

LEIGH AND BRANSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present: Councillors: D Fereday (Chair), N Christie, J Sharp, P Ralph, P Hawkins, L Bayston, A Holford
Cllr K Hanks (WCC), Clerk: A Briggs,

1 member of the public.

- 57/24 Apologies – received and accepted from Cllrs N Cresswell, J Beach, M McNally, G Jones, P Whatley, S Rouse
- 58/24 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.

(Meeting closed).

- 59/24 Public Participation. Public Participation - Residents are invited to address the council on any local matters and agenda items.

A member of the public voiced their concern over the lack of footpaths connecting the new estates in Leigh Sinton. He said to have a play area for children which they're unable to safely walk to is highly worrying. He spoke of the Kiln Lane Management company and how they may come to their decisions. Cllr Sharp was able to shed a little light and informed the meeting that there is only one person on the management company. He had also checked the site layout and confirmed there is a footpath which comes out by the new road and joins the footpath on the Malvern Road; the reality is that it hasn't been completed. Questions need to be asked: Why the residents of Kiln Lane and Malvern Rise don't appear to have any indication of what's happened and who is representing the 20 or so residents who are housed by Platform as they are entitled to their view. This will be covered in more detail in agenda item 6.

The second point raised was concerning a potential pathway between Leigh Sinton and Malvern. It's been discussed many times but with no headway being made. The Parishioner said it doesn't have to happen all in one go, but it needs to happen. He suggested getting 50m of path put in to start the ball rolling. It could be that CIL money could help, but no S106 money available as this has all been ear marked for football pitches. Other future developments should give money to help this cause.

(Meeting reopened)

- 60/24 To consider applications for co-option. After the two applicants gave a little detail about themselves, both Lesley Bayston and Alex Holford were unanimously voted in by the Parish Council and after signing official documentation they joined the present Councillors at the table. Leigh and Bransford now have a full board of serving Parish Councillors which is excellent news!
- 61/24 Reports of District & County Councillors

WCC

Cllr Hanks talked through her report highlighting key areas such as certain boundary changes for Malvern Link Division which will take place next year. She did confirm that Leigh and Bransford Parish will still be included in Link Division. She talked through WCC budgets and said that Worcestershire remains a well-managed council.

Budgets applicable to Parish Council:

Cllr Hanks said there is a partially unused Community Flood Recovery Grant – with around £4700 left to the Whole of the Link division. She has already contacted one impacted property Old Bridge Cottage at Bransford and that she is happy to receive requests from the Parish Council for any priorities.

WCC have made a recent Divisional Fund application for £1413 for a new boiler for the Scout Hut Refurbishment.

The remaining Locally determined budget has been split between all the Malvern Link Parishes, so a small amount of £70.00 has already been transferred Leigh Sinton Parish Council Lengthsman's Scheme. Highways.

Digital Connectivity:

A new initiative which has recently commenced is the installation of devices on refuse vehicles which will record and collect broadband speeds, enabling greater accuracy in finding remedies for coverage.

Other:

The recent flooding issues at Bransford Court Lane and the A4103 between Leigh Sinton and A44 Crown east have now been fixed.

The footpaths have been tidied up along certain stretches of the A4103. JS touched upon the state of County Hall. Cllr Hanks said it will be up to the next administration to decide on its future.

Cllr Christie raised a truly disturbing point as he read out a Facebook comment made by a parishioner with regard to the recent Bransford Road flooding by The Fox. She said her house was just to the right of the pub and she had to carry her three year old daughter through flood water at waist height to get her out of the vicinity. Every time a lorry drove past it nearly knocked them both over. A discussion took place around Road Closed signs but with big vehicles still making their way through. This could potentially lead to tragic consequences. A discussion took place as to where road signs were placed but wherever they're placed some drivers ignore. It was suggested that barriers could be installed to physically shut the road(s) off. Cllr Hanks to bring up at CC as a matter of urgency as it needs further definition.

MHDC

In the absence of Cllrs P Whatley and S Rouse, Cllr Fereday read through Cllr Whatley's report. In summary: There's much unrest at MHDC due to Tom Wells resigning his leadership. This means there is no one group or combination of groups in control of MHDC. Even though this situation is difficult, Cllr Whatley said he and Cllr Rouse remain committed to concentrating on local activities, rather than politicking. That includes the SWDPr, where all three district councils are still awaiting the traffic data promised by Worcestershire County Council several months ago. He has however been informed that it will be supplied by December 31st. Cllr Whatley said he would keep the Parish informed on all developments as soon as possible.

Cllr Fereday confirmed that Traffic Data will be supplied in December.

- 62/24 To consider pedestrian walkways linking the new sites in Leigh Sinton. As a continuation from public participation above, Cllr Fereday showed a site plan on the screen, pointing out the path points under discussion. Cllr Sharp reiterated that children should be able to walk safely through the estates and away from main roads. Cllr Sharp initially suggested that the Parish Council write to both MHDC planning department and the County Council with our concerns, but it was agreed that Cllr Hanks will facilitate a meeting with Highways, Planning, MHDC, L&B Parish Council and the Parishioner who is keen to see changes happen. Cllr Hanks to arrange as a matter of urgency.

b/f agenda item 18. Cllr McNally has asked for a small grant to help with the upkeep of the bollards in Cole's Green (report and photos supplied by Cllr McNally). It was suggested that the £70 from the Lengthsman's fund be put aside for this. Cllr Sharp to send photos to Lengthsman so he can provide a quote, with the works to be carried in the summer. To be discussed at next PC Meeting in January.

