

LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE LEIGH ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE SMALL HALL, HIGH STREET, LEIGH ON MONDAY 9TH MAY 2016 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 and Cllr S. Smith
APOLOGIES: County Cllr C. Pearman
IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs L. Kleinschmidt (Clerk), District Cllr P. Lake and Mr Sandeep Katwala (public)

Closed Session

1. a. **Election of Chairman for year 2016/17**
Cllr Doherty proposed that Cllr Stratton-Brown be elected as Chairman for the year 2016/17. This was seconded by Cllr Marchant and there were no other nominations. Members unanimously voted to accept the proposal. Cllr Stratton-Brown said that he was willing to stand and was duly elected.
 - b. **To receive Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office**
Cllr Stratton-Brown signed the Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office, which was counter-signed by the Clerk.
2. **Election of Vice-Chairmen for year 2016/17**
Cllr Stratton-Brown proposed that Cllr Doherty be re-elected as joint Vice-Chairman for the year 2016/17. This was seconded by Cllr Marchant. Cllr Stratton-Brown proposed that Cllr Kaye be elected as joint Vice-Chairman for the year 2016/17. This was seconded by Cllr Croft. There were no other nominations. Members unanimously voted to accept both proposals. Cllr Doherty advised that she is willing to stand and was duly elected. Cllr Kaye advised that he is willing to stand and was also duly elected.

The meeting was suspended for the Open Session.

Open Session

Report by District Cllr Lake

District Councillor Lake said that there was little more to say following the recent Annual Parish Meeting. SDC has been given 'Platinum' status by Investors in People which is an accolade because only 5 out of 14,000 organisations have achieved this level. D.Cllr Lake stated that he would remain to take part in the discussion regarding vehicles connected to the development at Old Powder Mills, and to hear the latest news regarding the Gatwick Airport Arrivals Review.

Closed Session

3. **To approve the formation of a new Rights of Way Committee**
Members resolved to form a new committee with Cllr Kaye, Cllr Doherty, Cllr Johnston and Cllr Provan as committee members. Members of the public are also able to join this committee and members agreed to give this consideration. Cllr Doherty asked whether pavements and traffic management could be included in the Terms of Reference for this committee. Members agreed that traffic management would not, although cycle paths, bridleways and public footpaths would.
4. **Appointment of Committees and representatives to other bodies**
Cllr Doherty proposed that the following committee membership be approved, this was seconded by Cllr Marchant and all were in favour:
Finance Committee: Cllr Stratton-Brown (Chairman), Cllr Marchant, Cllr Doherty, Cllr Kaye.
Environment Committee: Cllr Croft (Chairman), Cllr Smith, Cllr Johnston.
The Green: Cllr Marchant, Cllr Smith, Mr Rob Swallow.

Planning Committee:	Cllr Doherty (Chairman), Cllr Johnston, Cllr Marchant, Cllr Stratton-Brown, Cllr Smith, Cllr Provan.
ROW Committee:	Cllr Kaye (Chairman), Cllr Doherty, Cllr Johnston, Cllr Provan.
Aviation Working Party:	Cllr Stratton-Brown, Cllr Kaye, Cllr Smith, Mr Mark Hammers.
HWCAAG:	Cllr Stratton-Brown, Cllr Kaye, Cllr Smith.
Leigh United Charities:	Cllr Provan, Mr Brian Ball.
Leigh Village Halls	
Management Committee:	Cllr Johnston.
Internal Auditor:	Mr Roger Sykes.
Tree Warden:	Cllr Smith
Campaign for Protection of Rural England:	Cllr Smith.
KALC Sevenoaks branch:	All

5. To confirm that the Parish Council remains eligible to use the General Power of Competence

The Clerk reminded members that the General Power of Competence gives authorities the power to take the reasonable action they need 'for the benefit of the authority, its area or persons resident or present in its area'. Under the provision a local authority has power to do anything that individuals generally have full legal capacity to do. To remain eligible, the Parish Council has to confirm that:

- (a) the number of members of the council that have been declared to be elected, whether at ordinary elections or at a by-election, is equal to or greater than two-thirds of the total number of members of the council;
- (b) the Clerk is qualified in the Certificate in Local Council Administration;
- (c) the Clerk has completed the relevant training.

