

LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE SMALL HALL, HIGH STREET, LEIGH ON MONDAY 6TH FEBRUARY 2017 AT 8.00PM

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

Open Session

Report by District Cllr Peter Lake

The Fleur: District Cllr Lake reported that he was not able to attend the Licensing Hearing held on 30th January regarding The Fleur de Lis public house, however he has the report and supporting papers from the hearing. The applicant was given every opportunity to put her case forward at the hearing, as was Greene King and the licensee. The hearing went in favour of the licensee, who agreed various conditions which are sensible and which will allow the applicant to live alongside the pub. D.Cllr Lake said that local authorities should encourage local businesses who seek to maintain village life. Manor Farm Buildings: D.Cllr Lake said that he has had no response from the planning officer despite constant emails, and he will now escalate this matter to SDC's Chief Executive, Dr Pav Ramewal. Old Powder Mills: D.Cllr Lake said that he's pleased to report that SDC has commenced enforcement proceedings against Bellway Homes as a breach of condition order signed off by the legal department at SDC has been served on Bellway Homes. SDC has confirmed that HGV movements are only allowed between 08.00-17.00 Monday to Friday and between 08.00-13.00 on Saturdays. There must be no HGV movements outside these hours, on Sundays or Bank Holidays. Bellway Homes also has to repair the verges on Powder Mill Lane. Cllr Stratton-Brown said that a result of this order could be that the developer is unable to sell any of the properties. Brookside Barn: D.Cllr Lake reported that a junior enforcement officer at SDC said that he could not gain access to this property, and now a senior enforcement officer has confirmed that she visited Brookside Barn and spoke to one of the owners. She has reported that "the property is not yet complete and has not been signed off by Building Control. There still remains much to do on site and the container/caravan/mobile home are still required in connection with the project, especially for secure storage. By virtue of Part 4 Class A of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015, "the provision on land of buildings, moveable structures, works, plant or machinery required temporarily in connection with and for the duration of operations being or to be carried out on, in, under or over that land or on land adjoining that land" is permitted development and does not require the benefit of planning permission. Development is permitted subject to the condition that when the operations have been carried out, any building, structure, works, plant or machinery is removed. However, there are further classes of permitted development in the legislation that allow a mobile home to be occupied on land or adjoining land whilst works are being carried out. Further, once works are complete and the barn is no longer a barn but a dwelling house, the use of land within the curtilage of a dwelling house may be used for the stationing of a caravan/mobile home, provided the use is incidental to the enjoyment of the dwelling house (i.e. not occupied as a separate residential unit by persons unconnected with the family living in the dwelling house). Accordingly, it is not possible for SDC to insist upon the removal of the items at present. Once the barn and other works on site are finished, SDC will pursue the removal of the container. However, as stated above, it is open to the owners to station a caravan or mobile home on site permanently should they wish to do so." D.Cllr Lake advised that he has also questioned whether full planning approval should have been sought as there were insufficient foundations to the barn before work commenced.

Closed Session

- 146. Apologies for absence** were received from Cllr Kaye and members accepted his reason for absence. Apologies for absence were also received from County Cllr Pearman.
- 147. Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest / Non-Pecuniary Interest on matters to be discussed**
None.

148. The minutes of the Leigh Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 30th January 2017 were approved and duly signed. Proposed by Cllr Britain, seconded by Cllr Johnston and all were in favour.

149. To hear update regarding the proposal to twin with Lavergne

The Clerk reported that David and Kelly Evans are continuing to investigate whether residents are interested, wish to be involved or support the twinning proposal. Members suggested that David and Kelly might like to come along to the Annual Parish Meeting on 24th April and discuss this with residents in more detail, if at that point there is a good level of interest. However, if by then it is obvious that people are not interested, then the Parish Council can discuss the matter again and decide whether to proceed.

