

# ***THE LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL***

## **MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10th AUGUST 2016 AT 7.30PM AT THE LEIGH PARISH CHURCH**

**Present:** John Arkell (Chairman) Keith Annis, Paul Harvey, Colin Withers, Sue Withers (acting as clerk), Dawn Shopland, Sue Thornton, Anne Hidson, Richard Brandon, Phil Hooton, Steve Hawksworth, Sarah Theyer, Ruth Theyer, Jo Robson, Mary Chandler, John McCreadie and Angela Hughes( both arrived midway through the meeting).

Apologies: K. Tilling, A. Hawksworth.

Minutes of the meeting in May were approved, proposed by Paul Harvey and seconded by Phil Hooton.  
Minutes of meeting in June were approved after minor amendment to a name, proposed by Phil Hooton, seconded by Paul Harvey.

### **Planning Matters:**

**Cyder Press Farm:** The removal of the connecting link between the main house and Marys Cottage was discussed and there were no objections, although it was thought that the Marys Cottage should remain annexed to the main house to prevent it being sold as a separate dwelling. It was also thought that the fence gave a town/housing estate appearance and it would be better if it were a softer natural plant division.

### **Vine Tree Farm:**

The chairman said he had been asked by John McCreadie to assure the Council that he was not responsible for the hedge cutting in the early springtime, and that this was performed by Highways as proved by the copy of a works order from highways. John A then went on to say that the Parish Council had received copies of further emails showing that GCC and Amey were still discussing this matter several months latter and have had assurances that neither Highways nor Amey, or their subcontractors were responsible.

On the matter of the amended planning application, Colin said he was frustrated that there was yet another amendment. He accepted the original building without the roof lights and still objects to the addition of roof lights and the 3<sup>rd</sup> residential floor in the present amendment. Phil was fed up with the continuous amendments Mary said she wanted time to look further into the matter and commented that things were going round in circles. She thought roof lights were a bad idea. Paul agreed with Colins comments.

Steve Hawksworth objected strongly to the roof lights and thought they should not be considered. He also challenged the appeals report about the informal meeting between the applicant and the inspector, and asked if the Council would challenge it. After discussion the council agreed that the matter would be raised with TBC and then left to them.

McCreadie said the dwelling may still be visible but there would be no harm to other houses, he also said that the windows were within the permissive development rights granted in the appeal, so he didn't need permission. Colin said that regardless of that the council had been asked to comment, and as nothing had changed since earlier applications he still objected.

In summary, the PC will object to the amendment as the roof lights will overlook neighbouring properties, and a 3story house will overpower neighbours. Nobody was in favour. Proposed by Colin, seconded Paul, all opposed.

Appeal: After a sometimes bitter discussion on the conduct of the appeals officer and the applicant at the site visit, where it was alleged that she had private discussions with the applicant, it was decided to raise the matter with TBC and leave it to their judgement.

**Leigh Court:** Application is ongoing.

**Parcel 8227 Tewkesbury Road Industrial Estate:** The latest application is a carbon copy of the previous one, so TBC will not consider it. Although it's not in this parish the consequences will have great impact on many residents.

**School House:** permitted

### **Matters arising:**

Development Plan: Housing survey should have been received by everyone and would provide accurate background information on housing needs within the parish. Colin said nothing had been done on the NDP in the last few weeks but meeting would restart in September.

Highways: Pavements have been cleared and some hedge cutting to enable pedestrians to pass had been done, more needs to be done.

Newsletter: Jo asked who was going to pay for printing. Historically £100 had been paid but this was totally inadequate, also she couldn't do every month. After discussion it was decided that parishioners should be encouraged

to take it via email. Jo would look into the cost of printing and consider doing 6 instead of 12 issues per year. Also it could become part of the Parish website when this was up and running. Jo asked who makes the final decision on any controversial matters, John suggested the newsletter was to keep people informed and it was not right that the Chairman of the Parish Council had the final say. Steve suggested a disclaimer might solve the issue. It was unanimously agreed that a letter of thanks for many years of service as the previous editor be sent to Mike Brown by the Parish Council.

It was proposed by John and seconded by Colin that £100 be paid to Jo as an interim payment on printing of the Newsletter. As a matter of interest John asked all those present if they would pay £3.60 (the suggested price of £360 per annum printing divided by 100 houses) per year for a newsletter. The answer was a unanimous YES. John thanked Jo for being the new editor.

**Finance:** Keith had a letter to say the annual accounts had been audited and Grant Thornton thought the reserves were a little excessive. The writing of cheques was proposed by Colin, seconded by Mary.

**News from the Clerk:** Transparency Fund need to purchase a laptop and agree a service provider. Standing Orders should be ready by the next meeting.

Training, Clerks course "the knowledge"....Kate would like to attend, Proposed John Seconded Paul, all agreed.

**AOB:** Dawn asked about applying for tree preservation orders, after discussion it was agreed that Dawn draw up a list of prime species at Coombe Hill and Colin agreed to compile a list around the Leigh Pond. It was agreed that a separate list would be compiled for The Leigh.

To be discussed at next meeting

Meeting closed 9pm