

## LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE SMALL HALL, HIGH STREET, LEIGH ON MONDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2019 AT 8.00PM

---

- PRESENT:** Cllr J. Kaye (from 8.55pm), Cllr R. Britain, Cllr P. Croft, Cllr G. Rogers, Cllr B. Skipper, and Cllr S. Smith
- APOLOGIES:** Cllr R. Lake, Cllr G. Marchant and Cllr S. Satterley
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs L. Kleinschmidt (Clerk) and District Cllr Osborne-Jackson. County Cllr Lake attended the meeting for the Open Session only.

The Clerk reported that Cllr Kaye has apologised for running late, and members agreed that Cllr Smith would chair the meeting on this occasion.

#### Open Session

##### Report by District Cllr Osborne-Jackson

Cllr Osborne-Jackson reported as follows:

- i. He has arranged a meeting at SDC offices on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November at 5.30pm for residents of Powdermills and Bellway. He has received confirmation from 20+ residents who wish to attend. Bellway has asked for questions in advance. He hopes to facilitate a dialogue between residents and Bellway, and to improve their relationship. There will be an officer from the planning department in attendance. He said that, although this is a private contract between Bellway and the residents, he feels it is his duty to get involved and help residents with their concerns. Cllr Skipper said that he agreed that this is a private contract, but SDC does have a role to play with enforcement. Cllr Skipper has already spoken to the SDC Enforcement Officer who has attended the site and has said that no action is required at this time whilst Bellway is performing remedial action on the site.
- ii. He has received an email from a sixth form student who complained about overcrowding on school buses and people are having to stand for the whole journey. He forwarded this concern onto C.Cllr Lake who arranged for an inspector to ride on the bus.
- iii. He questioned the Chief Finance Officer about the high level of the chief officers' salaries. Cllr Rogers said that she feels that these salaries are justified as high quality staff are required for these roles, and felt that the Government should be investing in local government core services.
- iv. Cllr Osborne-Jackson sent his apologies for the December Parish Council meeting and wished members a very Happy Christmas.

##### Report by County Cllr Lake

County Cllr Lake reported as follows:

- i. He has just seen a Go Coach bus driving at 40mph through the village which is appalling.
- ii. There is no legal requirement for Go Coach drivers to undertake a DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check, which C.Cllr Lake feels is wrong when these drivers are taking children to school. Other companies do carry out a DBS check on their staff but not Go Coach, who have now agreed to introduce this check on new staff under their safer recruitment policy, but not on existing drivers. C.Cllr Lake said that he will be raising this with KCC.
- iii. The new Highway Steward, Amy Jeffery, has started in this area and C.Cllr Lake will bring her round to meet the Clerk and see the problems in the area.
- iv. Geoff Bineham has sent details of three locations for a traffic count and speed check on the Hildenborough Road. Members approved the locations. C.Cllr Lake will continue to press KCC for the 40mph zone in Stocks Green to be continued to Leigh village.
- v. Rebecca Morgan from KCC Highways has emailed to say that she is inspecting the new plants for the Well Close hedge but she has still not confirmed a timescale for work. He said that he will continue to push this hard.

- vi. The drainage in the High Street is concerning and asked the Clerk to log the blocked drains on the KCC system. The Clerk reported that she contacted the Conservation Officer as the listed wall appears to be bowing and water is coming through the wall. She agreed to log onto the KCC system too.
- vii. KCC's new Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation is Michael Payne, who is member for Tonbridge, and the Deputy Cabinet Member is Catherine Ranking, who is member for Tunbridge Wells South.
- viii. He has approximately £7000 in his member's fund to share between all the parishes in his ward. All the parishes want to see a 20mph zone around their schools but his fund won't cover the cost so he is seeking additional funding from April so that he can help finance this.
- ix. The KCC budget consultation is open and the proposal is to increase council tax by 2% and to also charge residents an additional 2% for social care. He would like to see a maximum 3% increase and thinks that central government should be asked for more funding, and will put pressure on KCC to keep council tax as low as possible.

#### Questions from Members of the Public

None.

County Cllr Lake left the meeting at 8.45pm.

