

**MINUTES OF THE LEIGH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE SMALL HALL,
HIGH STREET, LEIGH ON MONDAY 20TH MAY 2019 AT 8.00PM**

PRESENT: Cllr J. Kaye, (Chairman), Cllr R. Britain, Cllr P. Croft, Cllr B. Skipper and Cllr S. Smith
APOLOGIES: Cllr R. Lake, Cllr G. Marchant, Cllr G. Rogers and Cllr S. Satterley
IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs L. Kleinschmidt (Clerk), County Cllr P. Lake, District Cllr J. Osborne-Jackson, Regina Jaszinski (SDC Conservation Officer), Lizzie Ashworth (SDC Conservation Office) and members of the public

Cllr Kaye welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. To approve Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 23rd April 2018
Cllr Croft proposed that the minutes be approved, this was seconded by Cllr Smith and all were in favour.
2. To welcome Regina Jaszinski, SDC's Conservation Officer, who will give a talk about Leigh's new Conservation Area proposals and the listed buildings in the parish
Regina Jaszinski reported that she is part of a team of 4 in the Conservation Office. Her main role is to respond to applications for works to listed buildings in the district and also works to buildings in Conservation Areas. The team also works proactively on development documents that go into the Local Plan. Leigh has a high number of listed buildings and is also unique as has the Hall Place estate close to the village. Leigh is very deserving of its Conservation Area. Some buildings are unlisted but give an important contribution to the Conservation Area. The recent public consultation into the new Conservation Area showed that residents feel that the cricket pavilion in its present form detracts from the attractiveness of The Green and the Conservation Area. The proposed extension to the Conservation Area now includes Garden Cottages which is an interesting example of a 20th Century social housing estate for rural workers. The proposals for the new Conservation Area will be considered by SDC's Cabinet in July. Leigh has three character areas (i) The Green open area, (ii) the narrow buildings of the High Street and (iii) Hall Place estate. Important views that need to be protected have also been considered. For people who are considering making changes to their properties if they live in the Conservation Area there is design guidance on SDC's website www.sevenoaks.gov.uk.

Questions

1. Mr Chris Rowley congratulated Regina for fighting a difficult battle to get Garden Cottages protected and part of the new Conservation Area. He asked whether the area of grass at The Forstall could be protected to stop it being developed. Regina said that it is difficult to justify the inclusion of open spaces in the Conservation Area as they do not quality in terms of architectural interest.
2. Cllr Kaye asked whether the area defined as Hall Place parkland have a higher designation than the rest of the Conservation Area. Regina said that the whole area is designated as park and garden and the buildings are designated as a heritage asset which is a high status. Lizze Ashworth said that Leigh is also designated as Green Belt which is the strongest form of protection. 93% of the Sevenoaks district is Green Belt land, and there are two areas of AONB.
3. Jonathan Cook asked how much help can the Conservation Officer give to protect trees, as Leigh has seen cases where insurance companies who want to remove trees rather than allow root guards to be fitted. Regina said that she has had lots of discussions with SDC's Tree Officers on such matters as their opinion is very important. There is certain legislation regarding tree protection that guides both the Tree Officers and the Conservation Officers.
4. A resident said that she owns a listed building in the village and said that SDC has changed its policy for advice and residents now have to pay for advice. She said that surely applications for minor works should be free on a listed building. Regina said that maintenance normally does not require listed building consent unless the works include something substantial such as a new roof. Regina suggested that residents should email SDC to ask if listed building consent is required rather than pay for pre-planning advice. Lizzie said that residents can apply for a certificate of proposed works to a listed building, which will get a reply to either submit a formal application for

listed building consent, or to say that it's not required. It will differ depending upon the property in question. She added that there is a Listed Building Owners Factsheet on SDC's website and the Society for Protection of Ancient Buildings website www.spab.org.uk is very useful.

