

LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE SMALL VILLAGE HALL, HIGH STREET, LEIGH ON MONDAY 7TH MARCH 2022 AT 8.00PM

- PRESENT:** Cllr J. Kaye (Chairman), Cllr R. Britain, Cllr P. Croft, Cllr A. Holt, Cllr G. Rogers (from 8.25pm), Cllr S. Smith and Cllr B. Williams
- APOLOGIES:** Cllr G. Marchant, Cllr S. Satterley, County Cllr M. McArthur and District Cllr J. Osborne-Jackson
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs L. Kleinschmidt (Clerk) and 1 member of the public (until 9.15pm)

Open Session

Report by County Cllr McArthur

In the absence of County Cllr McArthur, the Clerk read her report:

- “Secondary school offer day was 1st March - from nearly 20,000 applicants the percentage of pupils offered a place at their first-choice schools has gone up from 69.7% last year to 79.6% this year. More than 95% of pupils have received an offer from one of their four preferred schools. This is only the first stage of the process, and the 850 children who were not allocated a place at one of their preferred schools will go through a second round in mid-April if they request it, for any spaces that have become available.
- There is a public consultation on bus funding reductions at https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/bus-funding-reductions?tool=survey_tool#tool_tab”.

Report by District Cllr Osborne-Jackson

In the absence of District Cllr Osborne-Jackson, the Clerk read his report:

- “Last Thursday, Cllr Nigel Williams was elected as the Conservative Member of Sevenoaks District Council for Brasted, Chevening and Sundridge.
- I recently chaired a meeting of the Covid-19 response scrutiny working group and Sarah Robson, Chief Officer for People and Places, and Richard Morris, Chief Officer for Planning and Regulatory Services, spoke.
- Last Thursday I had my monthly 1-2-1 with The Head of Housing at West Kent.
- The SDC Full Council meeting took place on Tuesday 22nd February with the budget being presented to members and a vote taking place. The recommendation is that there will be a 2.2% increase in the SDC portion of the Council Tax, which is below inflation. This was voted on and carried through.
- The Commuter Bus that used to run from Penshurst to Hildenborough Station was suspended during Covid and sadly will not be resumed. I have asked C.Cllr McArthur to push for this service to go to tender again when the bus tenders all come up for renewal.
- I have assisted residents with casework and I have worked with the Clerk on a number of matters.
- I attended a Local Government Association course a few weekends ago.
- During the recent storm, I was on the phone to UK Power Networks a number of times to represent venerable residents and ensure they had the support required. I visited the out-of-hours officers to receive a District wide update and thank them for their work.
- Last Friday I went to Dunbrik, the depot of SDC’s in house direct services team. I met with crews and thanked them for their hard work throughout Covid-19. I am so proud of our Direct Services team and I told them that the Parish Council was too, this was well received. I went out with the duty supervisor and met crews across the District. An amazing day!
- As always, I welcome contact from Members and I am always happy to meet with members to discuss parish matters.”

Questions from members of the public

None.

