

LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE SMALL HALL, HIGH STREET, LEIGH ON MONDAY 6TH JULY 2015 AT 8.00PM

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

APOLOGIES: County Cllr Pearman

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs L. Kleinschmidt (Clerk) and District Cllr Lake

Open Session

Report by District Cllr Peter Lake

District Cllr Lake reported as follows: (i) he has received a notice from SDC regarding the application for a log cabin in Priory Wood, and he will await receipt of the Parish Council's comments. (ii) he has been in discussion with a couple of residents who are desperate for rural broadband provision, and undertook to pass on contact details for Joe Middleton at SDC. (iii) SDC has agreed to look at the pond at Crandalls, which D.Cllr Lake understands is in need of maintenance. (iv) D.Cllr Lake was invited by Daniel Eaton, Headteacher, and John Henderson, Chairman of Governors, to a meeting on 4th June to discuss their ideas for increasing the capacity at the school, and their ideas were good. With 75 new homes being built on the Old Powder Mills site, there will be huge pressure locally for school places. D.Cllr Lake said that he was happy to assist from a planning viewpoint. He added that he sent an email to Roger Goff at KCC, who is the Cabinet member for Education and Health Reform, but has not heard further since his reply on 8th June. Cllr Doherty said that there is not sufficient infrastructure to support the new housing in the parish. Cllr Swallow said that the Parish Council was concerned two years ago, when the proposed development at Powder Mills was under discussion, that the development was not sustainable and called a meeting with KCC to discuss education provision before the deadline for comments relating to the initial planning application. The meeting included representatives from Stocks Green Primary School, although that came under Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council rather than Sevenoaks District Council, and it appears that there is no discussion between the two education officers at KCC. Cllr Stratton-Brown advised that the funding for expansion of Stocks Green Primary School comes under Basic Needs Funding because there is already a shortage of spaces in the South Tonbridge area. Cllr Doherty reported that due to successful appeals by local families, the school's anticipated intake is over the school's PAN for September 2015. Cllr Stratton-Brown suggested holding a meeting with the School Governors, our MP Tom Tugendhat and C.Cllr Pearman.

Closed Session

43. **Apologies for absence** were received from County Cllr Pearman.
44. **Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest / Non-Pecuniary Interest on matters to be discussed**
Cllr Doherty declared a DPI in item 47(i)(i) as she is the applicant for the planning application at Old Wood Cottage.
45. **The minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting of Leigh Parish Council held on 11th May 2015** were discussed. Cllr Smith requested a slight amendment to item 15 (vii) to include 'this' in the following minute: "In light of the possible development of the school, members briefly discussed this and the impact that this development might have on The Green." Members agreed to this amendment. The minutes were then approved and duly signed.

46. **The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 1st June, 2015** were approved and duly signed. Proposed by Cllr Smith, seconded by Cllr Kaye and all were in favour.

47. **Planning**

i. To consider applications received

- i. SE/15/01428/HOUSE and SE/15/01429/LBCALT: Old Wood Cottage, The Green, Leigh TN11 8QL - replacement of non-original concrete floor in entrance hall and sitting room to oak flooring with under floor heating. Removal of non-original fireplace surround with the restoration of an original inglenook fireplace with plaster surround and oak beam. Installation of chimney cowl. Cllr Doherty declared a DPI in this item and left the room whilst the matter was considered. Members supported this application.
- ii. SE/15/01933/AGRNOT: Priory Wood and Land adjacent to the West Scabharbour Road, Sevenoaks Weald - erection of a log cabin. Members wished to strongly object to this application as the proposal for the log cabin would not satisfy policy for forestry as it is listed as a hobby not a business and, therefore, the proposal would constitute inappropriate development in the Green Belt.
- iii. SE/15/01940/FUL: Sevton Farm, Powder Mill Lane, Leigh TN11 9AR - extension to link two existing barns. Members supported this application.

The Clerk reported that during the month, the Planning Committee submitted the following comment:

- iv. SE/15/01259/HOUSE: Ranmore, Lower Green, Leigh TN11 8RU - demolition of existing conservatory. Erection of a first floor side extension, single storey side extension (i.e. porch), two storey rear extension, roof extension to rear plus dormer and a single storey rear extension. Alterations to fenestration and internal alterations. Members supported this application.