#### **Closed Session**

**100. Apologies for absence** were received from Cllr Lake, Cllr Marchant and Cllr Satterley and members accepted their reasons for absence.

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

**102. The minutes of the Leigh Parish Council Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019** were approved and duly signed. Proposed by Cllr Skipper, seconded by Cllr Britain, and all were in favour.

#### **103. Planning**

- i. To consider applications received  
SE/19/02998/HOUSE: 35 Burton Avenue, Leigh TN11 9FB - part single and part two storey rear extension. Members supported this application.
- ii. To report SDC planning application decisions
  - SE/19/01731/FUL: Leigh Service Station, Lower Green, Leigh - demolition of existing buildings and construction of seven new dwellings with associated landscaping including new area of public realm. Application approved.
  - SE/19/02617/AGRNOT: Prices Farm, Penshurst Road, Leigh - proposed lean-to on existing straw barn and new straw barn partially replacing existing lean-to. Application refused.
  - SE/19/02308/HOUSE: Old Kennards, Hildenborough Road, Leigh - new garden shed. Application approved.
  - SE/19/02428/HOUSE: 20 Barnetts Road, Leigh - single storey rear extension. Application approved.
  - SE/19/01919/HOUSE: Fairlawns, Tonbridge Road, Leigh - single storey rear extension with rooflights to permitted development and alterations to fenestration. Application approved.
  - SE/19/02549/LBCALT: Chilling House, High Street, Leigh - addition of WC to existing shower room, removal of first floor cloakroom and alteration to master bedroom access and staircase. Application approved.
- iii. To consider a policy for Parish Council pre-planning advice  
Members agreed to draw up a draft policy for adoption at the December Parish Council meeting.
- iv. To hear update regarding the SDC Draft Local Plan  
The Clerk reported that the Planning Inspectorate unexpectedly cancelled the next round of Local Plan hearings.

Despite having all the Local Plan evidence 169 days earlier, the Government Appointed Inspector, Karen Baker, wrote to SDC on 15 October, about its 'Duty to Co-operate' with neighbouring councils to find sites for new homes. She said: "My main concern relates to the lack of constructive engagement with neighbouring authorities to resolve the issue of unmet housing need." Evidence submitted to the Inspector, however, clearly demonstrates the Council had worked closely with its eight neighbouring councils since 2015 when it began the new Plan. It also worked with another nearby council, which does not share a border the District, even though it did not have to. In April, the Council met with the Government's Planning Advisory Service to discuss its neighbours' ability to assist with unmet housing need. The meeting confirmed neighbouring authorities could not help. Before submitting the Plan, the Council also sought the opinion of a QC and industry experts, including former senior Planning Inspectors, who also advised the Council's approach was sound. In light of her concerns, the Planning Inspector has cancelled the remaining examination hearings planned for November. The SDC Local Plan is the first to be assessed under a new planning framework and is likely to impact on following Local Plans across the country. The Plan is based on evidence, including major consultations with local people and the availability of land. Cllr Smith asked Cllr Osborne-Jackson to comment on this and he said that SDC is not going to withdraw the Draft Local Plan and will be making a statement on 15<sup>th</sup> November.

v. Planning Training event

The Clerk reported that a second planning training event has been arranged for Wednesday 4th December from 4.30-6pm in SDC's offices. Cllr Satterley, Cllr Smith and Cllr Rogers undertook to attend.

(Cllr Kaye joined the meeting at 8.55pm)

**104. The Green:**

i. To discuss quotes for the refurbishment of the Leigh Village Sign

The Clerk reported that four quotes have been received for refurbishing the sign:

- i. Bakers of Danbury Ltd. Price: £1,630 + VAT.
- ii. Black Forge in Wittersham. Price: £3,650 + VAT.
- iii. Weld Done – Price: £445 to remove, blast, zinc spray and undercoat, and refit in place.
- iv. Toad Hall Designs – to re-paint the sign in February/March next year. Hourly rate £35 per hour plus materials (should take two to three days)

Members approved the quotes from Weld Done and Toad Hall Designs as they are both local craftsmen with good reputations.

ii. To hear update regarding the PCC's request for the proposed new path to the Church

The Clerk reported that she has sought advice from Emma Gore, and the PCC will require planning permission as the path is in the Conservation Area on land belonging to the Parish Council, but the path will not be in respect of Parish Council business or duties. Rachel Glenny has been advised that she needs to involve the Diocesan Architect.

