Jonathan Wade has discussed his ideas with residents in Leigh. He asked whether HWCAAG and GON will consider his ideas as well? Could aircraft be brought in on a tighter curve and join the ILS nearer to the airport? Richard said that the HWCAAG proposal will only allow communities to be overflowed that have had overflight before. Hever and Chiddingstone had every arriving aircraft overhead between 2013-2015. Under the new proposal, Hever and Chiddingstone would benefit. Cllr Stratton-Brown said that the best solution needs to be agreed so that a united front is presented to the Noise Management Board and the Government through our MP. Richard agreed and said that the agreed proposal must be an improvement for the whole HWCAAG area with as wide a spread as possible. Cllr Stratton-Brown asked that Richard and Jonathan Wade meet to discuss this and agree a recommendation for Leigh.

County Cllr Pearman said that it has been a long and difficult ride for HWCAAG to get to the position it is in today. Gatwick Airport Ltd has now undertaken a cultural change by beginning to listen to communities. C.Cllr Pearman endorsed Richard's comments. The HWCAAG is a group of elected Town and Parish Council representatives who are now at the table with GAL, the CAA, NATS and DfT. There will be a new consultation in the next couple of weeks about night noise. It is crucial that individual Town and Parish Councils and HWCAAG respond to this consultation and it is crucial that individual residents respond as well. People must continue to complain to Gatwick Airport about low flying or noisy aircraft.

Martin Barraud said that Tom Tugendhat and Matt's progress on aviation matters has been phenomenal. Tom's first debate in the House of Commons was on aviation and this was the first time this issue had been addressed in the House. GON is not a member of HWCAAG, which is a group of elected town and parish councillors. GON has withdrawn the judicial review proceeding against the CAA as their lawyers feel that the process has achieved what it set out to do. There is a meeting tomorrow with Bo Redeborn, Chairman of the Noise Management Board, together with representatives of some of the other community groups who feel that the NMB has not achieved what it should have achieved. Martin said that as recent as yesterday Andrew Haines from the CAA said that the CAA has no influence on this issue and it should be handled by GAL. This is despairing as this is a battle that has been fought over the past three years.

Matt Boughton said that Government policy on aviation is both clear and ambiguous. The Government policy is to significantly reduce the amount of aircraft noise for the majority of people. It is difficult to find a solution. Communities around Gatwick are impacted by arrivals and departures, but the Noise Management Board that was formed from the Arrivals Review might make a difference. We are in this situation due to the high number of complaints received from residents – we are on a journey and have a long way to go to find the perfect solution for everyone. Jonathan Wade asked whether there is an irony that Government policy wishes to avoid highly populated areas yet aircraft are now being flown over Tunbridge Wells? Matt said that the word *significantly* is the key. There is a higher impact from aviation in rural areas because ambient noise is less. Richard agreed and said that the urban areas are counter-balanced by AONBs where tranquillity is a key requirement. Government policy is the reduction of people *significantly* affected by noise rather than the reduction in the *number* of people affected by noise.

Cllr Stratton-Brown thanked Richard, Martin and Matt for sparing the time to attend the meeting. (Richard Streatfeild, Martin Barraud and Matt Boughton left the meeting at 8.55pm)

Report by County Cllr Pearman

C.Cllr Pearman reported that the KCC budget for 2017/18 will be set in early February. There is a requirement from Central Government that each county council manages the asset of highways including verges, street lights etc. KCC's overall budget is just over £900 million, and $\frac{3}{4}$ of this goes on social care. Highways will now be looked at to ensure that roads are maintained to a certain standard, and 15% of unclassified roads are in a deteriorating condition. The Highways budget has been cut over the past few years and a budget that will allow Highways to get back on an even keel is £52million per annum. Good management of the highway is to prevent accidents.

However, the utility companies do not always do what they should to ensure that roads are left in a good condition after their works have been completed. Additional funding is required to bring services up to standard.

