

## LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE SMALL HALL, HIGH STREET, LEIGH ON MONDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2016 AT 8.00PM

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**PRESENT:** Cllr. C. Stratton-Brown (Chairman), Cllr B. Doherty, Cllr A. Johnston, Cllr J. Kaye, Cllr G. Marchant and Cllr L. Provan  
**APOLOGIES:** Cllr P. Croft, Cllr S. Smith, Cllr R. Swallow, District Cllr Lake and County Cllr Pearman  
**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs L. Kleinschmidt (Clerk) and a member of the public

#### Open Session

Mr Ian Davis enquired about Crandalls Pond. He said that he lives in Well Close and has spoken to SDC about the maintenance of the pond, which is overgrown with weeds, and he is concerned that the drainage system cannot be working properly. The Clerk advised that David Boorman at SDC has said that he will arrange for the pond to be cleared when the water levels are low at the end of the summer, and remove the debris from the site. Cllr Marchant queried whether Southern Water should be involved if the condition of the pond is having a negative impact on drainage.

#### Report by District Cllr Lake

In the absence of District Cllr Lake, the Clerk read his report: "I am sorry that I cannot be with you tonight, but I have a meeting with Boris Johnson. I am not going to ask him about Brexit, but I am keen to know whether he still supports Boris Island in the Thames to take the place of Heathrow and Gatwick Airports. It must surely happen at some stage in the future. I am pleased to hear that Gatwick Airport Ltd approve all the recommendations of the Bo Redeborn report. Now let's wait to see if aircraft are distributed in a broad swathe across our skies to give us all a degree of noise respite. Residents living in Chiddingstone helped to rescue a family involved in a car accident at the turning opposite the Little Brown Jug. They have suggested that the 40 mph sign be taken further back to slow traffic down coming over the brow of the hill. As a result I am asking County Councillor Clive Pearman to approach Kent Highways to come up with a solution." Members supported the proposal to move the 40mph sign further down the road to the Knotley Hall driveway.

#### Closed Session

- 180. Apologies for absence** were received from Cllr Croft, Cllr Smith and Cllr Swallow and members accepted their reasons for absence. Apologies for absence were also received from District Cllr Lake and County Cllr Pearman.
- 181. Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest / Non-Pecuniary Interest on matters to be discussed**  
None.
- 182. The minutes of the Leigh Parish Council meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2016** were approved and duly signed. Proposed by Cllr Doherty, seconded by Cllr Marchant and all were in favour.
- 183. Planning**
- i. To consider applications received
    - i. SE/16/00659/HOUSE: 9 Wyndham Avenue, Leigh TN11 8RB - demolish existing single storey side extension and build a two storey side extension. Cllr Doherty thanked Cllr Stratton-Brown and Cllr Smith for their work on this application before the meeting. The Planning Committee agreed to object to this application and made the following comments: "1. We would like to draw attention to the letter from the neighbours, Mr A W and Mrs S Vickers. 2. The plan shows an extension of the roof ridge by about 5m with a further 0.5m supplementary ridge and the proposed extension being 1m from the boundary.

“Because the existing gap between no. 8 and no. 9 Wyndham Avenue is angled to the north-west/south-east and the gardens are to the north-west of the properties we consider that the proposed second floor and roof extension will have too great an effect on the garden of no. 8. We have no problem with the proposed ground floor and feel it should be possible to adjust the proposed second floor and roof to meet the objection. 3. We note that the window on the south-west side of the proposed en-suite will have obscured glass.”

- ii. SE/16/00785/HOUSE: 16 Oakfield Farm, Powder Mill Lane, Leigh TN11 8PY - erection of two storey rear extension and balcony. Members supported this application.
- ii. To hear report of the planning workshop at SDC on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March  
Cllr Marchant said that he was disappointed with the workshop and he was hoping for a more in depth discussion about issues that affect the parish, such as development in the Green Belt and permitted development. Cllr Stratton-Brown said that Mark did say that Town and Parish Councils can ask to be consulted on certain planning applications if it is not a statutory requirement. Members asked the Clerk to request that the Parish Council is consulted on all permitted development applications and applications from the church.
- iii. Notification of planning decisions
  - SE/16/00093/HOUSE: Little Knotley, 2 Knotley Hall, Chiddingstone Causeway - erection of a single storey side extension and relocation of oil storage tank. Application approved.
  - KCC/SE/16/285: Leigh Primary School – extension to music room and demolition of external store. Application approved.
  - SE/HW/16/00608/WTCA: The Green, Leigh – tree works to T1 on The Green & T2 on the drive to Gowers. Application approved.
  - SE/16/00247/HOUSE: Fyldon Penshurst Road Leigh Development: Proposed tile pegs to north, east and west elevations. Application approved.

