

LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE LARGE VILLAGE HALL MONDAY 5TH JULY 2021 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. Rogers, Cllr G. Marchant and Cllr S. Satterley
IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs L. Kleinschmidt (Clerk) and District Cllr Osborne-Jackson. County Cllr McArthur and two members of the public attended the meeting for the Open Session only.

Open Session

Report by County Cllr McArthur

County Cllr McArthur reported as follows:

1. The KCC budget has been agreed. Income last year was down by £22m, mostly due to non-collection of council tax but it is hoped some of this will be recouped. KCC received £50m in covid-related grants. The council will need to save £60m in costs in this financial year and £80m next year. The council managed to find budget to fund the Reconnect scheme which is a community led programme for children and young people aged between 2 and 18 years to get them back to enjoying the activities and opportunities they took part in before the pandemic. A wide variety of events are being held, see www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/reconnect.
2. C.Cllr McArthur has been appointed to the various aviation groups, Gatcom, Noise Management Board and Natmag.
3. The bulk refuse freighter is back on the road and C.Cllr McArthur is pleased to see that it is booked to come to Leigh on 24th July. The Kent household waste and recycling centres are still operating a prior-booking system but they are now open for longer hours.
4. The Government refused KCC's request for asylum children and young people to be spread over the country, rather than just in Kent, which is causing a huge problem and financial burden on social services. Normally there are 260 children in care in Kent, now there are 450 including asylum young people.

Report by District Cllr Osborne-Jackson

District Cllr Osborne-Jackson reported as follows:

1. The Leigh litter pick was very well attended and D.Cllr Osborne-Jackson thanked SDC staff who collected the rubbish promptly today.
2. He has had a one-to-one meeting with the Headteacher at Leigh Primary School to discuss casework for constituent families, and one family is also working with Tom Tugendhat MP.
3. He has had a meeting with the Chief Planning Officer and the legal team at SDC, and also attended the Development Control Committee meeting on Thursday 1st July to support the objections made by the Parish Council and Leigh residents, having referred the application to DCC for determination. He said that he will ensure that the conditions, many of which he instigated, are enforced. Some residents have been questioning the process and any such enquiries should be sent by email to legal@sevenoaks.gov.uk. The application was decided as part of a democratic process and he was pleased that many of the DCC members agreed to his suggestion of a site visit. Cllr Kaye thanked D.Cllr Osborne-Jackson and Cllr Skipper for all their hard work on this application.
4. D.Cllr Osborne-Jackson supported the Parish Council in its request for paper planning applications.

County Cllr McArthur left the meeting at 8.19pm.

Questions from members of the public

1. A resident asked why the Air Ambulance seems to be flying over Leigh more regularly. Cllr Smith said that this does seem to have escalated recently. D.Cllr Osborne-Jackson said that the Air Ambulance will always take the most direct route as time is very important when they are called out to save a life.

2. The resident then asked about a Leigh family that seem to have a lot of animals, some of which are not kept in the most appropriate manner. D.Cllr Osborne-Jackson said that the RSPCA and WKHA would be the organisations to help with these concerns.
3. A resident asked whether the highway priority signage is correct at the railway bridge on Lower Green. Cllr Britain said that there is a Give Way sign on the village side of the bridge and members agreed that the Clerk should request that this is changed to a stop sign. Cllr Skipper said that a kerb protrudes into the road on the bend at the top of the hill on Ensfield Road. The Clerk said that she has previously reported this to KCC.

The members of the public left the meeting at 8.35pm.

