

## LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE SMALL HALL, HIGH STREET, LEIGH ON MONDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 2016 AT 8.00PM

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**PRESENT:** Cllr R. Britain, Cllr P. Croft, Cllr A. Johnston, Cllr J. Kaye, Cllr R. Lake and Cllr G. Marchant

**APOLOGIES:** Cllr. C. Stratton-Brown (Chairman), Cllr L. Provan, Cllr S. Smith and County Cllr Pearman

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs L. Kleinschmidt (Clerk), District Cllr Lake and members of the public

In the absence of Cllr Stratton-Brown, members agreed that Cllr Kaye would chair the meeting.

#### **Open Session**

1. Brian Ball advised that a resident of Charlotte Bungalows is struggling to walk along the pavement with her mobility aid as shingle has been dislodged from her neighbours' driveways. Cllr Marchant undertook to speak to the residents concerned.
2. A resident of Garden Cottages attended the meeting in order to advise the Parish Council that tenants of the houses have been given notice to vacate. The landlords are going to update the properties and either rent or sell them on the open market. Members were most sympathetic with the situation but unfortunately felt that there was nothing they could do as the properties are privately owned.
3. A resident of Well Close attended the meeting in order to ask that the minutes of the previous meeting be amended to show that SDC own the majority of Crandalls Pond with the resident owning just a small part.

#### **Report by District Cllr Lake**

District Cllr Lake reported that a Boundary Commission report states that there is a proposal for Edenbridge, Chiddingstone and Leigh to move from the Tonbridge & Malling parliamentary ward to the Tunbridge Wells parliamentary ward, and suggested that the Parish Council contact Tom Tugendhat for his comments. Members agreed.

#### **Closed Session**

77. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllr Stratton-Brown, Cllr Provan and Cllr Smith, and members accepted their reasons for absence. Apologies for absence were also received from County Cllr Pearman.
78. **Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest / Non-Pecuniary Interest on matters to be discussed**  
Cllr Marchant declared a DPI in items 81(ii) and 83(iii) as his company is providing quotes for the work. Cllr Britain declared a DPI in item 82(iii) as the suggested path will have an impact on his property.
79. **The minutes of the Leigh Parish Council meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2016** were discussed and it was agreed to make the following amendment:  
Item 66 (v): To hear update regarding the clearance of Crandalls pond  
The Clerk reported that SDC has said that they will clear the pond at the end of the summer when water levels are at their lowest. As the majority of the pond belongs to SDC and a small part is in the ownership of a private house, the apportionment of costs needs to be agreed. SDC will contact residents and ask them to park elsewhere whilst the work is being done.  
The minutes were then approved and duly signed. Proposed by Cllr Croft, seconded by Cllr Marchant and all were in favour.
80. **Planning**
  - i. To consider applications received
    - i. SE/16/02771/LDCPR: 3 Garden Cottages, Leigh TN11 8QB - erection of single storey rear extension. Members supported this application.

- ii. SE/16/02659/HOUSE: Forge House, Charcott TN11 8LG - erection of single storey outbuilding. Members supported this application.
- iii. SE/16/02593/CONVAR: Old Powder Mills, Powder Mill Lane, Leigh TN11 9AN - variation of condition number(s): 9 (lighting), 21(Code for Sustainable Homes) and 48 (Approved plans) of SE/14/00487/FUL - Development of Old Powder Mills comprising (a) detailed permission for construction of 73 no. detached, semi-detached and terraced houses with garaging and parking, play area, amenity space and open space and (b) outline permission, with all matters reserved except for access, for the provision of serviced land for a building of 1,582 sq m for B1(a) and B1(b) purposes, following demolition of all existing pharmaceutical research laboratories and offices, plant and machinery and hardstanding areas (except part of Building 11). Alterations and improvements to existing accesses onto Leigh Road and Powder Mills and closure to vehicles of a third access onto Powder Mills. Cllr Marchant undertook to study the application and Clerk to respond in due course.
- iv. SE/16/02739/HOUSE: Rookery View, Penshurst Road, Leigh TN11 8HL - demolish existing single storey side and rear extension and conservatory. Erection of a two storey side and single storey rear extension. Members supported this application.