Cllr Stratton-Brown raised a possible enforcement issue at the property next to Ranmore. A condensing boiler has been installed on the first floor of this property, which is in the Conservation Area. Cllr Stratton-Brown reported that SDC is investigating the matter.

ii. To hear update regarding a S.125 notice on land at Lower Green, Leigh

The Clerk reported that she has received an email from Neil Gorham, Enforcement Officer at SDC, who said that he is chasing the owner of the land to clear the vehicles and tidy the site. He will let the Parish Council know how the matter progresses.

iii. Notification of planning decisions

- SE/15/00954/HOUSE: 7 Lealands Avenue, Leigh: to demolish existing single storey side extension and build two storey side extension and single storey rear extension. Application approved.
- SE/01191/FUL: Unit 18, Gaza Trading Estate, Scabharbour Road - demolition of existing ancillary building (Unit 18) and erection of ancillary building to provide site manager's accommodation. Application approved.

48. **Highways & Environment**

i. to discuss drainage and flood related issues

i. Lealands Avenue:

Cllr Swallow reported that nothing further has been done, and Clerk to chase John Vigor at KCC.

ii. Blackhoath Cottages, Cinder Hill Lane:

The Clerk reported that the following emails were sent from John Vigor, KCC Highways, to John Henderson: (i) "My first letter dated 24th April was met with a positive reply and I was assured that works would start within the given time, unfortunately this didn't happen and I sent the follow up letter on 10th June. If this doesn't achieve the desired result then I will send a notice informing the landowner that we will access his land and complete the works ourselves. Apologies for the delay but I have to follow this process if I am to legally gain access and recoup costs." (ii) You will be disappointed to note that my second letter, as sent to the same address as the first, was returned today as address not found."

“We have now re-sent as registered post. If I have not heard back within 10 days I will send a notice, with approximate costs, and get on with the work. For your information I have re-raised a previous enquiry, Our Ref 17137898, in order to save all correspondence and to create an audit trail for future reference.”

ii. to hear update regarding the request for a permissive path at Paul’s Hill Cottage

Cllr Stratton-Brown undertook to chase Steven Noad at KCC.

iii. to hear update regarding the request for a new SID on B2027 Hildenborough Road

The Clerk reported that she has received an email from Richard Heaps at KCC Highways: “I have recently heard back from our Intelligent Traffic Systems (ITS) team regarding the proposal to site the interactive sign at the junction with Gibbs Field as suggested. An engineer from the team has visited the site, and has expressed several concerns about progressing the installation of a sign at this location.

i. The first concern is that of access to a power supply from a ducting and cabling perspective. Any feed taken from Gibbs Hill is likely to be problematic and require a good length of footway to be dug up. This is compounded by the fact that Gibbs Field is a private road and therefore would require the agreement of the owners of the land.

ii. The second concern is that of a drainage duct underneath the footway, which will need to be investigated further. We suspect it runs straight across the road but plans will be necessary to ensure this is the case as several other pits and ducts are present in the area.

iii. Thirdly it is most uncommon to mount a sign directly on a junction. Its placement is likely to present a distraction and obscure visibility for motorists turning in and out of the road.

iv. The fourth concern is the location itself. As the location is very close to the start of the 30 mph zone, a sign mounted in this location would be activated by vehicles that are still in the derestricted section of road. The sign would be telling motorists they are speeding when they actually are not. Vehicles would quickly ignore it as the sign becomes another piece of background street furniture. This would detract from this and other signs purpose of being safety devices and lessen the effectiveness of these signs across the county.

I will be contacting the ITS team to discuss further if there are any possible alternative locations they feel would be suitable, and will update you accordingly.”

Cllr Stratton-Brown said that he would not support the proposed positioning on the other side of the road adjacent to Park House as it would detract drivers’ attention from pedestrians using the footpath at Old Kennards. Cllr Swallow suggested that the sign displays the vehicle’s speed so it would not matter if the sign is not within the 30mph zone. Clerk to write.

iv. to consider request for tree work in the Old Burial Ground

The Clerk reported that she has received a request from a tree surgeon to carry out work on trees in the Parish Council’s ownership in The Old Burial Ground on behalf of the residents of Chapel House, 47 Well Close. The following works are proposed:

- Lime tree (a) to be pollarded.
- Lime tree (b) to be semi pollarded. (Two remaining stems)
- Conifer tree to be reduced by half. (cut back to growth points)
- Holy tree to be reduced by a third.
- Oak tree limbs to be cut back to growth point where they are overhanging his client's garage.

