

LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL
DRAFT MINUTES
For Meeting Held At Leigh Village Hall On
15th November 2016 At 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Scutt, Cllr Bugler, Cllr Stillitano, Cllr Vincent, Cllr West, Cllr Smith, Cllr Bennett, DCllr Penfold, CCllr Hall, the Clerk and a large number of the general public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - None

3. TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES

3.1 It was resolved "THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 20th SEPTEMBER 2016 BE APPROVED AND SIGNED BY CHAIRMAN". Proposed: Cllr Stillitano, 2nd Cllr Bugler. Unanimously agreed. Cllr Bennett asked that the minutes be put up swiftly so that the public can be kept informed. The Clerk informed the meeting that the noticeboard was broken, however the minutes would be published on the website.

5. TRAFFIC SPEED IN LEIGH

5.1 Cllr Bennett outlined the 3 options presented in the report by Mr Denham for reducing speeding within Leigh. 1. Community speed watch, 2. Use of community speed indicator and 3. Cardboard cut-out. Questions were taken on some aspects of the process. It was identified that volunteers would be needed from the community to run the speed watch scheme, those interested to pass their names to Mr Denham or Cllr Bennett. The report to be put on the noticeboard (broken at present) and website.

6. FINANCIAL MATTERS & ASSET REGISTER

6.1 Clerk's salary for 2 months. Total: £305.94. Proposed: Cllr Bennett, 2nd Cllr Vincent. Unanimously agreed.

6.2 Clerks invoice for 2 months broadband at £10 per month, £20. Proposed: Cllr Vincent, 2nd Cllr Bugler. Unanimously agreed.

6.3 Cllr Bennett has reviewed the insurance policy and feels that the Council are adequately covered. To discuss a 3 year option at the May meeting.

6.4 Draft budget was reviewed and it was agreed that should the tax base, income and expenses be in line with this year, it was anticipated that the precept demand would be the same £5500. However final decision would be at the January meeting so that Play Park expenses could be taken into account.

6.5 Cllr Bennett has reviewed historic documentation on ownership of Leigh PC land, in view of the asset register. In his opinion the plots in question are owned by the Parish Council. He did not feel that a land registry search would be required.

6.6 Consultation on council tax referendum principles email circulated.

6.7 Parish Precept Requests 17/18 email circulated with LCTS Funding allocation.

7. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

7.1 The team is trying to add the current issue of development of the Field next to the Village Hall to the Questionnaire to entice more people to fill out the Questionnaire. Several other villages have had a small number returned completed Questionnaires. This may increase our turnout.

The team are realizing that a professional is needed to help construct and write the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Smith is setting up a meeting with one professional (Jo Witherden) for early December. There may be a requirement to get further quotations.

Cllr Smith believes that the current funding period of NP grants end in March 2017 so he aims to get the first request in shortly.

Cllr Bugler asked about funding.

8. DATA PROTECTION

8.1 Cllr Scutt and Cllr Stillitano are investigating.

9. PLANNING MATTERS

9.1 West Dorset, Weymouth & Portland Local Plan: Five Year Housing Land Supply – email circulated.

9.2 Electronic Consultation with Local Councils. October Interim Report.- circulated

9.3 West Dorset and Weymouth & Portland Joint Local Plan – letter circulated.

APPLICATION NO: WD/D/16/001917

PROPOSAL: Demolish existing garage and sheds and erect new detached garage.

LOCATION; MEADOW VIEW, CHETNOLE ROAD, LEIGH, SHERBORNE, DT9 6HL

No Objections – submitted 14/10/16

APPLICATION NO: WD/D/16/002064

PROPOSAL: Change of use of 1/3 of agricultural field to lawn & 2/3 to an orchard.

Create access from the road.

LOCATION; GREENHAM HOUSE, SHERBORNE, LEIGH, SHERBORNE, DT9 6HW

No objection submitted by email on 5/11/16

APPLICATION NO: WD/D/16/002063

PROPOSAL: Convert Barn to Dwelling

LOCATION; BROOKFIELD FARM, BATCOMBE, LEIGH, DORCHESTER, DT2 7BG.

PC Comments: No Objection, submitted 8.11.16

APPLICATION NO: WD/D/16/002136 ADJOINING PARISH CONSULTATION LEIGH

PROPOSAL: Replacement of existing agricultural building with 2 no. agricultural workers dwellings.