Closed Session

37. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllr Lake, Cllr Marchant, Cllr Rogers and Cllr Satterley and their reasons for absence were accepted by the Parish Council.
38. **Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest / Non-Pecuniary Interest on matters to be discussed**
Cllr Croft had declared a DPI in item 51(ii) as he has presented an invoice for payment.
39. **The minutes of the Leigh Parish Council Meeting held on 7th June 2021** were approved and duly signed. Proposed by Cllr Britain, seconded by Cllr Croft and all were in favour.
40. **Planning**
 - i. To consider applications received
 - i. SE/21/01712/HOUSE: Alphester, 3 Greenview Avenue, Leigh TN11 8QT - single storey infill extension to rear, to replace conservatory, with vaulted pitched roof and roof lights over. Members of the Planning Committee undertook to consider this application.
The Clerk reported that since the last meeting, the Planning Committee discussed the following applications and submitted comments:
 - ii. SE/21/01397/LDCPR: 10 Mill Stream Rise, Leigh TN11 9FD - proposed garage conversion and associated alterations. Members had no comment to make on this application.
 - iii. SE/21/01452/PAE: 17 Powder Mill Lane, Leigh TN11 9AR - prior notification of a single storey rear extension which extends 6m beyond the rear wall of the original dwelling house with a maximum height of 3m and eaves height of 3m. Members had no comment to make on this application.
 - iv. SE/21/01552/FUL: Land to the West of Chessenden, Greenview Avenue, Leigh TN11 8QT - change of use from Residential Garage to Residential Dwelling house. Members submitted a strong objection to this application, as follows: There have been three previous applications for the erection of a proposed new dwelling in this location which were all refused. Two of these applications went to appeal and were dismissed. The applicant managed under permitted development to achieve the erection of a detached outbuilding, which was amended to allow the current garage to be built. We now have an application to convert the garage into a separate dwelling. This must not be allowed for the same reasons as the previous applications were refused, namely:
 1. The dwelling will be an incongruous, intrusive form of development within the existing street scene and fails to relate to the existing character and appearance of the local area.
 2. The Green Lane is a very narrow quiet lane that could not take increased residential traffic and an access onto this road from a residential property on this side of the road must be resisted. The Green Lane belongs to SDC and is unadopted.
 3. The proposal would set an unwelcome precedent for further redevelopment of rear gardens in Greenview Avenue, which all back onto The Green Lane.
 4. The proposal is contrary to the Leigh Village Design Statement, in particular the following paragraphs:
 - 21(1) New buildings should be designed in a style which harmonises with their immediate neighbours, in form, size and materials. (Principle 9 of Kent Design)

- 21(3) Careful consideration must be given to the siting of each new building to ensure that it has adequate space, does not appear cramped when viewed in conjunction with its neighbours, and does not breach any existing building line, or impede any of the listed views
- 26(d) The following building designs and features are not considered to be suitable for use in either new buildings or altered or extended buildings in Leigh: d) Large buildings on small sites, without adequate garden or landscaping.

5. The current proposal shows a dwelling with just two small windows, one on the eastern elevation and one on the western elevation. This is unsustainable. To achieve a useable house, it would require additional windows to be installed on the northern and southern elevations. The building is located only about 1m from the boundaries in each direction and will therefore overlook neighbours. There is not enough light in the existing proposal for a habitable dwelling.

The Parish Council reiterates its strong objection to this application. However, if the planning officer is minded to approve it, the Parish Council requests that conditions be imposed to remove any future permitted development rights, to remove the ability to extend the property, to increase the height of the property or to increase the number of windows due to concerns relating to overlooking.

- v. SE/21/01556/HOUSE: Applebys, Tonbridge Road, Chiddingstone Causeway TN11 8JH - construction of a new double garage to the west of Applebys. Members supported this application.
- vi. SE/21/01560/FUL: Kettles Barn, Tonbridge Road, Chiddingstone Causeway TN11 8JH - replacement of existing dwelling and boundary lines. Members objected to this application due to the impact of the proposed new development on the listed building of Applebys. The proposal constitutes a new, much larger, building in the Green Belt and on the new footprint would be inappropriate development in the Green Belt. The Parish Council believes that this barn should be curtilage listed, and therefore the Parish Council would expect to see an application for listed building consent.
- vii. SE/21/01561/FUL: Applebys Barn, Tonbridge Road, Chiddingstone Causeway TN11 8JH - alterations to fenestration to the north and east elevations and extension of a screen boundary wall to the east. Members had no objection to the proposed alterations to the eastern fenestration or to the extension of the screen boundary wall. The Parish Council does object to the proposed alterations to the northern fenestration as the existing window was a requirement of the original planning consent in order to retain the characteristics of the original agricultural building.
- viii. SE/21/01562/FUL and SE/21/01563/LBCALT: Applebys, Tonbridge Road, Chiddingstone Causeway TN11 8JH - redefinition of boundaries between three separate dwellings within an entirely residential site. Members had no comment to make on this application.
- ix. SE/21/01769/HOUSE: 6 Hunter Seal, Leigh TN11 9AW - part of garage conversion and installation of bi-folding doors. Members had no objection to this application.
- x. SE/21/01773/HOUSE: Burstock, 43 Penshurst Road, Leigh TN11 8HN - single-storey rear extension and two-storey side extension. Members had no objection to this application.

