

LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE SMALL HALL, HIGH STREET, LEIGH ON MONDAY 1ST FEBRUARY 2016 AT 8.00PM

PRESENT: Cllr. C. Stratton-Brown (Chairman), Cllr B. Doherty, Cllr A. Johnston, Cllr J. Kaye, Cllr G. Marchant, Cllr L. Provan (from 8.40pm), Cllr S. Smith and Cllr R. Swallow

APOLOGIES: Cllr P. Croft and County Cllr Pearman

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs L. Kleinschmidt (Clerk), District Cllr Lake (until 9.45pm), PCSO Laura Morris and members of the public (Open Session only)

Open Session

- i. Cllr Stratton-Brown welcomed representatives from Leigh Cricket Club and Leigh Football Club. Cllr Swallow said that there have been challenges about the use of The Green by the sports clubs, the horticultural society, the superstars event, plus the maintenance work including levelling the football pitch and the cricket outfield, which have clashed with the Cricket Club fixtures. Martin Parfitt, Secretary of Leigh Cricket Club, said that the Cricket Club is tied in with league fixtures and cannot move the matches elsewhere. Because the matches are league, the grounds have to be of a certain standard and it is impossible to try and find another ground at short notice if the venue has to be changed. Membership of the club is improving, which is good, but the club cannot afford to lose its league status, which will happen if too many matches are cancelled. Cllr Swallow said that there must be a balance between all the sports clubs, village organisations and parishioners using The Green but understood that there are challenges of a shared environment. Dave Furneaux for Leigh Football Club said that the club faces similar challenges as the Cricket Club, out of 20-25 matches per season, 12-14 would be home fixtures. Cllr Swallow said that the Football Club has not been able to play at home for 26 matches in the last three seasons, and this has cost the club £2,000 in pitch fees. Cllr Swallow reported that the improvement work to The Green will take three weeks to complete, and if work is able to commence at the beginning of March, The Green will be ready for the start of the cricket season. This will also allow a few weeks for essential grass growth. The timescale will depend upon the weather and, if it is not possible to start at the beginning of March, the programme of works will have to be postponed until the end of August/beginning of September. The Horticultural Society is trying to co-exist with the sports clubs and the date of the summer fair and the superstars event also have to be taken into consideration. If the weather is poor at the beginning of September, there is a risk that the work will have to be postponed until the end of March 2017. The terms of the grant awarded by Sport England specify that the contract has to be awarded during 2016. A project manager has been appointed by Sport England and he will be happy to come and talk about the programme of works with the Parish Council and the sports clubs. Ian Bishop said that the works carried out previously on The Green left a mess with sand everywhere. If the project manager can give a true demonstration of what will happen and the timescale for the work, it would be useful. It was agreed that Cllr Swallow will try and book the work to commence at the beginning of March, depending upon the availability of the contractor. If this is not possible due to his other commitments or the weather, then the work will commence at the end of August/beginning of September. If the Cricket Club is able to book a back-up pitch for this period it would be appreciated. Martin raised a safety concern about the fun fair and the Cricket Club using The Green on the same date. (Cllr Provan joined the meeting at 8.40pm. Martin Parfitt and Ian Bishop left the meeting at 8.45pm.)
- ii. District Councillor Lake reported that he had been alerted to the major gas leak by the emergency planning team at Sevenoaks District Council. D.Cllr Lake spoke to residents who were full of praise for the emergency work and the tireless efforts of the team at Southern Gas Networks (SGN) in looking after the residents of Leigh. Unfortunately the works continue with the laying of new pipes but better to leave the site, especially where gas is concerned, in good order to avoid problems in the future. KCC is increasing its portion of the council tax by 3.99%, this represents a general increase of 1.99% plus 2% which will be to specifically help fund social care under the National Social Care Levy. D.Cllr Lake said that he hopes that this money can be ring fenced to pay for the care of the elderly in Kent.

On the other hand, with fuel prices plummeting and inflation at near zero, there should be more money in all Councils' coffers to help meet their demands. Broadband speeds remain a real problem for residents in Leigh. D.Cllr Lake is asking SDC planners to insist that high speed connections are incorporated into all new developments in the area. Tom Tugendhat, our MP, confirms that The Stroke Unit will move back to Pembury, but he has been assured that the freed up beds at the Cottage Hospital will be used to care for the elderly as a measure to prevent bed blocking.