LOCATION; THREEGATES FARM, THREE GATES, LEIGH, DT9 6JQ

To agree via email response.

10. PLAY PARK

10.1 Cllr Bennett referred members of the public to the hand-out outlining the current situation at 15/11/16. There had been numerous erroneous rumours circulating around the village and much concern from residents.

4. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBILC TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

Cllr Scutt took questions from the floor from residents.

Mr P Nash and a number of residents demanded that the Parish Council arrange a poll of the parish; Mr Nash wanted a poll on whether the Parish Council should be prevented from purchasing land. Councillors were unaware of the legalities of this process and will look into the validity of the demand. However it was unclear what the exact wording of the question was. Cllr Scutt indicated that no decision on land purchase had been taken so could not understand what the poll would achieve.

Mr Chris Fox indicated that he had offered to give a parcel of land to the Parish Council for the purpose of the play area, but was concerned that the Parish Council had

not responded to his emails. It was stated by the parish footpath representative that there is a footpath through the area of land in question.

Mr Charlie Read discussed his concerns that the Parish Council had not approached him direct about a verbal offer of land for the play area.

Cllr Scutt indicated that all offers of land were gratefully received but needed to be put in writing. The Parish Council planned to carry out a risk assessment on each site and then report back at the meeting in January for a decision.

To gauge parish opinion Cllr Bennett asked for a straw vote on preferences for the 4 options of the siting of the play park:

1. Purchase of land for Village Green and playpark as per area A on map circulated.–18 hands raised.

2. Mr Charlie Read: lease of 25yrs at Area B – 18 hands raised

3. Village Hall: lease of land Area C – 31 hands raised

4. Mr Chris Fox gifted plot at Church Lane – 4 hands raised

Finally the public were asked to raise their hands if they did not want a play park, no hands were raised.

Play Park committee thanked Leigh for their warm support regarding the Play Park.

11. SNOW PLAN

11. Cllr Bugler will review the snow plan. Cllr Vincent has agreed with the contractor to keep the cost as previously.

12. CORRESPONDENCE

12.1 Correspondence on snow plans circulated.

12.2 Motions from member councils for consideration at the DAPTC 2016 AGM

12.3 Dumpy bags and grit bins email circulated.

12.4 Shaping Dorset consultation. Circulated.

12.5 Slides presentation at the workshops for Local Government Reorganization

12.6 DAPTC Autumn 2016 magazine

12.7 Electronic Consultation with Local Councils. October Interim Report.

12.8 Email from Community Highway's Officer Paul Thatcher. It was agreed that Cllr Scutt would invite him to the meeting in March.

13. ITEMS OF URGENT NATURE SUBJECT TO CHAIRMAN'S APPROVAL

13.1 DCllr Penfold reported on the renovation on Shire Hall which has now started and will be finished in 2018. Work had been done on a strategy on economic health in the area. Broad Church was being filmed in the area again and this would be beneficial for tourism.

13.2 CCllr Hall reported that Dorset CCG is looking at closing around half the doctor's surgeries in Dorset. He suggested that those that object should write to Oliver Letwin MP.

13.3 Also reported that the elections will take place on 4th May 2017, even though decisions regarding authority changes have not been made.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING –To confirm dates for next year. Subject to booking.

17th January 2017

21st March 2017

16th May 2017 Village meeting at 7pm and Full Council meeting at 7.30pm.

18th July 2017

19th September 2017

Leigh Traffic Speed 2016.

On looking into the possible solutions to the traffic speed in Leigh I have to date looked at the following.

- 1) Community Speed Watch. The setting up of members of Leigh community to do speed checks within the village. Working with the Police and being trained by the Police to engage in the process.
- 2) SID. (Speed Indicator Device.) The obtaining of a device to advise motorists of their speed.
- 3) The cardboard Police Officer. A static image of a Police Officer to deter speed from a distance.

The Speed watch is already known and is active in Yetminster. In co-operation with Dorset Police a team of volunteer's are trained and equipped to do random speed checks.

The pros are;

Enforcing local speed limits. Proactive with a degree of success that should impact on speed. As the team will be voluntary, the expense is the equipment from Dorset Police.

