

LEIGH AND BRANSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Leigh and Bransford Parish Council held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 26th March 2024 at Leigh & Bransford Memorial Hall

Present: Councillors: D Fereday (Chair), P Ralph, J Sharp, N Christie, M McNally

0 members of the public: Cllr Whatley (MHDC), Cllr Rouse (MHDC). Cllr Hanks (WCC), A Briggs (Clerk)

93/23 Apologies – received and accepted from N Cresswell and P Hawkins

94/23 a) Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and any Other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda (personal and prejudicial) – None
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

95/23 Public Participation. None.

96/23 Reports of District and County Councillors

Cllr Whatley (MHDC)

Council tax went up by the expected £5.00 (approx. 2.8%). There are some grants available for rural businesses on a matched-funded basis. Businesses can apply for up to £25,000 with priority given to businesses who will source local employment.

SWDP:

Cllr Whatley expressed his disappointment in the last Planners meeting. The planners have admitted that none of the three Councils have the rail based strategy which has been talked about for months and therefore evidence is not expected to be complete for the inspector to review until at least October 2024. That includes not only the transport plan, which is expected to be ready by end-August, but also the "viability" data for the major development around Worcestershire Parkway railway station. The knock-on from those delays means the formal inspection period is not expected to begin before early 2025, for a decision not earlier than summer 2025. These are all dates well behind those previously published. They are also well beyond the date of the next General Election, after which we may expect a swathe of new planning legislation. Cllr Whatley reiterated at this point that our L&B Local Neighbourhood Plan is worth its weight in gold and that neighbouring Parishes need to follow by our example.

Because of the delays developers will need to fund enhanced bus services and suppress car travel with more local shops and other facilities being developed. Bus system. Either extensions of existing services, or "on demand" round robin local services are suggested. He obtained a commitment for all councillors to be shown the developer contribution estimates after which some rough estimation of how the contributions might match basic demand criteria currently unfulfilled, such as buses after 6pm and on Sundays. Those numbers would, of course, assume that developers are prepared to build houses at the levels of contribution expected.

He informed the meeting that MHDC's new Director of Planning, Ian McLeod, appears to have shaken up the planning function and introduced a degree of frankness into discussions. He has also

stated that he intends that the Joint Advisory Panel's (JAP) output will no longer be confidential and JAP's councillor members forbidden to discuss its deliberations/ proceedings with others. Cllr Sharp commented that due to the change of Director of Planning; this may well have an impact on the number of houses which were originally to be built.

- Cllr Whatley will keep L&B Parish Councillor's advised of any developments.
- Cllr Hanks has invited Cllr Whatley and Cllr Rouse to June's meeting on Economy Scrutiny (Agenda packs are available from Monday 25th March).

Cllr Hanks (WCC)

Worcestershire County Council's next Town and Parish Council Conference will take place on Wednesday 12 June 2024 from 6-9pm at Wyre Forest District Council, Kidderminster: Space for 2 Parish Councillor's from Leigh and Bransford. To reserve a place please email the name, contact email and council they represent by email to strengtheningcommunities@worcestershire.gov.uk by 2nd June.

The New Parish Council Dashboard: Will go live on 2nd April 2024 and Clerks should be able to access their individual Dashboards from Monday 8th April. Training has been extensive and County Council have reinforced that there will always be somebody available to help. 'How to' videos and training material to help as Clerks start to add their invoices will also be sent.

County Council Business: With the 2023/24 budget now set, we move into the final financial year of this County Council Administration. The Council is focused on living with its means. Total cost pressures and required investments for 24/25 will be addressed by £27.9m government funding, £19.6m, council tax £19.6, additional use of £2.3 million reserves and £37.2 million in savings and efficiencies. More detailed figures available from Cllr Hanks if anyone would like them.

Priority Projects:

The following are on the agenda at the Cabinet Meeting at the end of March:

The NetZero Carbon Plan.

New Autism Special Free School – Poolbrook Site in Malvern (Site of former Primary School). Will open in September 2027. It will be known as the Enterprise Academy and will be run by Milton Keynes – based academies trust, which already runs four specialist education provisions in Warwickshire and Oxfordshire.

New Worcester City Secondary School.

Shrub Hill Quarter – momentum needed; a developer for the first stage will be selected.

Highways:

Cllr Hanks has been liaising with Cllr Sharp regarding various highways issues, which are actioned or in progress.

A new VAS unit is to be delivered in April.