There are some restrictions: to abide by statutory duties such as considering the likely effect of crime and disorder and conserving biodiversity, and to abide by legislation, such as employment law, health & safety, equality and data protection.

6. To hear update on the Parish Council's casual vacancy following the resignation of Cllr Swallow

The Clerk reported that she has notified SDC of the vacancy, which has now been advertised on the noticeboards, in the shop and on the website. The law states that if ten or more electors write to SDC requesting an election, the Parish Council is obliged to hold one. The deadline is Friday 20th May. If there is no requirement for an election, the Parish Council is able to co-opt a new member by means of an interview. Members agreed that mention of the vacancy should be made in the next edition of the parish magazine, and then interviews to be arranged in the middle of June, providing that there is no requirement for an election. Cllr Stratton-Brown wished to thank Mr Rob Swallow for the tremendous amount of work he has done for the Parish Council during his time as member, in securing the grant for improvement works to The Green, acting as liaison with the sports clubs, on the Finance Committee and as Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council for the past year. Members agreed, and wished Mr Swallow much success in the future.

7. Apologies for absence were received from County Cllr Pearman.

8. Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest / Non-Pecuniary Interest on matters to be discussed

Cllr Marchant declared a DPI in items 12(iv) and 13(ii) as his company is providing advice and a price for budgeting purposes for the work.

9. The minutes of the Leigh Parish Council meeting held on 4th April 2016 were approved and duly signed. Proposed by Cllr Doherty, seconded by Cllr Croft and all were in favour.

10. To hear report of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 25th April 2016

Cllr Stratton-Brown reported that David Carey, an advisor on heritage trees, attended the meeting and spoke about trees in the parish, in particular the veteran oak tree on The Green. His talk was most interesting and informative.

The parish's PCSO, Laura Morris, gave a police report and said that many people are suffering from scams. The Parish Council's community award was presented to Mrs Fay Wilson, which was well deserved, and it was good to see such support from Mrs Wilson's family.

11. Planning

i. To consider applications received

- i. SE/16/00648/HOUSE: Rivermede, Penshurst Road, Leigh TN11 8HL - conversion of garage into playroom. Members supported this application.
- ii. SE/16/01266/HOUSE: 9 The Square, High Street, Leigh TN11 8RJ - insertion of bifold doors in south facing wall of single detached garage. Members supported this application.

Cllr Doherty reported that, during the month, the Planning Committee has agreed and submitted the following comments to SDC:

- iii. SE/16/00842/LDCEX: Little Coppings, Coppings Road, Leigh TN11 8PN - to establish that the site has been used as a sand school for more than 10 years. Members had no comment to make on this application.
- iv. SE/16/00504/HOUSE: 33 Penshurst Road, Leigh TN11 8HL - proposed two storey side extension, single storey rear extension with roof lights and part demolition of existing outbuilding. Alterations to fenestrations and external tile hanging around the first floor of dwelling. Members objected to the two storey side extension as the proposed development would take the property right up to the boundary with the neighbour. Members had no objection to the single storey rear extension.
- v. SE/16/01032/HOUSE: 11 Powder Mill Lane, Leigh TN11 9AP - demolition of existing conservatory to allow for the construction of a two storey rear and side extension with installation of roof lights. Alteration to rear flat ground floor bathroom roof to pitched roof. With various internal and fenestration alterations. Members supported this application.
- vi. SE/16/00865/HOUSE and SE/16/00864/LBCALT: 1 Home Farm Close, Leigh TN11 8SB - erection of a single storey infill extension, installation of rooflight. Members supported this application.
- vii. SE/15/03336/HOUSE: Charcott Green Cottages, Charcott TN11 8LH - erection of rear extension. Members felt that they could neither object nor support, but wished to comment for the consideration by planners that the extension will have some effect on the neighbour to the east's garden.

