

**MINUTES
LEIGH-ON-MENDIP PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2021 AT 7.00 P.M. ON LINE**

Present	David Mattick, Chairman	DM
	Paula Freeland	PF
	David Sparkes	DS
	Martin Carter	MC
	Vicky Taylor	VGT
	Vicky Trundle	VT

In attendance	Anthea Brooks, Clerk	AB
	Alan Townsend, District Councillor	AT
	Amy Fukuyama	AF
	John Fingleton for item 2021/0125/FUL	JF

135/20	APOLOGIES	ACTIONS
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135.1/20	Philip Ham, County and District Councillor (PH)
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135/20	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS AND REQUESTS FOR RECORDING.
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135.1/20	DS declared an interest in item 2021/0125/FUL. The meeting was recorded on Zoom for minute purposes.
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136/20	MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18 JANUARY 2021
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136.1/20	The minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2021 were agreed and signed as a correct record
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137/20	MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 18 JANUARY 2021
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0024.3/19	Churchyard Walls – PF will invite a contractor to look at the work which needs doing with a view to obtaining an indicative price - ongoing	PF
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107.1/20	Site at Park Corner. Land sold by SCC to people on the site. PH and AT have informed MDC and now with enforcement – review next meeting.	PH/AT
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023.2/20	Unpresented cheques – Postlebury PCC – Clerk has voided cheques and is waiting for final response from new Postlebury Treasurer.	Clerk
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116.1/20	EV Charging: EV charging points for residents who had no means of charging EVs other than across the pavement. PH said Coleford are investigating the issue and will report back.	PH
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124.2.2/20	2020/0758/FUL Erection of new livestock building at Grove Shute Farm. DM agreed to express PC concerns to the Planning Officer - ongoing	Comp
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126.5/20	New Cemetery - Propose a plan to bring the new cemetery into use that includes a village open meeting once Covid permits - ongoing	DM / DS
130.2/20	Footpaths: Removal of sign to FR 8/28 on Leigh Street and state of Footpaths FR8/20 and FR8/19 across arable fields - reported.	Comp
133.1/20	Dog Bins : excessive dog excrement in the first field on FP 8/34 heading south. Landowners have approved locating a bin on Stocks lane. Clerk will get a quote for a bin and contact SWP about collection.	Clerk
133.3/20	Defibrillator: training course – agreed to hold off publicising this until more information is available about procedures over the next few months.	Comp
133.4/20	Whitehole Hill: AT had met with Sara Davis from Highways; they concluded that closing the hill to HGVs diverted them through local villages, a more significant threat. Slow / Road Narrows signage near the bridge was considered. It was also noted that there are some passing places at the top of the hill which could be improved and that there was no evidence of horse activity on the hill	Comp
133.5/20	Office of National Statistics email concerning census discussed; it was agreed to publicise on Facebook, Website and Notice Boards.	Comp
133.6/20	Review of the MDC Local Validation List for Planning Application consultations – PF had reviewed – nothing to consider	Comp
137/20	DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS	
137.1/20	District Council (AT)	
	<p>Planning - The 6 week Consultation launched on 9 February concerning Amended Main Modifications to the Local Plan Part 2. There are two issues: requirements arising for developments likely to release Phosphates onto the Levels; removal of one proposed site in Rode. This could indicate refusal of current applications outside development on planning policy grounds alone. The January Planning Board gave approval for the application for the Saxonvale site in Frome. A statement was released by Mendip about the reduced planning services now in place due to new priorities: saving lives, delivering statutory services and economic recovery. The reduced Enforcement service is of particular concern.</p> <p>Finance - Mendip’s year end budget forecast is now forecast to be in balance, with some careful management. Similarly the Finance Officer has produced a balanced budget next year which would result in a £5 or 3.16% rise for the Band D property.</p> <p>Climate Emergency - Mendip’s target of carbon neutral by 2030 was reported to Cabinet as being unachievable with a 40 to 47% reduction being more likely. A recent consultant’s report concluded</p>	

that we have generation opportunities with solar PV, potential emission reductions from road transport, domestic heating and agriculture.

