

**LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES**  
**For Meeting Held At Leigh Village Hall On**  
**21<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2017 At 7.30pm**

Present: Cllr Scutt, Cllr Bugler, Cllr West, Cllr Stillitano, Cllr Bennett, Cllr Smith, Cllr Bennett, CCllr Hall, DCllr Penfold, the Clerk and approximately 33 members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Paul Thatcher, Cllr Vincent.
2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
3. TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES
  - 3.1 It was resolved "THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 17<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2016 BE APPROVED AND SIGNED BY CHAIRMAN". Unanimously approved.
4. PAUL THATCHER – HIGHWAYS – Apologies Sent.
  - 4.1 Clerk to request attendance at the next meeting.
5. TRAFFIC SPEED IN LEIGH
  - 5.1 Cllr Bennett reported that Andrew Denham has done some excellent work with the community speed watch and Dorset Police. With approval of the Parish Council the intention is to now send out a synopsis of the programme to those who have previously expressed an interest in supporting the project.

The aim of the intervention was to reduce incidence of speeding and was actively encouraged by Dorset police. The community speed watch would be carried out by nominated volunteers who are approved by Dorset Police. The Dorset Police will provide training and high visibility equipment. This equipment is lent for the first three months and then can be purchased. Groups of volunteers need to be at least 3 and risk assessments need to be completed. Volunteers on duty are considered to be Dorset police staff and any verbal or threatening behaviour would be covered by the same policies. However volunteers will not be covered by Dorset Police with regards to liability and therefore the Clerk is checking cover under the Parish Council Insurance scheme.
6. FINANCIAL MATTERS & ASSET REGISTER
  - 6.1 Clerk's salary for 2 months. Total: £305.94 unanimously agreed
  - 6.2 Clerks invoice for 2 months broadband and expenses as per invoice. Unanimously agreed.
  - 6.3 The Department for Communities and Local Government has confirmed that the appropriate sum for parish councils for the purposes of section 137(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 ("the 1972 Act") for 2017-2018 is £7.57.
  - 6.4 Village Hall Hire £252.00. Proposed: Cllr Bennett, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Cllr Bugler Unanimously agreed.
  - 6.5 Invoice for gates at £500 agreed. Proposed: Cllr Bennett, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Cllr Bugler Unanimously agreed.
7. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN
  - 7.1 Cllr Smith outlined how the NP working group had progressed. The Steering Group asked for approval to employ Jo Witherden as a planning consultant for the Neighbourhood Plan. Costs are high, but the Steering group have agreed to go ahead with a questionnaire to involve Leigh villagers. Councilors discussed the potential financial risk to the PC. Cllr

Bennett felt that on the understanding that the NP development was agreed at zero costs to the PC and when the bills hit £6000 expenses would be reviewed and thereby minimizing any risk of overspend, then the Council should agree.

The NP is a good method to capture issues in the village with possible solutions. Flooding in Leigh is one of these issues. With help from Cllr Bennett, the flood Officer, there are ideas raised to continue and try and prevent flooding at Bridge Garage. Another idea is the pedestrian safety on the Main Street of Leigh. Here an idea of a virtual pavement is being pursued. Both investigations and possible actions will continue during the NP process.

In the very near future, the Steering Group will be needing more volunteers to be on Working Groups like Housing need assessment, Transport and road safety, Environment and wildlife.

It was resolved "THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL SUPPORT THE STEERING GROUP WITH THEIR DECISION TO EMPLOY JO WITHERDEN". Proposed: Cllr Scutt, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Cllr Bennett. Unanimously agreed.

- 7.2 Cllr Smith reported that he was standing down as from today from the Parish Council but would continue chairing the NP Steering Group and would report back to the PC regularly.

## 8. DATA PROTECTION

- 8.1 It was resolved "THAT LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL WOULD REGISTER FOR DATA PROTECTION AT £35 PER YEAR, AND APPROVED THE DATA PROTECTION POLICY CIRCULATED." Proposed: Cllr Bennett, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr Bugler. Unanimously agreed.

## 9. PLANNING MATTERS

- 9.1 Planning Application: WD/D/16/002063 - land at Brookfield Farm Batcombe Leigh

## 10. PLAY PARK

- 10.1 Cllr Scutt reported that a meeting had been held with the Play Park Committee and review of the potential position discussed. They were seeking guidance from planners and had agreement from the Village Hall committee. Cllr Scutt was looking at grants but until the position of the play park was finalised they would not be eligible for any grants.

