

**MINUTES OF THE LEIGH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024  
AT 8.00PM IN THE SMALL HALL, HIGH STREET, LEIGH**

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**PRESENT:** Cllr J. Kaye, (Chairman), Cllr A. Backlog, Cllr R. Britain, Cllr G. Marchant, Cllr G. Rogers, Cllr S. Satterley, Cllr S. Smith and Cllr B. Williams

**APOLOGIES:** Cllr A. Holt and District Cllr Malcolm Silander

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs L. Kleinschmidt (Clerk), County Cllr Margot McArthur, Sue Knights and Martin Barrett from the Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells Beekeepers Association, Josh Hawkins and Liz Faulkner from VolkerStevin, Ian Nunn from the Environment Agency and 40 members of the public.

Cllr Kaye welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. To approve Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023  
Cllr Satterley proposed that the minutes be approved, this was seconded by Cllr Britain and all were in favour.
  
2. To hear report by PC Harry Kemp from Kent Police  
PC Kemp said that the new Neighbourhood Model of policing is a year old and is part of the new state of play for Kent Police. PC Kemp is the neighbourhood beat officer for Leigh, Chiddingstone, Edenbridge, Penshurst, Fordcombe and Cowden. The role is the liaison community officer, working with housing associations, Town and Parish Councils and the District Council. A new officer will be joining the team in due course. PC Kemp said that a very good way of communicating with the Police is My Community Voice which is a two-way communication tool offering advice on crime protection measures or informing the public on speed checks for example. Residents can send in comments. The force number is 14759. Crimes that are in the process of being committed should be reported to 999, and crimes that are non-urgent should be reported to 101 or online at [www.kent.police.uk](http://www.kent.police.uk).  
Crime statistics for the Leigh and Chiddingstone Causeway ward are shared with the Penshurst, Fordcombe and Chiddingstone ward. Burglaries from April 2023 to March 2024 were 3 last year and 0 this year. Theft of a motor vehicle were 6 last year and 3 this year. Theft from a motor vehicle has increased by 1 this year, and general thefts are up 14%. Antisocial behaviour has reduced from 7 last year to 4 this year. The neighbourhood model is working and communities are appreciative of the police officers on the ground.  
A resident said that when a road was closed recently, people were knocking down the barriers and driving through the closed area of road. Is this a recurring problem? PC Kemp said that this is not necessarily a recurring theme. Luckily there is not a lot of reported incidences here but PC Kemp stressed that it is very important that all crimes are reported to allow the police to build a picture of crime locally.

Cllr Kaye thanked PC Kemp very much for attending the meeting.

3. To welcome Ian Nunn, Operations Manager at the Environment Agency, and Josh Hawkins, Project Manager at VolkerStevin, who will give an update on the Leigh Flood Storage Area Expansion and Hildenborough Embankment Scheme  
Josh Hawkins said that The Leigh Expansion and Hildenborough Embankment Scheme (LEHES) is a partnership project to reduce flood risk to over 1,400 properties, costing £25m. The capacity of the Leigh Flood Storage Area has been increased by 25% by raising the impounding level by 28.05m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) to 28.6m. This allows a huge volume of water to be stored. The works approved takes account of climate change and are required under the Reservoirs Act 1975. The Leigh works include: (i) replacement of 3 radial gates, the gate drive system and electrical control systems (ii) upgraded software and telemetry (iii) embankment works at the Leigh pumping station and the cattle arch including the construction of a new embankment and wall (iv) installation of an eel pass around the control structure.

The timescale for works is as follows:

- Works start on the control structure in mid May 2024.
- The south gate will be replaced between May and October 2024, and then the eel pass will be installed.
- The central and northern gates will be replaced during the summer of 2025.
- The footpath SR435 will be closed from now until October 2024.
- Most construction will be finished by the end of 2025, hopefully.

Cllr Kaye asked if there are any questions.

- i. Cllr Williams asked whether the office building will be removed when works are completed. The answer was that this is the VolkerStevin office and yes it will be removed.
- ii. A resident asked what the rationale was for spending £25m on this project. Ian Nunn said that 1,400 properties were under threat of flooding in Tonbridge town centre. The enlarged flood storage area allows for the management and storage of additional water in high rain conditions.
- iii. A resident asked when the cattle arch works will be finished. Josh Hawkins said that this will be finished by August 2024.
- iv. Cllr Smith asked whether there will be any landscaping works carried out around the cattle arch. Josh Hawkins said that a new hedgerow will be planted but there will be a small amount of concrete showing.
- v. Cllr Britain asked whether the road closure signs on Ensfield Road be improved for times that the road is closed due to flooding. Ian Nunn said that the signs are under review and it is hoped that there will be an improvement. There is a list of people who will be contacted in the event of a road closure, if residents would like to join that list, please advise.