Closed Session

- 177. Apologies for absence** were received from Cllr Marchant and Cllr Satterley and their reasons for absence were accepted by the Parish Council. Apologies for absence were received from County Cllr McArthur and District Cllr Osborne-Jackson. Cllr Rogers had sent her prior apologies for her late arrival at the meeting.
- 178. Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest/Non-Pecuniary Interest on matters to be discussed**
Cllr Croft declared a DPI in item 195(x) as he has presented an invoice for payment.
- 179. The minutes of the Leigh Parish Council Meeting held on 7th February 2022** were approved and duly signed. Proposed by Cllr Britain, seconded by Cllr Croft, and all were in favour.
- 180. To discuss the format of the Annual Parish Meeting to be held on Monday 25th April 2022**
Members discussed and agreed the format for this year's meeting.
- 181. Planning**
- i. To consider applications received
None. The Clerk reported that since the last Parish Council meeting the Planning Committee has considered the following applications:
- i. SE/22/00309/HOUSE: Park Cottage, High Street, Leigh TN11 8RH - single storey side extension to house. Members had no objection to this application subject to comments of the Conservation Officer.
 - ii. SE/22/00292/HOUSE: 10 Powder Mill Lane, Leigh TN11 9AP - erection of a two storey rear extension. Members had no objection to this application subject to neighbours' comments.
 - iii. SE/22/00328/LBCALT: Moorden Farm House, Station Hill, Chiddingstone Causeway - replacement of four first floor windows. Members had no comment to make on this application.
 - iv. SE/22/00403/LBCALT: 2 Fleur De Lys Cottages, High Street, Leigh TN11 8RL - removal and replacement of metal casement windows to front and side elevations. Members had no comment to make on this application.
- The Clerk reported that D.Cllr Osborne-Jackson has reported that the planning officer has asked whether he wishes to pull the application for Appleby's Barn SE/21/03316/HOUSE into Committee. The Parish Council's comments were: "Leigh Parish Council has 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". The Planning Officer is minded to approve the application. Members did not wish refer this application to committee.
- ii. To report SDC planning application decisions:
- SE/21/03941/HOUSE: Primrose House, Charcott - single storey rear extension with internal alterations, removal of existing roof and replacement with gang nailed attic trusses. Increasing the ridge height by 752mm with two number dormers to the rear. Rooflights and alterations to fenestration. Application withdrawn.
 - SE/21/03658/HOUSE: 31A Well Close, Leigh - two storey rear extension and single storey side extension. Application approved.
 - SE/22/00159/WTCA: Kiln Lane, Leigh - works to trees in a Conservation Area: dismantle and fell to ground level the end Conifer closest to the road, ground out stump. This will be replaced with a 225mm-250mm Thuja Plicata and cut remaining hedge to tidy but without bearing brown. Leylandii hedge on left hand side just past the newly planted Thuja hedge. Reduce the height of the first section of hedge to match neighbour's and trim back remainder to neat, without bearing brown. Decision - no objection lodged.
 - SE/22/00182/AGRNOT: Leigh Park Farm, Coppings Road, Leigh TN11 8PN - extension of agricultural building. Application no longer valid because SDC cannot issue a decision.

Cllr Rogers joined the meeting at 8.25pm.

182. The Green

- i. To consider the request by Shayler's Fun Fair to return to Leigh from 13th to 20th June 2022
Members discussed this matter in detail and decided that they would not approve the request. At vote there were 5 members voting against the request, 1 voting for the request and 1 abstention.
- ii. To discuss Commercial Services Trading Ltd maintenance of The Green 2022
The Clerk reported that the contract for 2021 was poorly managed by Commercial Services and information on the work carried out was not forthcoming, and invoices were not detailed enough or sent on time. The Clerk and Ian Bishop are in discussion with Commercial Services regarding both the 2021 contract and the specification for the 2022 contract. Members agreed that the decision will be made by the Chair and Clerk.
- iii. To discuss quote to re-seed the whole Green
The Clerk reported that Ian Bishop has given an estimated price of £3,000 to verticut, spike and seed the whole green. This will include some VAT. The large cost included in this price is the cost of the seed and the hire of the seeder, which costs £2,000 including VAT. Cllr Smith proposed that this quote be accepted, this was seconded by Cllr Croft and all were in favour. Clerk to ask whether the public will be excluded from The Green whilst the work is undertaken.
- iv. To discuss the Coffee Caravan visits to Leigh 2022
The Clerk reported that the Coffee Caravan will visit Leigh on Fridays 29th April, 27th May, 24th June, 19th August, 16th September and 14th October from 10.30–12.30.

183. To discuss the future maintenance of the parish defibrillators and the licence for the new defibrillator at Powder Mills

The Clerk reported that she has not heard further from the First Responder. Members agreed to sign the licence between Bellway, who own the land, and the Parish Council, who will own the equipment. The 1811 management company will provide the electricity.

