



**Minutes of the meeting of the Leverington  
Parish Council, held in the Village Hall Gorefield  
Road on Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023.**



*No Public Forum was required.*

**PRESENT:** Councillors B. Baker, Ms R. Collins, R. Cropp, J.Downes (Chairman), Mrs S.Edghill, Mrs. S.Ward.  
County Councillor S.King.  
District Councillors C.Seaton, S.Clark, B.Barber.  
Proper Officer of the Council/RFO/DPO B.Boyce.

**1. Opening remarks.**

**1.1 To receive apologies and any Declarations of Interest on agenda items.**

There were no apologies or Declarations of Interest.

**1.2 Presentation of Certificates to Councillor Edghill for Playground Inspection Course attendance.**

The Chairman presented the certificates to Councillor Edghill.

**2. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2023.**

Sent to Councillors 10.08.23. The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.

**3. Matters arising from the minutes not included in agenda items. (For information only)**

- Item 9 in the minutes: D.Gibb contacted 01.08.23. No response.
- Item 8. Village Entrance Signs: Sent form, map, locations, design to Highways 03.08.23. Confirmation of receipt. No further response.
- Item 5.1 Zip wire: Adjustments completed, and also repairs at the playground.
- Item 6.1 Access to roundabout at Foal Ground: Sent request to S and S Club for 45 feet of turf. No response at this time.

**4. Communications, agenda and minute issues.**

To include agenda distribution, council decisions complaint.

*This item deferred and transferred to item 11.*

**5. Finance.**

**5.1 Balances to 04.09.2023.**

Current Account

		Opening balance		53001.78
Receipts				0.00
Payments				
10.07.23	26	Leverington Village Hall	Hall Hire June	24.00
"	27	S.Ward	Printing supplies	55.99
"	28	N.Power	Street light power	309.63
"	29	Whitings Llp	Internal Audit	600.00
"	30	Gallagher	Insurance	2620.72
21.07.23	31	L.Bennett	Website (Jul)	25.00
"	32	S.Edghill	Training exp	44.20

	33	GLW Engineering	Playground repair	180.00
"	34	B.Boyce	Salary (Jul)	604.53
24.07.23	35	L.Bennett	Computer accessories	35.00
27.07.23	36	Stephenson Smart	Payroll Services	84.00
		Closing balance		48418.71

		Opening balance		48418.71
		Receipts		
04.09.23		Interest		<u>117.53</u>
				48536.24
		Payments		
07.08.23	37	N Power	Street Lights	320.86
"	38	Complete Weed Control	Maintenance	330.00
"	39	HMRC	Payee	717.13
"	40	R H Developments	Playground tables ins.	1431.06
08.08.23	41	Leverington Village Hall	Hall hire	48.00
29.08.23	42	L.Bennett	Website Aug.	25.00
"	43	B.Boyce	Aug	<u>604.73</u>
		Closing balance		45059.46

#### Cemetery Account

	Opening balance		100,840.28
Receipts			
20.06.23	Coggles	M.Haddon	1450.00
31.07.23	Coggles	Hollingbery	650.00
Payments			
10.07.23	S.Ward	Cemetery Maintenance	350.00
31.07.23	Shaw & Sons	EROB ledger	153.60
07.08.23	Complete Weed Control	Cem maintenance	<u>348.00</u>
Closing balance			102088.68

#### Update on Reserve Account

Closing balance		105793.85
04.09.23	Interest	<u>285.02</u>
		106078.87

Street Lights 27673.60; Play equipment 8453.35; Cemetery extension 25000.00

Risk Reserve 5000.00 ; Contingency 25000.00; Other reserve 14951.92 .

*Bank statements and invoices scrutinised by Councillor Cropp.*

With reference to 27.06.23 minutes, item 7.6. The clerk sent details to all councillors at 10.35pm on the 27<sup>th</sup> asking for a 'yes or no' reply. None received therefore the affiliation to CAPALC did not take place.