The Clerk reported that, since the last Parish Council meeting, the Planning Committee has submitted the following comments:

- v. SE/16/02626/HOUSE: Cul Na Greine, Powder Mill Lane, Leigh TN11 8PY - demolition of existing conservatory and single storey side lean-to and proposed two storey side and rear extension, garage conversion with single storey link extension and porch. Members supported this application.
  - vi. SE/16/02652/HOUSE and SE/16/02653/LBCALT: Hale Oak Farmhouse, Hale Oak Road, Sevenoaks Weald TN14 6NQ - conversion of barn to residential use. Members had no objection to this application.
  - vii. SE/16/02637/PAC: Manderville, Eggpie Lane, Weald TN11 8PE - prior notification for a change of use from agricultural use to a dwelling house (Class C3) and associated operational development. This application is made under Class Q of The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015. Members had no objection to this application.
- ii. The Clerk reported that the following application was discussed and granted at the SDC Development Control Committee meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> September: SE/16/02300/HOUSE: 49 Penshurst Road, Leigh TN11 8HN - erection of single storey garden room. Parish Council's comments were: *Leigh Parish Council objects to this application because we feel strongly that the Green Belt 50% rule should be adhered to. A 'very special circumstance' argument has been raised that the proposed rear extension would be a reduction in scale and bulk than what can be erected under 'permitted development' and as such should be granted regardless of the fact the 50% increases limit has been breached. A Lawful Development Certificate (LDC) has recently been granted for 'Erection of a single storey garden room' under 16/01590/LDCPR. The garden room is sited 1.5 metres away from the rear wall of the house, so in reality is very close to the house. The garden room would extend into the rear garden by 7.6 metres which is 3.9 metres deeper than the existing pergola and 4.3 metres deeper than the proposed single-storey rear extension. Officer's comment: "In reviewing the extent of harm and the potential very special circumstances, it is concluded that the cases for very special circumstance would clearly outweigh the harm to the openness of the Green Belt through inappropriateness and any other harm. The proposal would therefore be accordance with the NPPF."*
  - iii. To hear update regarding construction vehicles using Powder Mill Lane  
The Clerk reported that local residents have reported that almost every day, the SDC Transport Plan is being breached by vehicles using Powder Mill Lane before 8am. The site managers appear unwilling or unable to do anything about it. D.Cllr Lake is aware and is going to raise the issue with the officers at SDC. Members asked D.Cllr Lake to comment. D.Cllr Lake said that Peter Clifton at Bellway Homes has written to Mr Kidd at SDC to apologise on behalf of the various operators who keep breaking the rules. D.Cllr Lake has agreed to take this up with SDC on behalf of the Parish Council.

