



**Minutes of the meeting of the Leverington
Parish Council, held in the Leverington Village
Hall, Gorefield Road on Tuesday 24th January 2023.**



PRESENT: Parish Councillors B.Baker, Ms. R.Collins, R.Cropp, J.Downes (Chairman), R.Keymer,
Mrs. S.Ward, Mrs. S.Edghill. Clerk B.Boyce.
County Councillor S.King; District Councillors C.Seaton, S.Clark.

1. Opening of the Meeting.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the first meeting of 2023. The fire exits were pointed out and those present were asked to put mobile phones on silent mode.

1.1 To receive apologies.

Apologies received and accepted from Parish Councillor B.Beales.

1.2 To receive any Declarations of Interest.

There were no Declarations of Interest.

1.3 Council Resolutions.

During the Covid lockdown, the Council had to make decisions by e mail. This agenda item was to confirm that all council decisions are to be made in full Council meetings. If a decision is urgent, a meeting will be called.

1.4 Leverington Letter.

Councillors Baker and Cropp will be writing the Council Chat for Leverington Letter during March and April.

No Public Forum was required.

2. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd November 2022.

1.1. Minutes.

The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.

1.2 Matters arising not included in agenda items.

None.

3. County and District reports.

3.1 County.

A full report had been sent to all councillors (*attached to the end of the minutes*).

Other points:

- The 30mph sign on the left as you enter Dowgate Road is covered in graffiti and tree branches cover some of the street lights. The County Councillor noted the issues, but said the ownership of the offending trees was complicated.
- The Council will wait for the final figure of the proposal to insert further repeater signs before deciding if they are required.
- The County Councillor will investigate the different schemes available for 20 mph speed limits.

- The problem of the hedging encroaching on to the footpath at Hallcroft, Ringers Lane has now been outstanding for many months. County has instigated the legal processes and the problem has now gone to the Enforcement Officer. The clerk will also write to the property.
- The County Councillor said that he will deal with concerns outside Leverington, but it would be helpful if these did not come from a Leverington Parish Council email address as he can then more easily separate them.

3.2 District.

- A 'Cost of Living' Event will be held at the Queen Mary Centre on 6th February from 10 am to midday.
- District Councillor Clark will investigate the 106-money generated by the proposed 227 dwellings along Sutton Road. (*planning application in minutes 18.04.17*)
- The £2000 for the Toddler swing has been received from F.D.C.

4. Finance.

4.1 Barclays Accounts.

Now accessible by all four signatories. Noted.

4.2 Precept. (*sent with agenda*)

The Finance Working Party of Councillors Downes, Baker and Keymer met with the clerk on 9th January to put forward recommendations to the Council for the precept. *Before the proposed Precept could be discussed, a motion was put forward by the Finance Working Party that Item 7.3 in Standing Orders may be reversed for this item and a vote taken to this effect.*

FOR INFORMATION: A resolution shall not be reversed within six months except either by a Special motion, which requires written notice by at least 3 councillors to be given to the Proper Officer or by a motion moved in pursuance of the recommendation of a Committee (Working Party). When a motion moved pursuant to standing order above has been disposed of, no similar motion may be moved within a further six months.

Item from the Working Party minutes 27.09.22

5.3 Increase cemetery maintenance finance.

Maintenance is running at over £10,000 and income is around £8000. The Working Party agreed that the cemetery should be kept in the high level of good order **and** the council resolved to increase the maintenance budget in the precept from £4000 to £10,000 (the previous figure).

Note from the RFO:

There has been one earthen interment this year and one reservation. There have been only two ashes interments plus three transfer of ashes from the church to the parish cemetery. Total income £4,800. Maintenance is running at approximately £10,000 per year. The cemetery is a service to the community. The Council has embarked on the provision of a Green Burial space and is committed to extending the cemetery. Long term finance planning must be put in place.