150. Planning

i. To consider applications received

- i. SE/17/00022/HOUSE: North Stables, Wickhurst Farm, Coppings Road, Leigh TN11 8PS - erection of a single storey orangery extension. Members supported this application.
- ii. SE/17/00281/AGRNOT: Leigh Park Farm, Coppings Road, Leigh TN11 8PB - creation of a road between Leigh Park and Prices Farms for agricultural purposes only. Members supported this application, as hopefully it would reduce the number of large agricultural machinery movements on the roads.

ii. To hear report of Licensing Hearing regarding The Fleur de Lis public house

This was discussed in the Open Session (see above). Cllr Stratton-Brown reported that the conditions were as follows:

1. A complaints log will be kept at the premises and any complaints from residents or other parties made in relation to an allegation of breach of the licensing objectives will be recorded therein.
2. A landline telephone number for the premises will be made available to the Environmental Health duty team. Any calls by the Environmental Health Duty Officer to the landline will be noted in the complaints log.
3. DJs or live music will be located on the side of the premises furthest from the terraced properties (on the Lower Green Road side) at such times, when regulated entertainments takes place inside the premises, the windows on that side of the premises (known as the front bay windows) will be kept closed for the duration of the entertainment.
4. Any regulated entertainment at the premises will finish at midnight, with only background music thereafter. After 23:00 hours the volume of any regulated entertainment will be reduced substantially.
5. A maximum of 10 'events' (defined as private parties or promoted events where regulated entertainment is to be provided past 21:00 hours as part of the event) are permitted in any calendar year, where regulated entertainment is permitted until the terminal hour. Any such event will be notified to residents who are most likely to be affected, which must include those of the terrace, at least 7 days in advance in writing, setting out the nature of the event, the likely entertainment and giving details of the manager in overall charge on the night. A diary of promoted events will be kept and will be made available for inspection by the Environmental Health team or Licensing Officer on request.
6. The garden to the rear of the premises will be closed to customers after 23:00 hours. A sign will inform customers of this condition.
7. A garden management policy will be drawn up and implemented. The policy will ensure that when the garden is in use by customers there is to be regular supervision of the area by staff.
8. A dispersal management plan will be drawn up and implemented. The plan will set out how management will ensure, as far as practicable, the quick and quiet dispersal of customers, in particular following an event at the premises.
9. Signs will be displayed at the exits to the premises reminding customers not to disturb nearby neighbours when leaving the premises.
10. Customers will not be permitted to sit on the low wall to the front of the premises separating the premises from the garden of 1 Fleur De Lys Cottage. Any customers seen sitting on the wall will be informed that they are not permitted to sit there.

- iii. To report SDC planning application decisions
 - SE/16/03542/HOUSE: Oak Tree Cottage, Powder Mill Lane, Leigh – removal of shed and fence and the erection of single storey extension. Application approved.
 - SE/16/03445/CAN: BT Telephone Box at Barnetts Wood Picnic Site, Sevenoaks Bypass South layby – removal of BT Public Payphone. No objection lodged.
 - SE/16/03486/CAN: BT Telephone Box South East of Charcott Green Cottages - removal of BT Public Payphone. No objection lodged.
 - SE/16/03412/HOUSE: 13 Powder Mill Lane, Leigh – erection of a two storey rear extension with paved area and new fence. Application approved.