63/24 To consider and approve the minutes of 24th September Parish Council Meeting.
Having been circulated the minutes were approved unanimously.

64/24 Planning

- a) To consider and approve the minutes of the planning committee meeting held 22nd October 2024.
Having been circulated the minutes were approved unanimously.
- b) Updates on ongoing planning matters.
- c) Planning applications for consideration.

MHDC Reference	Location	Proposal	Outcome
M/24/01485/FUL	Our Place School At The Orchard Bransford Worcester WR6 5JE	Part retrospective application for installation of hardstanding, and the erection of replacement gates to Chapel Lane access	Reject: Proposed: P Hawkins, seconded N Christie. Unanimous Reject.
M/24/01511/OUT	Sunningdale Stocks Lane Leigh Sinton WR13 5DY	Outline application for single dwelling with all matters reserved except for access - (Variation of condition 3 Ref. M/24/00063/OUT)	Approved: Proposed N Christie, Seconded P Hawkins. Unanimous Approve
M/24/01370/HP	Deja View Stocks Lane Leigh Sinton Malvern WR13 5DY	Proposed balcony.	Approved: Proposed N Christie, Seconded P Hawkins. Unanimous Approve
M/24/01401/HP	Foxes Cottage Stitches Hill Leigh Sinton Malvern WR13 5DJ	Two storey side extension and new double garage (including new biodigester)	Approved: P Hawkins, Seconded J Sharp. Unanimous Approve

d) To note Planning decisions received.

M/24/01156/HP. Ostlers Barn Sherridge Road. Replacement of existing external windows and doors and additional doorway. **Approved.** Noted.

M/24/01157/LB. Ostlers Barn Sherridge Road. Replacement of existing external windows and doors and additional doorway. **Approved.** Noted.

M/24/00617/FUL. Suffield Lodge Bransford. Change of use of land for a dog boarding business plus installation of additional gate. **Approved.** Noted.

M/24/00290/FUL. 2 Jacksons Bank Bransford. Erection of 1 No. 3 bed dwelling. **Approved.** Noted.

M/23/00027/FUL – Crowcroft House Farm, Crowcroft.

Appeal A: APP/J1860/C/24/3342762: Appeal succeeds in part but otherwise is withdrawn. Noted.

Appeal B: APP/J1860/W/24/3338065: Withdrawn. Noted.

Appeal C: APP/J1860/C/24/3342953: Withdrawn. Noted.

M/24/01265/HP. 6 Brockamin, Leigh. Demolition of conservatory and porch. **Approved.** Noted.

M/24/01193/FUL. Instones Stocks Lane. Proposed new access from Hoopers Close. **Approved.** Noted.
M/24/00990/FUL Braces Leigh Worcester Road Newland. Withdrawn. Noted

65/24 Grants and donations. To consider a £2,708.06 grant application from Leigh Memorial Hall for replacement items as outlined on supporting documentation. After a brief discussion one agreed scenario would be to seek advice from CALC as to whether the Parish Council could buy the various items and gift them to the Memorial Hall, as opposed to giving some or all of the requested amount. It was also suggested that we ascertain what budget the Memorial Hall have put by (minus any maintenance costs) for furniture replacement/improvements for this year and that the Parish Council would pay the difference. Cllr Sharp suggested we ask these two questions before consideration again at January's meeting.

63/24 Finance

a) To note and approve accounts paid.

Staff costs	Clerk – September	£706.09
NEST	Pension – September	£56.33
Glasdon Uk Ltd	Rubbish bin, Hoopers Close	£274.20
James Monk	Web Host Annual Fee	£72.00
Colwall Car Club	Donation for e-bike battery	£100.00
Staff Reimburse	HMRC PAYE/NI	£232.55
Staff costs	Clerk – October	£901.98
NEST	Pension – October	£73.41
R Wilks	Lengthsman's Work	£918.00
CALC	Staff training	£42.00
James Monk	Storage capacity for system	£6.00

Balance as at: 21st November 2024

Community Current Account: £15,750.13

Business Savings Account: £64,404.66

Payments noted and approved.

b) To note the NALC pay award for 2024/25. Payment noted and approved.

c) To note the verification of the 1st quarter bank reconciliation by councillor auditor. This has been approved and signed off by the Councillor Auditor.

d) To discuss the budget and precept for 2025-26 (Preliminary discussion only - final decision to be made at the meeting scheduled for 28th January 2025). No comments made; to be presented at January's meeting for approval, along with agreement of Precept amount.

