

LEIGH AND BRANSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Leigh and Bransford Parish Council held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 24th September 2024 at Leigh & Bransford Memorial Hall

Present: Councillors: D Fereday (Chair), N Christie, N Cresswell, P Ralph, J Beach

Clerk: A Briggs, 0 members of the public.

- 39/24 Apologies – received and accepted from Cllrs J Sharp, M McNally, P Hawkins, G Jones, K Hanks (WCC), P Whatley (MHDC) and S Rouse (MHDC)
- 40/24 a) Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and any Other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda (personal and prejudicial). Cllr Ralph.
b) Notification of any changes to the Register of Interests. None
c) To consider any written requests from Councillors to Grant a Dispensation (s33 of the Localism Act 2011) relating to items on the agenda. None.
- 41/24 Public Participation. None.
- 42/24 Reports of District & County Councillors

Report from Cllrs Whatley and Rouse (MHDC)

Cllr Fereday talked through the report from Cllrs Whatley and Rouse which covered planning, E-bikes and Our Place. With regard to planning, the situation remains mostly unchanged. The Council have written to the inspector to ask if the examination of the plan can continue, despite WCC not yet having completed the transport survey; it was due at the end of August, but now delayed until December. Even if the SWDP does go ahead as soon as it's approved, a new plan must be started to accommodate all the extra houses Labour require. This may impact the NDP but as Cllr Rouse suggested previously, we should contact the Council. Cllr Fereday to contact MHDC for up to date figures.

Cllr Rouse expressed an interest in how the E Bike Scheme is going within our Parish and wondered whether we have considered a car share scheme. To be discussed later in meeting at Agenda Item no 8 (46/24).

Cllrs Whatley and Rouse had a meeting with WCC to discuss the issues surrounding Our Place. The school has been operating without having planning permission; the access was deemed unsafe by WCC but WCC continued to use the site. They have opened an access onto Chapel Lane which is seeing taxis and minibuses using Chapel lane and causing issues for residents. WCC maintain that they are ensuring everyone is safe despite admitting it is an unsustainable access and also intensification of an access. We have been working hard to try and see that residents and SEND children remain safe despite what we see as irresponsible behaviour by the school. They will be applying again for access, but the inspector was clear that a safe access may not be possible. Meanwhile we have the Chapel Lane situation. Comments noted by Parish Council.

Report from Cllr Hanks (WCC)

Highways

A visit to Leigh Sinton with John Sharp, Tanya Crake (Highways Liaison Officer) and Cllr Hanks took place on the 6th September 2024. Positively, as the requested location for the new SID unit is at the back of the school, Highways can permit the Parish Council's desired location for the unit. The unit has been in storage for the Parish Council awaiting permission, so expecting this to be actioned soon.

The pavement area opposite Haywood Drive was also visited and the Highways Liaison Officer advised that the required paving was substantial and could not be actioned within this financial year. It may be reviewed, potentially, as part of the capital programme for 2025.

A request, at the last Parish Council Meeting, for the newly installed Cycle Barrier at Malvern Rise to be painted, was not considered necessary by WCC highways. This matter is now closed.

Digital Infrastructure and Connectivity:

Cllr Hanks understands the Parish are in direct contact with Ste Ashton at WCC re. location of mast. She would like to remind the Parish, that a Worcestershire County Council mobile broadband unit is available for events, again from Ste Ashton, who can be contacted at Worcestershire County Council.

De-Fibrillator Training:

Heartstart Malvern are working with Malvern Town Council on this year's Restart a Heart Day, which will be on Wednesday 16th October. There are several training sessions between 08.00 and 20.30 at the Council's new Community Hub in Victoria Park Road.

Heartstart Malvern are offering free CPR and defibrillator training sessions on Wednesday 16th October as part of this year's Restart a Heart Day. To book a place, please visit the Heartstart Malvern website (www.heartstartmalvern.org.uk) or call 07926 615812. All Parish Councillors and residents encouraged to join. De-Fibrillator Training to be considered at next Parish Council Meeting.

43/24 Speeding in Dragon's Lane. This matter is for WCC. Clerk to pass detail to Cllr Hanks.

44/24 To consider and approve the minutes of 23rd July Parish Council Meeting. Having been circulated the minutes were approved unanimously.

45/24 Planning

- a) To consider and approve the minutes of the planning committee meeting held 27th August 2024. Having been circulated the minutes were approved unanimously.
- b) Updates on ongoing planning matters. None
- c) Planning applications for consideration.