The tree surgeon is George Lineham, Gimbles Tree Works, Argos Hill Road, Rotherfield. The resident is prepared to pay for the works and the tree surgeon is happy to make the application for tree works to SDC. Members agreed that they were happy for the tree surgeon to contact SDC and undertake the work at his client’s expense.

v. to hear update regarding the maintenance of the pond at Crandalls

The Clerk reported that David Boorman at SDC has agreed to ask his contractor to make this his priority after finishing his current project.

vi. to hear update regarding safety measures on Ensfield Road

The Clerk reported that she has received an email from Steven Noad at KCC: “I’ve now had the opportunity to look at this in more detail and in particular the crash data from Ensfield Road which includes those accidents that resulted in personal injuries for the last five years. The bridge and cyclists do not feature in any way and whilst I might agree with some of the points made I have no justification, using KCC’s current Safety Critical criteria, for implementation.

"In particular if funding could be located I would not object to seeing a triangular cycle sign with accompanying slow marking on the road surface. There was a wooden cycle restrictor gate on the Penshurst Place side of the cycle route and if this has been lost or damaged over time it should be reported in the normal manner for highway faults." Members asked the Clerk to request SLOW markings painted on the road plus a triangular cycle sign. Clerk to request that (i) a gateway is installed on the Penshurst Place side, set back from the road, (ii) the fence is re-erected following the accident, (iii) the wide verge is cut to improve visibility, and (iv) that the SLOW is painted on the road at the top of the hill coming from Tonbridge in order that vehicles slow down well in advance of the crossing.

vii. to hear update regarding the trees on The Green Lane

The Clerk reported that she and Cllr Stratton-Brown looked at the trees and agreed that the tree opposite no.8 The Green Lane is leaning over the road. The Clerk has asked Richard Enderby for his opinion, and he agreed to look at the trees and said "I see your concern with the oak opposite no 8, there's a huge lean and weight in balance on it – a crown reduction would be a good idea. A couple of the others could use some tidying up and deadwood removed – ringing the ivy at the base wouldn't be a bad idea either. I can make suggestions but to be honest if you need a written report this needs to be from our consultant and is chargeable I'm afraid – this would be £220+VAT for a visual ground inspection and written report." Members agreed to contact the landowner, sending him a copy of Richard's email as an independent advisor. Letter to be copied to David Boorman at SDC and D.Cllr Peter Lake.

viii. to consider existing provision of dog bins in the parish, and consider request for new dog bin

The Clerk reported that dog bins are currently located as follows:

- i. Footpath 414 opposite St. Luke's Church, Chiddingstone Causeway: 1
- ii. Green View Avenue: 1
- iii. Lower Green at junction with Well Close: 1
- iv. Crandalls: 1
- v. Powder Mills: 2
- vi. The Green: 2

The Clerk advised that she has received a request for a new dog bin on Ensfield Road at the end of the Tonbridge to Penshurst cycle route. Members asked the Clerk to find out how much a new bin will cost to purchase, and also how far SDC would go from the highway in order to empty the bin. The most problem area is from the end of Green View Avenue to the railway bridge. Cllr Kay offered to speak to the landowner about strimming the sides of the path which would smarten up the area and dissuade dog owners from leaving dog mess there. To be considered further at the September Parish Council meeting.

ix. to consider request for trees to be cut back on the path from Well Close to Kiln Lane

The Clerk reported that she and Cllr Stratton-Brown looked at these trees and they believe that they may be in the ownership of KCC as they are an extension of the trees adjacent to Well Close. The Clerk has submitted a request to KCC for the trees to be cut back and reduced in height.

x. to consider applications for tree works

None.

49. The Green

i. to hear update regarding the grant to improve the surface of The Green

Cllr Swallow reported that the project is progressing well, and the wording for the Land Registry documentation as received from Sport England's solicitors is being considered by the solicitors acting on behalf of the Parish Council, who would prefer to see a more broad use to include current activities on The Green. The report from the survey carried out on The Green should be received shortly and will be circulated to all members.

ii. to discuss the repair to the memorial bench on The Green

At the request of Mrs Steere's builder, members agreed to give a cheque to the school for £200 in lieu of payment for repair of the bench. Members were grateful to Mrs Steere and her builder for their help.