- iii. PCSO Laura Morris said that she is based in Edenbridge and covers the villages of Leigh, Charcott, Penshurst, Hever, Chiddingstone, Chiddingstone Causeway, Fordcombe and Cowden. There have been three issues relating to Leigh. The first is the parking issues around Leigh School. PCSO Morris has provided a police presence at school drop off and pick up times in order to remind drivers about their parking responsibilities. The second issue relates to speeding, and PCSO Morris has carried out three speed checks on the Hildenborough Road and in Leigh village. Most of those found to be speeding were not from Leigh. The third issue relates to the use of a quad bike on The Green. PCSO Morris apologised to the Parish Council for driving across The Green, which was necessary in order to apprehend the driver of the quad bike, who was given a S.59 notice and told that if he is caught again, he will have his bike confiscated. Cllr Swallow reported that there has been a second serious accident on Ensfield Road and there is concern that pedestrians or cyclists using the cycle path could be injured. PCSO Morris said that she would look into this, and said that she asked KCC to grit this road and others in the area after several local road traffic collisions, but she has been told that KCC is only gritting the primary routes. PCSO Morris said that if there are any other issues or concerns to please email her or call her on the non-emergency police line 101. Emergencies or when a crime is in the process of being committed should be reported on 999. (PCSO Morris left the meeting at 8.20pm.)
- iv. Mr Chris Rowley firstly apologised to the Parish Council for not having prepared his recommendations on footpaths as set out originally in the parish plan. Mr Rowley asked whether anything can be done to prevent dog mess on The Green? He also asked whether the road from Powdermills to Stocks Green will be widened as discussed with Highways as part of the planning application at Old Powdermills.

Closed Session

138. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Croft and members accepted his reason for absence. Apologies for absence were also received from County Cllr Pearman.

139. Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest / Non-Pecuniary Interest on matters to be discussed
None.

140. The minutes of the Leigh Parish Council meeting held on 4th January 2016 were approved and duly signed. Proposed by Cllr Provan, seconded by Cllr Marchant and all were in favour.

141. To agree procedure for dealing with anonymous letters

Members agreed that the Parish Council will investigate all matters raised in anonymous letters, other than those relating to Environmental Health and noise matters, which should be forwarded to SDC. Members also agreed that if a person wishes to send the Parish Council an anonymous letter, he or she should be encouraged to let the Clerk (and/or the Chairman) know his or her identity and these details will be kept strictly confidential. This will allow the Clerk the opportunity of responding with information or an update on the matter.

142. Planning

i. To consider applications received

- i. SE/15/03968/HOUSE and SE/15/03969/LBCALT: Watermans, Station Hill, Chiddingstone Causeway TN11 8JD - erection of a single storey rear extension and internal alterations. Members supported this application.
- ii. SE/15/03966/HOUSE: Melfort House, Greenview Avenue, Leigh TN11 8QS - demolition of existing conservatory and erection of a two storey side extension, single storey rear extension with lantern roof, new front porch and replacement detached garage with new fencing and gate. Members supported this application.