Liz Faulkner said that VolkerStevin and the Environment Agency would be happy to organise a visit if residents and the Parish Council would like to look at the works.

Cllr Kaye thanked the representatives of the Environment Agency and VolkerStevin very much for attending the meeting and for giving such an informative and interesting talk.

4. To welcome Sue Knights from the Sevenoaks & Tunbridge Wells Beekeepers Association who will talk about the challenge of Asian Hornets and the risk they pose to our honey bees and the entire insect population

Sue Knight said that there are 12 branches in the Kent Beekeeping Association. The concern currently is the Asian Hornet, which arrived into France in 2004. France, Belgium, Italy and Spain are now overtaken by Asian Hornets. Last year 72 nests were destroyed in Kent alone. The Asian Hornet is an apex predator and feeds on pollinators and carrion. The concern is that the Asian Hornet will decimate our pollinators if no action is taken. There is a huge safety issue and if a nest is disturbed, they will sting en masse. The message is please to watch out for the hornet, it is smaller than the European Hornet. If you spot one please take a photograph and send it to Asian Hornet Watch, who will investigate, locate the nest and destroy it. The nest will then be sent to DEFRA for genealogy testing. Currently, the nearest nest is in Fordcome.

Cllr Kaye thanked Sue and Martin very much for attending the meeting and bringing this important issue to our attention.

5. Chairman's Report of Activities in 2023/24

Cllr Kaye said that Leigh Parish Council meets every month here in the small village hall. These meetings are open for everyone to attend, and attendees are always welcome. So, please, if you have any concerns please do come to a meeting – usually first Monday of the month at 8pm.

This note summarise a few issues that have taken up time or been causes for concern. If you would like any further details on Parish Council matters please speak to any councillor, or have a look at the comprehensive minutes on the website or on the notice board.

**D-Day**

The Parish Council will light the beacon on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June at 8.30pm. The food vans and the Fleur will attend from 6.30pm to provide food and drink. Do come along.

## Planning

This remains one of the key areas of activity, the PC of course only has an advisory role but with the help of our District Councillor we are able to influence planning decisions. Our Chairman of the Planning Committee is Bruce Williams. Please remember neighbour comments are taken very seriously by the SDC committee. The Parish Council considered 57 applications, of which they supported 7, opposed 15, had no objection to 11 and submitted a no comment response on 24. It is important to understand that we are advised to say no comment when we don't have any particular concern to raise. It is not a negative thing, simply that we have nothing to add.

Of prime concern to many people is the application by a local developer, Whitehall Homes, for 39 dwellings on the land at the end of Greenview Avenue. We are perplexed and frustrated that this application is still hanging out there especially as a new document prepared by Motion with regards to the access was posted on the SDC website on 29 Feb 2024, though the document was dated 25 July 2023. It contained no new meaningful information. I expect that you have seen, or heard about, the response from Kent Highways who have restated their concerns in fairly direct terms.

To be clear the Parish Council is wholly opposed to this development. This is primarily due to access considerations which we believe would be extremely challenging during any construction and thereafter would add around 80 cars making daily use of the green for access.

The Parish Council engaged Charles & Associates consulting Engineers to review the Motion document and also to conduct a swept path analysis to check Motion's work and most importantly to include the junction with the High Street and the Green by the school and the junction of the green with Powdermill Lane. The junction by the school is particularly tight and a lorry of any size at all would require the full width of the road to negotiate the turn.

This is an outline planning application which we understand is part of the reason why it has been allowed to have such a long undetermined status. It is of note that there are 560 documents relating to this application of which around 500 are objections from residents.

On a happier note we are very pleased that Shaun Gilchrist at Hall Place has had an application approved for some very substantial and imaginative work at Hall Place. We are delighted that so much attention and effort is going into this impressive house.

On the subject of impressive buildings the Village Halls Committee is taking an active approach to modernisation work on the village halls with a view to making the halls more attractive to those hiring them and to ensure that they do not fall into further disrepair. The Parish Council is lending support to this by means of covering a portion of the costs required to determine the work required to make the appropriate improvements. A firm of architects has been appointed and their initial fee paid by the PC and a full survey of the halls is about to be carried out. I will leave further discussion of this to the Village Halls Committee. It is worth explaining that the Parish Council is the Custodian Trustee of the Village Halls, whilst the LVHC is responsible for its running and upkeep. The PC is in full support of their work and plans to contribute to the extent that it can.

