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**Minutes of the meeting of the Leverington Parish Council, held in the Leverington Village Hall, Gorefield Road on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2023.**

**Present:** Councillors B.Baker, R.Cropp, J.Downes (Chairman), Mrs S.Edghill, Mrs. S.Ward.  
District Councillors C.Seaton, Ms.S.Clark, Mrs. B.Barber.  
One parishioner. Clerk B.Boyce.

**1. Opening remarks.**

To receive apologies.

Apologies received from Councillor Collins (holiday).

To receive any Declarations of Interest on agenda items.

There were no Declarations of Interest.

*No Public Forum was required.*

**2. Signing of the Declaration.**

Councillor Edghill signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

The Register of Interest is with F.D.C.

**3. If required: To agree the co-option of a parishioner.**

Not required.

**4. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023.**

The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.

**5. Matters arising not included in agenda items. (For information only)**

**5.1** None.

**5.2** Information sent to Councillors *(to be noted)*.

- F.D.C. Dog Control Order.
- C.C Surface treatment programmes.
- 30 and 40 Speed limit information.
- Meeting with Inspector Andrew Morris and Sgt David Arnold of Cambridgeshire Constabulary to discuss the issues regarding anti-social behaviour in the village. It will take place in Leverington Village Hall on Wednesday 5th July at 1830hrs.
- New publications purchased: Clerk's Manual and Cemetery Law.
- The Chairman will be attending a SLCC Conference on the 7<sup>th</sup> July.
- Councillor S. Edghill will attend a playground training and exam on 10th July.

- At the request of a parishioner, the clerk went to her home in Park Lane. The lady needs a great deal of help in an area that the council has no jurisdiction.

## 6. To receive County and District Councillors' reports.

### 6.1 District.

Attached at the end of the minutes.

### 6.2 County.

Includes the Chairman's report on the meeting held on June 15<sup>th</sup> regarding the Bollards at Mountbatten Drive. See the County Councillor's report attached to the end of the minutes for all the highway issues.

### 6.3 To receive any other issues including complaints regarding:

- *Antisocial behaviour at Dowgate Road.*  
No action at this time.
- *Parishioner's complaint on the use of public money for highway issues.*  
The County Councillor has repeatedly answered this complaint directly to the parishioner. The Parish Council has no authority on the expenditure of County Council finance.

## 7. FINANCE.

### 7.1 To receive the update on the accounts.

Current Account.

10.05.23		Opening balance		37158.41
Payments				
09.05.23	12	A1 Engraving	Playground sign	102.00
15.05.23	14	L.Bennett	website	25.00
15.05.23	13	Stephenson Smart	PAYE	108.00
19.05.23	15	N.Power	Street Lights	258.10
22.05.23	16	SLCC	Info books	102.25
23.05.23	17	Mrs. P.Manley	Defib support	165.00
30.05.23	18	B.Boyce	May salary	604.73
30.05.23	19	T.Blackamore Ltd	Grass cutting 22-23	1474.27
		Closing balance		34319.06

Payments are all made by internet banking and authorised by the Chairman.

Checked by Councillors Baker and Cropp.

Cemetery Account

		Opening balance			93975.47
Payments					
21.04.23		Tamar Nurseries	replacements		445.30
09.05.23		A1 Engraving	Car park sign		16.80
15.05.23		Marion Evans	Flag		36.85
30.05.23		T.A.Blackamore	Grass cutting		1326.24
Receipts					
14.04.23	1	Kidger	2 reservations		1500.00
20.04.23	2	A.J.Coggle Ltd	Dawn interment (OOA)		2500.00
20.04.23	3	A.J.Coggle Ltd	Terrington interment		1250.00
24.04.23	4	Peter Barnes Funerals	Long ashes inter		560.00
09.05.23	5a	Coates	Atkin tablet inscription	75.00	
	5b	King memorials	Stone erection	150.00	
	5c	King memorials	Long tablet erect	75.00	300.00

12.05.23					380.00
24.05.23		Peter Barnes Funerals	Allen interment		2200.00
		Closing balance			100840.28

Checked by Councillor Ward.