ii. To report SDC planning application decisions:

- SE/21/00889/LBCALT: Jessups, Camp Hill, Chiddingstone Causeway - internal remedial works due to oil spill on 1980's built extension to the listed building. Application approved.
- SE/21/01278/HOUSE: 10 Hollow Trees Close, Leigh - two storey rear extension. Application approved.
- SE/21/01152/HOUSE: 5 Mill Stream Rise, Leigh - introduction of new terrace at first floor level and new single storey extension at rear. Application approved.
- SE/21/01393/HOUSE and SE/21/01394/LBCALT: Old Brickmakers, 92 Lower Green, Leigh - demolition of modern half of garden outbuilding (old cobbler's shop) with flat roof and roof light, and erection of new matching extension to create a double piled roof formation. New extension to existing rear lean-to Utility/WC comprising a cranked extension with pitched roof. New extension in matching facing brick. Existing adjacent lean-to enclosed porch with window, existing rear door to be infilled.

New rear single storey bedroom extension with pitched clay tiled roof to form third pile to existing roof formation. White painted feather edged cladding to match existing. New replacement bathroom window at 1st floor with painted timber finish. Applications approved.

- SE/21/01113/FUL: Land South of Brookside Cottage, Egg Pie Lane, Weald - demolition of existing wooden agricultural shed. Erection of a new wooden agricultural shed. Application approved.
- SE/21/01231/HOUSE: Hale Oak Barn, Hale Oak Road, Sevenoaks Weald - erection of a domestic glasshouse, a bin and log store and a minor fenestration alteration (replacement of two single doors with a trifold door). Application refused. Reason: The proposal would represent inappropriate development and results in unjustified built form in the open countryside and Green Belt by adding new buildings to previously open and undeveloped land. This would be harmful to the openness of the Green Belt and to the intrinsic landscape character and qualities of the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. No case of very special circumstances have been advanced which outweigh the significant harm identified.
- SE/21/01350/HOUSE: Woodside House, Penshurst Road, Penshurst - replacement garden room to the West elevation, dormer windows, and skylight. Replacement entrance door set, and associated works/alterations to fenestration. Application approved.
- SE/20/02892/FUL: Sevton, Powder Mill Lane, Leigh - proposed retention of existing farm building and change of use to enable a horse cremation facility. Application approved at SDC DCC meeting on 1st July. The following conditions were imposed:
 - 1) The development hereby permitted shall be begun before the expiration of three years from the date of this permission.
 - 2) The use of the buildings shall be limited to a horse cremation facility and for no other use or purpose.
 - 3) The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the approved plans and documents.
 - 4) Prior to the use of the site commencing the only vehicular access to and egress from the site shall be by way of the access to Powder Mill Lane, which was approved as part of planning permission SE/16/00683/ARGNOT. This access shall be permanently retained as such thereafter.
 - 5) Use of the site shall be limited to one horse cremation per day.
 - 6) Cremations and deliveries to the site shall only take place during the following hours: Monday - Saturday 08:00 to 19:00 hours and no cremations and deliveries shall take place on Sunday and Bank Holidays.
 - 7) No external lighting shall be installed on site without the prior written approval of the Local Planning Authority. Details of the siting, type, illumination and beam trajectory shall be submitted should external lighting be sought.
 - 8) Prior to use of the site commencing, full details of ecological enhancements to the site shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved scheme.
 - 9) No open backed loaded vehicles used in connection to the horse cremation operations shall leave the site unless they are securely sheeted or otherwise covered. All horse carcasses are to be moved in a DEFRA approved sealed trailer.
 - 10) All vehicles used in association with the horse cremation facility shall enter and exit the site via Powder Mill Lane. Prior to the commencement of the use a sign shall be erected at the site exit directing all vehicles to turn right onto Powder Mill Lane.
 - 11) Prior to the use of the site commencing details of the colour and external materials of the proposed flue pipe shall be submitted to and approved by the local planning authority. Once installed the flue shall be retained as such thereafter
 - 12) Routine maintenance of the horse cremation equipment, plant and flue shall be undertaken in accordance with the manufacturer's guidelines in perpetuity and a record shall be kept of the maintenance carried out. The record shall be made available on request by the local planning authority.