- iii. SE/16/00017/HOUSE: Lanterncroft, Powder Mill Lane, Leigh TN11 8QE - proposed Juliet Balcony over existing loft french doors. Members supported this application.
 - iv. SE/16/00093/HOUSE: Little Knotley, Tonbridge Road, Chiddingstone Causeway TN11 8JH erection of a single storey rear extension and relocation of oil storage tank. Members supported this application.
 - v. KCC/SE/0014/2016: Leigh Primary School - extension to Music Room and demolition of external store. Members supported this application.
- ii. To hear update regarding Brookside Barn, Weald
 The Chairman asked D.Cllr Lake whether he would like to comment. D.Cllr Lake reported that Neil Gorham, the Enforcement Officer at SDC, has emailed to say that he has now seen the invoices for the removal of the asbestos from the site and, in view of this, he is now closing this matter. A letter has been sent from a resident to Dr Pav Ramewal, Chief Executive at SDC, who expresses severe concern about this development. Dr Ramewal will ensure that the points raised in the resident's letter are investigated and he will respond to the resident in due course. D.Cllr Lake will ensure that the Parish Council receives a copy of this reply, which he hopes will satisfy the resident concerned. Cllr Stratton-Brown said that the Parish Council has been concerned about the development of this site, which was given under Permitted Development rights and members feel that Town and Parish Councils should still be consulted about this type of application as local knowledge is very important in these circumstances.
- iii. To agree details regarding the bespoke planning workshop at SDC
 The Clerk reported that Mark Turner at SDC has booked the council chamber for the evening of Monday 21st March for a bespoke planning training event to cover issues such as development in the Green Belt, AONBs, Conservation Areas and other rural issues. The Clerk has also invited representatives from Chiddingstone, Hever, Penshurst and Cowden Parish Councils.
- iv. Notification of planning decisions
- SE/15/03319/FUL: Cinder Hill Farmhouse, Cinder Hill Lane, Leigh - change of use and associated building works to convert a Kent Barn to a single residential dwelling; change of use of land to garden; new access drive and construction of garage. Application withdrawn.
 - SE/15/03507/LBCALT: Old Brickmakers, 92 Lower Green, Leigh - proposed internal alterations and replacement of kitchen window with casement books. Application approved.
 - SE/15/03603/HOUSE: Pauls Farm Barn, Ensfield Road, Leigh: demolition of existing plain brick garden walls to the rear of the property and rebuilding with kentish ragstone, demolition of mixed stone walls to the south of the property and rebuilding with kentish ragstone, installation of a timber gate to the drive set 29 metres from the public highway. Application approved.

143. Highways & Environment

- i. to discuss drainage and flood related issues including the Community Flood Plan
- i. The Clerk reported that Kevin Tomsett at SDC has supplied an example flood plan for completion and it has been suggested that a meeting is held at SDC offices with Chiddingstone Parish Council and Peter Lake, as district member for Leigh and Chiddingstone Causeway. Mention was made in the January and February editions of the parish magazine and volunteers were sought. The Clerk reported that Chiddingstone Parish Council has decided not to proceed with a Community Flood Plan at this time. Cllr Stratton-Brown and Cllr Kaye undertook to prepare a draft plan for discussion with Kevin Tomsett in due course.
 - ii. The Clerk reported that C.Cllr Pearman suggested that a Parish Council representative attends the Edenbridge Emergency Planning meeting chaired by Margot McArthur. The Clerk advised that she has spoken to Margot and, whilst she said representatives would be very welcome to go to the next meeting (which is on Monday 1st February in Rickards Hall Edenbridge), she said that this meeting will be quite Edenbridge focused and she suggested that we arrange a date for our five parishes to get together to talk about emergency planning, in particular planning for floods. If neighbouring Parish Councils are interested, it might be possible to draw up an emergency plan to cover all the parishes. Members agreed to attend a meeting if arranged.

- iii. The Clerk reported that she spoke to Allan Gibbons regarding the puddle outside the old Bat & Ball and Southdown House. There is a dropped kerb but also a slightly raised road surface. He said the only thing he could do is pass to Drainage and ask for another gully to be installed. Clerk to contact John Vigor.
- iv. The Clerk reported that she has had another complaint about parking issues in Crandalls. The lady asked the school to send out another request not to park at the junction and in front of driveways. The parking lines need re-painting and Clerk to contact SDC. Members agreed that residents should contact the police or the PCSO if the problem persists.
- v. The Clerk reported that Martin Barraud has requested permission to erect some roadside posters advertising a Gatwick Obviously Not public meeting regarding aviation issues on 26th February. Members approved the request for posters to be erected in the parish, but not on The Green.
- vi. Members asked the Clerk to contact Steven Noad at Highways to discuss again improvements to Ensfield Road following the recent second serious accident.
- ii. To hear update regarding the request for a permissive path at Pauls Hill Cottage
Cllr Stratton-Brown reported that he has drawn up a plan and a discussion paper on the proposal but discussions with residents of Pauls Hill have been delayed due to family circumstances. Progress, although slow, is ongoing.
- iii. To hear update regarding traffic calming measures on Hildenborough Road
The Clerk reported that Andy Padgham at KCC has emailed to say that his design brief for the proposed gateway improvements at the start of the 30mph speed limit in Hildenborough Road has been sent to KCC's design team for design and costing. No further update.
- iv. To hear update and consider possible cost implications regarding the trees on The Green Lane
No further update.
- v. To consider work required to The Green in Charcott
The Clerk reported that she has received complaints from residents in Charcott about the state of the green. Because the lane is narrow it makes it difficult for the dray lorry to access the pub without driving on the grass. This is exacerbated by cars parking on the lane. The residents have reported seeing the driver of the dray lorry pull up the oak posts and lay them on the grass before driving over them. The grass is very churned up and muddy. The green does belong to the Parish Council. Members agreed to consider what can be done and item to be discussed next month.
- vi. To consider clearance works to public Rights of Way
The Clerk reported that she has spoken to Cllr Kaye regarding two footpaths that are either overgrown or blocked. Members agreed that SR430 needs to be reinstated on its correct route and a stile or kissing gate is required. Clerk to obtain information from KCC PROW. Cllr Kaye offered to clear the path with the help of other residents.
- vii. To consider applications for tree works
 - i. Inglenook, Powder Mill Lane, Leigh TN11 8QE: to fell one spruce tree in the Conservation Area. Approval given by SDC.
 - ii. The Clerk reported that Cllr Croft has said that he has spoken to John Henderson, Chairman of Governors of Leigh School, regarding the trees on the playing field, and he is now awaiting a formal response from the school.