## 7.2 Presentation of the Accounts.

Councillors received the folders containing the full accounts. The Clerk/RFO presented the accounts with explanatory notes for each page. The Council noted the Internal Auditor's Report completed by stating that he was satisfied that the Council had met its responsibilities.

As the Parish Council is aware, this has been a very difficult year with all the accounts inaccessible to the signatories between July and November, due to a blunder by Barclays Bank. Many hours were spent with Bank officials and with the Wisbech Branch closing, the signatories had to travel to Kings Lynn.

In May of 2022 with this being the present council's last year of office, the Council agreed to purchase items for the parish and reduce the Reserve in hand. This has been a very busy, unprecedented year.

## 7.3 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN 2022/23.

### **7.3.1 Annual Governance Statement 2022/23. Section 1.**

The Council confirmed the Statements and the Chairman and Clerk, signed and dated the Document.

### **7.3.2 Accounting Statements 2022/23. Section 2.**

The Accounting Statements were approved, signed and dated by the Chairman.

## 7.4 To appoint the Internal Auditor for 2023/24.

The Council resolved to ask Mr. Kierman of Whiting and Partners to continue as Internal Auditor.

## 7.5 Cableway (zip wire).

For decision: Due to the use of the zip wire, there is now insufficient ground clearance under the seat. The quote received for maintenance is £677.28p. The council resolved to defer a decision until Councillor Edghill has completed the playground training. Decision at next meeting.

## 7.6 CAPALC Affiliation Fee. 23-24.

The Council debated the payment of the invoice and wished to be aware of the benefits of the fee of £763.86p before agreement. The clerk will send benefits of affiliation to councillors. As this is an outstanding payment, the clerk will send information to councillors immediately on return from the meeting. the Council agreed to e mail the clerk with their opinion as to whether payment should be made.

## **8. Health and Safety Reports. Items for attention and decision.**

### Street Lights. Councillor Downes.

Monthly inspection shows no problems other than No 2 in Horseshoe Terrace which Council has already agreed should not be repaired/replaced as sufficient lighting in proximity.  
*For information. No action required.*

### Highways. Councillor Downes.

Bulk of potholes that reached intervention level have been repaired.

Church Road /Gore field Road are on the rolling programme for resurfacing completed by

2024/25 financial year.

With regards to the 30mph sign in Dowgate Road which has graffiti on it. This falls in the A1101 speed reduction scheme and as such depending on the location and spacing of repeater signs, this pair of signs will either be replaced but under regulations the illumination will be removed. There is a possibility that they may be removed permanently. If removed the maintenance/power costs to Parish Council will be reduced.

***Parishioner request to cut path vegetation on Church Road. Reported ref.00435349***

*For information. No action required.*

To discuss the Leverington Entrance Gates or signage.

*The Clerk to resend the requirements of the Parish Council to the Cambridgeshire Highways.*

Public Benches. Councillor Collins.

Checked over the benches over the last few days, all seems in order.

Rabbit Hill: weeds/ivy started to attach.

*The Chairman will investigate and action.*

Foal Ground. Councillor Collins.

Generally in good order.

Grass not trimmed closely around gym equipment.

Beside the hedge row, adjacent to the Common, a lot of weeds growing, either need killing off or strimmed. Hedgerow needs a trim to keep it a height, where vehicles can see into the field.

*The Chairman will ask David Ely to look at the weeds. The hedgerow cannot be cut until September.*

Parish Cemetery. Councillor Cropp.

Water pressure in second standpipe reinstated.

Tap dripping on the main standpipe.

Deadbolt on gate repaired,

Grass has been cut.

All plants need a serious watering, this should be easier now there is water pressure.

I think a written schedule of maintenance would be a good idea, as appearance is important. Certain areas need more time spent than others.