151. The Green:

- i. To hear update regarding the programmed improvement works to The Green
Cllr Stratton-Brown reported that he has arranged a meeting with the Project Manager, Richard Earl, on Thursday 9th February. Cllr Croft undertook to look at the leaves that have blown under the net fencing to see if they could be removed.
- ii. To discuss the routine maintenance contract for The Green for 2017 season
The Clerk reported that Landscape Services and Bourne Amenity have quoted for the 2017 maintenance of The Green:
Landscape Services:
 1. To gang mow green on 21 occasions: £820.98 (£39.09 per cut)
 2. To fertilize the whole green on 1 occasion in April: £272.71.
 Bourne Amenity:
 1. To gang mow (max 30 cuts): £40 per cut
 2. To fertilize the green: £200 per application (max 3)
 3. To provide herbicide treatment £150 (max 1)
 Members agreed that, on this occasion, they would ask Bourne Amenity to carry out the maintenance as they are already maintaining the new football pitch as part of the ongoing works. It is anticipated that, in future years, the maintenance will revert to Landscape Services. Clerk to contact both companies accordingly. Clerk to ensure that the fertilizer and herbicide treatment are suitable for areas where children play.
- iii. To discuss use of The Green
 - i. The Clerk reported that Ian Bishop has now agreed to move a Sunday match so that the school can hold their fair on Sunday 7th May. Cllr Marchant suggested that next year, the school might like to start their fair at 10am, finishing in the early afternoon before the cricket match commences, if this is acceptable to the Cricket Club. Cllr Stratton-Brown to discuss this with Ian Bishop and Cllr Provan to discuss this with the school.
 - ii. The Clerk reported that Peter Shayler has asked whether he can use The Green for the Fun Fair from Monday 4 June to Monday 12 June opening Friday 9 June 6pm to 9.30pm, Saturday 10 June 2pm to 9.30pm, Sunday 11 June 2pm to 6pm. Members reluctantly decided not to allow the Fun Fair to come to Leigh this year, due to the on-going programme of works to The Green. It is hoped that the Fun Fair can return next year, and Clerk to gauge residents' opinion in the parish magazine.

152. Highways & Environment

- i. To discuss drainage and flood related issues including the Community Flood Plan
 - i. Nothing to report regarding the Community Flood Plan.
 - ii. Cllr Britain reported that the drains are blocked under the railway bridge at Lower Green. Clerk to report.
 - iii. Clerk to chase Southern Water for the drainage map from The Green to Garden Cottages.
- ii. To hear update regarding request for double yellow lines in the High Street
The Clerk reported that she logged this request on the KCC website, under reference 260626, and the enquiry is currently under investigation. Members asked the Clerk to also request double yellow lines on Powder Mill Lane, at the junction with the High Street, opposite the War Memorial.

- iii. To hear update regarding the legalities of a large recovery vehicle parking in the High Street
The Clerk reported that she has been discussing this issue with our PCSO, Laura Morris, who is seeking clarification of the law. Cllr Marchant reported that he believes that legislation states that a vehicle of this weight should be parked in the direction of traffic flow and with lights on at night.
- iv. To consider request for new sign on The Green
The Clerk reported that she has requested a new sign for The Green to replace the rusty sign adjacent to the school playground. The Clerk suggested that consideration be given for a new wrought iron white painted sign to be made and erected on The Green, but suggested that this waits until there is budget available.
- v. To discuss proposal to move the 'Welcome to Leigh' sign on the gateway on Hildenborough Road
Cllr Croft is currently discussing the removal of the sign from the gateway and will prepare a price for providing one or two new posts, as required, and moving the sign away from the gateway.
- vi. To discuss works to trees
The Clerk reported that Bartletts and RWE have provided quotes for works to the trees in the village:

| <u>Proposal</u> | <u>Bartletts</u> | <u>RWE</u> |
|--|------------------|---------------|
| The Green | | |
| 1 Perform foliage treatment to suppress leafminers: 4 horse chestnut trees | £480 | |
| 2 Systemic soil treatment and trunk spray: 4 horse chestnut trees | £240 | |
| 3 Prune 4 horse chestnut trees, one red oak and one oak on The Green by raising lower branches to give 2-3m clearance. 3 oak trees - remove all dead, diseased and broken branches throughout crown and raise lower branches to give 2-3m clearance | £850 | £600 |
| War Memorial Green | | |
| 4. Prune oaks (T12,13,14). Clean deadwood, diseased and broken branches, raise lower branches to height of 2-3 metres, cut back from road and telegraph wires | £400 | £250 |
| Porcupine Hill | | |
| 5. Prune Lombard Poplar, reduce crown height by 7-8metres to reduce risk of failure, clear vegetation at base Prune 8 hornbeams, remove all dead, diseased and broken branches, raise lower branches over road to height 3-4 metres. Remove large split branch from first tree on right side of road | £700 | £550 |
| Old Burial Ground | | |
| 6. Prune oak (T3) remove all dead, diseased and broken branches. Clear vegetation at base of 2 limes and 1 holly | £350 | £250 |
| Total – foliage treatment and soil treatment | £720 | |
| Total – pruning | £2,300 | £1,650 |