#### 5.2 Annual Governance and Accountability Return.

Certificate of Completion received and a copy sent to councillors. The External auditor's limited assurance opinion 2022/23 was noted.

#### 6. Remembrance Sunday. 12.11.23

The Council agreed that a short ceremony should be held after the church service, in the cemetery, at the memorial as in previous years. The Chairman will order two wreaths and the small crosses.

## 7. **Mega Incinerator. (for information)**

The decision date has been confirmed regarding the proposed incinerator facility in [Wisbech](#). The Government's Planning Inspectorate have said that their recommendation will be made to the Secretary of State later this year. The announcement follows a six-month examination period that was led by the planning inspectorate. Fenland District Council set out their opposition to the proposal and presented their case against the plans. The application for the development was submitted by Medworth CHP Limited on July 7, 2022. It is due to be confirmed on November 21, 2023 whether the plans will be given the green light.

## 8. **To consider County and District Councillors' reports.**

### 8.1 **District.**

Report from District Councillor C. Seaton.

Bus Reform:

Bus routes retained are: Wisbech Horsefair to Tesco's

Wisbech to Manea

Wisbech to Long Sutton

Wisbech to March

I continue to push for the CPCA to communicate with parishes to understand the needs and requirements of rural areas. Neal Byers and Tim Bellamy, CPCA, have committed to make this happen.

This is an opportunity for parishes to outline their requirements, not everything will be possible due to financial constraints. I believe we all understand the financial restrictions for commercial operators but there must be an opportunity for community travel, such as FACT, to provide a rural service with smaller coaches more suited to country areas. In your conversations with the CPCA, as long as you agree with this approach, please push this alternative option because community travel requires funding as a non-for-profit organisation.

Walsingham Court:

Pleased to report that the rubbish has finally been removed from the community garage area that backs onto Jamie Trundle's property. Hopefully this will not occur again.

Mountbatten Park:

Whilst the two bollards have successfully been removed, thanks to CCC, the hedge still needs cutting and I have received another complaint regarding this issue.

Roman Court:

I understand that Clarion are re-evaluating the options for the site. with the additional security that has been organised there appears to have been no incidents of late to report.

Councillor Chris Seaton.

### 8.2 **County.**

Report from County Councillor S. King.

#### **Footpath weeds**

As many of our constituents are very concerned about this, I hope the parish council will formally support this initiative:

"Motion on weeds to the 18th October Full County Council meeting

I am sure you have become aware recently of the dreadful state of weeds on our roads, pavements and cycleways. This is entirely due to a change in policy the current joint administration forced through in February of this year. As part of that change, they promised to engage with Parishes and Towns, but there has been little or no evidence of that. The County

Council have stopped all annual weedkilling as well as spraying before laying new surfaces such as slurry on footpaths. If you agree that the state of weeds on our roads, paths and cycleways are unacceptable and getting worse there are two ways you can help:

Sign and circulate the petition via this link: <https://shorturl.at/dkFTZ>. Write individually or as a Parish Council or Community Group to object to this change in policy and ask for a reversal. Write in your own words or use the template below which you can personalise as you see fit. Included are the emails of the relevant councillors and officers:

*"Please accept this as a formal objection to the change in weedkilling policy the County Council implemented this year. Our roads, cycleways and footpaths are in a dreadful state due to the explosion of weeds since this policy change.*

*This has an unacceptably detrimental effect on the look, usability, and cost of repair to our highways. Our residents are angry at how you have made our community look. Those who attempt active travel are angry at the state of the weed ridden paths they use. We are deeply concerned at the effect this will have on flash flooding, as gulleys and drains become blocked by weeds. We also are aware of the possible danger posed to horses by the rapid increase of poisonous Ragwort in our area.*

*We cannot understand the short-sighted financial nature of this decision, as any short-term gain will be lost by future repair bills. We are further dismayed that the County Council would implement such a devastating cut to a vital service with little or no meaningful consultation.*

*We therefore call on the Joint Administration to reverse this disastrous policy;*