5. Another resident said that he lives in a listed building and asked if there is a dossier on each listed building. Lizzie said that Historic England maintains the list of listed buildings and nowadays there is a more detailed description on new listings. For more information, residents can involve a historical consultant. Regina said that there is a listed property owners club which is a good source of guidance and advice, see www.lpoc.co.uk

Cllr Kaye thanked Regina and Lizzie very much for attending the meeting and giving an interesting talk.

3. Chairman's Report of Activities in 2018/19, plus question time

Cllr Kaye reported as follows:

“Membership: So, we have just had an election, or rather we haven't just had an election, as we only managed to field enough candidates to fill all the existing councillor positions. A slight sadness not to have had a democratic process, but far more importantly, thank you to those who did stand and enable us to field a 'competent' parish council, that is a council of 9 members, able to fulfil its duties. We welcome Glynis Rogers onto the Council we welcome Richard Lake back, from his period in Italy. Thank you both, and of course thank you to Peter, Graham, Sue, Richard, Sean and Brett for carrying on. At this election time two of our key players stood down: Colin Stratton Brown and Alan Johnston. We are going to miss them both greatly; their contributions have been enormous. Alan has served on the Parish Council for 24 Years, a remarkable service. Everyone, be aware, Alan knows more about this village than most people will ever know, which pieces of land belong to the village and who lives, or has lived in a particular house. Alan's sense of what's 'right' and fair is to be cherished. Also, Alan, your sense of humour and kindness is a joy. And Colin, your hard work and duty to public service are something that we must all be grateful for. Colin has been on the PC for 16 years, again a remarkable service including 11 years as Chairman. Colin, your perceptive antennae and guidance have been a huge help to me in taking over as Chairman – the moments when I've been contemplating the best course and you have come in with a 'might I suggest' have been appreciated and very valuable. Thank you for all your work.”

Cllr Kaye presented Colin and Alan with a gift from the Parish Council.

“What has the council done this year?: I will summarise the key activities covered during the year. If you'd like any further details please do ask Louise or any councillor, or have a look at the minutes on the website. (Please do keep an eye on the minutes as they are thorough and we do discuss matters with care and at length – they are on the website and on the notice board in the village so please consider yourself advised. And, of course, anyone is always very welcome to attend the monthly meeting on the first Monday of the month here in the Small Hall at 8pm.

Planning

This is one of the key areas of activity, the PC of course only has an advisory role but with the help of our District Councillor Peter Lake we have in the past been able to influence planning decisions. This role will now be covered by our new District Councillor, James Osborne-Jackson. Our Chairman of the Planning Committee continues to be Cllr Graham Marchant. Please remember neighbour comments are taken very seriously by the SDC committee. The Parish Council considered 56 applications, of which they supported 22, opposed 9, had no objection to 8 and made no comment on 17. The reason for the large number of no comments was because we have seen a large increase in the number of applications for permitted development certificates, which the Parish Council is informed of but is not consulted on. We had particular issues over some applications. Appeals were lodged against the refusal to permit a retail car sales unit at Manor Buildings and SDC did actively define their position along with a neighbour who took great trouble, and personal expense, to ensure a satisfactory outcome. We are reasonably pleased with the conclusion - that very limited car sales will be allowed (82 cars per year – yes that number is stated), with no advertising or signs. We will ensure this is complied with. Bellway, from the Powder Mills development, has made good damage to Powder Mill Lane road and verges, a result of continuous pressure. There has been work carried on at Hall Place and we are pleased that Sevenoaks DC has now engaged to ensure that all consents are correctly applied for. There have been a number of applications as a result of permitted development rights around the parish some of which have caused us

great concern. We continue to watch these applications closely to ensure appropriate development only is permitted.

The Green

The Green continues to look excellent and is now regarded as one of the best football pitches in the district. We will continue to work to ensure that this remains the case. We have installed new grass-concrete along the side of the green near the school and on the eastern section from Old Chimneys leading to Powdermill Lane. Both of these areas were damaged by traffic mounting the curb to get past parked cars. It has proven to be effective. We have also installed fencing around the veteran oak which we are pleased with. This provides protection to the tree with minimal visual impact, indeed arguably a positive framing impact.