(County Cllr Pearman left the meeting at 9.05pm)

Report by District Cllr Lake

D.Cllr Lake reported that there is a hearing at SDC on 30th January to review the license at The Fleur de Lis public house in Leigh. The Police, Kent Fire & Rescue and other agencies have responded to the consultation connected to this review. D.Cllr Lake reported that the Strategic Housing Assessment is being drawn up and he has recommended that the school situation be looked at as all the local primary schools in the area are full and this is an important aspect of deciding where new housing can be located. Regarding the application at Manor Buildings, D.Cllr Lake reported that he has received a letter from the planning officer, Mike Holmes. The Parish Council's comment and D.Cllr Lake's comment were received by SDC within the deadline and he has requested that this application is considered by the Development Control Committee rather than officer delegation. A breach of condition notice has been served on Bellway Homes as vehicle movements are often outside the agreed hours, and residents are requested to continue to advise SDC in this regard. D.Cllr Lake advised that the enforcement officer has still not been able to gain access to Yew Tree Bungalow on Eggpie Lane but he will follow this up. The SDC budget will be set in February.

(District Cllr Lake left the meeting at 9.15pm)

Discussion on use of The Green

Cllr Stratton-Brown welcomed Chloe Bates, representing the school PTA, and Ian Bishop, representing Leigh Cricket Club. Ian said that the Cricket Club league fixtures are between 1st May and end of the first week in September. The Cricket Club fixture list is agreed in early December. There are two Leigh teams who play every Saturday, apart from the two Saturdays it was agreed last year to give to the Fun Fair and the Horticultural Society show/Superstars event. He said that it is not possible to move another Saturday afternoon cricket match, although a morning school event could be workable. Ian suggested that the village decide whether they would rather have the fun fair or the school PTA summer fair on The Green. Other alternatives are that the school hold its fair on the school playing fields or on The Green on a Sunday.

(Chloe Bates and Ian Bishop left the meeting at 9.25pm)

Members asked the Clerk to find out how many Sundays are free. Cllr Provan undertook to find out whether the school would be prepared to hold their fair on the school playing field, and Clerk to ask residents in the parish magazine whether they would prefer the fun fair or the school summer fair to be held on The Green.

Closed Session

126. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllr Lake and members accepted his reason for absence.
127. **Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest / Non-Pecuniary Interest on matters to be discussed**
Cllr Croft declared a NPI in item 135 as he is a resident of Hall Place.
128. **The minutes of the Leigh Parish Council meeting held on 5th December 2016** were approved and duly signed. Proposed by Cllr Provan, seconded by Cllr Johnston and all were in favour.
129. **Planning**
 - i. To consider applications received
 - i. SE/16/03412/HOUSE: 13 Powder Mill Lane, Leigh TN11 9SP - erection of a two storey rear extension with paved area and new fence. Members supported this application.
 - ii. SE/16/03346/MMA: Windfalls, Penshurst Road, Leigh TN11 8HL – MMA to show number of solar panels confirmed. Original application SE/16/01615/HOUSE: (Demolition of single storey flat roofed extension and erection of a part of two storey and part single storey extension) to show removal of chimney breast and stack. Installation of woodburning stove double insulated flue pipe, installation of PV solar panels on rear elevation and alterations to fenestration. Members wished to make no comment on this application.

- iii. SE/16/03671/WTCA: St. Mary's Church, Leigh – removal of one multi-stemmed Chestnut tree, removal of one Holly tree and removal of lowest branches from one Beech tree. Members had no objection to this application.
- ii. To report SDC planning application decisions
 - i. SE/16/02835/HOUSE: 2 Charcott Green Cottages, Charcott – conversion of velux window to dormer. Application approved.
 - ii. SE/16/02659/HOUSE and SE/16/02660/LBCALT: Forge House, Charcott – erection of single storey outbuilding. Application refused.
 - iii. SE/16/03460/LBCALT: 2 Forge Square, The Green Leigh – internal alteration at ground floor level consisting of increasing single door opening to large opening between dining room and lounge. Application approved.
- iii. To consider SDC's proposal to stop sending Town and Parish Councils paper copies of applications
The Clerk reported that SDC has decided not to proceed with this proposal due to the high level of objections received from Town and Parish Councils.