Cllr Stratton-Brown asked for members' approval for the following item to be brought further up the agenda so that it can be discussed before Cllr Doherty had to leave. Members agreed.

50. To hear update regarding discussions with Leigh Primary School's Governing Body

Cllr Stratton-Brown reported that he, Cllr Doherty, Cllr Swallow and the Clerk met with John Henderson and Jacqui Wordsworth, Chair and Vice-Chair respectively of the School's Governing Body, and said that relations are back on track. Cllr Stratton-Brown is in the process of contacting KCC, with a copy to C.Cllr Pearman, to show support for the Governors. Clerk to contact the developers at the Old Powder Mills site to advise that the provision of places for primary education is tight.

(Cllr Doherty left the meeting at 9.20pm)

49. The Green (continued)

iii. to consider recommendation for a consultant's report on the Veteran Oak

The Clerk reported that she has received two quotes for a consultant's report of the tree:

i. Bartlett Consulting: £620 + VAT to provide an Arboricultural report to assess the health and safety of the tree. It would be pH tested, soil tested and fluorimeter tested, and the crown inspected through binoculars and any fungus found analysed. A separate Picus test will then be carried out. Picus equipment uses sound waves to assess the density of the tree stem, plus the levels of decay and hollows. The test is non-invasive and does not damage the tree. If damage or decay is noted or suspected, a climbing inspection will also be carried out. The soil test will cost an additional £50 + VAT and the fluorimeter test will cost an additional £50 + VAT.

Second price: Bartletts have offered to deduct £70.00 from the cost of the Picus test and VTA, bringing it down from £540.00 to £470.00 + VAT. Members were all in favour of proceeding with Bartletts Consulting on this occasion.

ii. Longmoor Valley: to assess the remaining wall thickness of the Oak with a Resistograph and use the results to support a crown retrenchment to prevent it collapsing. A simple VTA (Visual Tree Assessment) and a recommendation to retrench would suffice. Our fees for a simple VTA with Resistograph testing is £550 + VAT. Members wished to thank Longmoor Valley for providing a quote but did not wish to pursue this time.

iv. to consider request for financial contribution to clear the ditch on The Green by the Vicarage

Cllr Stratton-Brown reported that Reverend Kevis has asked Nigel Stokes to clear the ditch between the vicarage and the Green by the War Memorial. The cost was £40.00 and he has asked the Parish Council for a contribution. Members agreed to contribute £40 for clearing the ditch and Clerk to ask Nigel to invoice the Parish Council directly. Clerk to ask Reverend Kevis to contact the Parish Council before undertaking the work next time.

51. Aviation

i. to hear update regarding The Airports Commission's recommendation for additional runway capacity

Cllr Stratton-Brown reported that The Airports Commission has recommended to Government that a third runway at Heathrow Airport is the preferred option. The Parish Council and HWCAAG are continuing to press MPs against the proposal for a second runway at Gatwick Airport. Cllr Stratton-Brown reported that Paul Carter, Leader of KCC, has called a meeting on Friday 17th July at 7pm in the Eden Centre, and he undertook to attend the meeting in order to represent the Parish Council.

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

The Clerk reported that the next meeting is on Tuesday 14th July, and CPRE will attend in order to discuss ways that CPRE and HWCAAG can work together on aviation matters. Also Cllr Stratton-Brown, Richard Streatfeild and the Clerk are due to attend a meeting with Charles Kirwan-Taylor and Tom Denton from GAL, and Ian Jopson from NATS on Monday 13th July. Stewart Wingate has requested another meeting with HWCAAG and Martin Rolfe from NATS, date to be arranged. The Clerk reported that both British Airways and EasyJet have agreed to retrospectively fit the modification to the A320 series of aircraft operating out of Gatwick Airport. EasyJet has now promised that this work will be done by June 2016. This is a direct result of campaigning by HWCAAG, Town and Parish Councils and our MPs, and is an important step forward.