4.3 Motion to agree the Working Party recommendation.

that the agreed maintenance budget from the precept should be reduced from £10,000 to £8000 for 2023-24 due to the need to keep down the overall precept request. The Council resolved to waive the six-month rule for this item only and reduce the amount from £10,000 to £8,000 for 2023. The precept figures were agreed.

4.4 Accounts at January 2023.

Current balance is now low and council needs to be cautious of expenditure between February and April. Councillors Cropp and Edghill will verify all payments before the next meeting.

4.5 Asset Register.

The insurer has asked for the Asset Register to be in a different format. A Working Party of Councillors Cropp, Beales and Downes with the clerk, met on 5th December to scrutinise the asset register, put items into new categories and to enter depreciation figures as requested by the Internal Auditor. Still to be checked.

4.6 Risk Assessments.

Need urgent attention. Councillor Edghill will complete the Disability Discrimination Paper. An allotment Risk Assessment was undertaken during the summer by Councillors Cropp and Downes. The clerk will look at previous assessments and advise at the next meeting.

5. **Playground.** *Report received.*

5.1 Repairs and Renewals.

Fenland Leisure Products have been asked to complete all repairs. *(Item 6.1 22.11.22).*

5.2 Playground sign.

The Working Part had sent a template to all Councillors. The Council wished to see the LEVERINGTON PARISH COUNCIL PLAY AREA at the top. This will be ordered after 1st April.

5.3 Picnic tables.

Quote received for multi coloured tables and seats in recycled plastic. To be deferred until April.

6. **Foal Ground Family Park.** *Report(s) received.*

6.1 Repairs and Renewals.

Fenland Leisure Products have been asked to complete all repairs and D. England the maintenance. *(item 5.1 22.11.22).*

6.2 Toddler swing.

Ordered. *(item 4.7 22.11.22).* 106 money of £2000 received.

6.3 Overhead cables/wires.

The tree branches are very close to the lines. The Chairman advised that the telephone or power providers should deal with this item.

7. **Cemetery.** *Report received. (Reports also received for public paths and allotments).*

7.1 Hedging.

Completed for Green Burial area. Laurel cut back. No issues.

7.2 Earthen Burials.

Phase Two Beech is now completed. Three plots taken in Phase Three Chestnut. Burial to take place on 10th February of Philip Robinson. Two further plots reserved.

7.3 Ashes Chambers.

Areas A, B, C and D now complete. Next ashes into area E.

7.4 Reservation Fees.

The Council resolved to make all reservations £750.00 and delete the £1000.00.

8. **Highways & Street lights.** *Report received.*

8.1 Street Light, 2, Horseshoe Terrace.

A report has been received that this light is not working.

Decision required by Council as to whether street light no.2 at Horseshoe Terrace should be replaced. No. 1 light in Horseshoe Terrace is within 10 metres and an FDC column is within 15 metres in the other direction.

The regulations for streetlights in a 30mph zone are that streetlights have to be more than 180 metres apart before repeater signs are required. The Council resolved not to repair or renew this street light.

- 8.2 Potholes in Church End.
Reported and repaired.

9. **Web site.**

The latest news has been updated. Councillors were asked not to use council e mail address for personal observations.

10. **Public Benches.**

Three new benches now in place at Crown Close, Mountbatten Drive and Perry Road. Permission had been sought and sites inspected by FDC and CC before erection. Residents in two locations have expressed concerns of close proximity to houses and undergrowth behind bench. The CC confirmed that arrangements will be made to cut the shrubs down in the Crown Close location. There are now six public benches owned by the Council.

11. **Village Sign.**

New sign (old design), now in place. Old sign in place in the Foal Ground Family Park. Congratulations received from S. Barclay, MP. on the sign and Queen Elizabeth bench.

12. **Defibrillators.**

Leverington Common: All in order.

Parson Drove Lane: All in order.

Malvern Terrace: This will be installed at Bailey, Funeral Directors on the Sutton Road and in future will be the 'Sutton Road' defibrillator.

Sutton Road, The Chase and the school: A quote has been received for the installation of these three defibrillators. The Council resolved to accept the quote of £810.30 plus VAT. The chairman will action.