130. The Green:

- i. To hear update regarding the programmed improvement works to The Green
Cllr Stratton-Brown reported that the project is on target and proceeding well. There is some standing water which will be rectified in the spring when sand grooves are installed.
- ii. To approve costs associated with works to The Green
Cllr Kaye proposed that the Parish Council request for a grant award increase of £1,670, this was seconded by Cllr Smith and all were in favour. Cllr Stratton-Brown reported that the grant from Sport England is £65,000 and the remainder of costs should be covered by partnership funding. It is hoped that this partnership funding could be covered by the contingency amount in the budget. Cllr Stratton-Brown reported that TGMS made an error on their costing spreadsheet which meant that there is a shortfall in funding but this will be discussed with the Project Manager shortly. The Clerk has asked Bates Wells Braithwaite for an estimation of legal fees but has yet to hear back.
- iii. To consider Landscape Services quote for maintenance of The Green for 2017 season
The Clerk reported that Landscape Services have provided details of their rates for the 2017 maintenance of The Green. Members asked that Bourne Amenity provide a quote as well as they will be working on The Green next year.
- iv. To discuss use of The Green
This item was discussed as part of the Open Session, see above.

131. Highways & Environment

- i. To consider request for double yellow lines in the High Street opposite the hairdressers
Members unanimously agreed to make a request for double yellow lines to be extended up to the layby at Charlotte Cottages, opposite the hairdressers in the High Street.
- ii. To consider the purchase of a new dog bin in Charcott
Members unanimously agreed to purchase a new dog bin for Charcott Green.

132. Affordable Housing

To approve the circulation of a Housing Needs Survey in the parish on 23rd January by Action with Communities in Rural Kent in conjunction with Leigh Parish Council and Sevenoaks District Council
The Clerk reported that she asked SDC whether it is possible for the Leigh Housing Needs Survey to be circulated. This was agreed, with SDC agreeing to fund the survey which will be conducted by Action with Communities in Rural Kent. The survey will be circulated on 23rd January with returns by freepost requested by mid-February. A covering letter will be signed by Cllr Stratton-Brown. Clerk to mention in the parish magazine and urge residents to complete and return the survey before the deadline. Clerk to try and get the deadline extended beyond half-term week.

133. Aviation:

- i. To hear report of the High Weald Councils Aviation Action Group
This item was discussed as part of the Open Session, see above.

- ii. To discuss Fair and Equitable Dispersal
This item was discussed as part of the Open Session, see above.

134. Aged Persons Dwellings

- i. To consider 2017/18 rental level
Cllr Marchant proposed that the 4 weekly rental is increased to £430 with effect from the April payment. This was seconded by Cllr Kaye and all were in favour.
- ii. Cllr Stratton-Brown and Cllr Marchant were reminded that they need to inspect the path and step at No.2 The Bungalows.

135. To consider proposal to purchase Hall Place

Cllr Croft reported that he gave Terri Measures a tour of the outside of the house. Due to the poor condition of the house, Cllr Kaye proposed that the Parish Council does not proceed to purchase Hall Place. This was seconded by Cllr Marchant and all were in favour.

136. Finance:

- i. Cllr Stratton-Brown proposed that the Parish Council meet again before the end of January in order to discuss the 2016/17 Accounts and 2017/18 Budget and Precept, as more information is awaited on costs relating to the improvement works to The Green. Members agreed.
- ii. To consider application for grant from Tunbridge Wells & District Samaritans
Members agreed not to give a grant this year.
- iii. To approve payment of cheques
Cllr Marchant proposed that the list of cheques be approved. This was seconded by Cllr Johnston and all were in favour.

137. Items for reporting or inclusion in future agenda

- i. The Clerk reported that the following items will be discussed at the February Parish Council meeting:
 - i. Risk Assessment
 - ii. KALC Community Award Scheme
 - iii. Grant request by Leigh Ladies Choir
- ii. Cllr Smith asked about the legalities of the Reliance Recovery vehicle parking in the High Street, and Cllr Marchant undertook to check the legislation and report back at the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 10.45 pm.

Signed

Date

**LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL
LIST OF CHEQUES
January 2017**

Date	Cheque	Payee	Detail of payment	Amount Inc. VAT	VAT
09.01.17	1776	Clerk	Salary - January	£685.86	
09.01.17	1777	HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE	£254.90	
09.01.17	1778	Kent County Council	Pension contribution	£273.69	
09.01.17	1779	Clerk	Mileage, petty cash & working from home	£88.10	
09.01.17	1780	Commercial Services Trading	Second half yearly grounds maintenance	£482.93	£80.49
09.01.17	1781	SDC	Dog bin emptying Oct-Dec16	£425.88	£70.98
09.01.17	1782	Mr R. Croft	Maintenance	£30.00	
				£2,241.36	£151.47

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