13) Prior to the use of the site commencing, details of a soft landscaping scheme comprising evergreen planting to be planted along the boundary adjacent to the southern elevation of the building shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details and if within a period of five years from the completion of the development, any of the trees or plants that form part of the approved details of soft landscaping die, are removed or become seriously damaged or diseased then they shall be replaced in the next planting season with others of similar size and species.

- SE/21/01397/LDCPR: 10 Mill Stream Rise, Leigh TN11 9FD - Lawful Development Certificate for proposed garage conversion and associated alterations. Application refused. Reason: Permitted development rights in respect of any proposed development which precludes vehicular access or vehicular use of the parking spaces or garages on the estate were removed when consent for the estate of houses was first granted in 2014 (application ref: 14/00487/FUL) and later amended in 2017 (application ref: 16/02593/CONVAR).
- SE/21/01452/PAE: 17 Powder Mill Lane, Leigh TN11 9AR - Prior Approval Extensions prior notification of a single storey rear extension which extends 6m beyond the rear wall of the original dwelling house with a maximum height of 3m and eaves height of 3m. Decision: Prior Approval Not Required.

iii. To hear report of the SDC Development Control Committee meeting held on 1st July

See Open Session above. Cllr Skipper said that local residents are considering taking legal action against SDC's decision to approve the application at Sevton Farm. The Clerk said that the only course of action would be a Judicial Review if members of the public felt that SDC's process was unlawful. Members agreed that they sympathised with residents who live near to Sevton Farm and are disappointed with the outcome of the Development Control Committee meeting held last week. However the Parish Council accepts that SDC's decision was the outcome of a properly constituted committee discussion. Accordingly the Parish Council does not support taking any further action with regard to the approval of the application, but rather that the focus should be on ensuring that the multiple conditions imposed are adhered to. Clerk asked D.Cllr Osborne-Jackson to thank D.Cllr Barnett for supporting the Parish Council's and residents' concerns at the meeting.

iv. To discuss paperless planning applications

Email from Richard Morris, Deputy Chief Executive at SDC and Chief Planning Officer, regarding our email on paperless planning: "Thank you for your emails regarding the challenges that Chiddingstone and Leigh Parish Councils are having when considering planning applications electronically. Local views form an essential part of the decision making process so it is really important to us that Parishes aren't disadvantaged in any way. I know that in the past we have delivered specific training on things such as navigating the Portal and using the online measuring tool, as well as sharing best practice and the experiences of others. I'd be very happy to arrange for a further and more detailed discussion of the issues your Parishes are facing so we can see how we might best be able to help, if that would be useful for you?" Members agreed that training is not the issue and Clerk to respond to reiterate the Parish Council's request for paper planning applications.

41. The Green

i. To discuss the Leigh in Bloom Parish in Bloom competition

Cllr Kaye reported that the competition judging date is 7th July. He said that there was upset when the wildflowers at the entrance to the sub-station were cut when the hedge was cut. Members agreed to reduce the height and width of the hedge in the autumn, and to consider planting hedging plants on both sides of the entrance to the sub-station.

ii. To consider repair to the War Memorial

The Clerk reported that she is meeting Burslems at the War Memorial on Thursday 8th July at 11am to discuss a traditional mortar repair.

iii. To discuss the Family Fun play events on The Green 2021

The Clerk reported that the Circus Workshop has been booked for the Leigh Play Event to be held on The Green on Friday 13th August from 2pm to 5pm. Penshurst Parish Council has agreed to give both Leigh and Chiddingstone Parish Councils £150 towards advertising and a donation towards face painting. David Bennie will attend with his toy stall and refreshments.