184. To discuss the clearance and future maintenance of The Old Burial Ground

The Clerk reported that the applications for tree works have been submitted to SDC and are currently being considered. Cllr Holt said that she would like to clear and keep the Old Burial Ground well maintained and tidy in future, with the help of volunteers, and to make it a peaceful place for residents to visit. Members agreed.

185. Highways

- i. To discuss road cleaning in The High Street
The Clerk reported that David Evans has arranged for SDC's street cleaner to come through at 6am on Thursday 10th March. Cones will be borrowed from SDC and set out from Pump Cottage to beyond The Square. Cars will have to be parked elsewhere whilst this is carried out.
- ii. To discuss Go-Coach's refusal to reinstate the Commuter Bus service to Hildenborough Station
Members agreed that the Commuter Bus was not well used and therefore decided that it would not be cost effective to reinstate the service.
- iii. Drainage works
The Clerk reported that discussions are ongoing with the Drainage Officer regarding the surface water at the corner of The Green and Powdermill Lane. Cllr Britain reported that further improvement works have been carried out under the railway bridge on Lower Green.
- iv. Permissive path at Knotley Hall
The Clerk reported that David Munn, West Kent Area Manager, Kent PROW, has undertaken to repair the mirror at the permissive path and check that the gate is in good repair.
- v. Rural Swathe & Visibility Cutting Contract
The Clerk reported that KCC is going to change the contracts for rural swathe cutting to be more aware of biodiversity. KCC officers have liaised with the Kent Wildlife Trust, the Bumble Bee Trust and Countryside Partnerships, and dates for cutting rural swathe will be changed in order to protect the environment. The most important aspect is still highway safety but KCC wants to try and balance this with biodiversity. All roads have now been categorised into three tiers, Tier 1 roads will get a safety swathe cut and are mainly narrow lanes, Tier 3 roads have a higher value biodiversity, and Tier 2 roads are roads not in Tier 1 and not in Tier 3.

All roads in our cluster are Tier 1 and Tier 2. KCC members will decide tomorrow whether they will approve the additional expenditure of two full swathe cuts and three visibility cuts across the whole of Kent. Members agreed to carry out two full rural swathe cuts and one additional visibility cut in order to abide by these new guidelines.

vi. Kent Highways

- Temporary 30mph Speed Limit – due to Sutton and East Surrey Water works, KCC has made an Order for a temporary 30mph speed limit to be imposed on B2027 Tonbridge Road, Bough Beech between Hampkins Hill Road and Camp Hill, on or after 14th March 2022 until 3rd June 2022 or until the works have been completed.
- Temporary Road Closure - Compasses Hill, Leigh - 14th March 2022 for 5 days while drainage works are undertaken by KCC.
- Temporary Speed Reduction to 20mph for carriageway resurfacing, on or after 28th March for up to 18 months.
 - High Street, Leigh: Speed restrictions (20mph) to be in force between Lower Green to Powder Mill Lane
 - Hildenborough Road, Leigh: Speed restrictions (20mph) to be in force between Powdermill Lane to Rings Hill.

186. Powder Mills

Cllr Rogers reported that contrary to the s.106 agreement, the 1811 management committee have erected signs in the woodland saying that the woods are private. The s.106 agreement states that the woodland should be open to all. The Clerk has brought this to the attention of Gateway.

The member of the public left the meeting at 9.15pm.

187. Charcott

None.

188. Aged Persons Dwellings

The Clerk reported that there is an amount of £224.16 due for the restricted perils endorsement on No.2 The Bungalows to cover the period that the property was vacant. Members approved the cost. Clerk to seek an alternative landlord's insurance policy at renewal.

189. Affordable Housing

None.