Markets

MDC have re-opened Saturday markets in Frome and Wells.

Highways

A meeting was held with Sara Davis of Highways to progress issues in Coleford, Holcombe, Leigh on Mendip and Stoke St Michael. The need for better Give Way signage at the top of Dores Hill was discussed.

137.2/20

County Councillor (PH) – post meeting report.

COVID Update

The R number is now 0.7 to 0.9. 11 million pieces of PPE have been purchased. SCC is top of the national vaccination league with 28% vaccinated.

Budget

The Budget was balanced and agreed. Highlights include no cuts to services, £9.5 million extra for children's services, £10.5 million extra for adult social care, £1.5 million for climate change emergency and £400k for CAB in Somerset. Precept increase to Council Tax 1.9% general and 3% adult social care. Total 4.9%.

Unitary Update.

A letter is expected from the Secretary of State which will decide the consultation period and whether there will be a delayed SCC council election in May or not.

138/20

PLANNING - NEW APPLICATIONS

138.1/20

2021/0125/FUL

138.1.1/20

Erection of 4930 sqm of Use Class E (former B1) B2 and B8 floor space and conversion of workshop to form 70 sqm offices. Partial infilling of quarry to create a level development platform at Barns Close Quarry, Quarry Lane, Leigh-on-Mendip, BA3 5QG

The Parish Council reviewed this application and agreed by a majority that, on balance, they recommended refusal of the application. A draft document recommending refusal was discussed, changes were agreed, and the document will be updated and submitted to MDC.

DM

PMN: The document is posted on the MDC Planning website – 16 Feb.

138.2/20

PLANNING – CURRENT APPLICATIONS

138.2.1/20

2020/2582/HSE Proposed double garage to replace existing timber storage shed. Saw Mill Cottage Leigh Street BA3 5QQ. – Approved

- 138.2.2/20 **2020/2559/FUL** Construction of single storey classroom and administration area extension. The County First School Leigh on Mendip BA3 5QQ. - pending
- 138.2.3/20 **2020/1877/OTS** 2020/1877/OTS Outline Planning Permission with some matters reserved (access considered) for the erection of up to 40 dwellings and provision of school playing field and car park - Pending. Various recent Consultee Comments were discussed. It was agreed that a comment by the Housing Enabling Officer warranted clarification - HNS says 2 affordable houses required, application says 8. DM will propose an addendum to the comments already submitted that clarifies the situation. **DM**
- It was previously agreed that Mark Reynolds of Context Planning had put together a brochure before the Gladman submission and PF had obtained a spec and quote. It was agreed that PF would ask Context Planning to be on standby to undertake the task if the Application was assigned to the Planning Board and to seek a 'limit of liability' price for this service. **PF**
- 138.2.4/20 **2020/0721/OTS** Application for Outline Planning Permission with some matters reserved for the erection of 3 no. dwellings with details of access at Corner Cottage. PC recommended refusal. Refused primarily in relation to minerals and waste matters, i.e. quarry proximity
- 138.2.5/20 **2020/0758/FUL** **Erection of new livestock building at Grove Shute Farm.** Parish Council recommended refusal. Ongoing communications with applicant and DM posted on the MDC planning website.
- 139/20 FINANCE**
- 139.1/20 **Financial Statement as at 15 February 2021** – the statement was agreed and will be signed once confirmed by reconciliation.
- 139.2/20 **Cheques agreed and raised:**
- Mrs A Brooks – Clerk Salary January 2021: £226.96
 - Idverde Invoice – January 2021: £99.14
 - Website – It was agreed that DM would raise a cheque for up to £40 to cover this when an invoice was received.
- 140/20 CEMETERY MATTERS**
- 140.1/20 **Cemetery Fee Sheet for 2021:** the updated Cemetery Fee sheet was approved
- 140.2/20 **Cemetery Hedge** – has been cut and paid for.
- 140.3/20 **Reserving Plots** – A parishioner enquired about reserving cremation and burial plots. The Clerk will enquire about typical costs and the need for an identified location. **Clerk**