- iv. To discuss the ACRK Coffee Caravan project which will use The Green
The Clerk reported that the Coffee Caravan visited Leigh on Friday 2nd July and was well supported by local residents. Next dates: 30.07.21, 27.08.21 and 24.09.21. The Clerk asked whether the Parish Council would be willing to give a contribution as the Coffee Caravan relies on fund raising to operate and said they would like to come back next summer on The Green and maybe during the winter months in one of the halls. Cllr Skipper proposed that a grant of £150 be given, this was seconded by Cllr Croft and all were in favour.
- v. To discuss whether to plant a tree to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022
Email from SDC: "To mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022, there will be a unique tree planting campaign across the UK which will be known as The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC), which will promote the importance of trees to the environment, through the encouragement of tree planting and tree preservation across the nation. From June 2021, the Woodland Trust will be giving away 3 million saplings free of charge to community groups on a first come-first served basis. See <https://shop.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees>. All schools are encouraged to engage with the QGC. Trees and hedgerows must be planted with care, at the right time of year, in the right place and with species that are not prone to prevailing tree diseases. The QGC initiative will encourage planting during the official planting season, October to March, to optimise the chance of trees surviving and flourishing. People are encouraged to use this summer to plan their Jubilee tree planting projects and be ready for October. <https://queensgreencanopy.org>. Clerk to send this to Leigh School in case some trees could be planted on the playing field. Cllr Skipper undertook to ask the 1811 Residents Committee if they would like some trees, and if so the Clerk can make an application.
- vi. To discuss the fast food outlets visiting Leigh
The Clerk reported that an email was received from the Pink Pizza Company, who asked whether the Parish Council would like them to contribute a pitch fee. Members were pleased that this food outlet visits Leigh and asked if there is a regular date that they come. The Parish Council does not require a pitch fee.
- vii. To discuss request for a private party to use part of The Green on 11th September 2021
The Clerk reported that a request has been made to use the edge of The Green and the triangle under the Chestnut Tree by Crandalls on 11th September whilst using Jessica's Hall for a private party. The Cricket Club will not be playing that day and have no objection. Members approved this request.
- viii. To hear update on the Superstars event to be held on The Green on 4th September 2021
The Clerk reported that Steve Hale has advised that the Superstars event will not be held this year as there is concern about getting enough competitors and to ensure that the event is completely safe and within covid-19 guidelines. Members were sorry that the event will not take place this year but supported the committee in this decision.

42. Highways

The Clerk reported that Scabharbour Road will be closed from 2nd July 2021 for up to 12 days to enable a faulty cable repair to be carried out by UK Power Networks.

43. To discuss the Leigh Litter Pick held on 3rd July 2021 and the Bulk Refuse Freighter Service

- i. Litter Pick: Cllr Kaye reported that there were about ten people involved this time and he confirmed that the photographs sent to the Clerk could be put on social media having received approval at the time that the photos were taken. A good pile of rubbish was collected, and members were pleased that SDC managed to collect it today before the Parish in Bloom judging tomorrow.
- ii. Bulk Refuse Freighter: the Clerk reported that the bulk refuse freighter will visit Leigh on Saturday 24th July from 13.30 to 14.15. The cost will be £69.43 + VAT. Previous cost £82 + VAT.

44. Rights of Way

To hear update regarding the cases of antisocial behaviour on Ensfield Road

- i. Email from Kelly Webb at SDC: "I just wanted to update you regarding a Public Spaces Protection Order. We are currently looking at this to see if it is viable. I have contacted KCC Highways today to see if it is something that they would also be happy with supporting.

"We also discussed it last Friday at our weekly meeting on ASB and KCC Youth said that they are doing safeguarding contextual locations and we can include Enfield Road. This is where young people are at risk of harm outside of the family home. KCC are happy to start working on the observations and speaking to relevant agencies. The Youth Workers will visit and it's about being clear what the risk/harm is to young people gathering in those places and to then look at mitigating or reducing those risks. We know that if the young people are gathering in those locations the risks are from drug and alcohol use, and harm from jumping and swimming in the water, etc. They will also do some one off sessions at the location and will let me know the dates when they have been arranged. They will also visit with Police."

- ii. The notices at the bridge have all been removed, this was reported to SDC and Penshurst Place on Friday. There is concern that if someone jumps in and the notices are not present, Penshurst Place could be liable. SDC has offered to replace the notices.
- iii. The Clerk has asked SDC if some cctv cameras can be placed on the bridge area and confirmation of this is awaited.

45. Powder Mills

To discuss the purchase of a defibrillator for Old Powder Mills for reimbursement by Bellway

The Clerk reported that the cost of a SP1 defibrillator and an outside cabinet Defibsafe 2 is £1,250 + VAT. Bellway has approved the cost if the Parish Council purchase and Bellway reimburse. Cllr Croft proposed that the Parish Council purchase the defibrillator and cabinet as above, this was seconded by Cllr Skipper and all were in favour. The cost will be reimbursed by Bellway. Cllr Skipper said that Peter Clifton had previously prepared a plan for a brick pier for the defibrillator to sit on, with power.