#### **184. Highways & Environment**

- i. To discuss drainage and flood related issues including the Community Flood Plan  
Cllr Stratton-Brown reported that he will shortly draw up the draft plan.
- ii. To hear update regarding the request for a permissive path at Pauls Hill Cottage  
Cllr Stratton-Brown reported that he has heard back from KCC who said that they have no funding available for this project. Cllr Stratton-Brown said that he did not think that costs would be high.
- iii. To hear update regarding traffic calming measures on Hildenborough Road  
The Clerk reported that she emailed Geoff Bineham regarding the proposed high friction surface and whether this is hard-wearing enough. He replied to say that “the red High Friction Surface is existing and isn’t a new installation as part of this scheme, like any type of road surface it does come with maintenance issues and is refreshed if necessary when funding allows as part of our resurfacing programme.”
- iv. To consider quote to improve the edge of the green in Charcott damaged by vehicles  
Item carried forward to the May Parish Council meeting.
- v. To consider a litter pick along Ensfield Road whilst it is closed for patching work  
Cllr Doherty reported that the road will be closed from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April for patching work, and suggested that a litter pick could be undertaken safely whilst the road is closed. Cllr Marchant said that there are many tyres dumped in ditches across the whole area and it is a problem disposing of tyres as Dunbrik no longer accept them. Members agreed to carry out the litter pick whilst the road is closed and Clerk to contact John Cox and ask to borrow the pickers, gloves and bags and to collect the rubbish afterwards.
- vi. to consider applications for tree works  
SE/16/00654/WTCA: Orchard Lodge, The Green, Leigh – fell one Cherry Tree in the Conservation Area. Members had no objection to this application.

#### **185. The Green**

- i. To hear update regarding the programmed improvement works to The Green  
None.
- ii. To consider quote to improve the edge of The Green damaged by vehicles  
To be considered at the May Parish Council meeting.

**186. To consider the provision of Affordable housing in the parish**

The Clerk reported that SDC has agreed to fund the Housing Needs Survey and this can be done once the impact of the Housing and Planning Bill are fully known.

**187. Aviation: to hear report of the High Weald Councils Aviation Action Group**

The Clerk reported that Gatwick Airport Ltd has published its response to the Arrivals Review and has undertaken to accept all 23 recommendations as set out in the report. Clerk to circulate the GACC newsletter. Cllr Stratton-Brown drew members' attention to the following as set out in the newsletter:

"The Government has announced that a new runway will be progressed, not by a hybrid Bill (as for HS2), but as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project. What this means is that a Policy Statement will need to be approved by Parliament but after that any public inquiry will be limited to six months with no scope to question the need for a new runway or its location. The timetable may look like this. Dates in brackets are guesses by GACC, but all dates may well be delayed by judicial reviews or by civil unrest.

1. Decision by the Government on the preferred location. It is not yet clear whether a House of Commons vote would be taken at this stage (July or September 2016).
2. Draft National Policy Statement (NPS) published (September - October 2016).
3. Public consultation on the draft NPS (October 2015 - January 2016).
4. Commons Select Committee to examine the draft NPS and report to Transport Secretary within 12 weeks (by April 2017).
5. Once a final NPS is laid, a House of Commons vote must be held within 21 days (May 2017).
6. The developer submits a planning application to the planning inspectorate (Summer 2017).
7. Planning inquiry (January 2018 - July 2018).
8. The planning inspector has to report within three months (Autumn 2018).
9. Transport Secretary has to announce a decision within three months (January 2019).

However the Transport Secretary has stated that there is actually no need for a new runway at either Heathrow or Gatwick before 2030. Although this appears a long drawn out process, the key decision will be taken this summer. After that the protracted debate will merely be about detail."

**188. Leigh Village Halls report**

Cllr Johnston reported that the Leigh Village Halls Management Committee's AGM will be held on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April at 8pm in the Small Hall.