Cllr Croft proposed that RWE be asked to carry out all the works to trees, apart from the foliage treatment and systemic soil treatment. This was seconded by Cllr Smith and all were in favour. Clerk to request permission to carry out the works from SDC.

Members agreed that the Clerk would ask David Carey whether he thinks that foliage treatment to suppress leafminers, systemic soil treatment and trunk spray on horse chestnut trees is effective.

- vii. To agree date of next Leigh Litter Pick
The Clerk reported that the 'Help Keep Kent Clean' initiative is between 3rd and 5th March. Clerk to discuss with Cllr Kaye.
(D.Cllr Lake left the meeting at 8.55pm)

153. Rights of Way

- i. To hear ROW committee report
None.
- ii. To hear update regarding the request for a permissive path at Paul's Hill Cottage
Cllr Stratton-Brown reported that this item is deferred until the next Parish Council meeting pending further information.

154. Affordable Housing

- i. To hear update regarding the Housing Needs Survey for Leigh
The Clerk reported that the survey was circulated and the deadline for responses is 15th February. The covering letter and Housing Needs Survey is on the website, and the Clerk said she'd put some posters up chasing returns. ACRK said that they have had around 170 returns so far out of the 748 sent out, which is a 23% response rate. The average response rate is around 29%. The Clerk advised that the survey sent round by SDC was to form the basis of SDC's policy on affordable housing. The Leigh scheme could not go ahead until this had been done. The Parish Council is working with SDC, Action with Communities in Rural Kent and English Rural Housing Association on this scheme. As soon as it is established whether there is a need for affordable housing in the parish, then the Parish Council can draw up a list of potential sites. ACRK will write to the landowners and SDC will arrange a walk-about of sites. The short list will then be drawn up based on SDC's criteria for Affordable Housing, and the Parish Council can then have a public meeting or public consultation to obtain residents' views on the proposal.
- ii. To consider SDC's Call for Brownfield Sites
The Clerk reported that SDC is seeking land to accommodate new development and support infrastructure. The recent call for sites generated over 300 submissions but the vast majority of these were green fields located in the Green Belt. The Green Belt is performing well and therefore SDC must look more closely at brownfield sites (a site that has previously been developed). The district-wide list of sites will then be assessed and placed in a register for further consideration in the Local Plan. Members could not think of any brownfield sites in the parish, but undertook to give it consideration and let the Clerk know. Deadline for responses 24th February.