*The Working Party will meet to discuss and formulate schedule. R.Cropp will inform WP of available dates.*

The hedge leading up to the entrance gate needs cutting back as it is quite difficult to negotiate the gap. *The Chairman will ask David England to cut where necessary as wheel chairs are unable to access the cemetery.*

There is a large gap at the church end of the cemetery that needs blocking off (with tree cuttings etc) to make access into the cemetery harder. *For decision from the Working Party.*

The black flag was flown at half mast for a funeral at the beginning of the month, it appeared quite small, perhaps when a replacement is required it could be a bit bigger.

The small tree between the last bench and turn around area looks to be dead.

*The Chairman will organise removal and replacement.*

Parking area sign should be mounted on first post at a reasonable height to be visible.

*Working Party to decide on location.*

Footpaths Councillor Cropp.

All passable if a bit overgrown, but no issues.

*To be noted*

Allotments. Councillor Cropp.

"No parking" sign required on the gate. *To be ordered.*  
All areas look tidy and well kept.

Disability Discrimination Act. (Playground).  
Meeting with Sports and Social Club to be arranged.

## 9. Development.

F/YR23/0412/TRCA 17 May 2023

Works to 2 x Sycamore trees and 1 x Horse Chestnut tree within a Conservation Area at Land North Of Hopwood The Still Leverington Cambridgeshire  
An application for works to trees within a Conservation Area has been received in respect of the above.

*Council comment: No objections provided comply with any requirements from FDC Arboricultural Officer*

F/YR23/0411/TRCA 17 May 2023

Works to 1 x Lime tree within a conservation area at Hopwood The Still Leverington Wisbech Cambridgeshire PE13 5DQ  
An application for works to trees within a Conservation Area has been received in respect of the above.

*Council comment: No objections provided comply with any requirements from FDC Arboricultural Officer*

F/YR23/0483/F 7 June 2023

Erect a single-storey rear extension to existing dwelling at 27 Walsingham Court Leverington Wisbech Cambridgeshire PE13 5AQ

*Council comment: No objections.*

F/YR23/0448/F 30 May 2023

Changes to front elevation to enable conversion of store room to dining room at 81 Gorefield Road Leverington Wisbech Cambridgeshire PE13 5AT  
An application for planning permission has been received in respect of the above.  
Any comments you may wish to make in respect of this application must be received on or before 20 June 2023. *Council comment: No objections*

F/YR23/0449/F 30 May 2023

Changes to front elevation to enable conversion of store room to dining room at 83A Gorefield Road Leverington Wisbech Cambridgeshire PE13 5AT  
An application for planning permission has been received in respect of the above.  
Any comments you may wish to make in respect of this application must be received on or before 20 June 2023. *Council comment: No objections.*

## 10. Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 8.21pm  
Next meeting 25<sup>th</sup> July 2023

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**District Councillor C.Seaton.**

I attended a meeting at Mountbatten Park, together with Cllr Sam Clark, Cllr Simon King, Steve Nichols CCC Highways and Jamie Trundle. on the 15<sup>th</sup> June to find a solution to the pavement bollards situation.

Following lengthy discussions, a compromise was reached whereby two bollards will be removed to allow unrestricted access to the CCC owned pavement. The owner of the hedge will again be contacted to make sure it does not become overgrown.

In respect of the dumped rubbish at the communal garages in Walsingham Court. FDC had formal discussions with the garage leaseholders with a request for the site to be cleared. Legal process duly followed with a completion deadline of Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> June. If the deadline not observed FDC will clear the site and retrospectively charge those responsible to cover the cost.

Discussions are ongoing with Clarion regarding the future of Roman Court. I have suggested that if there are no positive proposals to redevelop the site then demolition should be considered

**District Councillor S.Clark**

A meeting had been held with the police regarding the anti-social behaviour and she assured the council that action is being taken in the best way that it can.

She suggested that a piece should be inserted in the Leverington Letter that all crimes must be reported on 101. CCTV cameras are available and the Chairman will follow this up.