- iv. To hear update regarding the application for tree works at Pippin Cottage
- i. The Clerk reported that the application was considered at the SDC Development Control Committee meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> September. The application was refused on the following grounds: “The Council was not satisfied, when balancing the commercial and environmental benefits of the trees, that there was sufficient evidence to justify the loss of these visually very important mature oak trees within the Leigh Conservation Area. The proposed works would result in harm to the amenity value of the trees in the local area and significant harm to the Conservation Area with the loss of these trees.”
  - ii. The Clerk reported that Lisa Srotyr has advised that she is arranging for a specification to be drawn up for underpinning by a local engineer, and she is liaising with the insurance company and loss adjusters.
  - iii. The Clerk reported that she has received a call from MWA Arboriculture Ltd who said that they are putting a root barrier into the Pippin Cottage garden and need to have somewhere to store the removed clay from the garden before it is taken away. They have asked if they can put it temporarily on the War Memorial Green. They would put security fencing around the mound, with a plastic sheet and plywood to protect the grass. They will put a temporary roadway in with wooden planks to protect the grass further. Area is likely to be 10m x 5m, and works will start mid to end October. Lisa and John Srotyr have asked the Parish Council not to proceed on this for the time being.
- v. SE/16/01557/LDCEX: Manor Buildings, Powder Mill Lane, Leigh TN11 9AS  
The Clerk reported that she has asked the planning officer for an update but has not received a response. The application on the SDC portal is still showing as undecided.
- vi. Notification of planning decisions
- SE/16/02289/HOUSE: 6 Hollow Trees Close, Leigh - erection of ground floor rear single storey extension with flat roof and sky light. Application approved.
  - SE/16/02306/HOUSE and SE/16/02307/LBCALT: 2 Forge Square, The Green, Leigh - demolition of existing single storey lean-to to facilitate the erection of a single storey rear extension, internal alterations at ground and first floor level and roof light in rear pitch of main roof. Application approved.
  - SE/16/02184/HOUSE: South Lodge, 46 Well Close, Leigh - erection of a first floor side extension with roof extension over existing ground floor extension and ground floor infill extension. Application approved.
  - SE/16/02300/HOUSE: 49 Peshurst Road, Leigh - erection of single storey garden room. Application approved.
  - SE/16/01821/FUL: Land North of 48 to 54 Burton Avenue, Leigh - construction of two pairs of semi-detached houses and 1 no. detached house and car port. Application approved.
- vii. To hear update regarding Brookside Barn  
D.Cllr Lake advised that he has not heard anything further on this, and undertook to speak to planning officers at SDC.
- viii. To hear update regarding Stidolphs Farm Cottage  
D.Cllr Lake reported that SDC planning officers have advised him that everything is in order at this property and no further action is required.

## 81. Highways & Environment

- i. To discuss drainage and flood related issues including the Community Flood Plan  
None.
- ii. To hear update regarding the repair of the green in Charcott damaged by vehicles  
The Clerk reported that this work was carried out last week. Cllr Lake said that the contractors did a very good job. Clerk to ask Kent Highways to now lay tarmac up to the new kerbs as previously agreed.
- iii. To hear update regarding the clearance of Crandalls pond  
The Clerk reported that SDC has said that their contractor is not able to remove the silt and asked for details of a local farmer who could be approached, which the Clerk has done.

- iv. To hear update regarding works to trees on The Green Lane  
The Clerk reported that Ian Bishop has advised that he has now carried out work to two oak trees and one ash tree growing on the strip of land between The Green Lane and the boundary fences of his property, Melfort House, and his neighbour's, Chessenden. The works included 30% crown reductions and removal of any major deadwood. Ian said that he wanted it noted that the strip of land does not belong to him or his neighbour and his actions in trying to make the trees safer does not in any way imply that he has any future responsibility for the trees.
- v. To hear update regarding the sight lines at the Leigh Gateway on Hildenborough Road  
The Clerk reported that a resident of Upper Kennards advised that the new gateway reduces the sight lines for drivers exiting his driveway. Kent Highways said that they would discuss this Geoff Bineham, the KCC Traffic Engineer.
- vi. Cllr Britain suggested that traffic calming measures are required at the railway bridge in Lower Green. Clerk to make enquiries.

## 82. Rights of Way

- i. To hear ROW report  
Cllr Kaye reported that he has received correspondence from Nicky Biddall, PROW officer at KCC, to say that KCC has not completed their online training module but hopes to get it finished soon. The parish footpaths have been divided between ROW committee members so that they can walk the paths regularly and report any works required. The footpath across the old airfield in Chiddingstone Causeway has at last been cut by KCC. The Clerk reported that the permissive path at Knotley Hall is also overgrown, and Cllr Kaye undertook to take a look and arrange for the vegetation to be cut back. Cllr Kaye added that he has removed the ivy from the wall at Home Farm on the Hildenborough Road.
- ii. Cllr Kaye suggested that, now the verges have all been cut, the Parish Council arranges another litter pick. Clerk to contact SDC and date in November to be agreed.
- iii. The Clerk gave an update regarding the temporary closure of SR437 at Powdermills. Nicky Biddall at KCC PROW says: "The temporary closure of the footpath is necessary while works are undertaken on it, linked with the housing development. The applicant is under no legal obligation to offer an alternative route. However, they are doing so in this case. The path will be closed in sections as the works progress and alternative routes will be signed through the woodland adjacent to the path. They will be along routes which are being edged with wood and the surface will be bark chippings. When the works are finished the tarmac path surface will be re-laid so it will be an improvement on what is presently there."
- iv. To hear update regarding the request for a permissive path at Pauls Hill Cottage  
Cllr Britain said that residents at Pauls Hill have not been consulted, and Clerk to remind Cllr Stratton-Brown that a meeting with residents is required.