155. Aviation:

- i. To hear report of the High Weald Councils Aviation Action Group
Cllr Stratton-Brown reported that the last meeting was held on Tuesday 24th January. Richard Streatfeild has resigned as Chairman of HWCAAG and Cllr Stratton-Brown has been elected as temporary chairman of the group until the next meeting.
- ii. To hear report of the Noise Management Board meeting held on 31st January
Cllr Stratton-Brown reported that he attended the Noise Management Board meeting on 31st January, this was a public meeting held at Gatwick Airport. Jonathan Wade and Jonathan Cook also attended from Leigh. The Arrivals Review Progress Report is available which shows details of the implementation of recommendations.
- iii. To discuss the DfT Night Flight consultation
The Clerk reported that the DfT has published a consultation on night flight restrictions at the designated airports. The current restrictions expire in October of this year and the consultation details DfT's proposals for the restrictions that should replace them. These restrictions should last for five years, and they are therefore separate to Heathrow expansion proposals. The Government acknowledges that noise at night represents the least acceptable form of aircraft noise, however night flights are important to the economy - they create extra choice for passengers and are crucial for operation of the time-sensitive freight sector. The proposals will ensure that the DfT continue to balance these competing interests for the next set of restrictions. The DfT is proposing a cap set at existing levels for the number of night flights from Heathrow and Gatwick, and will end exemptions for almost 1700 night flights operating out of Stansted by including these in a new cap. This will be a strict limit which the airport cannot exceed. Options will be examined as to how the DfT can incentivise the use of quieter aircraft by reducing the noise each airport can make during the night. www.gov.uk/government/consultations/night-flight-restrictions-at-gatwick-heathrow-and-stansted. Deadline for responses: 28 February 2017. The DfT has also published the annual noise reports for these three airports, see: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/noise-exposure-contours-around-london-airports>". Cllr Stratton-Brown reported that the draft HWCAAG response has been circulated and Leigh Parish Council's own response will be based on the HWCAAG one.
- iv. To discuss Fair and Equitable Dispersal
Cllr Stratton-Brown said that a meeting will be held of the Leigh Aviation Working Group to discuss the HWCAAG proposal for fair and equitable dispersal, and also the proposal put forward by Jonathan Wade.

NATS has said that they will not consider any proposal for fair and equitable dispersal until a definition has been agreed by all community groups.

- v. The Clerk reported that Gatwick Airport Ltd has launched a revised aircraft noise complaints handling policy following the recommendation of the independent Arrivals Review. The aim of the policy is to shape their working practices and systems to ensure the timely acknowledgement of noise complaints and to provide responses which include sufficient information to understand the source of the issue, but also where appropriate, detail what action has been taken. Casper will allow the consistent recording of all noise complaint data and the establishment and maintenance of a complete record of complaints received which is transparent to the community, regulator and other stakeholders. The mechanism for registering noise complaints at Gatwick is through the online Casper system <http://noiselab.casper.aero/lgw>). In circumstances where the complainant does not have access to the internet complaints can be made by letter to Freepost Gatwick Airport Flight Performance Team, South Terminal, Gatwick Airport, West Sussex RH6 0NP. Complaints received by post will be entered into the Casper system by GAL staff, to maintain a single, uniform and transparent record of all complaints.”
- vi. GACC: In the past week the Government has published 16 new consultation documents on aviation. The full list is at www.gov.uk/government/policies/aviation-and-airports. Most are about the proposed new runway at Heathrow. There is one relating to Gatwick flight paths and noise, see www.gov.uk/government/consultations/reforming-policy-on-the-design-and-use-of-uk-airspace.
- vii. Email from Gatwick Airport Ltd: “We would like to make you aware of a planned modification to Route 5, one of the nine departure routes used by aircraft out of Gatwick Airport. The modification will be implemented on 30 March 2017, and will be monitored at the request of the Civil Aviation Authority for 6 months. All aircraft departing from Gatwick follow Noise Preferential Routes (NPR). These routes consist of a nominal centreline and an associated compliance monitoring swathe (3km across, i.e. 1.5km either side of the NPR centreline). As long as aircraft remain within this ‘swathe’ they are deemed to be conforming with the departure track. These have been in place for over 40 years, and are designed to minimise the noise impact of aircraft operations on the communities surrounding the airport. Within these routes, aircraft follow a number of Standard Instrument Departure (SIDS) procedures which air traffic control use to guide them from the runway to their onward air route. In 2013 Gatwick introduced a change to the method of navigation used by aircraft from traditional ground based systems to new more precise satellite navigation technology. This was in response to CAA guidance for all airspace to change to this technology by 2018, and followed a period of local community consultation. The new navigation technology helps the aircraft to fly much more accurately within the noise preferential route and maintain its path much closer to the centreline. The CAA monitored the performance of all of Gatwick’s departure routes following the change and the majority were operating according to the designs that had been agreed. However, the CAA has identified that some departing aircraft using Route 5 are currently flying slightly to the south of the centreline of the route. They have therefore requested a minor modification to the design of the Standard Instrument Departure being used on this route, to align aircraft more closely to the centreline. The modification has been designed and tested in an aircraft simulator facility and approved by the CAA for implementation on 30 March 2017. The performance of aircraft flying the modified route will be monitored for six months to ensure that the route is compliant and the aircraft are operating as anticipated. After the modification is implemented on 30 March 2017 some residents may notice a reduction in the number of aircraft overhead when this route is in operation, whereas others may notice an increase. If residents wish to provide feedback on a noticeable change in aircraft over their area, this should be sent via Gatwick’s online feedback system: <http://noiselab.casper.aero/lgw>.”