Cllr Bennett asked that a formal costings and timeline be drawn up by the Play Park Committee. It was agreed that Cllr Bugler would ask the committee to come back with this for the November PC meeting.

A resident asked about inspection of the Play Ground and a broken step on one of the frames which had been reported back in December. Cllr Bugler will inspect the playground shortly and Rosper is doing an official one in May.

## 11. LITTER

11. A resident raised concerns about the level of litter in hedgerows and asked if there were any litter collection event being organised? The audience were asked if there was anyone interested in undertaking this project. Paul Orchard agreed to see if there were any volunteers and the PC agreed to support with bags and litter pickers.

## 12. VILLAGE GREEN

12. Cllr Scutt reported that a Parish meeting will be held prior to the PC meeting in May. At this meeting, residents might wish to vote for the holding of a formal Parish poll regarding the purchase of land for a village green.

Cllr Bennett outlined the history and the options that were under discussion. As a result of the Play Park movement having been settled, a number of residents had asked the PC to

further investigate the purchase of land for a village green. This had therefore been put on the agenda for the PC to discuss and find out if there was support for the question – Does Leigh PC want a village green? Cllr Bennett has circulated the concept and possible plan and gave a verbal explanation of the idea.

## **OPEN TO QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR**

Questions were taken from the audience regarding the project. These questions and concerns were varied.

- Was the question of a village green not something that could be answered by the Neighbourhood Plan?
- Had the petition of 97 residents not answered the question?
- What is more rural a field with cattle grazing or a village green?
- Had planning permission been given?
- Once agricultural permission was changed to recreational would there not be more chance of building planning permission be given?
- Access to the village green area – where and how would this be possible?
- Footpaths around the area?
- Landowners intention?
- Drainage of the area which was historically very wet and unusable for much of the year?
- Cost of a Parish Poll - approx. £700. Even if held, the result is not binding on the Parish Council.
- Clarity of what a village green means from a planning point of view?
- Use of the area, where other villager, residents did not utilize the facilities?

The issue will be placed on the agenda for the annual Parish Meeting in May.

## **13. CORRESPONDENCE**

- 13.1 Freedom of Information Model Publications
- 13.2 Local Government Re-Organization - Parish Clustering. Discussed more evenings, next few days about decision.
- 13.3 Online Consultation for Local Councils
- 13.4 Annual Work schedule/planner
- 13.5 2017 Royal Garden Party
- 13.6 Training dates from DAPTC circulated.
- 13.7 Flood Warden Newsletter Winter 2016/17
- 13.8 Local Government Reorganisation update – proposal circulated.
- 13.9 Are we getting it right? Grants from Northern Dorset Local Action Group email circulated.
- 13.10 LEADER European grants programme information email circulated.
- 13.11 Peer Power and the Dorset Renewables Grand Tour- 4th March 2017
- 13.12 DAPTC Winter Magazine
- 13.13 Capital Highway Programme circulated.
- 13.14 Sherborne Transport Action Group meeting
- 13.15 Emails from Cllr Hall regarding GP closures.

## **14. ITEMS OF URGENT NATURE SUBJECT TO CHAIRMAN'S APPROVAL**

- 14.1 FOOTPATH 8 IN LEIGH – Trevor Evans outlined issues with footpath 8. There was some concern from the landowner that definitions of permission paths were incorrect. It was agreed that this PC meeting was not the place to discuss these issues without a visual of the problem path and discussion of the land owner with the DCC footpath officer. It would

- be placed as an agenda item for the next meeting
- 14.2 Cllr Scutt has been approached by Yetminster PC to ask if they were interested in being involved with a transport initiative in light of the planned loss of bus services in the area from 22<sup>nd</sup> July. Discussion on different schemes of self help transport groups took place. There is a toolkit for Parish Councils to review. Ideas were being pursued by the Neighbourhood Plan group. It was agreed that Cllr Smith would volunteer to join the Yetminster working group
- 14.3 Cllr Bugler reported that the debibulator training would take place on the 3<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm, it was free of charge provided by the Community Heartbeat Trust.
15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING –23<sup>rd</sup> May 2017 at 7pm Parish Meeting  
Parish Council meeting at 7.30pm.