A safety barrier at access point to Malvern Rise will be installed by highways, to be scheduled from April onwards. The Parish Council and Malvern Rise Management Company have requested a drawing of the proposed barrier in advance of installation and this, as well as an installation date, will be forwarded to both parties when available. Cllr Hanks has allocated an amount from her

discretionary funding to fund this. Cllr Sharp asked if the Agreement is with Malvern Rise or the County Council; Cllr Hanks clarified the County Council. Once the drawings have been released Cllr Hanks will send to Cllr Sharp.

Divisional Fund: Cllr Hanks has recently submitted an application for £279.40 for a defibrillator cabinet, which has been installed outside this hall. She proposes that she is willing to help with the refurbishment of the Scout Hut from my divisional fund 24/25. Cllr Hanks to confirm with Scout Leader Dale Humphries.

Harriett Baldwin MP to visit Leigh Sinton and Bransford in early April. If any of the Parish Council or residents would like to meet Harriett, Cllr Hanks can help to arrange this.

Cllr Sharp asked about the bus subsidy which is being funded HS2 money. Cllr Hanks to confirm the situation.

Cllr Sharp also asked about cycle lanes and footpaths from Leigh Sinton to Malvern especially in light of the growing Parish size and the connection to Dyson Perrin School. Cllr Hanks says there's a funding issue, but she'll keep an eye on it.

Cllr Sharp raised a query concerning the S106 money and what it will be used for as it's not now going to be used for a bus shelter by Malvern Rise. Talk of a pull in for school busses opposite the Royal Oak pub. Cllr Hanks to look at this.

Cllr Hanks to send report for Annual Parish Meeting on the 16th April. She also asked if Cllr Sharp was responsible for Highways at the present time; this was confirmed.

Cllr's Whatley, Rouse and Hanks left the meeting.

97/23 To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 23rd January 2024.
Approved unanimously.

98/23 To consider applications for co-option.
No applications as yet. An application pack is available on the WALC website. Carry forward to next meeting.
Cllr Christie asked at this point if any present at the meeting would be willing to have their profile on Face Book. Also it was confirmed that Cllr McNally would remove editing rights for the L&B Face Book from Jacqui Barker to Anna Briggs.

99/23 Planning
a) Updates on ongoing planning matters. None.
b) Planning applications for consideration:

Reference	Proposal	Location	Recommendation
Planning application: M24/00057/FUL	New dwelling adjacent to Oakapple Cottage.	Oakapple Cottage Suckley Road Leigh Worcester WR6 5LE	Proposed: N Christie Seconded: M McNally (Unanimous)
Planning application: M/23/01783/LB	Removal of small plain clay tiles to roof [due to sprayed loft insulation] and replacement with new Sandtoft Goxhill handmade plain clay tiles.	Hill House, Brockamin Lane Leigh Worcester WR6 5JZ	Proposed: J Sharp Seconded: P Ralph (Unanimous)

Planning Application: M/23/01696/HP	Removal of roof over kitchen and construction of first floor extension.	Hop Cottage, Leigh Sinton, Malvern, WR13 5EQ	Proposed: P Ralph Seconded: J Sharp (Unanimous)
Planning Application: Appeal: M/23/00027/FUL	Mr S Trotman Retrospective Planning Application for the Retention of Unit 4 and 5 For Use Class E(g) (Appeal).	Crowcroft House Farm Crowcroft Leigh Sinton Malvern WR13 5ED	Nothing to be noted.
Planning Application: M/24/00290/FUL	Erection of 1 No. 3 bed dwelling	2 Jacksons Bank, Bransford, Worcester, WR6 5JB	Proposed: P Ralph Seconded: N Christie (Unanimous) *Notes accompanying Proposal.

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- i. In the interests of road safety, vehicles approaching from the Worcester direction to use roundabout to access the property from the Bransford direction.
 - ii. That the layby is not obstructed and is kept clear at all times.
 - iii. That the application is inside the Bransford Development boundary as per Policy LB/H/1 of the Made Neighbourhood Plan.
- c) Planning decisions received. Planning App M/23/01727/HP – 7 Hop Pole Green, Leigh Sinton WR13 5DP. Recommendation: Approved.

100/23 Grants and donations: None.

101/23 Finance

a) To note and approve accounts paid.

NEST	Pension - January	£66.87
SLCC	Clerk job vacancy	£240.00
Sphere	February edition	£25.00
Lengthsman	January	£318.00
R Wilks	Maintenance (grass & hedges)	£1297.20
NEST	Pension – February	£66.87
Leigh Scouts	Donation	£500.00
SWCAB	Donation	£250.00
Leigh Church	Donation	£1,500.00
Staff Costs	Clerk – February	£916.57
Lengthsman	February/March	£648.00
RoSPA	Annual Parish inspection	£112.80

Balances at 24th March 2024

Community Current Account :	£3,866.08
Business Savings Account :	£27,577.38

All payments approved unanimously.