46. Charcott

None.

47. Aged Persons Dwellings

The Clerk reported that the electrician carried out EICR inspections at both properties on 22nd June. These are valid for 5 years but good practice says an inspection should be carried out if there is a change in tenancy.

48. To discuss the Leigh Village Halls

Cllr Britain reported that he has looked into the Custodian Trust deed and the Parish Council does not have any residual liability for the village halls. The Charity Commission website states that the Village Halls Management Committee is 1338 days late in filing its accounts, this should be rectified. Cllr Kaye undertook to speak to one of the Trustees on the Management Committee to see if there is indemnity insurance that covers the trustees. Clerk to contact the Parish Council's insurance company to see if its policy will cover a Parish Council representative as a Trustee.

49. To discuss rural crime

The Clerk reported that KALC will be meeting with the Police & Crime Commissioner's office in early July to discuss rural crime, and asked whether the Parish Council has any particular rural crime issues to highlight at the meeting. Members agreed that the following local issues are: flytipping, speeding and antisocial behaviour on Enfield Road.

50. To discuss correspondence received

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

- i. Item 2: email from AEF regarding the night flight restrictions consultation.
- ii. Item 3: The Tree Council: Community Hedge Fund now open for winter planting applications. Grants will be awarded of up to £2,500 for volunteer Tree Wardens and community grounds to plant new hedgerows, hedgerow trees and to gap up existing hedgerows in rural and urban areas across England this winter. Deadline for applications is Sunday 8th August 2021 with planting to take place between November and January.

- iii. Item 4: SDC re: Small Towns & Villages Project: “We have been contacted by the Counter Terrorism Policing South East and Regional Organised Crime Unit who have confirmed that they will be undertaking a pilot communications campaign ‘Small Towns and Villages - Deterring Crime, Defeating Terrorism’ in the Sevenoaks District, which will go live towards the end of June and run across July. Residents and businesses in the Sevenoaks district will receive a booklet and set of Z-cards providing advice on household and business security, as well as how to reduce the risk of terrorism.”
- iv. Item 5: SDC: details of SDC re-structure:
- v. Item 6: Email from D.Cllr Osborne-Jackson with copy email from Govia Thameslink Railway: “Following the Secretary of State’s announcement, we can confirm that national Flexi Season tickets will be available across Southern, Great Northern, Thameslink and other rail operators from Monday 28 June 2021. Tickets will be available for purchase from Monday 21 June 2021 for use the following week. The Flexi Season has been developed by the Government in collaboration with the rail industry and is designed to support commuters who may be thinking of travelling two or three days a week in the future.”
- vi. Item 7: KCC Member Environment Briefing June 2021.
- vii. Item 9. The Environment Agency – Leigh expansion and Hildenborough embankment scheme update: The Inquiry is now closed and the Inspector will prepare her report and recommendations for the Minister. She has indicated that this will take approximately 1 month. Once submitted, the Minister will make their decision. Currently we do not have a timeframe for this. Construction works to expand the Leigh FSA cannot start unless and until the Minister approves the application to increase the maximum stored water level. Under the original programme, the EA expected to complete construction of the scheme in autumn 2023. However the final completion date will depend on the outcome and timing of the Minister’s decision.
- Planning permissions: The FSA sits across 3 local planning authority areas: Sevenoaks District Council, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council. The Environment Agency submitted a planning application for the Leigh part of the works in August 2020. In winter 2020/21 all 3 authorities approved the planning application for the works to the Leigh FSA. At Hildenborough, the Environment Agency is continuing to work with residents on the final design. The EA will continue to work with the local community to answer questions about the proposals. They expect to submit a planning application for the Hildenborough works to Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council in summer 2021.
- Reservoir Act works: The planning permission has allowed the Environment Agency to proceed with the essential works required to the FSA under the Reservoirs Act 1975.
- These works will involve lifting the top soil of the existing 1.5km main embankment and laying reinforcing materials. This reinforced layer will be covered with a layer of soil then sown with grass to further stabilise the surface.
- Once these works are complete, the embankments will look very similar to how they look now. These works will ensure the Leigh FSA continues to safely reduce flood risk to Tonbridge, Hildenborough and downstream communities into the future. The works to the embankment will be ongoing over the next three years and will not affect the operation of the Leigh FSA to reduce the risk of flooding.
- Next steps:
- Amendment to River Medway (Flood Relief) Act 1976
 - Application submitted to Defra: June 2020
 - Local Inquiry held: 26 April - 28 May 2021
 - Decision: to be confirmed
 - Hildenborough - separate planning application due to be submitted summer 2021
 - Construction begins – winter 2021/22 (subject to Ministerial approval)
 - Construction ends – Currently expected to be complete autumn 2023 but subject to Ministerial approval
- More information: www.gov.uk/government/publications/leigh-flood-storage-area
- viii. Item 11: Kent Police: A21 Tonbridge By-Pass, Leigh - on Monday 14th June somebody broke into a vehicle parked in the road and a large quantity of tobacco products were stolen. The police are continuing their enquiries. Crime Report No. 46/102442/21.