On the subject of planning we are reviewing the Village Design Statement which was produced some 20 years ago and needs an update. This is a document that can be adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document and can be most helpful to demonstrate that the village has thought about its housing design and characteristics, and how any future developments can be sympathetic to existing dwellings and enhance the area. Our Village Design Statement must mirror Sevenoaks District Council's policies, and as SDC is currently reviewing all its policies and producing a new Local Plan, it has been decided to put the review of our Village Design Statement on hold until the Local Plan has been approved.

Also on planning, we have prepared some very useful Planning Protocols which will assist residents when preparing new applications, which explains the procedure and covers reasons for commenting on a planning application and lists material planning considerations under the current legislation.

### **Affordable Housing**

No progress on this in 2023/4. We still seek sites for affordable housing, though no new suitable sites have been identified. Of course, the developer seeking to build at the end of Greenview Avenue makes much of this.

### **Roads and footpaths**

We all know how bad potholes are around here and Hildenborough Road is just dreadful. Please do register potholes on the KCC website.

We note that whilst the High Street was closed a few weeks ago for relatively minor road works that a number of people got very upset and it was distressing to hear that staff in Leigh Village Shop had to contend with some very bad behaviour and also that some drivers attempted to, and possibly did, drive down the small length of footpath linking Crandalls and Well Close. We also heard that an impatient HGV simply removed the barrier and drove over the hole. Human behaviour is depressing.

The works on the flood barrier by the Environment Agency are underway and we are glad that the footpath under the railway from Greenview Avenue is finally re-opened though it did seem to be shut for a considerable length of time.

We have carried out two litter picks during the last year and there are also numerous people in the village who regularly put on a high visibility jacket and go and collect litter. Thank you to all of you, it is really appreciated. It remains a source of complete despair that we collect so much litter. During both litter picks in the past year Graham Marchant has brought a small lorry to (i) protect litter pickers on the busier roads (Ensfeld in particular) and (ii) to collect the sheer volume of rubbish and fly tipping that we suffer.

### **Leigh Green and Charcott Green**

We go to considerable expense to maintain the green and are grateful to those who put in the effort to keep it that way. In the past year it has been cut 17 times, and rolled once and fertilised once by Commercial Services. Hever Landscapes cut the edges of The Green, the War Memorial Green, The Green by Porcupine House, Charcott Green and the two Well Close triangles.

We have erected signs reminding people that parking on the green is only permitted with the approval of the PC. If you have an event, or run a club, and need parking please contact Louise. Other than this parking is not permitted – at this stage we cannot engage in the time and effort to enforce this on a rigorous basis but if needs must, perhaps we will have to. We ask for everyone to help in this.

Shayler's funfair asked if they could come back to Leigh, however their request was turned down as we wish to give sporting events, particularly cricket, priority. There was only limited support for the funfair expressed so we do not propose that they return in future years.

The 15 benches on the green will continue to be treated with clear Danish oil each year to preserve them.

### **Memorials**

We have erected a memorial bench to the east of the veteran oak on the green in memory of the much loved Alan Johnston, who of course was a parish councillor for many years. Do go and sit on it!

We have also planted an oak tree in memory of Colin Stratton-Brown who did so much for this village, not least being chair of the PC for some 13 years, possibly more. The Parish Council was criticised by the cricket club for planting this tree too close to the outer boundary of the cricket pitch - so in our ever conciliatory manner we have moved it a little further to the east, away from the boundary. Thank you, MaryAnne for your understanding on this.

## **APDs**

Both are tenanted and now in very fair condition, though we continue to build and hold reserves in order to maintain these two bungalows and to ensure that we keep these dwellings occupied by eligible village residents.

## **Trees**

The PC owns some 40 trees and has them all surveyed every year – generally they are in good condition.

We have had an energetic dialogue with regard to the veteran oak tree over the past several months and as a result we have had a specialist inspect the tree so that we may be guided as to how best preserve and extend its life. We await this report.

More work has gone into the Old Burial Ground which is a vastly improved space. There are some 100 graves on that site and notice board describing the history of this site has been bought and will be erected next to a new path that will shortly be laid – this reinstates an old path that has disintegrated over many years.