(Cllr Ralph to public gallery)

Jamie Lewis (Partner) from Howard Cole gave overview of their planning application on behalf of Wolverley Homes Ltd and this was followed by a main discussion with Cllr Fereday summarising. Pertinent points being all objections have come from Haywood Drive and cover a variety of issues, some of which were flagged on the previous two applications. The plans indicate it's outside our Development Boundary and therefore does not comply with our Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Fereday spoke in detail about social renting and affordable housing, along with the number of new build projects already within our Parish. Also, discussions around young local people who have been brought up in the Parish but who are unable to afford to buy local property.

MHDC Reference	Location	Proposal	Recommendations
M/24/01028/OUT	Land At (Os 7758 5033), Leigh Sinton	Rural exception site of up to 18 dwellings (10 affordable and 8 market) and associated landscaping and infrastructure	Object J Beach, Seconded D Fereday Approve N Cresswell, Seconded N Christie

			Casting Vote Chair Object. Overall: Object
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(P Ralph returns to Parish Council Table)

M/24/01156/HP (Associated Ref:M/24/01157/LB)	Ostlers Barn Sherridge Road Leigh Sinton MalvernWR13 5DA	Replacement of existing external windows and doors to front and rear elevations of the dwelling. Addition of new external doorway on rear elevation into existing garage.	Approved N Christie Seconded P Ralph Unanimous
M/24/01157/LB (Associated Ref:M/24/01156/HP)	Ostlers Barn Sherridge Road Leigh SintonMalvernWR13 5DA	Replacement of existing external windows and doors to front and rear elevations of the dwelling. Addition of new external doorway on rear elevation into existing garage.	Approved N Christie Seconded P Ralph Unanimous

d) To note Planning decisions received.

M/23/00320/OUT, Land At (Os 7826 5083), Leigh Sinton, Details relating to appearance, landscaping, layout and scale of the approved 52 residential units following outline consent reference. **Approved.**

M/24/00697/HP, ConstantineBransfordWorcesterWR6 5JB. Proposed single-storey extension, plus new windows to kitchen and detached garage. **Approved.**

M/24/01037/RM – Acorns Chapel Lane Bransford Worcester WR6 5JG. Erection of farm dwelling (bungalow) (REMOVAL OF AGRICULTURAL OCCUPANCY CONDITION 1 Ref.79/01789/REM). **Approved.**

M/24/01036/OUT- Acorns Chapel Lane Bransford Worcester WR6 5JG. Erection of farm dwelling (bungalow) (REMOVAL OF AGRICULTURAL OCCUPANCY CONDITION 2 Ref.79/00683/OUT). **Approved.**

46/24 Grants and donations. To consider making a one off payment of £100 to Transition Malvern to pay for the locks on the e-bikes. Cllr Christie said feedback from local residents was fabulous – 17 responses, all positive! There’s also a dialogue between our Parish and Powick, who have an e-bike scheme. The question of insurance was raised with Cllr Christie confirming bikes are covered through Transition Malvern by third party insurance only. Cllr Christie also stated that Transition Malvern promote the hire of electric cars. Unanimous vote in favour of one off payment of £100 for the e-bike lock. Cllr Christie and Clerk to raise payment. Cllr Christie and Clerk to promote e-bike hire on the Parish Facebook page.

47/24 Finance

a) To note and approve accounts paid.

Schedule of Accounts for September 2024 Parish Council Meeting

Staff costs	Clerk – July	£706.09
NEST	Pension – July	£56.33
Staff costs	Clerk – August	£706.09
NEST	Pension – August	£56.33
R Wilks	Lengthsman Work	£396.00

PKF	Fee for external audit 2023-2024	£252.00
CALC	Staff Training – Clerk	£42.00
Anker Treecare	Tree surgery – Rectory Wood	£900.00

Balance as at: 23rd September 2024

Community Current Account:	£5,466.02
Business Savings Account:	£29,074.66

Payments noted and approved.

b) To appoint a Parish Council Member auditor (c/f from last meeting). Cllr Cresswell agreed to carry on with role; all were in favour of this.

c) To appoint a Parish Council Member to verify the 1st quarter bank reconciliation in line with 2.2 of our Financial Regulations. Clerk to send relevant financial detail to Cllr Cresswell.

48/24 To appoint PC Representative on Memorial Hall Committee (c/f from last meeting) Cllr Beach unanimously voted in; to take up post beginning 2025. Clerk to inform Jon Gamble.

49/24. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Update. After a detailed report at July's meeting, Cllr Fereday has chased up MHDC concerning the outstanding CIL monies: Lioncourt c £57K and Christmas Tree site c £53K. With ref to the Christmas tree site the developer appears not to have submitted the CIL forms so the planning enforcement team will have to undertake some investigative work and if necessary to issue a notice of payment. It is still unknown when payment will be received and for how much as no floor plans have been provided to base the calculation on. Cllr Fereday to report back on further developments.