190. Aviation

Gatwick Airport Ltd: "Gatwick Airport's South Terminal will reopen on Sunday 27th March as British Airways' short-haul routes return, alongside increased operations from easyJet, Wizz and Vueling. Testing requirements are now removed for vaccinated passengers arriving into the UK. Gatwick and its partners running ongoing recruitment campaigns, with more than 2000 new posts still available. Flights have been operating solely from the airport's North Terminal since 15 June 2020 to save on costs, but activity will return to the South Terminal from Sunday 27 March. British Airways has already announced it will restart its short-haul services from Gatwick from 29 March, with 35 new European routes added. BA's low-cost sister airline, Vueling, will also be expanding its operations, adding five new short-haul routes and basing three aircraft at Gatwick. Wizz Air will also significantly increase its operations from the airport with 18 new routes, while easyJet, Gatwick's biggest airline, has also taken up more slots and plan to fly their busiest flying schedule ever from the airport."

191. 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 4: Kent Police:

- Ensfield Road, Leigh – on Tuesday 1st February between 00:01 and 23:59, somebody stole fuel from a generator at a pumping station. Crime Report No. 46/22292/22.

- A21 Tonbridge by-pass, Leigh - on Monday 6th December between 00:01 and 08:38, somebody stole a broken down grey Seat Leon 20V, KY57***, from the road. Crime Report No. 46/26784/22.
- ii. Item 10: Two emails from residents showing concern about the cutting of the hedge around The Triangle. Members agreed to ask RWE to quote for removing the compost heap.
- iii. Item 11: Tonbridge, Redhill, Reigate railway line Community Rail Partnership meeting at 11am on Tuesday 15th March via zoom.
- iv. Item 12: Kent Police: monthly report, which includes general crime prevention and home security advice. For Leigh and Chiddingstone: "We have been and continue to keep an eye on the homeless male who was living in Powder Mills in Leigh, and we are aware of his new location. If there are any issues regarding this, please do not hesitate to get in contact with us, either via 101 or livechat. There has been recent car theft and damage in Leigh and Chiddingstone."

192. To discuss the Bulk Refuse Freighter Service and Leigh Litter Pick

Bulk Refuse Freighter: members agreed that the service is well used. The next dates are 2nd July and 10th September.

Litter Pick: 19th March at 9.30am. Clerk to ask for 20 sets from SDC and 10 child sets.

193. To discuss the Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2nd to 5th June 2022

Members agreed to proceed with a beacon event on Thursday 2nd June, with the beacon being lit at 9.45pm. The food vans have been invited and the RBL club will provide the alcohol. Clerk to discuss the licence with the RBL. Cllr Holt said that she will discuss a school-run event on the Saturday or Sunday, and the Church will hold a special church service on Sunday morning.

194. Leigh Easter and Summer Family Fun Play Events

The Clerk reported that the cost of the circus skills and giant bubble entertainer is £300 for 3 hours. Members agreed. Jessica's Hall has been booked for the Easter event and for use of the toilets at the summer event. David Bennie happy to attend to provide refreshments and his toy stall.

Easter: Friday 8th April 10am to 2pm.

Summer: Friday 12th August 2pm to 5pm.

195. Finance:

Members approved the co-option of Cllr Williams onto the Finance committee with immediate effect.

- i. To consider membership renewal to GACC: £10

Members approved this membership renewal.

- ii. To discuss the application for grant from GACC

Cllr Croft proposed that a grant of £500 be given to GACC to help their work. This was seconded by Cllr Rogers and all were in favour

- iii. To discuss the application for grant from Leigh Football Club

The Clerk reported that she has requested more information on their current accounts, more details on the costs they are incurring, what the grant would be spent on and how much they are applying for. To be discussed at a future meeting once the information has been received.

- iv. To discuss the application for grant from Leigh in Bloom for new gravel area: £417

Cllr Britain proposed that a grant of £417 be approved, £200 of which will be the reserved grant for projects at Leigh Station, and £217 as a new grant. This was seconded by Cllr Smith and all were in favour.