## **Gatwick**

Gatwick continues its plans to use its emergency runway, now referred to as the “Northern Runway” as a routine use runway. Their objective is to increase flight movements from the current maximum of 52 an hour to 60 an hour, increasing to 65 an hour by using the Northern runway. To achieve this would mean the airspace width would be reduced to 4 nautical miles which would have a material impact on Leigh, Penshurst, Chiddingstone and Hever. Please do keep alert on this subject and respond to consultations, and ask your MP to represent your views.

The Parish Council continues to be a member of GACC Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign, and I’d encourage everyone to join and to refer to their informative website. We are also members of the Aviation Environment Federation.

## **Coffee Caravan**

Action with Communities in Rural Kent used to send their Coffee Caravan and Information Hub to Leigh. Just over a year ago, the PC took this over and it has been held in the Scout Hut one Friday morning a month with some excellent turnouts. Thank you, Louise, for driving this and to the Ladies Choir for April’s and December’s event. It would be wonderful if any other of the groups in the village could take this on perhaps once a year.

## **Hildenborough and Tonbridge Medical Group**

We invited HTMG to tonight’s event but sadly they were unable to attend.

## **Finance**

The year to 31<sup>st</sup> March is now complete and a finance report is circulated tonight. The outturn was on the whole in line with budget. Councillors decided to increase the parish precept for 2023/24 to £51,500 to cover the ongoing needs of the Parish. This amounted to a 3.41% increase over 2022/23. The precept for Leigh Parish remains one of the lowest of all the parishes in the Sevenoaks district. A band D property’s council tax in Leigh is £54.04 per annum, up from £52.26 per annum, which compares very favourably with the average for the district, which is £100.61.

## **Concluding Remarks**

The Parish Council election was uncontested last May and I am grateful to Parish Councillors for standing - evidently not an overly popular pastime as this is the third time in a row, at least, that there has been no contest.

My thanks to all our Councillors, Graham Marchant, Sue Smith, Sean Satterley, Richard Britain, Glynis Rogers Amy Holt, Bruce Williams and Alice Backlog.

Thank you also to those who take the time to attend our meetings and raise issues with us and work with us to solve issues. We do however continue to have individuals, or groups, coming to the PC to sometimes express their views in extraordinarily strong terms. If you hear anyone complaining or planning to raise an issue with the PC please do ask them to consider whether it is a relevant issue. I'm afraid that I, and others, get emails and written messages on PC business that simply wouldn't be said face to face. You may have seen the recent Japanese study that concluded that you should write angry thoughts down and shred them to calm down – which may be an idea. Please remember that councillors are just volunteers with no particular training or powers, here to help but actually on a fairly narrow remit which includes the following:

We are a consultee on planning and rights of way issues, we work with the rural housing enabler on affordable housing schemes, we represent our parishioners on aviation issues, highway issues, and the on-going concerns with bus services for example. We are proactive and tackle any issue that has an impact on our parish, but we often can only lobby other organisations such as the County and District Council. We maintain and protect our trees and land (The Green, The Old Burial Ground, and Charcott Green). We support parish clubs and societies and are keen to help local projects through our grant funding budget.

Thank you to Councillor Margot McArthur, our County Council representative, and Malcolm Silander our district councillor who represent the Parish Council and residents on important issues in the community.

Most importantly thank you to Louise, our Parish Clerk. You do so much and put up with things that you shouldn't have to. You are a valuable member of our community and serving on the PC would be a real challenge without you.

6. To announce the recipient of the Leigh Community Award 2024

Cllr Kaye announced that the recipient of the Leigh Community Award this year is Paula Beresford for her continuing contribution to the parish as the Chair of The Leigh Village Halls Management Committee.

7. Report by County Cllr Margot McArthur

County Cllr McArthur reported as follows:

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children

Cllr Mrs McArthur reported that the action taken against Kent County Council last year in the Courts in relation to its work with unaccompanied asylum children had been successfully appealed and as a result KCC were continuing with their work. There had been a considerable increase in the number of children they were responsible for, this being 2200 in 2023.

Schools admissions

96% of pupils had received an offer from their four preferred school choices out of just under 22,500 requests.

EU entry/exit scheme

Problems are anticipated with effect from October in relation to the revised biometric requirements when going across the border to the EU. Dover would be a particular problem with long delays anticipated.

Highways and road works

KCC is responsible for 5500 miles of road in Kent and 4000 miles of pavements; problems are being caused by the utilities who had the right to close roads with no notice to carry out 'emergency works' impacting on residents and on the maintenance work Highways needed to carry out when it clashed. 30% of utilities work was carried out under 'emergency' timing. Representations are being made to Government to change these systems of working. Hildenborough Road will hopefully be scheduled for a full resurface this year.