**105. Charcott:**

To discuss quote for the replacement of oak posts around Charcott Green

The Clerk reported that a quote has been received from R. Marchants & Sons Ltd for the following:

- To excavate existing kerb line for length of 17.5m and for a width of 600mm behind the existing kerbs to a depth of 300mm. Cart all arising to waste disposal site.
- Provide new 200mm concrete bed and re-lay existing kerbs to new line and level.
- Supply and lay 150mm hardcore bed at rear of kerbs, well rolled and consolidated and blinded with 50mm of sharp sand.
- Supply and lay 100mm deep concrete grass grid units, filled with soil and seeded.

Price: £4,625 + VAT.

The price for the erection of posts has yet to be received and it was agreed to consider both quotes at the next Parish Council meeting. Clerk to check the Finance Regulations regarding the threshold for the requirement to obtain three quotes. (Clerk's Note: the threshold for the requirement for three quotes is £5,000).

## 106. Powder Mills

The Clerk reported that District Cllr Osborne-Jackson has called at meeting with Bellway at SDC offices on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November at 5.30pm. See Open Session above.

## 107. Highways & Environment

### i. To discuss the Leigh Expansion and Hildenborough Embankment Project

The Clerk reported that Cllr Kaye, Cllr Britain, Cllr Croft and the Clerk attended a meeting with the Environment Agency on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October. There was a very informative presentation. The Environment Agency has been talking to landowners because the Flood Storage Area will be slightly larger than existing and their approval is required and any covenants need updating. The additional area required is 17 hectares. The existing embankment is adequate and does not need enlarging as it can take the additional water. An act of parliament is required for the storage of additional water, the existing Above Ordnance Datum is 28.05m and the new one is 28.06m, a difference of 55cm. There will be a new bund by the pumping station. There will be no impact on the existing drains in Leigh, although the Environment Agency will consider the installation of a small pumping station near Pauls Hill to pump any surface water into the Flood Storage Area. They suggested that KCC Highways carry out a CCTV survey of the drainage under the railway bridge on Ensfield Road. Clerk has requested this. The Green level is between 29.5m-30.5m AOD. The new FSA AOD will be 28.6m so there should not be any impact. Water stored in the FSA will be released after a couple of days after a flood event and this will have little impact on the water table in the village. If it is held for a long period, there could be a small impact but this can usually be avoided. The FSA was been used 6 times in the period from 1982-2000. It was used 20 times from 2000-2019, this is due to climate change. The maximum capacity has only been reached once, that was in 2013. Timescale – the best case scenario is to submit the plans to the minister in January and then start construction in summer 2021-2023. The Environment Agency officers were invited to attend the Parish Council's Annual Parish Meeting in April/May 2021, which they accepted, and it was agreed to hold the meeting in the Large Village Hall so that there is plenty of space for displays.

Members asked the Clerk to contact the Medway Flood Partnership to request the new small Pumping Station near Pauls Hill and to understand their involvement in the project.

### ii. To discuss the hedge at Well Close

The Clerk reported that KCC Highways have agreed to proceed with a Thuja hedge. They have inspected the plants at the nursery, but as yet have not given a timescale for the works.

### iii. To discuss request for speed reduction on Hildenborough Road

The Clerk reported that this has again been logged on the KCC online system. Geoff Bineham at KCC has sent through suggestions for three traffic count and speed check locations on the Hildenborough Road. Members approved these locations.

### iv. To discuss the proposal the erect a new bus shelter on Camp Hill

Members agreed to discuss this at the next Parish Council meeting.

### v. To discuss the rural swathe cutting contract

Cllr Kaye said that he felt that the Parish Council should consider the frequency of the rural swathe cut as new guidance has been published. He said that the Parish Council has always cut the verges for safety reasons. The Clerk reported that two rural swathe cuts have been carried out this year and the third cut will be done in November. The Clerk advised that if the Parish Council want to change the contract for next year, members need to consider the following:-

(i) cost – the contractor has advised that it will not cost any less if some verges are left uncut as he still has to drive the route

(ii) relationship with the other Parish Councils in the cluster – the other three Parish Councils are happy to continue with the contract as it is and if any of the cuts are delayed, it would impact the other parishes.