**County Councillor S.King.****Obscured Leverington Rd signs between Harecroft Rd and Dowgate Rd**

Cllr Collins has pointed out that this has been ongoing since October 2022. I am very sorry that this has taken so long. The vegetation should have now have been partly cut back. The bushes and shrubs should be cut back further when the nesting season ends in September

**Drain in front of 12 Sutton Rd**

As I have had a complaint that this is blocked, I have requested that it is inspected and cleared

**Church Rd footpath opposite the Leverington Sports & Social Club**

As I have also had a complaint via the Clerk that the footpath is partly covered by nettles etc, I have requested this vegetation is cleared:

**Peatlings Ln and Leverington Common and Ringers Ln vegetation**

I have had this request from Cllr Collins and the local highway officer is going to find who owns the overgrown hedges and write to them. He is also going to write again to the owner of the hedge at the junction of Leverington Common and Ringers Ln

**Dowgate Rd/Sutton Rd Chevron obscured by vegetation**

I have had this request from Cllr Collins and I have requested it is cleared:

*"Sitting at the traffic lights heading into Wisbech, the sign is directly in front of you"*

**West Parade**

I have received this complaint and I am awaiting a response from the local highway officer:

*"Have you any idea who is responsible for cutting back the vegetation along the river wall on West Parade? I suspect it might be the Environment Agency. It is badly overgrown and as such hides fly tipping as well as looking an eyesore. I have cleared the growth that was covering a warning chevron but the whole wall needs doing, most of which is in Leverington. If you can let me know who is responsible, (maybe with a contact number), I am happy to chase the issue."*

**Seafeld Rd and Perry Rd footpaths**

I have received this from the Assets Strategy Planning and Performance Manager, Highways Maintenance:

*"The works to apply a surfacing to the concrete footways...is planned for 2024-25"*

#### **Hawthorn Grdns**

As I have had complaints relating about the adoption process, I have passed on the phone number of the Highway Development Manager as I am not an expert

#### **Bank Drive/ Walsingham Court bollards**

As Cllr Seaton has reported yesterday and I emailed on 15/6:

*"It was also agreed with Cllrs Downes, Seaton, Clark and the local highways officer at our Mountbatten Dr meeting that the two 'middle' concrete bollards will be removed, hopefully within the next four months and that the owner of the hedge will be written to again. Everyone was happy with this proposal - including our constituent!"*

#### **A1101 and Dowgate Rd speed reduction from 40mph to 30mph LHI update**

Following the last parish council meeting, I have received this from the Design Engineer:

*"With regards to the lighting of repeaters, we wouldn't look to utilise the lighting units and keep the repeaters lit. One, because it goes against the regulations for repeater signage, only terminal signage should be illuminated where required. Second, it is an electrical saving for the council and less assets to maintain. I understand the concerns regarding the budgets. I can confirm that for the previous Leverington Common scheme you are only being recharged the original £1,500 contribution as we believe it is only fair given the issues encountered. I can confirm that the A1101 scheme will not go over the £10,000 amount and we will only seek the 10% contribution. The maximum the PC will have contribute is £1,000"*

And I responded: *"I have spoken to Cllr Downes and he has confirmed that Leverington Parish Council agreed to go ahead with the scheme and that is so minuted. Your comments on the lighting units are understood and your assurances on the budget are very welcome"*

#### **Popes Ln flooding**

I have received this from Cllr Collins and I have requested these are inspected and cleared:

*"There are blocked drains on Popes Lane at the Leverington Common end and on the road between the gateway to 76 and 78. A total of 4 properties were flooded"*

#### **Resurfacing of Gorefield Rd in front of the church and Church Rd**

I have had confirmation from the Assets Strategy Planning and Performance Manager, Highways Maintenance that the part of Gorefield Rd in front of the church and Church Rd have been submitted for resurfacing under the rolling capital programme for 2024/2025

#### **Verge cutting**

Following a query from Cllr Collins, I confirm that CCC carries out two general cuts a year and the next one is due to begin this week in Fenland. In addition, I can arrange to get specific junctions cut as necessary

#### **Leverington Gateways**

I am awaiting the opinion of the local highway officer on the following:

Sutton Road into Wisbech (Gypsy Lane)

Sutton Road from Wisbech (near The Chase)

Leverington Common (Fendyke Lane)

Gorefield Road (past no.198)