- iii. to change Leigh Parish Council's Aviation Working Party to a Committee and appoint another Parish Council member
The Clerk reported that HWCAAG has asked that each member Town and Parish Council has an aviation committee comprising of at least three members with the delegated authority to approve HWCAAG letters, responses and statements in line with the HWCAAG policy. Cllr Stratton-Brown and Cllr Smith are members of the Leigh Aviation Working Party. Cllr Stratton-Brown proposed that the working party be changed to a committee and that Cllr Kaye be elected onto that committee. This was seconded by Cllr Smith and all were in favour.
- iv. to consider and approve motion to give the Leigh Parish Council Aviation Committee delegated approval to respond to consultations, letters and statements in line with HWCAAG policy
The Clerk reported that HWCAAG agreed the following motion, for approval by all Town and Parish Councils: "Each full member Town and Parish Council to form an aviation committee of at least three members with the delegated authority to approve HWCAAG letters, responses and statements in line with the HWCAAG policy in order to allow HWCAAG to respond appropriately when a deadline falls inside the normal timeframe of council meetings. Associate and 'cc' member councils do not have a vote." Cllr Swallow proposed that this motion be approved by Leigh Parish Council, seconded by Cllr Smith and all were in favour.

52. Village Halls update

None.

53. Aged Persons Dwellings: to hear update and approve costs for improvements

- i. to hear update and approve costs for improvements
 - i. The Clerk reported that she needs to purchase a white plastic toilet seat, and the cost is approximately £15.00. Members approved the expenditure.
 - ii. The Clerk reported that she spoke to the supplier of the door in 2007 to see if it is possible to install a new lock. The supplier said that you can't change the lock on these type of doors but said that Mrs Fagg can open the door without a lock if the door is not double locked, and no-one can enter from the outside without a key.
 - iii. Gutters – Cllr Johnston undertook to arrange to get the gutters cleared and mend any leaks.
 - iv. Path – Cllr Johnston thought that the path could be sanded to remove the trip hazard, and the crack filled in.

Members agreed to ask Kent Fire & Rescue to inspect both properties and advise on fire safety. Members also asked the Clerk to write to the carers for both properties to ensure that they are aware of their responsibilities and not to double-lock the door and remove the key.

- ii. to approve cost of asbestos survey in No.1 The Bungalows
The Clerk reported that the work to create a new wetroom at Mrs Broad's property is due to commence today. The contractor said that he needed an asbestos survey to be carried out, or a copy of a previous survey report. Due to the short timescale, SDC has agreed to suggest to the contractor that he commences work and if asbestos is found, he will halt works until the Parish Council has made the area safe. He has done this before and, whilst he cannot categorically say for sure, he does not think that there is any asbestos in the building. The Clerk has obtained a quote from a Hildenborough firm: £200 + VAT to survey the whole bungalow, or £80 + VAT to just survey the bathroom. Members agreed that, if necessary, they approve the expenditure relating to the asbestos survey.

54. To hear update regarding the Tonbridge Half Marathon

Cllr Stratton-Brown reported that he attended a Tonbridge Half Marathon Committee meeting on 29th June, and the committee were aware of the Parish Council's previous concerns about the standard of stewarding. The marathon will follow the same route as last year, but will be one week later as it clashed with the Hever Triathlon.

55. To discuss the verge cutting contract for 2015

The Clerk reported that the next cut will be done towards the end of July, and the Clerk will ask the contractor to cut right back to the wall on the stretch from Home Farm to the village.

56. To hear update regarding the Parish litter-pick on 11th and 12th July

The Clerk reported that this has been arranged for Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th July. It is suggested that volunteers meet on The Green at 9.30am on both days. SDC has offered to lend high visibility jackets and gloves, and will collect the refuse bags on Monday. The Clerk has a list of 7 volunteers so far and the roads to be targeted are Powder Mill Lane, Penshurst Road and Hildenborough Road. Cllr Kaye offered to help the Clerk organise the event.

57. To hear update and approve costs for the Summer Family Fun Play Event on Tuesday 4th August

The Clerk reported that she has ordered two advertising boards at £25 + VAT each, and 650 leaflets at a cost of £82 to be shared between three parishes, likely cost per parish £27.33. These will be distributed in the school and nursery. David Bennie has agreed to provide refreshments on the day.