(iii) conservation and environment – the national campaigns say don't compromise road safety. No more than one metre of the verge is cut. Counties that are quoted as not cutting their verges are very different from Kent. All farmers are receiving subsidies to refrain from cutting their hedges every year so this will increase the level of conservation in the area.

(iv) wild flowers – the kind of wild flowers that could be conserved is not cow parsley which grows on roadside verges because it thrives on pollution.

(v) liability - if there was an accident, the Parish Council would be liable. The DfT advice is that non-permanent barriers in the road are unsafe, and that people do not drive slower if the verges are left uncut. The cow parsley grows very tall in the spring and will fall into the road if and when it rains. This narrows the road and pushes cars into the middle of the road. Often the sides of the road have fallen away and there are sharp edges that could cause an accident. If the verge is allowed to grow and fall into the road, this would hide the side of the road and become a safety hazard.

(vi) the Parish Council could consider locating areas where wild flowers are allowed to grow and wildflower corridors could be encouraged as this would off-set the cutting of the roadside verges. Members thought that Leigh in Bloom is satisfying this criteria.

Members agreed that safety is of prime importance and agreed to carry on with the existing contract and arrangements next year.

The Clerk reported that the contractor cuts 260km which takes 80 hours. The contract costs £2,600 + VAT for each cut. This is divided by the four parishes. The funding from KCC this year will be £4301.50. This includes £323.23 that goes to Penshurst Parish Council for hedge cutting. Net amount therefore £3,978.27. Cost per parish £955.43. Members were happy with the cost and felt that it represented good value for money.

vi. To hear update regarding Kent Wildlife Trust's citation for the new Leigh Pasture & Marsh area

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council was consulted on and supported this proposed citation, which was approved and implemented by the Kent Nature Partnership (KNP) in October.

#### **108. South Eastern Railway and Leigh Railway Station**

Cllr Britain reported that the Sussex Community Rail Partnership held an AGM for the Uckfield & East Grinstead Line and the Tonbridge to Redhill & Reigate Line on 27<sup>th</sup> September. The strategic aims of the Community Rail Partnership are:

1. To provide a voice for the community
2. To promote sustainable, healthy and accessible travel
3. To bring communities together, supporting diversity and inclusion
4. To support social and economic development
5. To strengthen the organisation

Cllr Britain said that he is on the mailing list and will update the Parish Council when required.

#### **109. Rights of Way**

Cllr Kaye reported that KCC PROW has sent a list of parishes that have not had any Countryside Access Warden activity, and Leigh wasn't on the list, which is good news. There is nothing to report on the ROW network at the moment.

#### **110. To discuss the refurbishment of the Leigh Cricket Pavilion**

Cllr Rogers reported that she has met with the person who is on the England Cricket Board (ECB). Unfortunately they are not able to provide funding as the cricket pitch is non-compliant with health and safety due to the distance of the wicket to the road, but this must be the case with many rural cricket clubs. However, the ECB will help the club to develop the scheme. A working group meeting has been arranged for Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November.

#### **111. Affordable Housing:**

##### To discuss the public consultation event to be held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November

The Clerk reported that the public consultation event will take place on 27<sup>th</sup> November in the Large Leigh Village Hall. Hall booked from 6pm and event will run from 7pm to 8.30pm. The Clerk has advertised the event fully and has had some large maps of the parish printed. She will write a personal invitation to the residents who live closest to the site. Members agreed to attend the event and be available to talk to residents. The Clerk circulated an information sheet for members.