District Cllr Lake asked if he could comment on two further planning matters. Members agreed.

- viii. Oakfield Farm, Powder Mill Lane: D.Cllr Lake said that, although the Parish Council supported this application, the planning officer recommended refusal as the proposed extension would create a 78.3% increase in size from the original dwelling. Members agreed that therefore refusal was the correct decision and Cllr Stratton-Brown said that the Parish Council were not aware of previous extensions at this dwelling which took the percentage increase with this application over the allowance.
- ix. Brookside Barn: D.Cllr Lake drew members' attention to the reply sent from the Chief Executive of SDC, Dr Pav Ramewal, to the resident who is concerned about development at this site. The letter says "With regard to external works, the existing fabric of the building was to be made good or replaced on a like for like basis and new windows and doors were to be installed. The report also identified "the retention of the timber frame of the existing structure and the insertion of a supporting framework to act as a reinforcement, including the insertion of an internal mezzanine floor and staircase". As these were internal works, which did not affect the external appearance of the building, they did not amount to development. No works were said to be proposed which would affect the foundations. Therefore at the point that the Council considered the prior notification, and based on the information before it, the extent of building works were reasonably necessary for the building to function as a dwelling house." Members said that the building did not have any foundations and it had to be completely rebuilt and, therefore, it should have been considered as a planning application rather than permitted development. D.Cllr Lake undertook to go back to Dr Ramewal with the Parish Council's comments.

- ii. To hear update on correspondence with SDC regarding applications for permitted development
The Clerk reported that she asked Mark Turner at SDC whether it is possible to be consulted on all permitted development applications and applications from the church. His response was as follows: "We would not be able to carry out the further consultations you have asked for. The legislative imperative is to consult only on applications for a) planning permission or b) applications for the approval of matters reserved under an outline planning permission which we do."
- iii. To consider how vehicles connected to the development at Old Powder Mills are accessing the site and using Powder Mill Lane, and how this relates to SDC's Construction Management Plan
District Cllr Lake asked if he could comment on this issue. Members agreed. D.Cllr Lake said that the Demolition Management Plan states that it is not permitted for HGVs to travel through Leigh between 8-9am and between 2.30-4.30pm. It does not say how early the vehicles can commence travel. The average number of HGVs connected to the demolition was estimated to be 20-25 per week, and there was to be no movements at weekends and on Bank Holidays. All transit vans and flat-bed vehicles were to use the western access, and all other vehicles were to use the northern access via Hildenborough. Construction activities were expected to run from 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday. D.Cllr Lake added that he wrote to Dr Ramewal on the 5th May regarding enforcement of the Demolition Management Plan, this will be SDC, but enforcement relating to damage to verges will be KCC. A local resident is required to monitor all traffic movements connected to the site. Cllr Stratton-Brown said that Bellway's Construction Plan does not set out school times and it would also be preferable to have a start time specified so that there is no early morning disruption. Cllr Smith said that she would like to see the vehicles driven more slowly and in a more considerate manner. Cllr Marchant suggested that the drivers agree a self-imposed 20mph speed limit. D.Cllr Lake undertook to take these comments back to SDC.
- iv. Notification of planning decisions
SE/16/00659/HOUSE: 9 Wyndham Avenue, Leigh - demolish existing single storey side extension and build a two storey side extension. Application approved.
The Clerk reported that the following application has gone to appeal:
SE/15/03088/FUL: St. Andrew's Cottage, Scabharbour Road, Hildenborough, Kent TN11 8PJ: proposed replacement detached dwelling with revised access arrangements. Appeal ref: APP/G2245/W/16/3144212.