Roads

We have had two organised litter picks over the entire road network of Leigh. Thank you everyone who helps with this. There are several people in the village who keep their favourite areas clear, and it is noticeable – thank you. It is a particular bugbear of mine and I really do believe that keeping things like this in good order leads to a virtuous circle of improvement and ‘love where you live’. Double yellow lines have been being marked on the High Street opposite the school and on the corner as you leave Leigh towards Hildenborough past Forge Square. Also on both sides of the road at the end of Crandalls. We have sought to introduce a 20mph limit through the High Street, but so far without success, and there are other villages seeking the same. The 40mph speed restriction at Knotley Hall has been implemented – a valuable piece of road safety. Swathe and Visibility cutting - our Parish Council continues to co-operate with three other parishes to cut the verges. We receive funding from KCC for this function, who retain the responsibility and liability. KCC only used to carry out one – rather poor – cut a year and the Parish Council think that it is very worthwhile spending a little more in order to achieve three cuts. This vastly improves road safety for all road users.

Grants

Peter Lake used some of his members grant to support the Historical Society’s storage unit in the large village Hall – a welcome addition to ensure Leigh’s historic documents are stored safely and accessible to all.

Events / visits

SDC hosted a rural housing event on The Green in July which was attended by both the Chairman of SDC and our MP. Turnout was rather small but it was nice to see Sevenoaks trying to help. On the Local Plan no land in Leigh was deemed suitable for inclusion for housing. A Review of Leigh Conservation Area was carried out during the year and generally concluded that the conservation area was in order. A small extension to include /Garden Cottage is being proposed with minor other changes. It was interesting to hear the comment from the surveyors that the village is unique in being cordoned by the railway on one side and Hall Place on the other thus preventing any material expansion. Along with the Royal British Legion a Royal wedding lunch was hosted which was a great success and enjoyed by all. We laid on a Centenary Bonfire, which had a great turnout and was a great village evening. A presentation regarding the proposed increase in capacity of the Leigh Flood Control Scheme was given to an open PC meeting. We are seeking further clarifications on this proposed scheme to ensure that Leigh will not be adversely impacted by the proposed increased water levels when the barrier is closed.

Cricket Pavilion

We continue to work with the cricket club, the owner of the pavilion, and remain extremely keen to improve this building and to make it an attractive village asset with multiple uses. This building is cricket club property and we must respect that, but I do believe that if we all pull together we can bring about a successful redevelopment of this lacklustre building. I do hope that we can pull together some crowd funding or similar to develop a set of plans and seek planning permission so we can have a project to move forward

Correspondence

The Parish Council has dealt with about 135 items of correspondence during the year. All issues are discussed and are followed up wherever there is something that can be done. So do please get in touch when you have concerns.

APDs

They are in a sound condition and minor repairs have been made. We do hold reserves for the time when any significant repairs are needed,

Affordable Housing

A survey was carried out which showed there was a need for fifteen rented properties and four shared ownership. We have had no success with this process to date; ultimately it is up to land-owners to allow houses to be built and to date none have agreed to this. We continue to pursue possibilities but there is no solution currently in view

Trees

The Parish Council has reviewed several tree applications and in almost all cases there is no objection. In addition the Parish Council owns some 40 trees and has had them all surveyed this year. We do heed advice to ensure they remain in the best possible condition. The Well Close row of conifers which were excessively cut back by KCC have proved to be a challenge. KCC eventually agreed to remove them and replace with a beech hedge, though sadly, days before work was due to begin, we were prevented from proceeding with this work due to the alleged possibility of disturbing nesting birds. We are very frustrated and sad, and indeed sorry, that this delay came about but hope, although cannot guarantee due to KCC budget considerations, that this work will be carried out in the autumn.

Charcott

We have installed posts in Charcott to prevent vehicles driving on the green there as they pass parked vehicles

Rights of Way Committee

We have 4 Countryside Access Wardens in Leigh / Charcott who are in effect the volunteer eyes and ears of KCC for keeping footpaths in good condition. If there is any footpath that needs attention please contact any one of the CAWs. They are Joe Staffurth, Jonathan Cook, Rachel Valentine and me.