13. **Incinerator.**

Update from V. Bucknor.

We now await the public consultation which the Planning Inspectorate advised just before Christmas, this would be "shortly" (see the address):

<https://nationalinfrastructureconsenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010110/representations> Virginia challenged the Environment Agency's response (which you can read in the above link) since they seemed extraordinarily ill-informed and using maps from 2012 so they've also said they will be replying to her shortly. A full response is in the 'Latest News' on the Council website)

14. **Development Plans.**

F/YR23/0003/F 6 January 2023.

Change of use of part nursery shed to form farm shop and ancillary cafe (part-retrospective) at J B Turner Roses. *Council comment: No issues*

F/YR22/1421/O 13 January 2023 .

Erect up to 6 x dwellings (outline application with all matters reserved) at Land West Of 1 River Terrace Leverington Cambridgeshire. An application for outline planning permission has been received in respect of the above. *Council comment:*

> Access- River Terrace is a narrow road with a full length of terraced houses on its right hand side. Parking is prominent 24 hrs per day and all are left on the road, as such giving restricted access to site for construction traffic, emergency services and normal vehicular traffic. There is no means of turning therefore all vehicles have to reverse in or reverse out.

> Dwellings- Proposed dwellings not in keeping with existing area.

> Drainage- Proposed surface water drainage is soakaways (construction needs defining). This could mean excess run off into River Terrace, Mountbatten Drive or Bank Drive as the site is in a Flood Plain. No proposal shown as to whether dwellings will be built at an elevated height (as per other development in the area). This could then cause drainage problems in other areas.

> Over development.

The clerk will send the observations criteria to members of the Working Party.

15. Close of Meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm. Next meeting of the full council 28th February 2023.

(County Councillor's report pages 6 to 8)

County Councillor's Report.

Leverington Common LHI remedial work

Please confirm if the following have been completed as I have been unable to check myself:

1. Have any additional repeater 30MPH signs from when you enter Rabbit Hill (Dowgate Road) till the first one appears in Leverington Common (Almshouse Corner, outside 54) been installed?

"Unfortunately this was not part of the initial LHI scope, when I took over the project from Victoria Bailey the main focus appeared to be on the new 30mph section itself. I was led to believe the designs had been approved by the Parish Council. Travelling east from where the old 30mph terminal used to be sited, it would appear the Engineer that installed the 30mph (in the past) from this point all the way to Dowgate Road went under the assumption it was a lit stretch of road, hence not needing repeater signage."

2. Have the 30mph signs in Dowgate Road been cleared as the left hand side is dirty or has graffiti on it and the right hand side is partially covered by the tree branches/leaves?

"Again, this was not part of the LHI's scope and something I was not made aware about. I can instruct the maintenance team to rectify this location, however taking into consideration the LHI for this year's 30mph limit, these terminal signs are going to be replaced with new 30mph repeater signs."

3. Does this signage meet highways' standards as coming from Wisbech there are only two small 30 mph discs between Waverley and Mays Lane and one is hidden in Williams' hedge and the other is only 40 yards before the end of the 30 limit?

"I recently instructed the contractor to amend the on site repeaters to make them more consistent than they were in the previous design. Please find attached a very crude overview showing you where the new repeaters should be situated."

4. Has the 30mph sign coming from Wisbech St Mary at the start of the 30 limit been cleared of tree branches?

"I believe the crew on site did cut back the tree partially however was very careful in doing so as it belongs to the adjacent homeowner. It did appear visible when I visited site. If this is still an issue I will get letter drop undertaken to said resident and ask that their tree is cut back further."

5. Has the signage been replaced in the area around Foal Ground Family Park?

"As mentioned in point 3. New repeater signage has been spread out over an equal distance and may not be in the exact same place as was previously."

6. Have the signs at the Almshouses removed?

"If this is referring to the incorrect terminal signs that were situated on Pope Lanes? These have now been corrected and replaced with 30mph signs."