50/24 To consider a Home & Security Roadshow. This was considered at the March Parish Meeting when it was agreed it would have to be in conjunction with some other public gathering and not as a stand-alone event. Clerk to report back to PC Stanley.

51/24 To consider Crime Prevention Awareness days. (As above: 50/24).

52/24 To consider a Community Project – Local Sustainable Biodiversity. The Clerk gave a brief overview of Welland Parish Council's drive for local sustainable biodiversity throughout their Parish. Cllr Beach and Clerk to attend the next Collaboration meeting on the 14th October at Welland Village Hall and report back.

53/24 Reports from working groups and representatives

a. Memorial Hall Committee. C/F.

b. Play areas – Cllr Christie reported all was well but to bring to Cllr Sharp's attention the pedestrian gate which doesn't close properly. Clerk to bring to Cllr Sharp's attention.

c. Open Spaces/Hedges. Cllr Fereday read Cllr Sharp's report in his absence. Rectory Wood: The removal of dead branches and trees as per the tree survey report; works completed on the 3rd September. The Lengthsman will be clearing away undergrowth later this year. Jubilee Garden: The Lengthsman will be tidying up the sight shortly and additional shrubs will be needed to replace those lost over the last 12 months. Cllr Sharp to arrange quote from Lengthsman.

d. Lengthsman scheme. Vegetation has been cleared around a 30mph repeater sign on Sherridge Road. The Owner/occupier objected as they stated it would look dead. The Lengthsman will dig out the ditch reported by Sarah Rouse to ensure it runs well.

- e. Parish Footpaths. The footpath across the Lion Court development will be closed for 6 months from mid October. WCC have delivered gates to Andrew Grant which will be fitted in place of stiles on his land this autumn. Litter Bin. A new litter bin has been ordered for the junction of Stocks Lane and Hoopers Close and this will be fitted in October
- f. Highways. WCC Highways will consider placing 'Dragon Teeth' marking on the Malvern Road approach to Leigh Sinton. This would have to be after the 30 mph sign is repositioned following the opening of the 'Christmas tree' development.

The SID, damaged in May by a person unknown as not been repairable. A claim made on our Zurich insurance policy was successful and £2100 has been paid into our account. We need to consider if a replacement is required. To be considered at next Parish meeting.

Reports have been made to the WCC Hub about blocked drains. Some of these reports are years old. The Beani blocks on the A4103 where flooding occurs, just before the Fox, were cleared very quickly. A drain by the Fold had started to sprout vegetation with a local resident contacted the local paper who ran a short piece with a photo. The drain was cleared within days!!

A resident of Orchard Way in Bransford has raised concerns about the way vehicles are driving at the bottom of the road and there have been several near misses. Cllr Sharp has agreed to discuss possible road marking with WCC.

The school flashing signs on Stocks Lane are not operating and have been reported to WCC who are dealing with the problem.

- g. Road Safety. There have been several complaints about overgrown hedges and tress obscuring the highway over the past 6 weeks. We have written to the occupiers/landowners in each case. Only two have been actioned, a hedge in Sherridge Road and an overhanging vine on the A4103 in Leigh Sinton. One hedge, associated with Laburnum Cottage on Sherridge Road the occupier/owner has refused to cut the hedge as mentioned before. (It has been subject to many complaints over the years.) It has now been reported on the WCC Hub

There is a problem in Crowcroft where a line of Leylandii trees are overhanging the narrow road causing high sided lorries goes to St Richards Hospice warehouse are being forces off the opposite edge of the carriageway. This has cause damaged to the carriageway at this point. This had been reported before but no action taken. It has been reported on the WCC Hub again.

We have been advised by WCC Highways to report such problems to the Hub rather than writing ourselves. This will avoid the Clerk receiving confrontational correspondence from occupiers/owners.

54/24 Progress reports on items from previous meeting not otherwise listed on the agenda.

Solar Farm - planning application still anticipated this year, with pre-planning archaeological site work already underway.

Liaison Officer – Cllr Beach suggested the idea of a Liaison Officer to be the conduit between the various new build projects and the PC. Cllr Beach put herself forward and was unanimously voted in.

55/24 Other reports and items for future consideration. None.

56/24 Next meetings dates: Planning Meeting 22nd October (if applicable) Parish Council Meeting 26th November, Planning Meeting 27th December (if applicable).
All meetings 7pm at Leigh & Bransford Memorial Hall

Meeting closed: 8.15PM.

Chair.....

Date.....