144. The Green

- i. To hear update regarding quotes for work required to the Veteran Oak
The Clerk reported that she has still not received a full quote from Down to Earth despite several reminders. Members considered in detail the quotes received from Bartletts and RWE. Cllr Stratton-Brown proposed that the Parish Council proceed with Bartletts for the item 1 below. This was seconded by Cllr Marchant and all were in favour.
Tree and Shrub Work
 - 1. Prune Oak (ID# T1) located at the green according to the following specifications:
 - Clean to remove all dead, diseased and broken branches 2 centimetres in diameter and larger throughout crown to improve health and appearance and reduce risk of branch failure.

- Reduce crown height by approx. 1.5-2.0 meters and lateral spread to the north, east and south by approx. 1.5-2.0 meters, using 'drop crotching' back to growth secondary growth points.
 - Reduce the lateral spread of the crown to the west by between 2.0 and 3.0 meters to maintain balance, again using 'drop crotching' back to suitable secondary growth points.
 - During reduction works inspect the installed cabling, report any defects and make any necessary adjustments.
 - Remove resulting debris.
2. Supply and install approximately 1-2 centimetres layer of wood chips. The area should extend 7 metres from the root collar of the Oak (ID# T1) located at the the green. Mulch helps to improve soil moisture conditions, moisture retention and protects the plant from mechanical injury (not required.)

Total for 'Tree and Shrub Work' Amount: £686.00 + VAT. (This amount will be reduced because item 2 above is not required.)

Members awarded the work to the contractor with the cheapest quote, and this contractor has also worked on the tree before. Members will consider whether to proceed with the mulch mat, fencing and hedging around the canopy of the tree at the next meeting. Cllr Croft to be asked to remove the two benches and the litter bin located under the tree at his earliest convenience. Clerk to seek approval for the work from SDC Arboricultural Officer.

(District Cllr Lake left the meeting at 9.45pm)

ii. To hear update regarding the programmed improvement works to The Green
(see Open Session above).

iii. To consider various requests to use The Green

Members approved the following requests:

- Fun Fair – 6th to 13th June (Clerk to check with the school)
- Queen birthday lunch – 12th June
- School Sports Day – 8th July
- PTA summer fair – 9th or 10th July
- Year 6 party – last day of term
- Summer Family Fun Play Event – 19th August
- Superstars - 3rd / 4th September
- Horticultural Society Summer Fair – 3rd / 4th September

iv. To discuss gas mains replacement works on The Green

Members approved this work near Porcupine House.

v. To consider request for a new bench on The Green in memory of Roy Leslie Brooker

The Clerk reported that Mr Michael Couling has asked whether he could put a memorial bench on the Green for his late Step Father Roy Leslie Brooker who was born and lived in Leigh for many years and was an avid cricketer who played for the team in his younger life. Members asked to see a design of the proposed bench, and approved the request providing that the design is appropriate. Position to be agreed.

vi. To discuss the problem of vehicles being driven over The Green

(see Open Session above).

