

LEIGH ON MENDIP PARISH COUNCIL
Meeting held at Memorial Hall on Monday 20th March 2023

Present: Cllrs Iain Kirby, Vicki Taylor (Chair), Martin Carter, Estelle Kirby,

Also in attendance: Kate Egan (Clerk)

Items were taken out of order from the agenda

1 Public Forum

There were six members of the public in attendance. Two statements were read out in regard to planning application 2022/0375/FUL, item 9(a).

2 Welcome by the Chairman

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting

3 Apologies for absence

Cllrs Paula Freeland and Neil Crump

4 Absent

No Councillors were absent

5 Declaration of Interests and Dispensations

There were no declarations of interests or requests for dispensations.

9 Planning Applications – If other planning applications are received between the date of this notice and the date of the meeting, they may be considered

(a) 2023/0375/FUL Change of use and erection of new stable building and associated facilities. Whitehole Stables, Pitten Street, Leigh on Mendip. **Recommendation** The Parish Council recommended approval but with a strong recommendation that signage is installed on the lanes warning drivers there may be a possibility of horses on the road.

11 To Be Resolved / Discussion

(d) Proposal to carry out a tree survey on trees situated on land owned by the Parish Council following an inspection of the trees by the Village Tree Advisor Tom Kemp gave a verbal report on the state of the trees within Park Hayes and one was found to be in poor condition as fencing had been attached with nails, the owner of the fence will be contacted to remove the items and the tree should recover in time. Mendip District Council will be approached as to whether a Tree Preservation Order can be placed on it. Suggestions for tree planting were also considered. Other trees may need pollarding over the next couple of years and a schedule will be written for maintenance of the trees owned by the Parish Council.

6 County and District Councillor Reports

District Councillor Alan Townsend was in attendance and had sent a report prior to the meeting, this is attached as appendix A. A brief summary was also given verbally.

County Councillor Barry Clarke was in attendance and gave a verbal report covering items such as grants available for sports, oil for non-domestic purposes and the energy winter grants are fast approaching the deadlines.

County Councillor Phillip Ham was in attendance and gave a verbal report covering items such as the lack of five year housing supply for the next five years and phosphates. A meeting is being held next week with Highways to discuss the list of issues recently submitted. He then thanked everyone for the last 16 years as a District Councillor and working with Alan for the last 8 years.

The Councillors then thanked Alan Townsend for all his support and would be sad to see both him and Phillip go as District Councillors although Phillip Ham will be remaining as a County Councillor. He was presented with a small token of thanks from the Parish Council.

7 To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 20th February, previously circulated.

Following a slight correct the Council **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes from the meeting held on 20th February as a true record and they were signed by the Chair.

8 Matters arising from the minutes but not on the agenda

There were no matters arising from the minutes but not on the agenda

9 Planning Applications – Responses to be noted from Mendip District Council.

(a) 2022/1007/FUL Demolition of existing barn and erection of holiday let – Land at 368121 146641, Tadhill Lane, Stoke St Michael. **Decision from Mendip District Council** Approval was granted

10 To Be Resolved / Discussion

(a) Proposal to approve the Asset List for any changes that may have occurred over the past year.

Following a brief discussion and amendments the Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Asset List as at 20th March 2023

(b) Proposal for the Parish Council to pay the Parish Clerk £6.50 a month Home Working Allowance from 1st April 2023.

The Council **RESOLVED** to pay the Parish Clerk £6.50 a month Home Working Allowance from 1st April 2023

(c) Discussion on the final arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 24th April and approval of the Newsletter

The format was discussed, Councillors and representatives of the village organisations will give a short presentation of events over the last twelve months. Refreshments will be served afterwards. The annual Newsletter needs some slight amendments, the final copy will be approved over email before printing and distributing to every household.

(e) Discussion and possible proposals following the excavations to test whether the new burial ground is deep enough for burials

Councillors met prior to the meeting to have a look at the new Burial Ground. Following excavations, the ground is deep enough for double graves but Wessex Water have requested an easement of 3m each side of the sewer pipe. Further information is being obtained as to the actual location of the pipe and a draft plan will be created to see how much space is available for burial plots.

(f) Proposal to purchase some soil in order to backfill the sunken graves and organise a volunteer group to carry out the work.

The Council **RESOLVED** to purchase some soil in order to backfill the sunken graves. Cllrs Iain and Estelle Kirby volunteered to purchase the soil and carry out the work with help from other members of the Parish Council.