#### **112. Aviation**

The Clerk reported as follows:

- i. HWCAAG met on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October, and members are waiting to see how the new Noise Management Board evolves before deciding whether to be a member. It is felt that the group can achieve more by working independently but with the other community noise groups. The group is backing the GACC Gatwick's Big Enough campaign and, whilst it would be advantageous for all the groups to work together, CAGNE is working independently from the other 9 groups. The Gatwick's Big Enough campaign will be costly and GACC is likely to ask for a grant towards funds, this can be discussed at the December Parish Council meeting.
- ii. GON held a meeting on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November at 8pm in Penshurst church, which was well attended.
- iii. The AEF's AGM which will take place on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November from 14.15-16.45. It will be held at the Leather Exchange Pub in Bermondsey, London. This year's speaker will be Anna Hughes from Flight Free 2020. The Flight Free campaign asks people across the UK to pledge not to fly in 2020, and aims to get 100,000 people to sign up.
- iv. CAA: The implementation date for the UK Civil Aviation Authority's (CAA) new decision-making process for Planned Permanent Redistribution (PPR) proposals has been postponed from 1 November 2019 until 1 February 2020. Last October, the Government gave the CAA, as airspace regulator, a decision-making role for a wholly new category of airspace change. This category is known as a planned and permanent redistribution of air traffic through changes in air traffic control operational procedure, or PPR for short. The Government had identified that while changes to airspace design are subject to the CAA's airspace change process, and need to be consulted on, air traffic control procedural changes can be implemented without consultation, even where the noise impacts from the resulting shift in the distribution of aircraft are similar. As a result, the CAA is in the process of designing a new process for making these decisions, which was due to be implemented on 1 November. However, due to the liquidation of Thomas Cook, and the unprecedented scale of the repatriation programme to return its passengers to the UK, the CAA agreed with the Government to postpone this by three months, until 1 February 2020. This decision was made to allow the CAA to redeploy our staff across the organisation so that we could undertake the repatriation programme.
- v. Gatwick Airport Ltd - invitation to the Gatwick Airport Airspace & Noise Management Board (NMB) annual public meeting to be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2019 at the Hilton Hotel, South Terminal, Gatwick Airport from 2pm to 5pm.

### 113. Aged Persons Dwellings

- i. To discuss refurbishment of No.1 The Bungalows, including timescale and quotes for work  
Members considered the following costs:

		Net	VAT	Gross
1.	Decorating: Elliott Elcombe 1. Remove Bedroom Wall 2. Remove wood chip wall paper on walls and ceiling in bedroom 3. Remove any fittings discussed 4. Fill walls and re-line walls and ceilings 5. Prepare all walls and ceilings by filling all dents and imperfections with easy fill ready for painting 6. Prepare all woodwork by sanding down, filling any imperfections with wood filler and caulking up any cracks with caulk filler 7. Paint all ceilings white twice in valspar trade emulsion (Bathroom paint for bathroom) 8. Paint all walls in desired colour in valspar trade emulsion (Bathroom paint for bathroom) 9. Undercoat all woodwork 10. Topcoat all woodwork 11. New grids on fireplace in bedroom.	£2,780.00		£2,780.00
2.	Re-board, fill and paper ceiling	£300.00		£300.00
3.	Fit new curtain poles	£90.00		£90.00
4.	Garden clearance	£180.00		£180.00
5.	Curtain rails and light bulbs	£61.00		£61.00

6.	New oven (including delivery, fitting and removal of old oven)	£412.49	£82.50	£494.99
7.	Carpets, including underlay and fitting £700 Nathan Burr (approved) £748.55 + VAT Quarry Hill carpets	£700.00		£700.00
8.	Thorough clean of kitchen and bathroom Molly Mops – kitchen & bathroom £81.67 + VAT £16.33 = £98.00 (app) Molly Mops – inside of windows £20.00 + VAT £4.00 = £24.00 Merry Maids – kitchen & bathroom £80.00 + VAT £16.00 = £96.00 Merry Maids – inside of windows £20.00 + VAT £4.00 = £24.00	£81.67	£16.33	£98.00
9.	EPC	£75.00		£75.00
10.	Agents fees: <u>Helen Breeze:</u> Full management service for sole agency: 15% Letting and rental collection service: 12% One off fee for find a tenant: 90% of one month's rent. Bespoke service: £800 (approved) taking up financial references dealing with closing accounts taking and holding a deposit in line with Tenancy Deposit Scheme preparing a tenancy agreement preparing an inventory and schedule of condition check tenant against inventory at start ensuring tenant sets up a standing order <u>Martin &amp; Co:</u> Full Management – 10% Rent Receipt – 8% Tenant Find Only – 3 Weeks rent	£800.00	£160.00	£960.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£5,480.16</b>	<b>£258.83</b>	<b>£5,739.99</b>