64/24. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Update. Cllr Fereday confirmed that £36K has been received in CIL money, which is payment of Phase 1 of the Christmas Tree site. Phase 2 will be another £14K and this will be paid once they've start building it. There's also a figure of about £19K which hasn't been collected from other areas; we should receive some kind of payment in April. Cllr Fereday confirmed that CIL money from Lioncourt will be £52K. Cllr Sharp gave a brief explanation as to the difference between S106 money and CIL money to the new Parish Councillors. It was also discussed the best way for data to be gathered as to what projects parish residents would like the CIL money to be spent on as they are key to the decision making process. Cllr Sharp to recycle a former 'wish list' for highways which was previously used. This would be a starter to move the process forward. To be discussed at January's meeting.

- 65/25 To consider a replacement SID. Cllr Sharp confirmed that we have received the insurance money for the damaged SID and after a brief discussion it was decided to park it for now.
- 66/25 To consider De-Fibrillator Training. A brief discussion took place around de-fibrillators and the fact that the majority of them have an automated ‘talk-through’ system which guides a would-be user on how to correctly use the machine. En-masse training was discussed with the suggestion that training could be done at something like a Scouts Open Day (or similar). The Clerk to contact Heart-Start for information packs. An important concern was identified by Cllr Holford as to the potential legalities of liability/responsibility to whoever may be trained and they find themselves in the position of using the de-fibrillator. Clarity is needed on this point.
- 67/24 To consider street naming and numbering at land at (OS 7826 5082), Leigh Sinton. Similar to another recent street naming exercise, this should be opened up to local residents for suggestions. Cllr Christie and Clerk to liaise and activate media posting and report back at January’s meeting.
- 68/24 Website update. Cllr Sharp gave update and confirmed that our new-look .gov.uk domain will be secured in the coming days at a cost of £117.60 for ten years. We will then have the .gov.uk website (with appropriate emails) on the new URL, running in parallel with the present one until such times we’re confident all is working with the new one. The new website will be ready sometime into the New Year.
- 69/24 Reports from working groups and representatives
- a. Memorial Hall Committee. Cllr Beach to attend the first committee meeting in January and report back at next Parish Meeting.
 - b. Play areas. Cllr Christie said all is well and confirmed the gate is now lockable.
 - c. Open Spaces/Hedges. Cllr Sharp confirmed the wood has been strimmed in readiness for the spring bulbs to come through. Dead trees and branches have been dealt with and after a check by Cllr Sharp, no further tree damage was caused by Storm Bert. Jubilee Gardens – waiting for some work to be completed by the Lengthsman. Hedges also need to be cut and a window of fine weather we had would have been ideal, but the opportunity was missed. It maybe we look at an alternative to the Lengthsman doing the work due to his heavy workload. To re-visit in the spring.
 - d. Lengthsman scheme. Cllr Sharp reported that the Lengthsman is incredibly busy and during the recent storms he cleared the ditch along Sherridge Road.
 - e. Parish Footpaths. Cllr Sharp said our Parish Footpath man is back up and running after a spell away. Gates were delivered to Andrew Grant and also a small amount of work was done on his land. In Bransford a fence and gate fell down with Cllr Sharp discussing all options with the land owner. Cllr Sharp reiterated that we have many beautiful footpaths in our Parish, but we need people to use them and to help look after them. Cllr Sharp confirmed the new bin at Hoopers Close is in situ. It was also raised at a previous meeting that the Hoopers Close sign was at an angle which caused children to injure themselves as they walked past. Cllr Sharp spoke to the owner of No 1 who was happy to have the sign on their property boundary. After a phone call to the relevant person, Cllr Sharp was pleased to report this has now been done.
 - f. Highways. Cllr Sharp thanked the Highways Liaison Officer for the speed in which they got the salt out for our roads during the recent snowy spell. He would like to get the salt checked in the two local salt bins and asked two of the Councillors who live near the bins to check the salt levels and to let him know.
 - g. Road Safety. Police on bicycles have had a local presence, reminding motorists about the 2 metre gap one should allow between cyclists and cars.

(Cllr Ralph leaves meeting).

70/24 Progress reports on items from previous meeting not otherwise listed on the agenda.

Solar panels – Cllr Christie gave an update that the planning application was still on course to be submitted in December or January.

Phone masts – Cllr Sharp confirmed that the original site is now not feasible, but two more sites have been pinpointed. No further detail can be given at this time but suffice to say it's ongoing with more detail to be given in due course.

71/24 Other reports and items for future consideration Two reports. First from Cllr Beach in her absence Which Cllr Fereday read out. Cllr Beach found the CALC training extremely beneficial; Cllr Bayston expressed an interest in training; Clerk to send CALC link to both new Councillors. Cllr Beach confirmed she will be attending the next Memorial Hall Management Meeting in January, and she'll be in touch with the two Leigh Sinton site developers in January. The second report was from Cllr Beach and The Clerk on their attendance at the Biodiversity Collaboration Meeting in October. The Clerk gave a brief summary of points discussed and will forward the report to Cllrs Bayston and Holford.

72/24 Next meetings dates: Planning Meeting 17th December (if applicable) Parish Council Meeting 28th January 2025.
All meetings 7pm at Leigh & Bransford Memorial Hall

Meeting closed: 9.10pm.

Chair.....

Date.....

DRAFT