(g) Request from Frome Town Council to approve a vote of no confidence in MP David Warburton

The Parish Council decided not to respond as the Parish Council is not a political organisation

13 Clerk's / Councillors Report

- (a) A complaint letter has been received from a resident asking for leaflets to be dropped off at the flats as they are continually missed out. **Update** Councillors are now aware on how to access the flats and in future leaflets / letters will be dropped off for the residents.
- (b) Update from Cllr Neil Crump on the Parking at Park Hayes **Update** Cllr Neil Crump was not in attendance, this was deferred to the next meeting.
- (c) Update from Cllr Iain Kirby on the Community Plan and answers from the survey. **Update** The deadline for the survey is the end of the week, so far 126 responses had been received which is about 25% of the residents. Raw data should be received in the middle of April and the plan published in June.
- (d) Update from Cllr Vicki Taylor on the Halecombe Quarry Liaison Meeting and the Community Fund. **Update** Cllrs Iain Kirby and Vicki Taylor attended the meetings and came away feeling positive. There were 9 applications for funds, one was refused, one was deferred and the others were successful but with reduced amounts than requested. The new site access is hopefully going to be carried out shortly, **Cllr Vicki Taylor will discuss with Halecombe if**, at the same time the parking at Park Hayes can be installed.
- (e) An extension of a driveway and a dropped kerb was reported to the local enforcement team
- (f) A complaint has been received regarding cars being parked on Parish Council land that are not taxed or have a current MOT. Research will be carried out as to the owners and they will be contacted to remove them.

14 . Finance

Bank Balances as at: 13th March 2023

Current Account £5209.05

Reserve Account £9583.86

Receipts

- (a) Donations to help with backfilling the graves - £65.00
- (b) Annual payment from the Recreational Field - £1

Payments

- (c) Unity Printworks £57.00
- (d) Ionos – Website Hosting - £9.60
- (e) Clerks Salary – February - £327.84
- (f) Cliff Besley – Gravedigger - £500
- (g) SALC – Planning Training - £25.00
- (h) SALC – Code of Conduct Training - £90
- (i) Idverde – Grass cutting - £113.53
- (j) Purchase of replacement defibrillator pads - £112.79

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the above payments and receipts

15 Correspondence to be noted

- (a) There was not written correspondence to note although a question had been asked as to why the Parish Council were not taking the lead on the Coronation celebrations.

16 Matters to report / items for next agenda

- (a) Planning application 2022/0053/OTS Application for Outline Planning Permission with some matters reserved for the erection of 3 no. dwellings with details of access, Corner Cottage, Quarry Lane, Leigh on Monday will be discussed at the Planning Board on Wednesday 29th March. Cllrs Vicki Taylor and Estelle Kirby will be attending to represent the Parish Council.

17 Date and time of next meeting: Monday 17th April 2023 in the Memorial Hall starting at 7.00pm.

Meeting closed 9.08pm

Appendix A

LEIGH ON MENDIP MARCH 2023
MENDIP REPORT

This is our Mendip DC closing report some 49 years after its formation – we've not been there that long but Philip started 2007 and Alan in 2015.

We have both been very active members being variously involved in:

Asset management, including Assets of Community Value for Eagle and RBL
Audit Committee
Cabinet/Cabinet Assistant
Car Park Strategy
Changing Places for less able bodied
Commercial property income generation
5 Councils outsourcing contract
Equalities Board
Enforcement
Frome Independent Market
Fusion Leisure
Glastonbury Festival
idverde maintenance contract
Keyring Letting Agency
Licensing Board
Mendip Lottery
Migrant forums
Planning Board
Quarry Liaison Committees
Renewable Energy
Scrutiny Board
SHAPE Mendip Campus revamp
Shape our Future
Social Housing, including Mackintosh View, Coleford
Staff and Councillor Development
Syrian Refugees

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

Started by the previous Conservative administration:

- Recycle More programme giving major increase in recycling rates
- Climate and Ecological Emergency declared
- Saxonvale site procurement and redevelopment partner established

RECENT DISAPPOINTMENTS

Failure to produce a valid Local Plan with a 5 year housing land supply – leading to unwanted developments, especially locally at Stoke (Coalpit Lane), Leigh (AMV), White Post (Beauchamp Drive) and Anchor Rd in Coleford. Losing a Judicial Review on the validity of Local Plan site allocations has cost us tax payers £65k plus. A new Local Plan is 5 years away leaving us open to speculative development.

Saxonvale – a way ahead is still not resolved with 2 competing proposals granted planning permission. A Judicial Review has been raised against Mendip for allegedly not respecting the Local Plan.

Multi User Paths – nothing for us as attention has focussed on the Strawberry line

Obituary – sadly we have to report the passing of 4 Mendip Councillor colleagues in the last year, the most recent being John Greenhalgh on 15 th March

WAY AHEAD

It will be important to establish lines of communication with the new Unitary Authority, either directly or through our Local Community Network.