7. Is the sign on the gateway at Mays Lane still obscured by trees?

"Please see point 4."

8. Does the signage at Mays Lane still read 40mph?

"I do not believe this location was an issue as the 40mph signs were replaced with 30mph at the outset. I believe it was only Popes Lane that was an issue."

9. Has the new "Speed Restrictions in Force" sign near Ringers Lane been made more visible?

"I believe you are referring to the temporary signage "NEW 30MPH SPEED LIMIT IN FORCE". I was unaware that there was visibility issues to the sign and appeared to be placed in a visible place when I visited site."

10. Can the dead end sign for Popes Lane be reinstated?

"I was unaware these were removed but do remember stating directly to the Scheme Delivery Manager on site that they were to remain, I am sorry this has happened. I have just emailed them and will get them to re-hang ASAP."

11. As there are no repeater signs until the new one installed at the Cottages, can an additional one or two be installed?

"Are you referring to the eastern part of the B1169, if so please see my below email to Jim and yourself on the 11th November:

I did notice the lack of signage to the west when the initial issues were raised. As I mentioned previously I took over the management of this scheme at the point of delivery when we had a target cost so had no input into the proposed design.

It would appear the existing 30mph limit from the old terminal sign location, which we have removed as part of this scheme, to the terminal signage located on Dowgate Road was designed with only terminal signage and no repeaters as there is a series of street lighting (Parish owned lamps on either BT poles or stand-alone street lamps). Looking at the spacing it does meet the spacing requirement for a "series of street lighting" (around 180m) but I would argue that the lighting isn't up to spec for illuminating the road in its entirety. Although I will be coming tonight, I would be most grateful if I may leave after agenda item 3.2 "County and District Reports". If anything arises at any time with which I can help, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Although I am very happy to deal with concerns outside Leverington, it would be helpful if these did not come from a Leverington Parish Council email address as I can then more easily separate them.

With my very best wishes for 2023,
Simon
07939 696322

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"Again, this was not part of the LHI's scope and something I was not made aware about. I can instruct the maintenance team to rectify this location, however taking into consideration the LHI for this year's 30mph limit, these terminal signs are going to be replaced with new 30mph repeater signs."

3. Does this signage meet highways' standards as coming from Wisbech there are only two small 30 mph discs between Waverley and Mays Lane and one is hidden in Williams' hedge and the other is only 40 yards before the end of the 30 limit?

"I recently instructed the contractor to amend the on site repeaters to make them more consistent than they were in the previous design. Please find attached a very crude overview showing you where the new repeaters should be situated."

I don't see an issue with installing repeaters along this stretch as this is essentially what we have just done for Leverington Common, which also meets the criteria for a "series of street lighting". If we do go ahead with

the additional repeaters I will see if we have the budget to include the works within this year's LHI scheme for the 30mph limit on the A1101. As it hasn't been factored in there may be a slight cost/contribution increase for Leverington Parish Council."

I have requested that our contractor provide a breakdown of costs for the additional repeater works. I have also provided a design drawing highlighting the proposed locations for the additional repeaters. Please see attached and let me know if you have any comments, I have tried my best to spread them out evenly.

As a very rough estimate using the contractor's activity schedule, it is coming out at around £1,200 which includes everything - supervisor time, traffic management and material costs. I'm therefore expecting to receive the contractors' costs to be similar to this.

We have also had the target cost come back for the main extent of the scheme for this year. Unfortunately, it's more than likely going to come in over budget, once all costs are accounted for. There are additional works yet to be costed for which has been missed off of the contractors provided pricing. The terminal 30mph signs on the A1101 approaching south (into Wisbech) are within 30m of a nearby parish owned lamp column, meaning they are required by guidance and regulations to be lit externally. There will be an additional cost for the LED lighting units that will sit on the top of the sign and for getting a new electrical connection installed in the area which can be expensive.

*The current scheme budget **£5834.10**. See the breakdown below. Please note that the Milestone cost below will increase when they include the additional repeater works along with all the electrical connections and LED lighting.*