Behaviour

Considerable effort goes into intervening discretely in instance of antisocial behaviour and there have been unpleasant instances this year. If you have issues please do contact us and please do dial 101 to report this sort of thing.

Gatwick

The Parish Council continues to be an active member of the High Weald Councils Aviation Action Group. You might remember that a recommendation from Gatwick's Arrivals Review was that there should be an *independent* noise management board. This was set up but has proved to be completely ineffectual. The Board comprised representatives from industry, from Gatwick Airport Ltd, from county councils and from community noise groups (which includes the High Weald Aviation Action Group). Apart from the success of the introduction of the modification to reduce that incessant whine from the A320 series of aircraft, Gatwick and the Noise Management Board were not willing to take forward any other recommendations put forward by the community noise groups. At the last NMB meeting, agreement could not be reached on two issues and the chairman said that the NMB therefore will cease to exist. It is expected that Gatwick will form another NMB most probably without an invitation to the community noise groups to join. The High Weald Councils Aviation Action Group will now discuss how to proceed, but it is anticipated that they will work with the other community noise groups and meet with MPs, the DfT, the CAA and NATS in an effort to push their policy objectives.

Finance

The year to 31st March is now complete and a finance report is circulated tonight. . The accounts were on the whole to budget and we are re-building our finances after the major expenditures on the green. Councillors decided to increase the parish precept for 2019/20 to £39,500 to cover the ongoing needs of the Parish. This amounted to a 4.4% increase over 2017/18, though the precept for Leigh Parish is still the lowest of all the parishes in the Sevenoaks district. A band D property's council tax in Leigh is £41.66, up from £38.89 per annum, and the average for the district is £86.96

Concluding Remarks

My thanks to all Councillors, Colin Stratton-Brown, Alan Johnston, Graham Marchant, Sue Smith, Peter Croft, Sean Satterley, Richard Britain and Brett Skipper and welcome to Glynis Rogers and Richard Lake. Very many thanks to Councillor Peter Lake, our District *and* County Council representative, for his untiring efforts on behalf of the parish and his remarkable attendance record at our meetings and frequent other meetings in the parish. And we welcome James Osborne-Jackson to his new role as District Councillor.

And most importantly, Louise – thank you. Louise is a star and always ready to deal with the multiple issues that arise. We are lucky to have your blend of skills and approachableness.”

4. To present the Leigh Community Award 2018

Cllr Kaye announced that the winner of this year's Community Award is Brian Ball for a huge contribution to Leigh as a Trustee of Leigh United Charity, revitalising Leigh Royal British Legion Club, supporting Leigh Cricket Club, compere of numerous village functions and ardent litter picker.

5. Report by County and District Cllr Peter Lake

County Cllr Lake reported as follows:

"It has been a most difficult year for KCC with an ever increasing demand for social care both for vulnerable adults and children, with still no real way forwards with the Government, and sharing the cost of this burden with the NHS. As I write we are still awaiting payment for last year from the Home Office for looking after young asylum seekers. As a result our Council tax burden increases once again by 5%.

Speeding through our villages: KCC Environment and Transport Board are about to consider an important report concerning speed reductions to 20 mph, but there is still a Department of Transport directive stating that these measures cannot apply to A or B roads because this slows down the traffic flow! All other roads will not qualify if average traffic speed is above 28 mph. Whatever is decided I will continue to demand speed reductions.

Highways: Drains are to be cleared annually on A and B roads but if drains are to be cleared on other roads a request must be made on the Highways portal. Our drains are due to be cleared in August, but I have asked for this to be changed to November after the leaf fall. It is pleasing to see that some of our roads are to have a decent layer of tarmac, but I fear that we will continue to use surface dressing which to my mind is useless as it has to be replaced every 5 years and it does not prevent potholes. The Highways website is well set out so please continue to report any potholes or other road/verge problems.