156. Leigh Village Halls report

None.

157. Aged Persons Dwellings

The Clerk reminded Cllr Stratton-Brown and Cllr Marchant to look at the path and step at No.2 The Bungalows.

158. To hear update regarding parishioner's proposal to purchase Hall Place for educational purposes

- i. The Clerk reported that an email has been received from Abby Lloyd and Fiona Gruneberg: "We are two local mums and specialist teachers and are applying to open an all-through Free School in South Sevenoaks in 2019. We are looking to address local need for places in Rural Sevenoaks South East, Hildenborough and North Tonbridge at Primary level and then more widely out to Sevenoaks, Edenbridge, Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells for Secondary. We would be looking for a site that would be accessible to the Primary children of Hildenborough, Leigh and the edges of North Tonbridge without encroaching on the existing primary schools or altering the village feel of these places. We understand from KCC that it would be difficult to expand Leigh Primary and Hildenborough Primary and that Stocks Green are not willing to do so either. We also gather from KCC that there are various housing developments which are already underway or are possibilities for the future in Leigh in particular, which will create even more need for school places."
- ii. The Clerk reported that there has been a KCC News Release: KCC continues to provide the increasing number of school places needed for the growing number of families in the county. Roger Gough KCC's Cabinet Member for Education, said: "Demand for school places has been growing for the last five years. More than 10,000 primary places have already been provided by KCC. As demand continues to grow Kent is working hard to make the places available for more than 23,000 primary and secondary extra children who will need school places over the next five years in Kent. 15,700 of these are for secondary school places and almost 8,000 for primary. Much of the additional provision will be achieved by expanding existing schools. While in many cases the need for new and expanded schools is dependent on future housing development, the increase in demand for education places continues to be significant. As a result Kent will need 37 new primary schools and 10 secondary by 2022. Each year we produce and update the 'Commissioning Plan for Education Provision'. This plan provides a very detailed breakdown of where the extra places are needed for each Kent district and how we are working hard to provide parents with school places in good or outstanding schools near to their homes. The county council has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places for all children in the county, although it no longer has direct control over all schools. Government dictates that where new schools are needed these have to either be an academy or free school. Free school projects are led by the government's Education Funding Agency.

Members agreed that they thought that the cost of purchasing Hall Place, and converting it into an educational facility, would be prohibitive. Clerk to thank Abby and Fiona for their proposal and to suggest that they discuss the matter with the school governors who, if in agreement, could then put a proposal to the Parish Council for consideration.

159. 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 3: KALC: Council tax referendum principles have not been extended to parish and town councils in 2017/18.
- ii. Item 4: KCC News Releases: (i) Strengthening Community Organisations in Kent: Over £1 million is being pumped into developing and strengthening community organisations. Following the publication of KCC's Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) policy in September last year, a new service is being introduced to provide support to voluntary sector organisations in the county. (ii) £5 million worth of business loans on offer: KCC has announced another £5 million in loans to support businesses in the county, boosting economic growth and job creation. (iii) Joint strategy launched to tackle Kent's drug and alcohol issues: A new five-year strategy is set to be launched, bringing together agencies across Kent to tackle drug and alcohol misuse.
- iii. Item 5: KCC: A programme of works will take place in early 2017 to replace Kent's remaining 235 concrete bus stop poles with modern alternatives. The project, which has the support of Kent's eight Quality Bus Partnerships (QBPs), will result in a number of safety, aesthetic and practical benefits and will allow for more efficient ongoing maintenance.
- iv. Item 6: KALC: An event is being organised to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the end of World War I. 1000 Beacons of Light will be lit at 7pm on the 11th November 2018 and will represent "the light of hope".