102/23 To consider the RoSPA Safety Report for Leigh Hurst

An in depth report was submitted. On the whole it was positive with only three very small areas which were flagged up by Cllr Christie.
Finger entrapment

'Rocker Fish' apparatus
Wooden posts
These points were discussed and noted.

103/23 Home and Property Road Show

This is a 2 hour event and shouldn't be seen as a stand alone occasion.
It could possibly be part of the Alfrick Show in September or part of a pub evening. Cllr Christie to pursue.

104/23 Portrait of His Majesty King Charles III

The Parish Clerk has ordered and will pass to Jon Gamble sometime in April.

105/23 Proposed Community Bus Service

A new community bus service covering Leigh, Bransford plus the Leigh Sinton end of Malvern with a trial period commencing in April. The overall feeling is that it's a positive asset for the Parish; concerns raised however as to how best advertise it. Cllr Sharp informed the meeting that April's edition of Sphere highlights this new service. It was also noted from The Chair that the Parish Council could give financial support sometime in the new financial year.

106/23 Reports from working groups and parish council representatives.

Memorial Hall representative.
No update as Cllr Hawkins has sent apologies for tonight.

Everyone agreed how fabulous the new Defib machine looks. Cllr McNally confirmed that the battery and pads need to be replaced every three years if not used. It's been registered on the Hereford and Worcester Ambulance website. She mentioned maintenance costs. Cllr Sharp thought there shouldn't be any as it's solar run. The main thing is it's operational !

Highways representative.

Cllr Sharp made comment on the below issues which Cllr Rouse has flagged. Cllr Sharp pointed out that the majority of issues have been dealt with.

1. The lack of road markings in parking bays in Hooper's Close. Highways have looked and they say it's not urgent that they're repainted. (A couple of Parishioners have done it themselves).
2. Stocks Lane over hanging hedge – the offending hedge needs to be confirmed by Cllr Rouse.
3. Drains between Suckley Road and the roundabout at Croft House which have been a problem for months. (Possible causes tree routes, broken drain).
4. Markings outside school and the main road to Malvern seems to have been fixed.
5. SID controlled by solar panel – agreed it should go by the school gates as a permanent fixture.
6. Still a drainage problem on the bend (by school?) and because it's too dangerous our Linksman won't attend to it.

Cllr Sharp also pointed out that the S106 money allocated to us will be absorbed if not used in the Parish and will go back to developers.

Cllr McNally thanked and noted the help that Cllr Sharp is giving to Highways issues.

Cllr Cresswell (in absence) alerted The Chair of a drain along the Leigh Sinton road by the entrance to the new housing development. Should it be reported to the developers or Highways. County Council issue – Cllr Sharp to report.

Solar Farm Working Group

Cllr Christie said there was no real update. The steering committee wrote to the school but still awaiting to hear back. Cllr Christie to action. He also noted the Planning Application is due to be submitted shortly.

Open Spaces

Rectory Wood and Jubilee Gardens. Cllr Sharp informed meeting a tree survey is taking place at Rectory Wood on the 17th April. Cllr Sharp has also planted three glorious pear trees for all to enjoy!

Play area representative.

Cllr Christie informed the meeting that no issues are present. He will give the area a clean once the rain has stopped.

107/23 Progress reports on items from the previous meeting not otherwise listed on the Agenda.

The Chair highlighted safety barrier and S106 with Cllr Hanks which were both discussed earlier. A Co-option Recruitment Pack which Cllr Christie raised earlier.

Leigh and Bransford Bank Accounts still need to be set up for Cllr McNally to become a signatory.

Cllr Sharp has received a draft quote from the new Website designer; all in favour that the quote was acceptable. The amount was £1,600.

The Annual Parish Meeting. Cllr Sharp has communicated with all the Parish organisations and apart from four, all will attend. Cllr Christie mentioned the possibility of St Richard's Hospice and Bransford Nursery joining. Cllr Christie to follow up. Cllr Sharp to advertise the Annual Parish Meeting on website and noticeboards.

108/23 Other reports and items for consideration. None.

Meeting closed at 8 :45pm.

109/23 Next Meetings Dates:

Annual Parish Meeting Tuesday 16th April

Planning Meeting 23rd April

Annual Parish Council Meeting 28th May

All meetings 7pm at Leigh & Bransford Memorial Hall