145. To adopt the 2016 KALC Community Awards Scheme

Members discussed and agreed the nomination for this year. Presentation to be made at the Annual Parish Meeting.

146. To consider the provision of Affordable and social housing in the parish

The Clerk reported that a meeting was held with Alison Thompson, Senior Regional Development Manager of English Rural Housing Association on Thursday 28th January. The provision of Affordable Housing is, at this time, subject to change due to the Housing & Planning Bill which is currently going through the House of Lords. Various issues such as the Right to Buy social housing is under debate, but English Rural Housing Association have said that they will protect affordable housing schemes built on exception sites in rural areas.

SDC is reluctant to carry out a Housing Needs Survey until the Bill has been passed and more information is available. Members agreed to ask SDC whether it is possible to reserve the funding for a survey in Leigh when appropriate. It was agreed that a small scheme of affordable housing for people with a strong local connection is important as house prices are so high local people are finding it hard to stay living in the parish. Clerk to update parishioners in the Parish Magazine and members agreed that the process must be transparent at all stages.

147. To consider activities in the parish to commemorate the Queen's 90th Birthday including the Leigh Litter Pick on Saturday 5th March, a possible street party and lighting of beacon

- i. Litter Pick as part of the 'Clean for the Queen' national litter strategy on Saturday 5th March: the Clerk advised that she has reserved the kit with John Cox at SDC, and it was agreed to ask volunteers to meet on The Green at 9am. The Clerk and Cllr Kaye have drawn up a draft risk assessment.
- ii. Street Party: Kendra Felisky has kindly offered to organise a lunch event on Sunday June 12th on The Green. Members were very supportive and offered to help fund the event with their public events fund up to a maximum of £900.
- iii. Beacon: 21st April. Members happy to support if members of the public wish to pursue.

148. To discuss the Parish Caretaker Scheme

The Clerk reported that she has discussed this idea with Chiddingstone, Hever and Penshurst Parish Councils are all are interested in hearing more. C.Cllr Pearman has advised that he is in the process of discussing with Highways what functions could be devolved to the parishes and what funding that would involve. It might also be possible to approach SDC regarding the possibility of devolving the clearance of fly tipping, and possible other district functions.

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

The Clerk reported that she and Cllr Stratton-Brown attended a public meeting on Thursday 28th January in Crawley when Bo Redeborn and Graham Lake presented findings from the final report of their review of arrivals into Gatwick Airport. The Clerk reported that the following recommendations were included in the review:

- NATS and GAL have until the end of March to come up with a list of the actions arising from the review, and also a report at the end of January 2017 detailing progress that has been made.
- NATS to work on a short term introduction of wide swathe random approach immediately and then work on implementing in five years' time with PRNAV the three additional routes from 8-14nm plus the existing straight line.
- Aircraft should stay higher for longer and using CDA (Continual Descent Approach) at 3 degrees.
- To try to ensure that day flights don't creep into night flights due to delays.
- To share arrivals easterly and westerly when there is no wind at night.
- The formation of a Noise Management Board to include representatives from all stakeholders including communities.
- To abolish the point merge proposal as it does not provide dispersion only concentration.
- A deadline of 31st December 2017 for retrofit on Airbus A320 across all airlines.
- An independent body should carry out specific research on whether aircraft are flying lower.

Cllr Stratton-Brown reported that he also attended an Aviation Environment Federation Seminar in London last Saturday which was very useful.

150. Leigh Village Halls report

None.

151. Aged Persons Dwellings

- i. Cllr Stratton Brown reported that he has received informal legal advice from David Forster regarding No.2 The Bungalows: "I share your view that under the provisions of Clause 2 (a) and (b) of her tenancy agreement, the tenant Mrs. Fagg is liable to pay the water and sewerage charges levied on the property and I cannot see that there is any ambiguity in the wording used.

Clause 2 (a) requires her to pay to the Parish Council any sums paid or due by the owner in respect of rates or other outgoing charges on the premises or the occupier and under subclause (b) to pay all standing charges for all water consumed or supplied to the property. Subclause (a) would apply to the sewerage charge being an outgoing charged on the premises and (b) covers the charge for water supplied to the property.” Clerk to write to Angie Hollands and advise that this legal advice has been received, and to transfer the water account back into the name of the tenant.