- v. To discuss Weld Done's quote for an iron beacon for the Jubilee event on 2nd June 2022

The Clerk reported that the following quote has been received from Weld Done: To supply to site a basket 1.2m high, 1m wide at the top and 750mm at the bottom, with vertical bars around the outside. Labour and materials £1000.00. Members asked the Clerk to request an iron band around the bottom to hold the ashes in. Weld Done is able to source a telegraph pole or oak post and concrete into place at a cost of £45.00 per hour. Proposed by Cllr Rogers, seconded by Cllr Croft and all were in favour.

- vi. To discuss and approve CIL projects for 2021/22
The Clerk reported that there is £14,362.50 CIL funding that needs to be spent in this financial year.
- vii. To hear update regarding the Welcome Back Fund
The Clerk reported that the application to the Welcome Back Fund for wooden planters has been approved and funding given to local contractor Andy Baker (The Shed Man). He is making 4 planters for Leigh.
- viii. To discuss Earmarked Reserves 2021/22
Members agreed to transfer £5,000 from the general fund to the APD earmarked reserve, £5,000 from the general fund to The Green earmarked reserve, and £2,000 from the general fund to the Planning Consultancy earmarked reserve. Proposed by Cllr Croft, seconded by Cllr Williams and all in favour.
- ix. To discuss the precept comparison tables for the Sevenoaks District
Members discussed the precept tables, which were interesting.
- x. To approve list of payments
Cllr Smith proposed that the list of payments be approved. This was seconded by Cllr Rogers and all were in favour. Cllr Kaye and Cllr Britain to authorise the online payments.

196. Items for reporting or inclusion in future agenda

- i. Cllr Rogers asked whether it would be possible to invite the Hildenborough Medical Group doctors to attend the next meeting in order to discuss their surgery in Leigh Village Hall. Members agreed.
- ii. Cllr Rogers asked whether consideration could be given at the next meeting to how the parish can welcome any Ukrainian refugees if they wish to come and live in Leigh. Clerk to ask D.Cllr Osborne-Jackson for details of any steps that SDC are taking.

Next meeting Monday 4th April 2022 in the Small Village Hall at 8.00pm

The meeting closed at 10.30pm.

Signed

Date

**LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL
LIST OF PAYMENTS
March 2022**

Date	Payment Number	Payee	Detail of payment	Amount Inc. VAT	VAT
07.03.22	446	Clerk	Salary	£867.65	
07.03.22	447	HMRC	PAYE	£346.36	
07.03.22	448	Clerk	Mileage, work from home & office expense	£128.60	
07.03.22	449	KCC	Pension contribution	£449.54	
07.03.22	450	ICO (standing order)	Subscription renewal	£35.00	
07.03.22	451	Gallagher Insurance	APD endorsement	£224.16	
07.03.22	452	SDC	Dog bin emptying Oct-Dec 2021	£563.16	£93.86
07.03.22	453	KALC	Course fee Annual Clerks Conference	£60.00	£10.00
07.03.22	454	Teambase	Stationery	£41.86	£6.98
07.03.22	455	GACC	Membership	£10.00	
07.03.22	456	Original Tree Surgeons	Tree work on The Green	£234.00	£39.00
07.03.22	457	Chiddingstone Parish Council	Contribution towards rural swathe contract	£925.70	
07.03.22	458	Hodge Landscapes Ltd	Works to The Green	£9,480.00	£1,580.00
07.03.22	459	Hodge Landscapes Ltd	Works to The Green	£3,300.00	£550.00
07.03.22	460	Chiddingstone Parish Council	Contribution towards phone & printer hire	£285.17	
07.03.22	461	Commercial Services	Maintenance of The Green	£331.76	£55.29
07.03.22	462	Commercial Services	Maintenance of The Green	£131.30	£21.88
07.03.22	463	Commercial Services	Maintenance of The Green	£1,475.65	£245.94
07.03.22	464	Peter Croft	APD roof & hedge at Triangle	£90.00	
07.03.22	465	GACC	Grant	£500.00	
				<u>£19,479.91</u>	<u>£2,602.95</u>