Fly Tipping: Even though a survey indicated that 85% of those questioned felt that charging for waste would lead to still more fly tipping KCC has decided to go ahead on a trial basis. I suggested having skips placed strategically rather like our bottle banks, which are so successful, but obviously sites would have to be very carefully selected. My idea was thrown out, but let's wait and see if we notice a reduction in what is an illegal act.

Strokes: For some time now the KCC Health Overview and Scrutiny has been trying to stop the NHS reducing the number of stroke units across Kent from 6 down to 3. The unit at Pembury is destined to close so patients will have to go either to Maidstone or Redhill hospitals. Although we have questioned the journey time by ambulance our concerns have been dismissed. We will have to see what happens next, but the Pembury unit costing over £2m was only opened in 2014 with great acclaim and now it is to close altogether. I will be watching the progress very carefully with my colleagues at KCC, but we remain very concerned.

Schools: I continue to do battle on behalf of my constituents trying to get children to the school of their choice, and a bus pass until they reach the age of 16. I have overcrowding on many school buses which I am fighting and this year I find that some children have been placed far from their nearest school. Currently I am representing 10 families who have been told that their 11 year olds will have to go to a school in Cranbrook, by train changing in Tonbridge to another train to Staplehurst and then completing the journey by bus, a distance of 32 miles. This is complete madness and I am doing my utmost to get them placed nearer to home.

I would like to thank your Chairman, your Clerk and all the Coucillors who do so much for you all. You work so hard for the community you represent. I am with you for another two years so I will do my utmost to represent you all to the best of my ability."

6. Report by District Cllr James Osborne-Jackson

District Cllr Osborne-Jackson said that he commends the work done by Peter Lake whilst the SDC member for Leigh and Chiddingstone Causeway. D.Cllr Osborne-Jackson said that he has achieved £30,000 of funding for the Leigh Improvement Fund for Leigh Station, and also for Penshurst Station. Kent Police has pledged more police patrols in the area in unmarked cars. Unfortunately SDC cannot help fund Leigh in Bloom but he will ask local businesses if they are able to help fund the project.

7. Report on Leigh United Charities and The Crandalls Trust

Brian Ball reported that the Leigh United Charities can help students with costs associated with travel or books. Colin Stratton-Brown reported that The Crandalls Trust committee decides how the fund is

managed. Last year the primary school received funding to help with school trips, also funding was given to Leigh Tennis Club to help fund the children's coaching and the Church received funding towards youth work.

8. Matters for reporting and diary dates

1. Chris Rowley said that the Historical Society has been working on a review of Greenview Avenue and Lealands Avenue. The development there started in 1920. He said that anyone who wishes to volunteer to help would be welcome.
2. Chris Rowley said that the railings around the veteran oak tree look good, this is a safety issue. The railings are close to the road however and make the road narrow at this point.

Cllr Kaye thanked everyone for attending. The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

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A report from the Lyghe W.I. to a meeting of Leigh Parish Council

The original concept of a community based organisation for women was initiated in Canada in 1897, its success spread and within years the Women's Institute was officially introduced into this country. By 1918 The West Kent Federation came into existence and by the following year Lyghe W.I. held its inaugural meeting which attracted around 60 ladies and from then on it hasn't looked back.

The Women's Institute plays a unique role in welcoming members from all backgrounds with a wide range of interests and skills to meet their potential by providing educational opportunities, fighting against prejudiced and campaign at all levels locally and nationally on major issues that affect us all. WI's offer support and friendship, they invite a wide range of speakers to talk at their monthly meetings as well as offering a host of activities such as book club, play reading, discussion groups and craft. In this Institute we also compete at darts amongst ourselves and other Institutes, enjoy going ten pin bowling and have just started a group to learn how to tackle cryptic crosswords. Food plays an important part in our yearly calendar with pub lunches and three times a year home cooked lunch in the Scout Hut, always a very popular occasion. We also believe that it is important to engage with the wider community for instance by helping with teas at a variety of events within the village.