8. Report by District Cllr Malcolm Silander

In the absence of District Cllr Silander, the following report was circulated as a handout.

Apologies for not being there in person, this is due to work commitments.

1. Local development has been a focus of the last 12 months with the protracted application for the 'Land South of Greenview Avenue' and the sale of The Forstall against local residents, Parish Council and my efforts.
2. Elections and Governance. The most significant changes at the council was in the May 23 elections. The opposition group now makes up 40% of the Council up from 10%. It is the first time in a generation that there has been significant opposition. This has meant we have seen the first scrutiny committee call in of a decision by Cllr Silander. There have been over ten opposition motions debated at District Council; the most significant of these has resulted in the recording and publicising of meetings which you can access.
3. District Council finance. The budget was particularly challenging this year. In April 2023 the leisure centres required a £1.83M injection which meant that over 10 years the Council has to find £183k in savings each year. That has meant your council tax has gone up by the full 3%; if you travel into Sevenoaks on a Sunday you will now need to pay for parking, and the black sacks and recycling sacks are no longer being given out by the council. All three are symptoms of the financial pressure that the council is under. Inflation has generally been higher than the council tax rise so even though we are paying more we are getting fewer services. One of those to go is the free black bags. The council is trying to balance how it balances the budget between making cuts in staffing and services with the additional funds raised by tax and parking charges. The best example of this balance was with the Citizens Advice Bureau which initially had a £35k in funding decrease, which has been made up by a £40k one-off grant from KCC and central government. There is an on-going debate about the use of a government £165k grant and if/how it could and should be applied to support this service.
4. The local Plan. The local plan is the major piece of work that has been undertaken by the District Council this year. There have been protests across the district about the proposed scale of housing development on those sites which have been chosen. There is an internal Housing Policy Allocations Consultation which is ongoing, Cllrs have logged their views that local people should be able to choose local housing.
5. Rural Crime and Fly tipping remain a concern for residents. In relation to other Parishes in the district both problems are mercifully rare in Leigh but the most important message is to ensure incidents are reported.
6. Gatwick. Below is a precis of recent activity at Gatwick. From a District Councillor perspective the Parish remains far better served in regard to this by its membership of GACC than by the District Council. On the district council, Cllr Richard Streatfeild has registered and responded to the DCO as a councillor. There is currently an on-going discussion with the Council about the District Council response to the Inspectorate's inquiry into the Development Consent Order for the Northern runway, which was not as inclusive of residents views or as comprehensive as it should have been.
  - a. DCO – The use of the emergency runway for routine operations. After the initial flurry of activity in February and March there's been a period of relative calm with the DCO.
  - b. The next stage includes an Issue Specific Hearing on Climate Change (ISH 6 on Tuesday 30 April) and an additional Open Floor Hearing (OFH 3 on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May at 2:00 pm).
  - c. On the 28<sup>th</sup> March the Examining Authority published updates on a number of Deadline responses. This included a list of questions arising from the first series of hearings (ISH 1 to ISH 5). There are 288 of these. Most of these are addressed to Gatwick – the applicant. However there are some addressed to other participants and where pertinent GACC have been submitting responses.
  - d. Also published are Written Representations relating to the hearings so far, and a series of statements and documents including Local Authority Impact Reports were published. This is the report currently under discussion at the District Council.
  - e. GACC have highlighted that the complexity of Noise issues was such that it became obvious that the subject could not be covered in one hearing. GACC to submit a detailed response challenging Gatwick's proposed methods of managing noise.

- f. Airspace Modernisation update (FASI-S) There is dissatisfaction with Gatwick and their proposed submission to the CAA (Dec 23) of their desired FASI-S routes. There are too few and they would all affect the Parish.
- g. Noise Management Board GACC submitted extensive views on the NMB and on the changes that would be needed for any future board to be effective both to the consultants Gatwick appointed last Autumn and to the airport itself. GACC also wrote to the CEO, Stewart Wingate, asking for a meeting on plans for a new board. That request was refused. GAL subsequently held a “briefing” on its plans for a third term of the NMB on 11 December. The briefing told us virtually nothing new about Gatwick’s plans. They did, however, commit to circulating a report on its plans before Christmas but nothing has yet been received. Gatwick has said that any new board will not be in place until Autumn 2024.
- h. Night Flight Consultation. This was due in the autumn of 2023 together with the results of the DfT consultation on Night Flights in general held earlier in 2023. We understand that the publication of the results of that consultation were due to be signed off by the Minister at the end of January and the consultation for the next allocation of Night Slots will commence shortly afterwards. This does not bode well for agreement to be in place for slots for the next period from October 2025 onwards. The possibility of yet again another roll over of the current limits and slots raises its head. Gatwick Operations It seems that as at the end of December Gatwick’s movement numbers were still marginally behind the Pre-pandemic 2019 figures (at around 95%). However the proportion of night movements whilst still within limits is around 20% higher.