12. Highways & Environment

- i. To discuss drainage and flood related issues including the Community Flood Plan
Cllr Stratton-Brown reported that he will shortly draw up the draft plan. It was agreed to try and obtain a copy of Southern Water's drainage plan for Leigh.
- ii. To hear update regarding the request for a permissive path at Pauls Hill Cottage
Cllr Stratton-Brown reported that he will discuss the suggested routes with Peshurst Estate and ascertain costs.
- iii. To hear update regarding traffic calming measures on Hildenborough Road
The Clerk reported that she has received the following update from Geoff Bineham at KCC: "I've received a revised design and cost estimate for the scheme, I have some administrative tasks to complete and then it will be sent to our contractors to implement. Due to the scheme requiring a full road closure it could be some months before there is a suitable time to install the scheme. I'll keep you updated." Cllr Pearman has approved the expenditure of the project, being £4,960, providing that the project is completed this financial year. Cllr Marchant questioned whether it is necessary to close the road, and suggested that traffic lights be used instead. Cllr Doherty said she would like to see some traffic calming measures on the other side of the village as well.
- iv. To consider quote to improve the edge of the green in Charcott damaged by vehicles
Cllr Marchant reported that he has considered a budgetary figure for the works. He said that he would recommend that relay kerbs should be installed on a strong bed, with half a metre of grasscrete behind so that the grass grows through but if vehicles are driven on it, it will not churn up the ground. To do one side of the triangle would cost approximately £4,000. However, Cllr Marchant said that the road edge is in a poor condition and suggested that a meeting with KCC Highways is requested.

- v. To discuss the swathe & visibility cutting contract 2016
The Clerk reported that the first cut is due on or around 18th May, the second cut would be on or around the 27th July and the third cut on or around 19th October. Members agreed this timescale.
- vi. Penshurst Road
The Clerk reported that she has received a complaint that the road is slowly encroaching onto the area with daffodils on the Penshurst Road. Members were sympathetic but did not believe that there is anything that can be done unfortunately.
- vii. To consider applications for tree works
None.

13. The Green

- i. To hear update regarding the programmed improvement works to The Green
The Clerk reported that Rob Swallow has advised that the project manager attended on Friday and is now working on the tender document. The surveyor confirmed that the scope will include levelling of the cricket outfield as well as the drainage of the football pitch side of The Green. The surveyor has not recommended an August start date and several weeks of protection of the area will be required. Members agreed that it is crucial that the funding is not lost, and asked the Clerk to obtain more information from Mr Swallow.
- ii. To consider quote to improve the edge of The Green damaged by vehicles
Cllr Marchant reported that he has considered a budgetary figure for the works, which will be from Powder Mill Lane to the bend outside Old Wood Cottage. This is a stretch of 30m and for the kerbs and building up the soil the figure will be in the region of £1,650. The stretch in front of Elizabeth Cottage is 50m and the cost would be in the region of £2,750. The section in front of the school is 40m and has KCC kerbing, it is in a reasonable condition but it may be possible to install grasscrete on this section. Members agreed to consider further next month.
- iii. Cllr Marchant advised that there is a water leak on the corner of The Green by the school.
- iv. Cllr Croft reported that there may be a water leak opposite the War Memorial on The Green as it is also very wet there.
- v. To consider action required to protect the veteran oak tree on The Green
The Clerk reported that the February Parish Council minutes state:
 “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.
 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 cotching' 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.”

The Clerk reported that approval has been given for the work by SDC but the contractor has not yet been asked to carry out the work, pending further discussions with David Carey. Cllr Croft reported that the litter bin has been moved and agreed to remove both seats. Members agreed to allow the grass to grow long under the tree and plant wildflower seeds. No fertilizer to be spread under the tree canopy. Cllr Provan suggested that a photo-log is kept of the tree, and members agreed.

14. To consider the provision of Affordable housing in the parish

The Clerk reported that there is no further update as the Housing and Planning Bill, which is going back to the House of Commons, is yet to be finalised and the impact fully known.