Cllr Britain proposed that the Parish Council accepts the costs as above, this was seconded by Cllr Croft and all were in favour.

ii. To discuss process for re-letting No.1 The Bungalows, including rental and draft lease

The Clerk reported that the following estate agents have provided their opinion on rental value:

80% for social rent

Helen Breeze: £800-£850 p.m.      £640-£680

Martin & Co: £825 p.m.              £660

Tim O'Neill: £1,200 p.m.          £960

Cllr Kaye proposed that the rental for No.1 The Bungalows be set at £675 per month paid in advance with one month's rental paid as deposit. There will be an annual review. This was seconded by Cllr Britain and all were in favour. Clerk to advertise the property and applications sought from people aged 55+ who live in the parish of Leigh or have close family living here. It was agreed that the working party would meet to discuss applications and then Helen Breeze Estate Agents can take out the financial references.

iii. To discuss No.2 The Bungalows

The Clerk reported that all rental is now paid up to date. The Clerk has asked twice for a copy of the POA. The Clerk has also written to the tenant with copy to her daughter asking for POA and also that all payments to be made by standing order. Letter received signed by the tenant, giving permission for her daughter to act on her behalf concerning her tenancy. Clerk to still request that the rental is paid by standing order.

**114. To discuss possible parish events to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

The Clerk reported that Nick Ford emailed to say "The Royal British Legion Branch Committee has asked me to inquire as to whether the Parish Council is considering any village celebrations to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day on Friday 8th May.

“If so then perhaps we might consider a collaborative effort as we did for the very successful Armistice commemoration.” Cllr Skipper undertook to give this consideration.

#### **115. 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: KALC: the KALC Executive Committee agreed that KALC needs an additional member of staff to enhance the member services offered to member councils, continue to provide a high-quality service and to relieve pressure on existing staff members. The average increase in membership subscriptions would be £89.69 per annum.
- ii. Item 3: SLCC: report that referendum principles (capping) will not apply to English parishes for the coming financial year. This is very welcome news but the message about councils needing to exercise even greater restraint is also very clear.
- iii. Items 5 and 14: Kent Police:
  - Egg Pie Lane, Leigh - between 12:01am on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September and 9:30am on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October, somebody broke into an unlocked garage at a residential property and stole garden tools.
  - Meadow Bank, Leigh - between 5:50pm on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October and 3:15pm on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October, somebody broke the locks of a Yamaha motorbike parked in the road probably in an attempt to steal it.
  - Knotley Hall Cottages, Leigh, between 11:00pm on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October and 8:19am on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October, somebody broke in to a shed. Agricultural equipment including a lawn mower and hedge cutters have been stolen.
  - Meadow Bank, Leigh, between 5:00pm on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October and 8:20am on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October, somebody slashed three tyres of a Vauxhall Corsa parked in a car park.
- iv. Items 8 and 16: KCC: Temporary Road Closures:
  - Camp Hill, Charcott from 17<sup>th</sup> October for up to 9 days. The road will be closed near the Greyhound Pub. The alternative route is via Camp Hill, High Street and Compasses Road. This is to enable urgent works to be carried out by UK Power Networks.
  - High Street, Leigh, between the RBL clubhouse and Powdermill Lane, also Hildenborough Road and Powdermill Lane from 09.40am to 09.50am and 10.55am and 11.15am on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November for Remembrance Day parade.
  - Charcott, Leigh from 4<sup>th</sup> November for up to 11 Days. The road will be closed from junction with lane to The Old Dairy to just past private road at the green triangle near property 23. The alternative route is via from Charcott to Camp Hill to Charcott & vice versa. This is to enable KCC Highways to install a new section of highway drainage system and renew part of the existing system to help prevent property flooding issues.
- v. Item 15: KALC Sevenoaks branch: Agenda for their AGM at 7pm on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2019 at Sevenoaks Town Council Office, Bradbourne Vale Rd, Sevenoaks TN13 3Q, followed by a branch meeting with guest speaker SDC Cllr Lesley Dyball talking about her People & Places portfolio.