Detailed co-ordination of this begins in April 2017, when a special “Guide to Taking Part” will be published, similar to that produce for HM The Queen’s Birthday Beacons in April 2016. You will need to confirm your involvement to the Pageantmaster as soon as possible to ensure that you are included in the Guide when it is published. Clerk to forward to the Leigh branch of the Royal British Legion.

- v. Item 8: Email from the Kent Police & Crime Commissioner: “I am proposing that the council tax precept for Kent Police rises by 3.3%, equivalent to £5 for an average Band D household, supported by a contribution from reserves.”
- vi. Item 9: SDC: The Green Belt Assessment was commissioned to form part of the evidence base for the new Local Plan 2015-35 and provides a comprehensive review of the performance of the District’s Green Belt against the five green belt ‘purposes’, as defined in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The Assessment categorises Green Belt as either strongly, moderately or weakly performing. Most of the Green Belt in the District is performing strongly. The Green Belt Assessment report provides a robust evidence base for its continued protection.
- vii. Item 10: KCC: Draft Kent Drug and Alcohol Strategy 2017 – 2022. See: www.kent.gov.uk. This consultation is open from 9th January at 14:00 to 19th February at 23:59.
- viii. Item 11: SDC: Keep Britain Tidy is launching its biggest-ever litter campaign, the Great British Spring Clean, from March 3-5 2017, to encourage 500,000 people to get out there and make sure their neighbourhood is one of which they can be proud.
- ix. Item 12: SDC: Sevenoaks District Council Voluntary & Community ‘*Making it Happen*’ Awards 2017. The nominations need to be returned by Friday 14 April 2017, and the awards ceremony will be held on Wednesday 14th June, 7.30-10pm, at The Stag Theatre, Sevenoaks. Members agreed to nominate the Leigh nominee for the KALC award scheme 2017.
- x. Item 13: KCC: “KCC is currently updating its Freight Action Plan. Since the Plan was adopted in 2012 KCC has implemented a number of measures to reduce the negative impacts of road freight on residents and visitors in Kent. See: www.kent.gov.uk/freightactionplan. The consultation closes on 12th March 2017. The Plan outlines five major actions:
 1. To tackle the problem of overnight lorry parking in Kent
 2. To find a long term solution to Operation Stack
 3. To effectively manage the routing of HGV traffic
 4. To take steps to address the problems caused by freight traffic to communities
 5. To ensure that KCC continues to make effective use of planning and development control powers to reduce the impact of freight traffic.
 Clerk to respond to ask that as much freight as possible is taken by rail rather than road.
- xi. Item 14 - Kent Police:
 - Ensfield Road, Leigh - on Tuesday 22nd November between 1:00am and 6:00am, a vehicle was taken without consent and has since been recovered.
 - Station Hill, Leigh – on Tuesday 29th November between 4:10pm and 4:30pm, a car parked in the yard of a farm was broken into and a handbag stolen.
 - Powder Mills, Leigh - on Friday 2nd December between 2:16pm and 7:00pm, a parcel containing a Samsung camera was stolen from outside a property where it had just been delivered.
 - Cinder Hill Lane, Leigh - between 5:00pm on Saturday 24th December and 11:00am on Tuesday 27th December, a residential property was broken into.
 - Lealands Avenue, Leigh - between 3:00pm on Monday 12th December and 9:00am on Tuesday 3rd January, a shed in a wooded area has been broken into. Tools and books have been taken.
 - Powder Mill Lane, Leigh - between 6:00pm on Tuesday 12th January and 11:28am on Wednesday 13th January, a property on a building site was broken into and lead stolen.
 - Cinder Hill Lane, Leigh - between 3:00pm on Monday 9th January and 2:00pm on Tuesday 10th January, a vehicle parked in the road was broken into.
 - Peshurst Road, Leigh - between 5:00pm on Sunday 22nd January and 8:00am on Tuesday 24th January, a shed at a residential property was broken into.
- xii. Item 16: KALC: Rural Affairs Conference The Orchards Conference Centre, East Malling ME19 6BJ on 9th March 2017 at 09:30am. Price £60 plus VAT for members.