15. Aviation:

i. To hear update from report of the Gatwick Arrivals Review

The Clerk reported that Gatwick Airport Ltd has published a detailed response to the Independent Arrivals Review conducted by Bo Redeborn earlier this year. Gatwick has accepted or is minded to accept all of the recommendations of the review and has published an action plan for each recommendation. It should be noted that action on some of the Review recommendations falls entirely within the responsibility of Gatwick Airport Limited, while others require that GAL initiate a discussion with one or more of the other stakeholders involved, including the Department for Transport, the Civil Aviation Authority and NATS. In some cases, further analysis and community engagement will be necessary before final decisions can be made on the precise steps to be taken. Gatwick Airport Limited began a six week period of community engagement (31 March – 16 May 2016) to allow residents, community representatives and elected representatives the opportunity to comment on the proposed action plans and influence how they evolve. As part of this engagement period, Gatwick held an event on Tuesday 26th April at Gatwick Airport to allow interested people to meet the Gatwick team and discuss the proposed action plans. Cllr Stratton-Brown reported that he attended the event and has prepared a report which he undertook to circulate to members.

ii. To nominate community representative on the Noise Management Board

The Clerk reported that representatives from the campaigning groups plus HWCAAG will be meeting tomorrow to discuss and agree how Town and Parish Councils should nominate their representative on the Noise Management Board. Members agreed to proceed as recommended by HWCAAG, but their first choice of representative is HWCAAG and also GON, if there is an opportunity for two representatives.

16. Leigh Village Halls report

None.

(Cllr Lake left the meeting at 9.30pm)

17. Aged Persons Dwellings

The Clerk reported as follows:

- i. The plumber has been asked to repair the valve on the radiator in No.2 The Bungalows and also to fit a carbon monoxide alarm and is waiting to hear when this can be done.
- ii. The Clerk has still not heard back from Angie Hollands regarding her view of the safety of the back door at No.2 The Bungalows.
- iii. The Clerk has asked the electrician to check the circuits and issue a new certificate in both properties.
- iv. The Clerk reported that under the British Gas Landlords Agreement, the Clerk asked for an engineer to visit No.2 The Bungalows as the boiler wasn't working and the tenant had no heating. The engineer has recommended that a Powerflush is undertaken. This is a one-time deep clean which results in a system that works more efficiently and is less likely to break down.

Cost £654.17 + VAT. There is a note on the quote that there is a lot of cold spots in the system/radiators. Members suggested that the Clerk request a second opinion on the boiler.

18. To discuss the Bulk Refuse Freighter service provided on 23rd April, and approve expenditure

The Clerk reported that the group of Parish Councils agreed to trial a new contractor for the April collection. The Parish Council approved cost of £489 for a 14 yard vehicle, ie £81.50 + VAT per stop. Penshurst Parish Council actually booked a larger vehicle which cost £582.50 + VAT for six stops, ie £97 per stop. However, there was a misunderstanding. Clearabee had advised that when the vehicle is full, it will be replaced by a larger vehicle. The Penshurst clerk believed that this would not cost more but on the day she personally had to pay an additional £582.50 + VAT for the second vehicle. Unfortunately, on the day, there was a tremendous amount of rubbish that people brought out and the service just couldn't cope. By the time the service reached Chiddingstone Causeway, the second vehicle was full and people were told by the driver to leave their rubbish and he would return to collect it. He did not return, and the Penshurst clerk had to ring SDC and pay for them to remove the rubbish. Clearabee have agreed to refund this cost (£165) as their driver should not have told people to leave their rubbish there. The vehicle did not even come to Leigh. Members did not wish to contribute towards the cost of this service, as there was no service for Leigh on this occasion.

19. To hear update regarding the Leigh Does Lunch event to commemorate the Queen's 90th Birthday

Cllr Doherty reported that the Leigh Does Lunch event will be held on Sunday 12th June from 12 to 4pm. People are asked to bring their own picnics, and the event will be held on The Green. There will be a magician, circus skills, tug o'war, a steam engine, punch & judy and lots of other events. The Parish Council has already paid for the insurance premium for the event (£87.60), out of the public event budget, and Kendra Felisky has paid for first aid cover, costing £137.50, and members agreed to reimburse Kendra for this expense, again out of the public events budget. Cllr Doherty said that the organisers have been astounded by the generosity of the local people. Helpers will be required on the day. Clerk to add poster onto the website. Cllr Stratton-Brown thanked Cllr Doherty for all she's doing to help organise the event.