Lyghe W.I.meets on the first Wednesday of the month in the Small Village Hall at 2 pm, guests are welcome and may attend up to three meetings before being asked to join and pay a subscription. We have enjoyed a diverse range of talks including one on Eva Braun, Ten Brave Men and True - all winners of the V. C., The Suffragettes and most recently on Thomas Cook and the birth of package holidays.

The last 12 months have been particularly busy as we have been preparing to celebrate our Centenary which began in February with our Birthday Party to which we invited neighbouring Institutes and included the daughter of one of our founders.

Activities have been planned for throughout the year; the Scout Hut Lunches will reflect typical menus spanning the last hundred years, there will be a Safari Lunch in the summer, a trip to Denman, the W.I. College and the big event will be in the marquee on the Green in September when we also hope to plant a commemorative tree. The climax of our celebrations will be a Carol Concert in St Mary's Church in December when once again we will invite our fellow local Institutes.

We have a magnificent new banner made by one of our members, a scrapbook, completed a couple of years ago to record life in the village in words, paintings and photographs and are in the process of compiling a rather special recipe book.

I hope that this short report gives the Parish Council a flavour of some of our activities. I have not detailed our commitment to aid projects to help disadvantaged women and girls, the donation of essential hygienic products via local charities, nor our support for campaigns relating to environmental issues.

The W.I. is an amazing organisation which is growing rapidly in inner cities and even in Women's prisons where it is viewed as a valuable step to reuniting women back to the community. It has come a long way from jam and Jerusalem but its ethos remains constant.

Alison Cook
President Lyghe W.I.

Kent Police

Leigh report 2019

Since I have been looking after the area I have been working hard to build up a regular communication with the Parishes. I have been supplying a monthly report which includes relevant crime prevention advice to any recent incidents or crimes that have been occurring in the area. But I am happy to report that Leigh remains a low crime area.

Recently I have been focusing on nuisance vehicles mainly motorbikes. A few months ago I was able to put up some large highly visible notices in the villages where I have had reports of nuisance vehicles being ridden off road etc. Since these notices have gone up, I have only received 1 report of this nature in Leigh and Chiddingstone and with a bit of investigation I learnt that was a local farmer who was maintaining land. However in other locations the Edenbridge team have been able to seize a number of bikes that have been causing a nuisance nearby as well issuing riders with a written warning (section 59) and arrests have also been made. We will continue to work on the issue and deal with any offences robustly. I would like to encourage any residents with any information regarding nuisance vehicles to report it to Police via 101 or online via the Kent police website.

I have made several visits to the school and have been working with them to resolve a parking concern around The Green in Leigh.

I will continue to make as much time as possible to patrol the rural villages of my patch. If you require any crime prevention or advice regarding a local issue please don't hesitate to contact me. You can now also find crime prevention advice on the Leigh Parish Council website.

Kind regards,
PCSO Joe Cain.

LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

FINANCE REPORT FOR YEAR 2018-2019

The Parish Council's financial year runs from 1st April until 31st March. The precept for the year 2018-19 was £35,000. This sum, which is generated from residents' Council Tax, is paid to the Parish Council by Sevenoaks District Council. The precept for 2019-20 has been increased to £39,500. Leigh's precept remains the lowest precept in the whole district. Our grateful thanks go to Mr Roger Sykes for undertaking our internal audit, and the Audit Commission signed off our Annual Return confirming that the accounts were in good order.

Annual memberships have been renewed to the following:

Kent Association of Local Councils	£569.24
Action with Communities in Rural Kent	£50.00
CPRE	£36.00
Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign	£10.00
Parish Council Legal Update publication	£75.00
Kent Playing Fields Association	£20.00
Aviation Environment Federation	£36.00
Society of Local Council Clerks	£92.50
Information Commissioner's Office	£35.00

Grants have been awarded as follows:

Leigh PCC – contribution towards The Leigh Directory	£300.00
Community First Responders	£200.00
Leigh Royal British Legion – purchase of projector	£412.06

Below is a summary of the Parish Council's Income and Expenditure for the year 2018-19:

INCOME	£	EXPENDITURE	£
Precept	35,000.00	Salaries	8,871.76
SDC: Community Infrastructure Levy	155.31	PAYE	1,828.87
APD rental	10,100.00	Pension contribution	3,556.09
Wayleave	7.30	Mileage and petty cash	920.25
Interest on Investments	63.47	Stationery	39.00
Grant from Sport England The Green	8,170.00	Telephone/Broadband	274.33
Grant from KCC towards kerbing	4,625.00	Office Expenses	1,211.12
Shayler's Fun Fair	400.00	Website	330.98
Leigh Football Club	590.66	Bank charges	35.00
		Insurance	1,215.41
		Audit/Accountancy	300.00
		Chairman's Expenses	55.50
		Subscriptions	923.74
		Hall Hire	148.40
		Advertising/Publicity	110.00
		Village Green	7,173.54
		Kerbs around The Green	9,575.00
		Litter / dog bins	2,043.70
		Grants	912.06
		APD	824.96
		Family Fun Play Scheme	512.21
		CIL payments	3,850.00
		Aviation	228.53
		Defibrillators	324.00
		Verges	1,018.60
		Entertainment	11.15
	59,111.74		46,294.20
		Surplus of Income / Expenditure	12,817.54
		Transfers to/from reserves: APD:	2,000.00
		Election expenses:	300.00
		Planning contingency:	500.00
		General contingency:	500.00
		Community Infrastructure Levy:	-9,044.69
		Surplus after transfers to reserves	18,562.23
		Balance at year-end	66,844.08

Louise Kleinschmidt
Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer



Leigh Primary School Report

It has been another busy but successful year for Leigh Primary School. Pupils, staff, governors, parents and friends have all been involved in this success and, without doubt, the school continues to flourish. As ever, the children continue to be the focus of all we do here. We have worked hard to continually develop the curriculum and building so that they are fit for purpose in the coming years and a huge investment in ICT has ensured that we are in a strong position to meet the needs of all the children.

In October the school had a visit from OFSTED. As Leigh Primary School was previously judged to be a 'Good' School at its last inspection in October 2014, this inspection was always going to be a Section 8 Inspection. This type of inspection is a one day visit and is, in itself, not able to change the overall grading a school receives. However, in rare circumstances where a school can prove that it has significantly further strengthened its practice since the previous inspection, the lead inspector is able to recommend that the school's next inspection be a Section 5 Inspection where the grading can be changed. The lead inspector shared with me that around one in fifteen schools who are graded 'Good' are recommended for a Section 5 Inspection and, as you will see from the letter on our school website, we are extremely pleased to have been selected as one of those schools. This next inspection will take place between 12-24 months and will be a two day visit.

Over the recent Easter holiday we have invested hugely in the school building. With a predominately Victorian building it is difficult to keep the fabric in a state which is fit for purpose. However with some careful financial planning and support from KCC we have been able to tackle quite a bit on our Buildings Maintenance Plan. We now have a new fence around the Key Stage 2 playground, we have developed the garden area at the front of the school, there has been new flooring laid in a classroom and reception area, and other projects have been completed including new guttering and painting work. Over the half term break we will be installing new blinds throughout the school and then we have some more work to be completed during the summer holiday.

Academic results continue to be high and we have, yet again, been ranked highly in local and national league tables. In November the SATs results from the summer term were published. Of particular interest was our progress data in reading which placed us 12th in the whole of the county (last year we were 5th) which is out of 581 schools in total. We were also placed 262nd in this year's Sunday Times League Table (out of 20,925 primary schools) which puts us in the top 1.25% nationally. These represent some very pleasing outcomes for the children at this school and my thanks go to all the staff for everything they do to ensure the children are as well prepared as possible for the next stage of their education.

This year all of our children have been awarded their first or second choice Secondary Schools with a high proportion progressing to the Grammar Schools based in Tonbridge or Tunbridge Wells. We also received a high number of applications for our 23 places in September and I'm delighted to say that our roll will be full again in the next academic year.