58. 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: Kent Police: between 5:30pm on Thursday 28th May and 8:00am on Friday 29th May, a security light was damaged at a commercial garage.
- ii. Item 3: Kent Police is asking local residents to take part in the biggest ever survey into rural crime and anti-social Behaviour (ASB) to find out how they can better serve rural communities. The National Rural Crime Network (NRCN) has launched the survey to give people who work or live in rural areas the chance to share their views on policing in their community, and the impact crime and ASB has on them and their neighbours. The results will help shape the future of crime prevention and rural policing. The rural crime survey is open until Wednesday 24 June.
- iii. Item 4: Clive Pearman: monthly reports for May and June. Circulated to all members.
- iv. Item 8. KCC Press Releases: (i) Free bus passes for families with more than two secondary school children. KCC's Cabinet on Monday agreed to help parents and carers with more than two 11 to 16 year-olds by providing extra Young Persons' Travel Passes free-of-charge. The Young Persons' Travel Pass is entirely discretionary, with KCC receiving no government funding. KCC has continued to provide the pass despite significant government cuts that include a reduction in non-ringfenced grants year-on-year by £55 million, which is 5.9% of the council's net budget. The average cost per pass to Kent's council taxpayers is currently £588, of which £250 will come from the cost of the pass and £338 from KCC.
(ii) A survey is being carried out by the Kent and Medway Civilian Military Partnership Board, which comprises representatives from local government in Kent and Medway, the armed forces, and service charities. The Board was set up in 2011 to deliver the Armed Forces Community Covenant, which aims to encourage local communities to support the armed forces in their area and promote understanding and awareness among the public of issues affecting the armed forces community.
(iii) Carers Week: More than 150,000 people in Kent regularly look after a relative or friend. The theme of this year's Carers Week, which runs from June 8-14, is carer friendly communities.
(iv) Fostering fortnight: invitation to three information events, and to find out more about fostering, visit www.kentfostering.co.uk or ring 03000 420 002.
(v) The Kent Sheds project tackles mental health and wellbeing by encouraging people to make friends, share skills and support their local community through shed-based venues. For more information about Kent Sheds, go to www.kentsheds.org.uk.
(vi) KCC has set out a series of non-negotiable red lines to protect fares and services for Kent's rail commuters during talks over the future of the county's Metro lines.
(vii) A new site has been identified for Ridge View Special School in Tonbridge, which will meet its expansion plans, while providing better access and facilities.
(viii) Heatwave Alerts – known as a level 2 – are triggered as soon as the Met Office forecasts a 60 per cent chance of temperatures being high enough on at least two consecutive days to have

significant effect on health. This will normally happen two or three days before a heatwave is expected to occur. As most heat-related deaths occur in the first two days, this is an important stage at which to make sure people are ready.