20. To consider request for an informal twinning arrangement with Lavergne in France

The Clerk reported that she asked whether anyone would be interested in being involved with an informal twinning arrangement with Lavergne in the May Parish Magazine, and so far only two people have offered to help. Clerk to suggest to the school that they could start a pen-pal arrangement with Lavergne. Cllr Stratton-Brown undertook to ask representatives from Lavergne to visit and have an initial meeting.

21. 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: KCC: (i) launch of KCC's Consultation regarding a review of KCC Funded Bus Services which runs for eight weeks from 7th March until 15th May. See www.kent.gov.uk/busreview. (ii) The Sevenoaks Kent Karrier currently operates as a shopper bus, taking passengers from specific areas in the Sevenoaks district, to specific destinations within Sevenoaks and Edenbridge on specific days. The service has recently been reviewed to take account of passenger feedback with the intention of better meeting the aspirations of existing members. To be clear, this is not a cost saving exercise and the changes represent an overall improvement to the service. As with any change to transport however, there are likely to be some members who are accustomed to the current service and charging mechanism and may be resistant to the new scheme. From 18th April 2016, Kent Karrier members will be able to book the new, smaller vehicle on any day they wish, to go to any destination in the Sevenoaks area. Subject to availability, this will mean that the users will have a much more flexible, demand-responsive service. It will be available to use until 4pm, giving users 3 hours longer per day than currently. The fare structure will change to reflect the improvement in the service. Currently a flat fare for the whole journey applies. The new fare structure will have a minimum charge of £2.80 to cover the first two miles, then 90p a mile for each mile thereafter.

- ii. Item 3: WKHA: Flying Start project: Helping local people secure a rented home and giving them the skills to succeed in their tenancy. With private rents increasing and people on lower incomes are being affected by welfare reform and a lack of affordable housing a new project run in partnership with West Kent Communities and Sevenoaks District Council offer workshops and one to one support to prospective social and private tenants to help them have successful tenancies. The workshop will be covering topics such as: local social/private housing options, how to secure privately rented properties while claiming benefits, tenancy rights and responsibilities, maximising income through training and work opportunities, benefits and debt advice, repairs and maintenance and being a good neighbour. Flying Start aims to give local people the support to secure a rented home and equip them with the resources and confidence to retain these tenancies. To find out more call Brendan Abernethy on 01732 749964 or email him on brendan.abernethy@wkha.org.uk.
- iii. Item 11: Copy letter from resident responding to the letter of Dr. Pav Ramewal, Chief Executive at SDC regarding Land South East of Brookside Cottage, Eggpie Lane, Weald. Also attached a copy of a letter sent to the Forestry Commission.
- iv. Item 12: Kent Highways – notification that Ensfield Road will be closed on 19th May for one day for surface dressing.
- v. Item 13: Email from Clive Pearman re: monthly report: “Despite all efforts to the contrary, I cannot, in all honesty, find anything of the remotest interest, let alone concern from a parish or town council perspective, which has taken place at KCC during the month of April and which I would want to bring to your attention.”
- vi. Item 16: Email complaint regarding the riding of trial bikes along the pathway beside the railway line. Those riding the bikes appear to have access via a damaged gate at the edge of the field.
- vii. Item 17: Response from PCSO Laura Morris advising that she will pay attention to this area and take action if she sees the bikes being ridden.
- viii. Item 18: Email from Cllr Kaye regarding the footpath behind The Forstall which he and John Batchelor have cleared. Joe asks for some directional footpath signs to be erected to ensure that people follow the correct path.
- ix. Item 19: SDC - the Sevenoaks District Community Safety Strategy & Action Plan 2016-17 has been published and is available to view on www.sevenoaks.gov.uk.
- x. Item 20: Rural Services Network: “Faster broadband connections will not be automatically rolled out to isolated rural areas, the government has confirmed. Instead, rural homes and businesses will have to request connections – a process which could involve a four-year wait. Confirmation that broadband would be supplied on a request-only basis came as BT said it was investing £6bn on Superfast Broadband Roll-out and 4G. BT has reported that at least 10m homes and businesses are to get ultrafast broadband through a combination of fibre and copper technology called G.fast. The company is to invest £6bn in improving its services, including extending superfast broadband and 4G coverage to more than 95% of the UK by 2020. But the Countryside Alliance warned that more must be done in rural areas to ensure the “final 5%” were not disadvantaged. Alliance head of policy Sarah Lee said: “We welcome the announcement but must still point out that the improvement figure will only extend to 95% of areas. While this is good news, we cannot have a 95% service for 100% need. There must also be a clear commitment and delivery of broadband to those households and businesses in rural areas who are in the “final 5%” that won't be covered by this investment. If we want the countryside to compete economically and socially then we need assurances and urgent action so that hard working rural businesses and families are not disadvantaged.” The decision not to roll out faster rural broadband automatically was reported in a front-page story in the Daily Telegraph. In a letter to the newspaper, digital economy minister Ed Vaizey insisted the commitment for everyone in the UK to have access to fast broadband remained firmly in place. “Nothing has been abandoned,” he said. “We are giving every home and business the legal right to request fast broadband, helping make sure no communities are left behind. Reaching the least accessible parts of the UK was of course more expensive. It makes sense for broadband to be provided on request to those who want it – in the same way that telephone lines are provided.”