- xiii. Item 23: Correspondence from a resident of Wyndham Avenue regarding a possible breach of planning consent at 9 Wyndham Avenue. This was escalated to Planning Enforcement Officers at SDC, who have now replied to say that he has written to the resident at 9 Wyndham Avenue advising that the raised decking area requires planning permission and asking them to submit an application.
- xiv. Item 24: SDC re: Local Plan: Open Space, Sport and Leisure Study. The study includes a thorough analysis of all open space, sport and recreational facilities the District.

160. To consider and update Risk Assessment

Cllr Lake said that this would be ready for discussion at the March Parish Council meeting.

161. To agree speaker and format for the Annual Parish Meeting on 24th April

Members to give consideration as to speaker. Clerk to ask the Leigh Ladies Choir to attend and sing if they would like to.

162. Finance:

- i. To consider application for grant from Leigh Ladies Choir
Cllr Stratton-Brown proposed that a grant of £400 is given to this worthwhile cause. This was seconded by Cllr Lake. At vote there were 7 votes in favour, and one vote against the proposal. Motion carried. Cllr Britain said that he thought that the choir should be inclusive and open to both men and women. Cllr Johnston undertook to pass this comment on.
- ii. To approve payment of cheques
Cllr Marchant proposed that the list of cheques be approved. This was seconded by Cllr Croft and all were in favour.

163. Items for reporting or inclusion in future agenda

- i. Cllr Provan asked that the provision of a new heritage phone box is added to the March Parish Council agenda.
- ii. Cllr Lake asked that the provision of a defibrillator be added to the March Parish Council agenda. The Clerk reported that she has completed and submitted the form to BT for the adoption of this box.
- iii. The Clerk reported that the new dog bin for Charcott has been ordered, and Cllr Croft agreed to erect it on Charcott Green when it arrives.
- iv. Cllr Lake reported that the Greyhound public house has closed and the building is on the market. Members hoped that the facility will continue as a pub and a purchaser can be found.
- v. Cllr Lake asked that consideration be given to the provision of a bus shelter at Charcott. Clerk to obtain prices, and item to be discussed at the March Parish Council meeting.
- vi. Cllr Marchant undertook to look at the grass on Charcott Green as vehicles are being driven over it. Item to be added to the March Parish Council meeting agenda.

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

Signed

Date

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

| Date | Cheque | Payee | Detail of payment | Amount Inc. VAT | VAT |
|-------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|--|----------------------------|----------------|
| 06.02.17 | 1783 | Clerk | Salary - February | £685.86 | |
| 06.02.17 | 1784 | HM Revenue & Customs | PAYE | £254.90 | |
| 06.02.17 | 1785 | Kent County Council | Pension contribution | £273.69 | |
| 06.02.17 | 1786 | Clerk | Mileage & working from home | £91.70 | |
| 06.02.17 | 1787 | Bates Wells & Braithwaite London LLP | Legal fees in relation to grant from Sport England | £4,537.29 | £723.30 |
| 06.02.17 | 1788 | The FA Bartlett Tree Expert Co. Ltd | To provide a visual tree assessment (annual charge) | £300.00 | £50.00 |
| 06.02.17 | 1789 | The FA Bartlett Tree Expert Co. Ltd | Veteran Oak: to provide root invigoration including mulching | £1,194.00 | £199.00 |
| 06.02.17 | 1790 | Leigh Ladies Choir | Grant | £400.00 | |
| | | | | £7,737.44 | £972.30 |

* * * * *