## 83. The Green

- i. To hear update regarding the programmed improvement works to The Green  
The Clerk reported as follows:
  - i. The Parish Council's solicitors have received the confirmation from Sport England that the deed of dedication is now agreed. An engrossment copy is being prepared and will be sent to the Parish Council for signature.
  - ii. Sport England had previously requested that as a year has passed since the searches were carried out, it is necessary to carry out fresh searches. The solicitors have argued that it would be much more cost and time effective to put search indemnity insurance in place rather than obtain a new suite of searches. Sport England has confirmed that this is acceptable. The search indemnity insurance will protect Sport England in the event an adverse condition is discovered on the property that would have been uncovered had further searches been carried out. The cost of the insurance policy is £46.49. However, the indemnity policy that the solicitors intend to put in place will not cover any environmental or flood searches that they previously carried out. As such, the solicitors will unfortunately be required to carry out fresh searches at a cost of £225.50 as it is very unlikely Sport England will accept the existing search results from last year. Members approved the expenditure.

- iii. Sport England has also requested that the solicitors put in place a 'chancel repair indemnity' insurance policy. Chancel repair liability is a medieval anomaly whereby the Church of England and Wales was granted powers to charge those owning "rectorial land" for the upkeep of the chancel of some Parish Churches. Whilst it is unlikely that the property is affected by chancel repair liability, Sport England has requested that an insurance policy is put in place to protect them. The chancel repair indemnity policy is included in the search indemnity insurance above and will not cost anything extra. Cllr Britain said that he thought this requirement has now expired, and Clerk to contact the solicitors for verification.
- iv. The Clerk reported that she and Cllr Stratton-Brown have met the project manager, Richard Earl, and the representative from Bourne Amenity since the last meeting. The shortfall of £7,707.23 was discussed. A contingency sum of £1,670 is being claimed from Sport England. This makes the shortfall £6,037.23. There is a 10% contingency sum included in the budget of £6,753.20. Hopefully this will not be used and can therefore be used to cover the shortfall. Members agreed at the last Parish Council meeting to cover this shortfall if necessary.
- v. The Clerk reported that Rob Swallow has contacted Southern Water and there is a charge of £277 including VAT to connect the new drains to the existing Southern Water network. This is claimable as part of the overall project cost from Sport England. Members approved the expenditure.
- ii. To consider request by Leigh Cricket Club to erect netting on The Green during matches  
The Clerk reported the Leigh Cricket Club has asked for permission to sink holes in the grass verge in front of Elizabeth Cottage into which poles would be inserted on match days to support netting. The residents' comments are as follows: "We are sorry that it is necessary but can understand why the cricket club wants to put the netting up. The netting will only affect some of the balls, those which would hit the windows on the ground and first floor, and the hanging tiles - we expect that some balls will still go over the top and either hit the roof or land in the garden. We have asked that we be kept informed of the plans as they proceed so that we can talk to the club if there is anything we are not comfortable with. We do feel that alternatives have not been fully explored, such as just bowling from the east end (which would almost certainly eradicate any damage to houses around the Green, and definitely to Elizabeth's Cottage), or turning the cricket square round so that fewer balls affect us and other properties round the Green. Members suggested that the residents discuss this with the cricket club.
- iii. Works to the verge in front of Elizabeth Cottage:  
The Clerk reported that the residents have no objection to the proposed works outside Elizabeth Cottage:
  - To excavate for new kerb run from existing kerbing at Greenview Avenue to the eastern edge of the driveway to Elizabeth Cottage (51 linear metres)
  - To supply and place countryside kerbs bedded on 200mm bed of C20 concrete and haunched with C20 concrete
  - To supply and spread topsoil to rear of new kerblines, well compacted
  - To reinstate to front edge of kerbing
  - To allow for dropped kerb at footpath to Elizabeth Cottage
- iv. To discuss works to trees on The Green, and agree costs
  - i. Oak Tree at entrance to Gowers  
The Clerk reported that RWE has carried out the work to the oak tree on the driveway to Gowers. The work was to remove the lower main limb to improve vehicular access, trim the drooping secondary limbs from the remaining lower canopy back to suitable growth points. Chris Rowley has asked for a more severe cut back of this tree due to worries about subsidence. RWE has recommended a further 25% reduction. This would cost £450 + VAT. The Clerk has met Harry Walker from SDC at the tree, and he said that he would not approve an application for more than 25% reduction. Members asked the Clerk to write to Chris Rowley to say that the Parish Council will undertake a 25% reduction of the tree now, and will undertake annual checks on the tree and regular maintenance going forward.