- ii. The Clerk reported that she has arranged for the British Gas inspections of the boilers in both properties.
- iii. The Clerk reported that Mrs Fagg has had a Kent Fire & Rescue inspection and they advised that nothing of concern was raised. The Clerk has reminded Mrs Broad to arrange her inspection.
- iv. Members asked the Clerk to find out if carbon monoxide monitors are present in the two properties and if not to purchase one for each property.

152. To discuss the Swathe & Visibility contract for 2016

The Clerk reported that three quotes have been sought for this year’s contract.

153. To discuss the Bulk Refuse Freighter service for 2016

The Clerk reported that the Peshurst parish clerk will book the trial service, possibly on Saturday 19th March or Saturday 16th April.

154. To discuss youth services provision in the parish

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council has the opportunity to seek youth services provision in the parish, and contracts to service providers are being drawn up. Members did not wish to apply for youth services, but Cllr Swallow suggested that he holds a one-off games event one Saturday on the school playing field for 11-16 year olds. Clerk to contact David Bennie to see if he would be interested in helping and, if it is well attended, to take this forward as a regular event.

155. To discuss Family Fun Play Events in the Summer and Easter holidays

The Clerk reported that she has requested a date with SDC in the Easter holidays and one in the summer holidays, on Friday 19th August. This is free of charge. Clerk to book PlayPlace for the normal play event and the August date would hopefully coincide with this request. Members agreed to have the basic event with Play Place, with no additional activities.

156. 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: Email from Emily Haswell, Economic Development Officer at SDC regarding broadband provision at Powder Mills. “I have had the response below from the KCC Broadband Team. They are on Hildenborough Cabinet 2 which has been enabled under our project. Estimated speeds should be in the region of 12 to 17Mbps. If they manage to get speeds just above 15Mbps, then BT will sell them Infinity (other ISPs offer similar products), if lower than this – they can still get a fibre product (Unlimited Faster Broadband). The data I have from BT Openreach is that the new development is to be connected to the same Cabinet so the speeds should be broadly the same for most of the residents there.”
- ii. Item 3: KCC Press Release: Kent County Council's publishes draft budget. “With a substantial cut in government funding and ever increasing demand for services, Kent County Council has proposed an increase in council tax in its draft budget. Growing demand for services, particularly in adult social care, will cost an extra £80 million. This, combined with reduced funding from government of £46 million, has left the authority needing to find £126 million. Kent County Council Leader Paul Carter said: “It is regrettable that we have proposed to put council tax up but we have no choice. It will, however, be essential if we are to maintain frontline services.” The council’s most significant pressures include an extra £31 million to cover additional demand and increased costs for adult social care. A further £12 million is needed to meet the additional demand for services such as waste disposal and special education needs transport.

"KCC also has additional costs of £13 million as a result of changes in government legislation, such as increases in employer's National Insurance contributions and the impact of the National Living Wage. Mr Carter added: "Year on year it is getting harder and harder to deal with cuts in funding and increasing demands for services from a rising population, particularly the elderly, and the next few years are not looking any better. Another cut of £43 million in government funding is due in 2017/18. Without the extra money that a council tax increase will deliver, sustaining frontline services would be impossible. I hope people will see that the extra council tax we're proposing is essential." The council will also continue its efficiency drive, with 150 job losses on top of more than 2,000 that have been made over the last five years. The proposals will go before the council on February 11th."