What’s on the horizon?

- 7. The District Council has started a consultation on how to redevelop the centre of Sevenoaks with a new leisure centre, library and adult education centre. You have the ability to respond on line or at the events they are running.
- 8. The regulation 19 consultation on the local plan. This the consultation on the chosen sites.
- 9. The Council is looking into better recycling and waste management. Food Waste has to be separated by March 2026. Green / recycling - the council’s aspiration to reach Net Zero by 2030 has been described as "no longer realistic" and as such has been scrapped. There will be further debate raised about this.
- 10. Gatwick DCO

9. Questions from members of the public

- i. A resident congratulated the Parish Council and Clerk on their Village Design Statement, but said that there is a statement in the document that said that new ideas for footpaths is welcome, but no work has been done on new footpaths in recent years. Cllr Kaye said that there was a proposal to divert the public right of way at Ensfield Road and, after a lot of discussion with the landowner, the proposal did not progress as the landowner refused permission for the path to be diverted. Public Rights of Way are in the gift of landowners.
- ii. A resident asked whether the Parish Council has a two year plan. Cllr Kaye said that the Parish Council has medium-term plans which are shown in the Earmarked Reserves. The precept raises enough funding for what should reasonably be done.

10. Matters for reporting and diary dates

None.

Cllr Smith thanked Cllr Kaye very much for all he does as the Chair of the Parish Council. This sentiment was reiterated throughout the room.

**FINANCE REPORT FOR YEAR 2023-2024**

The Parish Council’s financial year runs from 1<sup>st</sup> April until 31<sup>st</sup> March. The precept for the year 2023-24 was £51,500. This sum, which is generated from residents’ Council Tax, is paid to the Parish Council by Sevenoaks District Council. The precept for 2024-25 has been increased to £52,500. Our grateful thanks go to Mulberry & Company for undertaking our internal audit, and the Annual Return will be approved at our Parish Council meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> May before being sent off to Mazars, our external auditor, for review. Annual memberships have been renewed to the following:

Kent Association of Local Councils	£756.88
CPRE	£60.00
Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign	£10.00
Kent Playing Fields Association	£20.00
Society of Local Council Clerks	£148.00
Aviation Environment Federation	£36.00
Information Commissioner's Office	£35.00

Grants have been awarded as follows:

Leigh Village Halls Management Committee	£2,900.00
Leigh Primary School	£2,000.00
Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign	£500.00
Leigh Tennis Club	£350.00
Leigh in Bloom	£600.00

Grants have been received as follows:

UK Shared Prosperity Fund – for new path in Old Burial Ground	£3,750.00
Community Mobilisation Fund – towards new noticeboard in Old Burial Ground	£500.00

Below is a summary of the Parish Council's Income and Expenditure for the year 2023-24:

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>£</b>
Precept	51,500.00	Salaries	14,372.92
Grants	4,250.00	PAYE	6,255.00
APD rental	19,061.10	Pension contribution	8,186.19
Community Infrastructure Levy	3,088.34	Mileage and petty cash	962.55
Coffee Corner	281.58	Stationery	101.72
Interest on Investments	117.84	Telephone/broadband	578.58
		Office Expenses	1,436.72
		Bank charges	20.15
		Website	145.00
		Village Green posts and signs	1,133.67
		War Memorial refurbishment	1,350.00
		Insurance	1,873.79
		Audit/Accountancy	479.85
		Chair's Expenses	70.40
		Courses	75.00
		Memberships/subscriptions	1,225.88
		Hall hire	440.00
		Election	201.51
		Defibrillators	652.00
		Coronation	1,250.00
		Village Green & trees	8,497.01
		Old Burial Ground	480.00
		Litter / dog bins	2,421.66
		Grants	6,350.00
		APD	3,901.95
		Play event	356.00
		Repairs & maintenance	920.00
		Coffee Corner	1,856.43
		Advertising & Publicity	25.00
		Planning consultant fees	950.00
	<b>78,298.86</b>		<b>66,568.98</b>

The meeting closed at 9.50pm