140.3/20	Grass Cutting – Churchyard and Cemetery and New Cemetery – it was agreed to accept the Idverde quotation of £1,101.26 (£110.13 monthly) as the best value for money quotation received. DM will inform them.	DM
141/20	CORONAVIRUS: Six briefings received from SCC. No known parish issues	
142/20	REVIEW OF POLICIES AND STANDING ORDERS: The copy of the Policies Register was updated to reflect progress, all progressing to plan.	
143/20	HEALTH AND SAFETY: No issues to report.	
144/20	COUNCILLOR REPORTS:	
144.1/20	PCSO (DS) – No issues to report.	
144.2/20	Footpaths and Rangers (DS) – Nothing further on footpaths; no Rangers activity due to Covid situation.	
144.3/20	Highways (MC)	
144.3.1/20	<p>Street Lighting – Park Hayes – 22% of those polled would like more lighting on the east side. It was agreed to take the issue further and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Consider an Open Meeting to discuss the findings once Covid permits. ● Investigate what the process is to raise the issue with Highways; AT offered to discuss with his contact at SCC. ● Consider a PC grant fund for assistance with PIR luminaires. <p>During the poll safety issues were raised concerning uneven pavement surfaces and the resulting trip hazards. It was noted that such issues can be reported via the ‘FixMyStreet’ website or directly to SCC Highways. AT will raise with his SCC contact.</p> <p>Further issues emerged that cars parked on the eastern pavement of east access to Park Hayes were a safety hazard, forcing users onto the roadway. It was agreed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A note will be posted through residents doors suggesting that pavement should be kept clear. ● MC would discuss options with main offenders. ● If there was no local solution, the PCSO would be involved. 	<p>AT</p> <p>AT</p> <p>MC</p>
144.3.2/20	Drain In Leigh Street - Seems to have been cleaned but not cleared. MC will raise again.	MC
144.4/20	Recreation Field - Ongoing discussion about Open Space development. Rates situation with MDC resolving with the field being 100% exempt. Lease preparation continuing directly with the solicitor.	
144.5/20	Memorial Hall: In lockdown with no activity.	

- 144.6/20 **School (MC)** – request for funding £467.05 plus VAT for a new sign. This was discussed and it was felt that this type of request should not be part of grants issued by the Council as it does not cover betterment for the children. MC will go back to the school and report back to the next meeting. **MC**
- 144.7/20 **Quarry (DS):** Quarry is looking forward to opening their new entrance and when circumstances allow would like to hold an Open Event for the village. No news on progress with the Community Fund
- 144.8/20 **Allotment Association (VGT)** – the lease is through. PMN: The lease has been signed and returned to the Solicitor.
- 144.9/20 **Facebook and Website** - Census is posted on both and will continue until census day on 21 Mar 21.
- 144.10/20 **One / Stronger Somerset** – Awaiting Secretary of State decision.
- 144.11/20 **SALC (Clerk)** – nothing to report
- 145/20 POINTS FROM THE PARISH BULLETIN:** Nothing to report.
- 146/20 MEETINGS ATTENDED/TO BE ATTENDED:** Nothing to note.
- 147/20 CORRESPONDENCE**
- 147.1/20 Top Ten Data Layers Wish List arising from local Councils – DM will send to Councillors information. **DM**
- 147.2/20 NALC information is that currently the government anticipates returning to Face to Face meetings in May. Options for safe conduct of business will be discussed as the situation clarifies.
- 147.3/20 MDC Monthly planning bulletin – DM will send to Councillors and PF agreed to review. **DM/PF**
- 147.4/20 **Trees** – MC reported that the local Rotary Club are 65 years old this year and are donating 65 trees to villages in the area. 5-8 trees from various species will be available for Leigh-on-Mendip. On behalf of the Parish Council, MC will liaise with the Recreation Field/Open Space project about the best situation for them. **MC**
- 148/20 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**
- 148.1/20 Monday 15 March 2021 at 7.00 p.m. online