

LEIGH ON MENDIP PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting held at Memorial Hall on Monday 25th September 2023, starting at 7pm

Present: Cllrs Iain Kirby, Vicki Taylor (Chair), Estelle Kirby and Paula Freeland

Also in attendance: Kate Egan (Outgoing Clerk) and Joe McGhee (Incoming Clerk)

1 **Welcome by the Chairman**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 **Apologies for absence**

Cllr Martin Carter

3 **Absent**

No Councillors were absent

4 **(a) To receive declaration of interest from Councillors on items on the agenda**

There were no declarations of interest from Councillors on items on the agenda

(b) To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests

Cllr Martin Carter has a written request for dispensation in relation to Leigh on Mendip Recreation Association for four years (June 2027). Cllr Vicki Taylor has a written request for dispensation in relation to Leigh on Mendip War Memorial Hall for one year (June 2024)

(c) To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate

There were no requests for dispensation as appropriate.

5 **Public Session**

Two members of the public – tree officers Tom Kemp and Noelle Leigh – were in attendance.

6 **County Councillor Reports**

Somerset Councillor Phillip Ham sent his apologies. Somerset Councillor Barry Clarke was in attendance and gave a verbal report on the financial situation within Somerset Council. A plastic ban will come into effect at the end of October and Mendip East within Somerset Council are currently holding a public consultation for allocation of land for further housing.

7 **Monthly update from Tom Kemp – Parish Tree Officer**

Tom Kemp and Noelle Leigh were in attendance and gave a verbal update on the plans for Parish Council owned land in Park Hayes. A consultation will take place next year following confirmation for plans and costing.

8 **To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 17th July and 21st August, previously circulated.**

The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 17th July and 21st August be accepted as a true record, these were signed and dated by the Chair.

9 **Matters arising from the minutes but not on the agenda**

Correspondence has been received from the applicant in relation to 2023/0805/FUL – erection of 21 holiday lodges.

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

No Planning application had been received to be considered.

11 **Planning Applications – Responses to be noted from Somerset Council**

(a) 2023/0770/HSE Erection of two-storey side extension following demolition of existing single-storey side extension. 4 Park Hayes, Leigh on Mendip. **Decision** Somerset Council granted approval.

- (b) **2023/1384/APP** Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 3 (implementation of recommendation within Bat Survey report) on planning consent 2019/1185/FUL. Hollybush House, Knapp Hill, Leigh on Mendip **Decision** Somerset Council granted approval.
- (c) **2023/1084/FUL** Demolition of existing barn to form terrace of 3no. single storey dwellings. Land at 369311 147577 Quarry lane, Leigh on Mendip **Decision** Somerset Council granted approval
- (d) **2023/0959/FUL** Alteration to an existing access and installation of a new access track (extension to residential curtilage). Tadhill Farm Cottage, Old Wells Road, Leigh on Mendip. **Decision** Somerset Council granted approval
- (e) **2023/0693/FUL** Creation of new access and driveway. Ivy Cottage, Quarry Lane, Leigh on Mendip. **Decision** Somerset Council granted approval.

12 To Be Resolved / Discussion

- (a) **Proposal to appoint Eleanor Green from Do The Numbers Ltd to carry out the internal audit for 2023/2024 at a cost of £190.00**

The Council **RESOLVED** to appoint Do the Numbers Ltd as the Internal Auditor for 2023/2024 at a cost of £190.00

- (b) **Discussion on complying with the Biodiversity Duty and understanding Biodiversity Net Gain.**

The Council noted the Biodiversity Net Gain and the Biodiversity Duty was deferred to the next meeting.

13 Clerk's / Councillors Report

- (a) **Update from Cllr Estelle Kirby and Paula Freeland on the planning application for the area of land being considered for the new Cemetery.**

Cllrs Estelle Kirby and Paula Freeland hope to submit this within the next month. The soil from the recent topping up of graves is settling down, but this will need doing on a regular basis.

- (b) **Update from Cllr Martin Carter whether any volunteers stepped forward to join the Community Speedwatch Group.**

Cllr Martin Carter was not in attendance, but had sent a report prior to the meeting. Somerset Highways will be contacted as to the installation of a new Finger Post on the Old Wells Road. The missing road sign on Park Hayes will be investigated. Community Speed Watch will hopefully be in operation by the Autumn. A request was received from the Village Rangers to purchase some weed killer to remove overgrown vegetation, the Parish Council responded saying that weed killer was not to be used but to report the problem to Somerset Highways.

- (c) **Following the discussion at the last meeting in relation to a damaged tree, a letter was sent requesting removal and a possible donation, no reply has been received.**

No reply has been received

- (d) **Update on the Noticeboard located on side of the Bell and whether both doors can be opened.**

The Noticeboard has now been fixed so both doors can now be opened easily.

- (e) **Update from Cllr Iain Kirby on the Community Plan**

Cllr Iain Kirby showed the Council the final printed version of the Community Plan and the Executive Summary, these will be uploaded to the Website and the Facebook Page. Iain was thanked for the incredible amount of work involved and pulling it all together and bringing it to fruition.

- (f) Following the formal period following the non-attendance of a Councillor for six months, no requests for an election were received so the Parish Council can now co-opt a new Parish Councillor.

67/23-24

- (g) An email was received requesting whether stiles on the footpaths within the village could be replaced with kissing gates, this was forwarded to the Parish Path Liaison Officer.

The list is currently being compiled.

- (h) Correspondence has been received from Sara Davies (Traffic Engineer) asking whether the Parish Council are looking for a cast iron traditional fingerpost or a modern directional flag sign and whether the Parish Council are planning to do the work themselves. A reply was sent asking whether Somerset Council would fund the signs or whether the Parish Council would need to cover the costs.

This was covered earlier in the evening

- (i) The Parish Council have appointed a new Parish Clerk and RFO, they will start on the 1st October 2023.
- (j) A retrospective planning application for the lake is still being progressing, this is taking some time due to the requirement to source a number of environmental reports and assessments.
- (k) SALC were delighted to inform the Parish Council that following the recent grant application for £1,750 this has been successful.

14 . Finance

Bank Balances as at: 19th September 2023

Current Account £8,842.57

Reserve Account £9,583.86

Receipts

Payments

- (a) Idverde – Grass Cutting - £113.53
- (b) Ionos – Website Hosting - £13.20- pd by DD 09.08.2023
- (c) Ionos – Website Hosting - £13.20 – Pd by DD 09.09.2023
- (d) ICO – Annual Membership - £35.00 – pd by DD 10.08.23
- (e) Clerks Salary and Expenses –August and September - £680.68

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the above Payments and Receipts.

15 Correspondence to be noted

- (a) Councillor Training Courses provided by SALC – forwarded 22.07.23
- (b) Draft Minutes for the LCN Meeting held on 31st July – forwarded 15.08.23
- (c) Briefing sheet for Parish and Town Council from Somerset Council – forwarded 31.08.23
- (d) Shepton LCN Save the Date – Wednesday 18th October – forwarded 01.09.23
- (e) Make Your Views Heard – Public Consultation – forwarded 12.09.23
- (f) Online Meeting on 26th September regarding site allocations review for the Mendip Local Plan Part II – forwarded 15.09.23

16 Matters to report / items for next agenda

There were no further matters to report or items for the next agenda.

17 Date and time of next meeting: Monday 16th October 2023 in the Memorial Hall starting at 7.00pm.

Meeting closed 8.54pm