The cons;

Requires 7 persons or more to commence the training. As volunteers there will need to be a co-ordinate and liaison with the Police.

The number of volunteers will be critical in the success and therefore if the required number is not obtained the scheme will not take place.

The SID has already been in place in Leigh under the Safer Dorset scheme.

The pros are;

High profile, with systems offering differing visuals to advise motorist of speed.

Low running costs

Very portable requiring limited resource to install.

The cons;

Unlike the speed watch, motorists who regularly ignore the speed limits have no legal consequence.

Battery life is limited so solar panel or better still mains electricity required.

Cost of purchase may be considered prohibitive.

Cardboard police officer.

The use of cardboard police has been used by Police forces within the UK, including West Mercia and Thames valley.

Pros;

Very cheap too purchase and no real maintenance issues.

Very good at preventing speed when viewed from a distance.

Very good placement potential.

Cons;

As with SID, no legal consequence.

May lose viability when people realise that the cut out is being used

Weather will impact on product

These 3 options represent the start of the process. I have looked into some options

that appear not to be suitable for Leigh either by current policy or cost. These include 20mph speed limits. Signage such as speed camera signs. Static speed cameras. The use of road calming measures. More Police proactive actions such as speed cameras.

From many sites dealing with speed and statistics it becomes apparent that driver education is seen as important. This involves informing drivers that their speed is an issue. Based on this the Community and SID options are suitable.

Overall my research is based on information from web sites.

<http://radarspeedsigns.co.uk/>

<http://content.tfl.gov.uk/effectiveness-of-sids.pdf>

Mr A Denham 20/9/2016

LEIGH VILLAGE GREEN AND PLAY PARK – CURRENT SITUATION AS OF 17 NOVEMBER 2016

1. The lease on the current Play Park (approx. ¼ acre) expires in September 2020. The landowner does not wish to extend the lease.
2. The owner of the field adjacent to the Village Hall is prepared to sell 2 acres of this c.4 acre field (see Area A on attached plans) to LPC for £20k. The owner is not prepared to sell a lesser parcel of land. Should LPC decide to proceed with this purchase, the additional area would be landscaped and fenced to provide a Village Green, with the Play Park incorporated within. It is estimated a total budget of some £36.5k would be required if this option were taken. To raise this sum before the expiry of the existing Play Park lease would most likely require a significant increase in the parish charge for three years (as detailed in the minutes of the September 2016 LPC meeting).
3. On 13 November, Mr Charlie Read generously made a formal offer of a 25 year lease of the SW corner of the field adjacent to the pump house (eastern bridge at Leigh Village Stores) for use as a playground. See Area B on attached plans. It is estimated a total budget of some £8.5k would be required (legal fees, relocate/ replace equipment, fencing etc) if this option were taken. This offer would not provide for a Village Green.
4. The Village Hall committee had previously not been prepared to site the Play Park equipment on the Village Hall's grounds. However, it is understood that the Trustees of the Village Hall are generously now prepared to lease land in the NW corner of the Village Hall's wild flower meadow for this purpose. See Area C on attached plans. It is hoped that the Village Hall committee will endorse this offer at its 22 November meeting. The issue of a footpath will need resolving. It is estimated a total budget of some £8.5k would be required (legal fees, relocate / replace equipment, fencing etc) if this option were taken. This offer would not provide for a Village Green.
5. At the LPC meeting on 16 November, Mr Chris Fox generously offered to gift a parcel of land adjacent to Church Lane for use as a Play Park (he had previously indicated willingness to do this, although no formal offer had been received by LPC). The possible issue of a footpath will need resolving. See Area D on attached plans. This offer would not provide for a Village Green.
6. No other formal offer to sell, lease or gift land for a Play Park in Leigh has

been received by LPC. Any such additional offers received before 31 December 2016 will be considered on its merits.

7. LPC now intends to assess each of the above four options, taking into account location, access, risks, security of tenure, relative costs etc, LPC currently has £4k set aside for the Play Park. All sites will be subject to planning requirements and permissions. However, at this stage, it appears that the site of the Village Hall's meadow (paragraph 4 above) has significant merits. LPC intends to make its final decision on the above matters at its meeting at 1930 on Tuesday 17 January 2017.

Leigh Parish Council
17 November 2016.