As there is no report from Mr Rowley of any subsidence or heave as a result of the proximity of the tree, members do not feel that a formal report is required at this stage and is following the advice of its properly appointed tree specialist and also SDC arboricultural officers. Mr Rowley is free to take any additional steps he feels are appropriate.

ii. Veteran Oak Tree

The Clerk reported that Bartletts has carried out the agreed works to the veteran oak tree, namely: Prune Oak (ID# T1) located at the green according to the following specifications:

- Clean to remove all dead, diseased and broken branches 2 centimetres in diameter and larger throughout crown to improve health and appearance and reduce risk of branch failure.
- Reduce crown height by approx. 1.5-2.0 meters and lateral spread to the north, east and south by approx. 1.5-2.0 meters, using 'drop crotching' back to growth secondary growth points.
- Reduce the lateral spread of the crown to the west by between 2.0 and 3.0 meters to maintain balance, again using 'drop crotching' back to suitable secondary growth points.
- During reduction works inspect the installed cabling, report any defects and make any necessary adjustments.
- Remove resulting debris.

Cllr Johnson reported that one or two residents are not happy with the standard of work and are concerned that the cabling is not sufficient. Members asked the Clerk to meet Bartletts and Alan Middleton on The Green to look at the cabling.

iii. Oak Tree by School

The Clerk reported that she has asked RWE for a price to raise canopy by 3m and remove secondary limbs to lift low hanging branches. Harry Walker at SDC has implied that this will be approved. Members approved the cost of work up to £500 + VAT as specified in the Parish Council's Financial Regulations.

v. To discuss works to oak tree on the green in Charcott, and agree costs

The Clerk reported that she has asked RWE for a price to raise the canopy, but has yet to hear back. Approval won't be required as the tree doesn't have a TPO and isn't in the Conservation Area, but will check with SDC before carrying out the work. Members approved the cost of work up to £500 + VAT as specified in the Parish Council's Financial Regulations.

**84. To consider the provision of Affordable housing in the parish**

None.

**85. Aviation:**

To hear report of the High Weald Councils Aviation Action Group

The Clerk reported that the last HWCAAG meeting was held on 13<sup>th</sup> September and the next one is planned for 1<sup>st</sup> November. It is hoped that the Government will have made its announcement regarding additional runway capacity by then. Cllr Marchant reported that there is some improvement in aircraft noise. Cllr Lake reported that Charcott experiences some noisy days and some quiet days, and the Clerk advised that this is to be expected with the introduction of respite. Members asked for District Cllr Lake's comments. D.Cllr Lake said that Cllr Stratton-Brown has written to Tom Tugendhat asking that the Government considers all options for new airport capacity, including the estuary airport option that was discounted by the Airports Commission. He added that GAL is encouraging airlines to come to Gatwick and the airport is due to be sold in 2018.

**86. Leigh Village Halls report**

Cllr Johnston reported that it is hoped that a new chairperson for the Management Committee will be elected at their next meeting.