**189. Aged Persons Dwellings**

The Clerk reported as follows:

- i. The new heater has been fitted in No.1 The Bungalows and the electrician was asked to fit a carbon monoxide alarm but the resident has recently had one fitted as part of the British Gas annual inspection.
- ii. A plumber has been asked to repair the valve on the radiator in No.2 The Bungalows and also to fit a carbon monoxide alarm and is waiting to hear when this can be done.
- iii. Angie Hollands has advised that the back door at No.2 The Bungalows is still unsafe. The Clerk said that she looked back in the Parish Council minutes and found the previous reference which said that the supplier said that it is not possible to change the lock on these type of doors but said that the resident can open the door without a key from the inside if the door is not double locked, and no-one can enter from the outside without a key. The Clerk has asked Angie if the door is not double-locked from the outside, and if Mrs Fagg can open the door from the inside without a key, what is the safety problem with the door?
- iv. The Clerk reported that the electrical certificate for No.2 The Bungalows expired in February 2016 and members approved the expenditure for the electrician to check the circuits and issue a new certificate.
- v. Angie Hollands is still complaining that the threshold is crumbling. The builder, Paul Kenway, said that there is not a problem and the Clerk asked whether members wanted to go and have another look. Members agreed to consider a suitable date in due course.

**190. To discuss the Bulk Refuse Freighter service for 2016**

The Clerk reported that the trial service has been booked for Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April. The contractor is Clearabee. The cost will be £81.50 per stop. They will take most things but if a resident wants to get rid of a fridge/freezer it will cost £30, tyres cost £6 each and it is £25 for 60kgs of heavy construction waste. Payment will need to be by card with chip and pin as the driver will not accept cash or cheques. If the driver finds that the lorry is filling up more quickly than he expected he will arrange for a further vehicle.

**191. To discuss Family Fun Play Events in the Easter holidays**

The Clerk reported that SDC held a play event in Jessica's Hall on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April from 10am to 2pm, and she met the organisers of the event who said that it was well attended with approximately 57 children attending. Members were pleased with the turnout.

**192. To agree details for the Annual Parish Meeting to be held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April**

Cllr Stratton-Brown reported that a speaker has been approached and subsequently booked to attend. The talk will be on the care and management of heritage trees. Clerk to ask the school and the Village Hall Management Committee to give a short talk, and all other reports to be available as a hand-out. Clerk to organise the two advertising boards and posters as normal.

**193. To report on correspondence received**

The Clerk reported that lists of correspondence received have been circulated, and drew members' attention to the following:

- i. Item 2: SDC: Sevenoaks District Council is offering free microchipping for dogs to help owners in advance of new legislation coming into force from April 6<sup>th</sup> when every dog over the age of eight weeks will need to be microchipped. The legislation will be enforced by all local authorities and the police. To make life easier for owners who may not have already had their pets microchipped, Dogs Trust has donated a number of chips to SDC allowing free microchipping to be offered to residents on a first come first served basis. Dog owners who fail to get their dog microchipped under the new law could face a fine of £500.
- ii. Item 3: SheepWatch UK: "Community response is possibly the most important way of taking steps forward in the fight to stop dog attacks on sheep, and it is the best way to explain to large numbers of people why dogs are so dangerous when loose with sheep. We are asking communities to register on the website, so that we can build up a picture of where the kit is being used and whether we are seeing a reduction in the number of attacks around those general areas. We also want to provide good support for each community and make sure they get updated materials. This Toolkit is a method of communicating messages to your community."
- iii. Item 6: Email from Highways England regarding the replacement of the bridge over the A21: "I can confirm that the works are currently programmed to be carried out from 21 March 2016 with bridge installation at the beginning of July."
- iv. Item 7: Email from Ian Kidd, SDC Investigations Officer regarding land south of Brookside Barn: "I have been to the site and at the moment the build is as per SE/14/03446/PAC but having spoken to Neil I will keep an eye on it".
- v. Item 8: Letter from Dan Eaton, Headteacher at Leigh Primary School, thanking the Parish Council for the donation of £1,800 towards the re-development of the disused public toilets at the end of Jessica's Hall into a new music and creative arts facility.
- vi. Item 11: Kent Police: there will be a mobile police station on The Green, Leigh, from 12pm to 1pm on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> April, and on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> May. If you would like to raise any policing issues or want to find out more about crime prevention, come to meet your local PCSO.
- vii. Item 13: Email from Naomi Kirkby: asking whether a couple of trees could be planted on the patch of grass at the entrance to Well Close to make more of a feature of it. This is something that they would be willing to contribute towards. Also, over recent months the parking in Lower Green has got progressively worse and in particular makes the turning into Lower Green from Well Close very difficult. It also makes driving along Lower Green from the station end very problematic as there are no spaces to pull into to allow oncoming traffic to pass.
- viii. Item 14: Email from Helen Hobhouse: "The current proposal to reduce the risk of cricket balls going over the boundary fence is to order a net extension (£1,700 plus VAT)

"In addition, to erect some boundary netting. We are looking for a grant of £700 towards the cost of the net extension with the cheque being made payable to Leigh Primary School."