#### **116. To hear report of the Easter and Summer Family Fun events**

The Clerk advised that a report of the family events this year has been received.

Leigh's Easter event held on 11<sup>th</sup> April had 48 children attending.

Leigh's Summer event held on 24<sup>th</sup> August had 112 children attending. The children really enjoyed the circus skills provided by the Parish Council

#### **117. Finance:**

##### **To discuss KCC's draft budget consultation 2020-2021**

The Clerk reported that KCC is currently consulting on its budget for 2020-21. The consultation runs until 25<sup>th</sup> November 2019, see [www.kent.gov.uk/budget](http://www.kent.gov.uk/budget)

- Next year KCC expect its budget to increase by up to £60m (6% of their net budget). This increase comes from a combination of an additional one-year grant from central Government, particularly to help towards social care pressures.

The proposals in this consultation to increase Council Tax by up to the 2% referendum level and levy a further additional 2% towards social care.

- The funding KCC receives is still not keeping pace with the additional costs and demand for services. Taken together, this means there is forecast to be a budget gap in 2020-21 of between £18m and £22m. KCC is confident that they can resist some of the additional costs and demands, which will help to close the gap, but savings will still be needed to balance our budget.
- Council Tax: An increase of just under 2% would add £23.04 per year (or 44 pence per week) to the KCC element of the bill for a typical band C property and take the total KCC element of council tax to £1,178.08 (or £22.60 per week). Such an increase would raise £14.3m towards the council's rising costs.
- Social Care: KCC is proposing to levy a 2% social care increase in 2020-21. This would raise an additional £14.3m to be spent on adult social care services and increase the KCC element for a band C property by a further £23.04 (or 44 pence per week). This would make the final estimated band C bill, after the social care levy, to be £1,201.12.
- KCC has saved £657 million since 2011

Clerk to respond on behalf of the Parish Council asking for a maximum of 3% increase in council tax as suggested by C.Cllr Lake.

ii. To approve list of payments

Cllr Smith proposed that the list of payments be approved. This was seconded by Cllr Skipper and all were in favour. Cllr Kaye and Cllr Britain undertook to authorise the online payments.

iii. Finance Committee Meeting

Clerk to arrange a Finance Committee meeting in November.

**118. Items for reporting or inclusion in future agenda**

1. Cllr Britain undertook to provide the information from Kent Fire & Rescue regarding making homes safe. Clerk to put on website.
2. Cllr Skipper reported that grass cuttings are being deposited in the Old Burial Ground. Cllr Croft undertook to investigate.

The meeting closed at 10.05pm

Signed .....

Date .....

**LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL  
LIST OF PAYMENTS  
November 2019**

Date	Payment Number	Payee	Detail of payment	Amount Inc. VAT	VAT
04.11.19	176	Clerk	Salary - November	£797.12	
04.11.19	177	HMRC	PAYE - November	£318.11	
04.11.19	178	Clerk	Mileage, petty cash & work fm home allow	£255.30	
04.11.19	179	KCC	Pension contribution	£321.44	
04.11.19	180	Commercial Services	Third quarter charge grounds maintenance	£247.55	£41.26
04.11.19	181	MAS Seeds Ltd	Daffodil bulbs for Leigh in Bloom	£85.00	£14.17
04.11.19	182	Newgraphic	Aff.Housing Consultation flyers and feedback forms	£112.20	£7.20
04.11.19	183	Knockout Print	Aff.Housing Consultation - roadside boards	£90.00	£15.00
04.11.19	184	Knockout Print	Aff.Housing Consultation large maps x 2	£84.00	£14.00
04.11.19	185	Vision ICT	Website hosting & support Jan-Dec 2020	£174.00	£29.00
04.11.19	186	Mr E.N. Elcombe	APD decorating	£3,170.00	
04.11.19	187	SSE	No.1 The Bungalows electricity 23.09.19-23.10.19	£14.89	£0.70
04.11.19	188	SSE	No.1 The Bungalows gas 23.09.19-24.10.19	£24.12	£1.14
04.11.19	189	Peter Croft	Mowing and APD garden clearance	£460.00	
				<b>£6,153.73</b>	<b>£122.47</b>