22. Finance:

i. To consider insurance renewal premium

1 year = £1,187.59

3 years = £1,143.96

5 years = £1,102.29

The Clerk advised that if the Parish Council enters into a long term agreement, the rates will stay the same but the insurances on, for example, the APD will be index-linked and there may be a 1-3% increase per year. There may also be other changes at the request of the Parish Council. Members asked the Clerk to contact Zurich to see if there are any further discounts available, if not members agreed to commit to a three year agreement.

ii. To approve membership renewal to Campaign to Protect Rural England: £36

Cllr Smith proposed that this expenditure be approved, seconded by Cllr Doherty and all were in favour.

iii. To consider grant application by Leigh Football Club for funds spent hiring alternative pitches due to the inability to play on The Green

The Clerk reported that, from 11 home games, the football club has had to play 8 games at Edenbridge at a cost of £75 per game. Had they played on The Green, the club would have paid the cricket club £25 per game, therefore the football club is £50 per game out of pocket.

Members agreed to give a grant of £300 on this occasion, proposed by Cllr Marchant, seconded by Cllr Doherty and all were in favour.

iv. To approve payment of cheques

Cllr Marchant proposed that the list of cheques be approved. This was seconded by Cllr Kaye and all were in favour.

23. Items for reporting or inclusion in future agenda

i. Cllr Smith asked whether it is necessary to have planning approval for two mobile homes in the Conservation Area? Clerk to check.

ii. Cllr Doherty thanked Cllr Stratton-Brown and his team for litter picking Ensfield Road recently.

The meeting closed at 10.10 pm.

Signed

Date

LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

LIST OF CHEQUES

9th May 2016

Date	Cheque	Payee	Detail of payment	Amount Inc. VAT	VAT
26.04.16	1693	Affinity Select Insurance Serv.	Leigh Does Lunch insurance premium	£87.60	
09.05.16	1694	Kendra Felisky	Leigh Does Lunch First Aid cover	£137.50	
09.05.16	1695	Clerk	Salary	£605.24	
09.05.16	1696	HMRC	PAYE	£197.79	
09.05.16	1697	Clerk	Mileage, petty cash & work fm home allow	£159.53	
09.05.16	1698	KCC	Pension contribution	£237.24	
09.05.16	1699	CPRE	Subscription renewal	£36.00	
				£1,460.90	£0.00