- ix. Item 15: Kent Police: Powder Mill Lane, Leigh - between 10:00pm on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March and 5:00am on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March, persons have broken into a vehicle but nothing was reported as stolen.
- x. Item 16: Email from Josette Rees Smith: "The purpose of this informal twinning is to organise visits and exchanges (educational, touristic, cultural) between our two villages. If you agree, a small party could come and visit us in Lavergne so that you can discover our village. Lavergne is a very small village with a hotel/restaurant, a bar and a hairdresser. The main town near Lavergne is Gramat which is an old agricultural town. We are in the France profonde. I will send you more details after our meeting with the comité de Jumelage in April and in the meantime, I will show your website to my committee members." Clerk to mention in the parish magazine and ask whether anyone would be interested in being involved.
- xi. Item 18: Clive Pearman: monthly report. "The decision of the Education and Young Persons' Cabinet on the 17th March was to agree the proposed increase in the accommodation at Edenbridge Primary School. This is, of course, of wider interest as the extra accommodation, scheduled for completion and occupation ready for the new 2017 educational year, should ease pressure on other local primary schools as Edenbridge parents will have the extra space available to them locally without having to go beyond the town envelope. The extra classrooms should, in addition, meet the need for additional primary school places in Edenbridge which the proposed new housing on the site north of St John's Way will create in the next two or three years."
- xii. Item 19: Email from Derek Furneaux: "We have now finished all our home games other than if a cup win away next Saturday draws a home game in the semi-final. As you know it has been impossible to play on the green. From 11 home games 8 have been played at Edenbridge at a cost of £75 per game. Had we played on the green we would have paid the Cricket Club £25 per game. At the last parish meeting when the green improvements scheme was moved on to September with obvious consequences for next seasons home games it was intimated that the PC may be able to help with these extra costs. If this is still the case we would be most grateful. Our season has once again been a successful one which should see our team take the 1st div title." To be considered at the May Parish Council meeting.

#### **194 Finance:**

- i. To approve payment of cheques  
Cllr Marchant proposed that the list of cheques be approved. This was seconded by Cllr Doherty and all were in favour. The list included the following subscription renewals:
  - Kent Association of Local Councils: £533.08 + VAT
  - Action with Communities in Rural Kent: £50
  - Local Council's Update: £75
  - Aviation Environment Federation: £36
- ii. To approve increase in Clerk's pension contribution rate by 1% from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 to 21.9%  
Cllr Stratton-Brown proposed that this expenditure be approved, seconded by Cllr Doherty and all were in favour.
- iii. To consider grant towards the purchase of boundary nets for the school playing field  
Cllr Kaye proposed that a grant of £700 be made towards this project. This was seconded by Cllr Provan and all were in favour.
- iv. To consider grant towards Edenbridge & Westerham CAB  
Members decided not to give a grant on this occasion.
- v. To consider the appointment of the Parish Council's Internal Auditor  
Members agreed to ask Roger Sykes to take on this role again this year.

#### **195. Items for reporting or inclusion in future agenda**

Cllr Marchant advised that some of the contact details for the parish clubs and societies on the website are out of date. Clerk to circulate to all members and update accordingly.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Signed .....

Date .....

**LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL**

**LIST OF CHEQUES**

**4<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Cheque</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Detail of payment</b>	<b>Amount Inc. VAT</b>	<b>VAT</b>
04.04.16	1682	Clerk	Salary	£610.13	
04.04.16	1683	HMRC	PAYE	£181.02	
04.04.16	1684	Clerk	Mileage, petty cash & work fm home allow	£257.93	
04.04.16	1685	KCC	Pension contribution	£228.89	
04.04.16	1686	SDC	Dog bin emptying Jan-Mar 2016	£418.08	£69.68
04.04.16	1687	Leigh Village Halls Man. Committee	Hall Hire 2016	£140.00	
04.04.16	1688	Kent Association of Local Councils	Subscription renewal (last year: £533+VAT)	£633.70	£110.62
04.04.16	1689	Action with Communities in Rural Kent	Subscription renewal (last year: £36)	£50.00	
04.04.16	1690	Communicorp	Subscription renewal for Local Councils Update (same as last year)	£75.00	
04.04.16	1691	AEF	Subscription renewal (same as last year)	£36.00	
04.04.16	1692	Leigh Primary School	Grant towards cricket boundary nets	£700.00	
				<b><u>£3,330.75</u></b>	<b><u>£180.30</u></b>

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