- iii. Item 4: Kent Police is appealing for information following the death of a cyclist in Langton Green, on Langton Road near the junction with Ashurst Road, at about 11am on Saturday 16 January 2016. Witnesses to the incident or who saw the cyclists beforehand are urged to call 01622 798538 quoting reference 16-448. Alternatively email sciu.td@kent.pnn.police.uk.
- iv. Item 5: KCC Press Release: Redesigning the mobile library service for the future: Kent's mobile library service is proposed to be redesigned with the aim of providing a more efficient service at a lower cost to the county council. The proposals were discussed at a meeting of KCC's Growth and Economic Development Committee on Tuesday 12th January, and are in the context of the significant financial pressure that KCC faces. At this meeting it was endorsed that the proposals should progress to public engagement. At the moment, the 11 mobile libraries make 651 stops at a cost of more than £367,000 per year to Kent council taxpayers. KCC has analysed the performance of this service over the last year. Some of the stops had very low levels of use and KCC is therefore proposing to reduce the number of stops, focusing on improving the service where it is well used while ensuring all customers have the means to access the library service. The findings of the analysis shows that 368 stops had an average of two visitors or less and that 50% of the mobile library users were already using one of our library buildings in addition to using the mobile. Our proposals would we estimate still cover 80% of the current level of mobile visits. KCC's Libraries, Registration and Archives service has looked at alternative ways to provide the service to those customers who are potentially impacted by this proposal. These alternatives include the Home Library Service, which allows customers to order a book and have it delivered to their home. KCC now wants to engage with local residents and service users and will be launching a customer engagement from 22 January until 4 March 2016. See www.kent.gov.uk/consultations.
- v. Item 10: Kent Police: High Street, Leigh - between 4:00pm on Friday 30th October and 10:00am on Thursday 17th December, from a churchyard a memorial stone was taken.
- vi. Item 11: Anonymous letter regarding noise levels from The Fleur de Lis public house on New Year's Eve.
- vii. Item 13: Kent Friendz – details about a workshop for carers of children and adults with learning difficulties at The Eden Centre. Time and date of workshop to be advised to carers who are interested in attending.
- viii. Item 14: SDC – notification that the TPO on trees on Hollow Trees Drive Leigh was confirmed on 15th January without any modifications.
- ix. Item 17: SDC News Release: SDC is urging residents not yet registered to vote to take advantage of the National Voter Registration Drive by going online and registering their details. On 5 May voters across the county will be able to go to the polls to elect a Police and Crime Commissioner for Kent. There could also be an 'in, out' referendum on the European Union later this year.
- x. Item 18: KCC News Release: Lower Thames Crossing Route Consultation 2016 which closes on Thursday 24th March 2016. The proposal is for a new road which would connect the A2/M2 in Kent with a tunnel crossing east of Gravesend and Tilbury, before joining the M25 between junctions 29 and 30. There are three route options north of the river in Essex and two south of the river in Kent. See www.lower-thames-crossing.co.uk.
- xi. Item 20: Invitation to a free course "Creation and Management of Heritage Trees" to be run from 10am to 1pm on the morning of Wednesday, the 17th of February, at Shorne Country Park near Rochester. These courses are free, although donations to the Kent Heritage Trees Project are always welcome. Cllr Smith said that she might be able to attend.
- xii. Item 21: Clive Pearman – monthly report, forwarded to all members.

157. To consider increasing the Clerk's hours from 16 hours per week to 17 hours per week

Cllr Stratton-Brown asked members to consider increasing the Clerk's hours by one hour a week to 17 from 1st January 2016. Cllr Marchant proposed that this be accepted, this was seconded by Cllr Kaye and all were in favour.

158. Finance:

- i. to consider application for grant by the PCC towards the production of the village directory
Cllr Johnston proposed that the Parish Council contribute £300 towards the production of the village directory. This was seconded by Cllr Smith and all were in favour.
- ii. to consider a financial contribution towards the GACC runway campaign
Cllr Smith proposed that the Parish Council make a contribution to GACC of £200, this was seconded by Cllr Kaye and all were in favour.
- iii. To approve payment of cheques
Cllr Doherty proposed that the list of cheques be approved. This was seconded by Cllr Swallow and all were in favour.

159. Items for reporting or inclusion in future agenda

None.

The meeting closed at 10.30 pm.

Signed

Date

**LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL
LIST OF CHEQUES
1st February 2016**

Date	Cheque	Payee	Detail of payment	Amount Inc. VAT	VAT
28.01.16	1665	Mr P. Kenway	(Brisk Builders) to replace chq 1663	£480.00	
01.02.16	1666	Clerk	Salary	£578.40	
01.02.16	1667	HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE	£161.70	
01.02.16	1668	Clerk	Mileage, working from home allowance	£78.20	
01.02.16	1669	Kent County Council	Pension contribution	£215.42	
01.02.16	1670	PCC of Leigh	Contribution towards village directory	£300.00	
01.02.16	1671	GACC	Contribution towards runway appeal	£200.00	
				<u>£2,013.72</u>	<u>£0.00</u>

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