- ix. Item 12: Emails from a resident asking why Shayler’s Fun Fair was not allowed on The Green this year.
- x. Item 16: SDC: details of the first phase of 25 dual general and recycling waste street bins with smart sensors. Leigh location – at the bridge on Ensfield Road.
- xi. Item 18: Leigh Village Halls Management Committee - The Annual General Meeting will take place on Tuesday July 20th at 8pm in the Large Village Hall. This will cover the two years, 2020 and 2021.
- xii. Item 22: June report from PCSO Sam Rustrick and PCSO Hannah Rainbow: “As of this month I have another officer, PCSO Hannah Rainbow, joining me and will be working on the same patch. This will now mean you will get an increase in patrols in your area. Throughout the area we have seen a big increase in fraud cases, and a lot of people have unfortunately lost money due to these scams. Some of the recent scams we have seen are people pretending they are from the police, or from a banking fraud departments. They then try to make you think you are at risk of fraud and then start to gain details, or they try to make you put money in a ‘safe account’. If you ever get a call from someone who you weren’t expecting or someone asking about fraud or your bank, please ensure you do not give any details out. If your bank does need to speak to you they will be more than happy for you to go into a branch and do it face to face.
Leigh and Chiddingstone: Since the nicer weather we have had a big increase in nuisance youths and youths coming into Leigh on the trains and hanging around in hotspot areas. Officers are aware of this issue and regular patrols are conducted when possible, on occasions it has been locals we are talking to who are trespassing and causing some of the trouble. It is important that private land does not get trespassed on and public footpaths are used just as footpath and not as areas to have BBQ’s and gather in large groups. Patrols have been conducted regularly around the villages and we have not had any reports of Covid breaches from individuals or companies.

51. Finance:

- i. To approve membership renewal to the Aviation Environment Federation £36
Cllr Skipper proposed that this payment be approved. This was seconded by Cllr Kaye and all were in favour.
- 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 to authorise the online payments.
Cllr Croft declared a DPI in this item.

52. Items for reporting or inclusion in future agenda

- i. Members agreed to discuss at the September meeting whether The Green in front of Porcupine House will be cut or allowed to grow next year.
- ii. Members agreed to discuss at the September meeting whether they can give a thank you gift for Daniel Eaton, Headteacher, upon leaving Leigh School.
- iii. Cllr Britain reported that the guttering at Leigh Station will be repaired or replaced, and he is still waiting to hear whether a water butt will be funded.
- iv. Cllr Smith reported that an exercise class is held on The Green on Thursdays and asked whether they had obtained prior permission from the Parish Council.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 6th September in the Large Village Hall at 8.00pm

The meeting closed at 10.10pm.

Signed

Date

**LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL
LIST OF PAYMENTS
July 2021**

Date	Payment Number	Payee	Detail of payment	Amount Inc. VAT	VAT
05.07.21	361	Clerk	Salary	£867.65	
05.07.21	362	HMRC	PAYE	£346.36	
05.07.21	363	Clerk	Mileage, petty cash & work from home allow	£148.85	
05.07.21	364	KCC	Pension contribution	£449.54	
05.07.21	365	Vision ICT	Final charge for website renewal	£870.00	£145.00
05.07.21	366	Dave Cole Electrical Installations Ltd	APD EICR Inspections	£480.00	£80.00
05.07.21	367	SDC	Dog bin emptying Apr-Jun 2021	£563.16	£93.86
05.07.21	368	Peter Croft	Mowing	£296.00	
05.07.21	369	AEF	Subscription	£36.00	
05.07.21	370	ACRK Coffee Caravan	Grant	£150.00	
				£4,207.56	£318.86