**87. Aged Persons Dwellings**

i. To hear update regarding works to No.1 and No.2 The Bungalows

The Clerk reported as follows:

- i. A new thumb lock has been fitted to the existing door at a cost of £50 + VAT.

- ii. Kent Domestic Boilers need to return to No.2 The Bungalows and replace four radiator valves that are not functioning properly.
- ii. To consider request for new kitchen floor in No.1 The Bungalows  
The Clerk reported that the new floor has been ordered and will be fitted on Wednesday.

**88. To report on correspondence received**

The Clerk reported that lists of correspondence received have been circulated, and drew members' attention to the following:

- i. Item 3: KALC: "DCLG has just issued a consultation on council tax referendum principles. The deadline for comments is 5pm on 28 October. The key paragraph on page 8 is "that referendum principles are introduced for town and parish councils whose Band D precept is higher than that of the lowest charging district council for 2016/17 (£75.46), and which have a total precept for 2016/17 of at least £500,000, while taking account of transfers of responsibilities, and that consideration is given to the extension of referendums to all local precepting authorities." Para 3.3.4 states that "These parishes would face the same referendum principles as shire districts: increases of less than 2% or up to and including £5 (whichever is higher) can be set without a referendum." The KALC policy position, as agreed at the 2014 AGM, is to oppose the introduction of referendum principles on Parish and Town councils. We would encourage all member Councils to respond to the consultation."
- ii. Item 4: KALC:
  - Annual Finance Conference at Teynham Village Hall on Tuesday 18 October from 9am. Cost: £60 + VAT.
  - The Dynamic Councillor morning workshop and training module for new Councillors and those who would like a refresher. Saturday 12 November from 9am at Rusthall Parish Council, Rackliff Centre, 26 Lower Green Road, Rusthall, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 8TE
  - Chairmanship Conference on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November at The Guildhall, Market Place, Faversham, 9am to 12.30pm. Cost: £60 + VAT.
- iii. Item 7: Kent Police: The Green, Leigh, between 9:00pm on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September and 7:50am on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September, a Peugeot 4007 (GJ58\*\*\*\*) was damaged on the road.
- iv. Item 8: copy correspondence between Jonathan Cook and PCSO Laura Morris regarding a recovery vehicle that parks in Powder Mill Lane. The lorry parks on double yellow lines and often on the pavement. Laura has contacted the company who is aware of the issues and has said that it is down to the driver to make sure he parks correctly. The Police cannot issue tickets for parking on double yellow lines, this is a power used by the local authority enforcement officers (traffic wardens). Laura will speak again to the driver showing photographic evidence. The driver is on call and therefore does not need to park at the company base. Members were concerned that the recovery vehicle was parked in the High Street with no lights at night and was a safety hazard.
- v. Item 10: Letter from Matthew Balfour, KCC: "Kent County Council's pothole blitz has been going on this summer with so far 839 potholes filled alongside 24,108m<sup>2</sup> of larger road repairs across the county. In total, £954,471 has been spent on repairs since June."
- vi. Item 11: SDC News Release: Community grants worth up to £5,000 are now available for voluntary and charitable organisations across the Sevenoaks District to help them to continue their valuable work. The grants from SDC's Community Grant Scheme exist to help organisations which provide services, activities or projects that benefit residents with the greatest needs. In particular, the Council wants to support projects, activities and services that are delivered with the help of volunteers. In addition, the Council also wants to receive applications for projects that will improve the health and wellbeing of local residents. Eligible organisations have until Friday 25 November 2016 to apply for a grant of between £100 and £5,000 for which successful applicants will be notified in April 2017.
- vii. Item 12: KCC Press Releases:
  - i. A pay-as-you-go travel card has been launched allowing passengers to pay for their bus travel by topping it up online, at libraries or in person on the bus. There is also the ability for the card to auto top-up.
  - ii. KCC spent £78.2 million with the Voluntary and Community Sector last year and grant funding to the sector has gone from £16.4 million to over £17 million.