This schools is not merely about academic achievement however. Countless other opportunities exist for the children to explore a broad and balanced curriculum and to find things on the extra-curricular programme that might be of interest. I'm delighted that we are still able to offer around 20 clubs a week and that the sports premium funding has been put to good use with the continued employment of Matt Thacker as our sports specialist and the continuation of our Forest School programme. The extra-curricular life of the school continues to flourish. Clubs currently on offer for children include: Netball, Boxing, Cross County, Cricket, Fencing, French, Choir, Karate, Chess, Orchestra, Board Game, Yoga, Christmas Baking and Football. For the past couple of years we have taken over the E M Forster Theatre at Tonbridge School for our whole school production and we are planning to do the same this year on Monday 15th July; please do come along and support us! Our status as a Forest School continues to provide the children with wonderful opportunities for outdoor learning and the wildlife area is a much cherished and used resource. We have, however, had some unfortunate incidences of our field being used in an anti-social way in the evenings and weekends and we are looking at ways of securing the site in a more satisfactory way. Drug taking and vandalism seems to have become common place on our school field and we need to secure the site so that the children can continue to use it for its intended purpose.

We are also extremely fortunate to benefit from weekly tennis lessons throughout the year at Leigh Tennis Club. As there are six classes at the school, each class receives half a term's tuition (about 6-7 weeks) during which time they work with Adam on ball skills, racket control, appreciation of the rules of tennis and, most

importantly, developing a love of the game. The sessions they receive are always extremely well delivered, well structured and build on skills previously taught. They are also very well differentiated and cater for children of all abilities. Adam has a wonderful relationship with the children and they thoroughly enjoy these excellent sessions. The children are extremely fortunate to receive such quality tennis coaching in the village and we are grateful to the Parish Council, Leigh United Charities and the Tennis Club for making this possible. We realise this is a significant financial commitment and we are very mindful of ensuring that the children get as much out of these sessions as possible. We would, of course, like to encourage as many children as possible to join the Tennis Club as members and will be happy to anything we can do to support this.

The PTA continue to be an extremely successful organisation, raising huge amounts of money for the school. This year money has been raised to equip the school with new ICT equipment and we have recently purchased 49 Chromebooks for the children to use in the classrooms. The PTA have donated £9,000 for the purchase of these devices and they will be used by the children for a wide variety of different activities in the classroom. A Chromebook is a sort of laptop that runs on Google's web-based Chrome OS. Most of the Chromebook's documents and apps exist in "the cloud" rather than on the device itself and the range of educational apps and online teaching resources is huge. To finish the project we would like to purchase another 15 of these (at a cost of around £3,500) so that every child can have access to ICT equipment that is fit for purpose.

The Friends of Leigh Primary School continue to be involved in the school through the work of David James and the annual lunch, hosted by Janet Court, is always a highlight! We are blessed with extremely high numbers of volunteers who listen to children read, take clubs, accompany us on trips or are just generally supportive in so many other ways. Lionel and David are regular visitors and take assembly every Tuesday morning; we are extremely grateful to them for their involvement in the school and the support they give us.

Leigh Primary School is a school in the heart of its community. We are extremely grateful to all the organisations who have contributed to a very successful year for the school and to all the support shown by the residents of the village. If it's been a while since you came and saw us then do pop in; I'd be delighted to see you and show you around our wonderful school.

Daniel Eaton
Headteacher Leigh Primary School
May 2019

Sharing, Caring and Learning Together

We believe that there is no limit to what our pupils can achieve and it is our privilege at Leigh Primary School to nurture the potential talents of all our pupils and to provide them with an effective springboard for their future.

We will further our ambitions for our pupils by providing them with an outstanding and safe learning environment which encourages all learners to attempt new challenges and take risks with confidence.

In close partnership with our community, we will ensure all our pupils leave us ready to make a valued contribution to society. We take immense pride in our high standards and our reputation as the village school on the green which knows no limits. We aim to be the school that is truly 'Sharing, Caring and Learning Together'.