- v. Item 16: Email from Rachel Littlejohn: "A number of us are becoming extremely concerned by the number of cars frequently parked on the Green. At weekend cricketers, rambles etc leave cars minimising safe play space. It is the selfish actions of a few that stop the majority enjoying The Green and using it for its intended purpose. Further children have been told by cricketers not to play on the other side of The Green as they may get hit by a ball if they play by the school. Please can the Parish Council look into this." Cllr Stratton-Brown suggested that the Clerk purchases three copies of the Open Spaces Society booklet on Common Land at £20 each, which will advise on bye-laws. Members agreed.
- vi. Item 17: KALC re: Flood Warden training event on Saturday 18 July at Lenham Community Centre.
- vii. Item 18: River Medway Flood Storage Areas – Project Update "We are writing to update you on the progress of our work to reduce flood risk from the Rivers Medway, Beult and Teise. The Environment Agency is working with KCC, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council and Maidstone Borough Council to develop options to reduce the risk of flooding to communities. The scheme is known as the River Medway Flood Storage Areas project. We are keen to keep the local community updated on the progress of our work and will be issuing regular newsletters throughout the development of the project to help do this."
- viii. Item 26: Email from David Bennie: "I will be having a small BBQ on the Green on the 16th July in the evening, this is just the scouts, not the whole group and will be a low key affair. I believe the Group BBQ will be in September." Members agreed.
- ix. Item 28: KALC various emails regarding Operation Stack.
- x. Item 29: Email from Annette Harris at Leigh Primary School: "I'm writing to let you know about a damaged telegraph pole outside the school. We have been without a telephone line since the weekend and have reported the problem to BT and now also to Open Reach. I have been advised by BT that their line cannot be fixed until the pole has been replaced and Open Reach have just confirmed this. It is possible that the process may require planning permission and this would be a matter for the local council. I have reported this as a health and safety and a safeguarding issue to Open Reach so they are sending an engineer to assess the situation within the next hour."
- xi. Item 30: Country Eye Ltd have built a free App for people living and working in the rural community. The Crime, Rural Advisory Group (CRAG) has commissioned the design and build of the Country Eye app. The app has been built to help residents and farmers in Kent report information quickly and efficiently. This information is securely stored in a central database and accessed by the voluntary Country Eye team who are fully trained by Kent Police. The team analyse and disseminate the information and then broadcast it out to other local app users. Kent Police is committed to responding to concerns in rural communities and to carrying out high visibility patrols. The information collated through the app will give officers a greater understanding of potential problem areas. Sign up is simple; the system requires a contact number, email address and postcode. The app can be downloaded from the Apple App Store and Google Play by searching Country Eye from Friday 10th July. The app is not intended for emergency purposes; users should report to; 999 (crime in progress) 101 (crime committed) or report to Crimestoppers if they wish to remain anonymous 0800 555 111.
- xii. Item 31: Email from Gavin Missons at SDC with a link to a grant opportunity for community energy projects: "Here at M&S Energy, we want to enable more communities in the UK to generate renewable energy and become environmentally and financially sustainable. So we've set up The M&S Energy Community Energy Fund. Whether you're a community energy group, a sports club or simply an organisation that wants to have a positive impact on the environment, we want to hear from you. Our funding will be awarded to renewable energy projects in Great Britain who can demonstrate they have the support of their local community. Deadline: Wednesday 29th July."

59. Finance:

- i. to approve payment of cheques
Cllr Swallow proposed that the list of cheques be approved. This was seconded by Cllr Marchant and all were in favour.
- ii. to approve subscription renewal to Parish Online: £28 + VAT
Cllr Smith proposed that the membership be renewed. This was seconded by Cllr Kaye and all were in favour.
- iii. The Clerk reported that SDC has transferred £18 to the Parish Council for the display of election posters. Normally they pay a cheque direct to the Clerk but this year have transferred to the Parish Councils and asked that the payment is made from the Parish Council to the Clerk. Members agreed.
- iv. The Clerk reported that the Parish Council has received a cheque for £450 from Shayler's Fun Fair. Members were grateful for the contribution.

60. To agree date of next Parish Council meeting

Members agreed that the next meeting will be held on Monday 7th September.

61. Items for reporting or inclusion in future agenda

- i. Cllr Croft reported that the visit by Kent Men of the Trees will be on 27th July.
- ii. Cllr Swallow reported that a parishioner has advised him that some new residents at Hollow Trees Close are taking trees down on their boundaries with the tennis courts, and part of the planning approval was to retain these trees. SDC is investigating the matter.
- iii. Cllr Marchant reported that the privet hedge at Orchard House is overgrown. Clerk to write to the owner.
- iv. Cllr Marchant reported that the oak trees on The Green, near the school, have low hanging branches. Clerk to obtain a quote from RWE for discussion at the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 10.10 pm.

Signed

Date

**LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL
LIST OF CHEQUES
6th July 2015**

Date	Cheque	Payee	Detail of payment	Amount	
				Inc. VAT	VAT
06.07.15	1604	Clerk	Salary	£578.60	
06.07.15	1605	HMRC	PAYE	£161.50	
06.07.15	1606	Clerk	Mileage, petty cash & office expenses	£71.10	
06.07.15	1607	KCC	Pension contribution	£215.42	
06.07.15	1608	Chiddingstone Parish Council	Contribution to Clerk's costs HWCAAG	£98.15	
06.07.15	1609	Sevenoaks District Council	Bulk refuse freighter 25.04.15	£88.80	£14.80
06.07.15	1610	Getmapping PLC	Parish Online subscription	£33.60	£5.60
06.07.15	1611	Sevenoaks District Council	Dog bin emptying Apr-Jun 2015	£418.08	£69.68
06.07.15	1612	Peter Croft Garden Services	Mowing	£260.00	
06.07.15	1613	Clerk	SDC payment for election notices	£18.00	
			Total	<u>£1,943.25</u>	<u>£90.08</u>