£14.1 million has gone specifically to Kent charities. Over the last year, £1.2 million has gone to voluntary organisations supporting children and young people, £5.1 million to organisations supporting Kent communities, and £10.8 million to organisations supporting older and vulnerable residents.

iii. As part of World Suicide Prevention Day on Saturday 10 September, KCC reminded people of a special 24-hour free helpline, which aims to reduce the number of suicides by encouraging men feeling under pressure to seek help. Figures show suicide is the leading killer of men under 45; in 2015, there were 151 registered suicides in Kent of which 116 (77%) were men.

iv. More than 1,000 people with type 2 diabetes are set to benefit from an innovative new EU-funded project involving health organisations from across Kent and Medway. Type 2 diabetes affects 28.8 million people across the EU and can be treated with a healthy diet and increased physical activity.

v. The percentage of Kent schools now rated 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted stands at 89%, compared with 84% nationally. The current situation is that of 85% of secondary schools, 90% of primary schools, 98% of special schools and 86% of pupil referral units are judged to be good or outstanding. Also, 95% of early years settings are good or outstanding.

vi. Kent County Council needs 200 new foster homes as the demand for carers is reaching crisis point. Without more carers, it is difficult to provide the stable, permanent homes which can make a crucial difference to the future of a vulnerable young person. The issue is a national one with more than 9000 more foster carers needed across the UK, as more children are entering care. In Kent this year, 1593 children became looked after compared to 899 in 2013/4, adding more pressure to the fostering service. Kent County Council needs homes for older children, aged 13-18, supporting them towards independence, for children with disabilities and for sibling groups to help keep brothers and sisters together. Carers are also needed for the large number of unaccompanied asylum seeking young people who have gone through traumatic journeys to arrive in Kent.

vii. Kent County Council is backing the Stoptober campaign with data showing that 17% of Kent residents are smokers (above the South East and national average), KCC is promoting Stoptober - Public Health England's national campaign - and reminding residents of the support services available in Kent for those who want to quit.

viii. Item 13: Email from Jenny Shadwell regarding the poor condition of The Green Lane. Clerk to contact David Boorman at SDC.

ix. Item 15: KALC – Parish News publication.

#### **89. To consider and update Risk Assessment**

Members considered the draft Risk Assessment as updated by the Clerk. The changes included risks associated to the drainage works on The Green and risks associated with the trees in the Parish Council's ownership. Cllr Lake undertook to look at the draft and make improvements as necessary for the Parish Council's approval at the next meeting.

#### **90. Finance:**

i. To renew membership to GACC: £10

Cllr Marchant proposed that membership be renewed. This was seconded by Cllr Croft and all were in favour.

ii. To approve payment of cheques

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

#### **91. Items for reporting or inclusion in future agenda**

The Clerk reported that the next Bulk Refuse collection will be on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November.

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

Signed .....

Date .....

**LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL  
LIST OF CHEQUES  
3<sup>rd</sup> October 2016**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Cheque</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Detail of payment</b>	<b>Amount Inc. VAT</b>	<b>VAT</b>
03.10.16	1743	Clerk	Salary - October	£685.86	
03.10.16	1744	HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE	£254.90	
03.10.16	1745	Kent County Council	Pension contribution	£273.69	
03.10.16	1746	Clerk	Mileage, petty cash & working from home	£118.25	
03.10.16	1747	Sims Installations Ltd	New thumb lock on No.2 The Bungalows	£60.00	£10.00
03.10.16	1748	Farningham Parish Council	Clear up after your dog stencil	£24.99	
03.10.16	1749	GACC	Membership renewal	£10.00	
03.10.16	1750	SDC	Emptying dog bins Jul-Sept 2016	£425.88	£70.98
03.10.16	1751	Southern Water	Connection of new drains to existing network	£277.00	
03.10.16	1752	Peter Croft Garden Services	Mowing	£115.00	
03.10.16	1753	R. Croft	Mowing	£30.00	
				<b><u>£2,275.57</u></b>	<b><u>£80.98</u></b>