[lucy.nethsingha@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:lucy.nethsingha@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

[elisa.meschini@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:elisa.meschini@cambridgeshire.gov.uk), [tom.sanderson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:tom.sanderson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

*We ask that the chief executive, Stephen Moir, takes urgent action to remove weeds across the County;*

[stephen.moir@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:stephen.moir@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

*We ask that the Chair of Highways, issues a public statement to reverse this dreadful decision and explain the immediate actions the County Council will be taking to address this;*

[alex.beckett@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:alex.beckett@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

*We ask the monitoring officer to investigate how a major cut to services was allowed take place without proper engagement with Town and Parish Councils."*

[emma.duncan@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:emma.duncan@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

#### **Vegetation obscuring the Leverington Rd signs between Harecroft Rd and Dowgate Rd**

As this was a long-standing problem, I escalated it and I hope it has now been satisfactorily cut back.

#### **Peatlings Ln overgrown vegetation**

The local highway officer is chasing up a target cost

#### **Collapsed drain in front of 12 Sutton Rd**

This has now been completed.

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

As this was another long-standing problem, I escalated it and I hope it has now been satisfactorily cut back.

#### **Leverington Common and Ringers Ln**

The local highway officer has confirmed that, in his opinion, the hedge has now been reduced Sufficiently.

#### **Bank Drive/ Walsingham Court hedge**

The bollards have been removed as agreed and the local highway officer has confirmed that a second letter has been sent.

#### **Popes Ln flooding**

The local highway officer had the drains jetted and he referred this to the flood team for further investigation. He is continuing to chase it up.

**Footpath on Dowgate Rd**

Following this from Cllr Collins, the local highway officer has identified the owners and written to them:

*"The footpath from The Still to Lancewood Gardens is overgrown. I am presuming as the vegetation is coming thru the wire fencing, it belongs to Lancewood. Could a letter be written to the resident asking them to trim back. Not too sure who owns the other but could we chase that too?"*

**Possible funding bid for the completion of the Ringers Ln footpath**

I have received this from the Team Leader, Highway Projects Team;

*"Thanks Simon. Key to note there is a deep ditch which looks like it will need to be piped to install a path alongside. The section further up, closer to Knights Cl, looks fine as the route is single lane with passing places (this section could be quite an 'easy' LHI bid to extend closer to the problem area with the drainage ditch)"*

**New A1101/B1169 speed limit**

I requested temporary signs and I have received this from the Design Engineer, Project Delivery:

*"Yes, this is possible, I have emailed the contractor for a cost to supply 1x temporary sign on an A-Frame located in the verge near the traffic signals (heading north) to reinforce the speed limit change. I will let you know the cost when they get back to me"*

The County Councillor offered to chase the application for the village entrance signs reported at item 3.

**9. To receive Health and Safety reports and discuss any action required.****9.1 Allotments.** Councillor Cropp.

Inspection carried out July 2023. All Risk Ratings were low with no action required. The area is well-kept with no obvious slip or trip hazards. (Grass roadway can be slippery when wet). With council permission, a shed has been erected on Plot 5.

'No Parking' sign needs to be fixed to gate. There is a rabbit problem. No obvious remedy to rectify the situation.

14/09/2023

The area around 1C looks a bit scruffy. The main area is tidy and well kept.

No obvious trip hazards. Need to decide on a "keep clear" sign on the gate.

*Action required. The Council agreed that a sign for the gate should be ordered.*

**9.2 Benches.** Councillor Collins.

Checked all benches except Bank Drive. All seem in good order.

*No action required.*

**9.3 Cemetery.** Councillor Cropp.

15/09/2023

Car park sign has been erected.

Grass has yet to be cut in main areas.

Removed dead tree by turn around area, not sure that a replacement is needed.

Weed suppressant under the bark mulch is showing in quite a few places.

Grass needs edging where it meets the mulch.

Mulch areas and gravelled areas need weed killing. (need to be mindful so as not to kill the grass).

Ditches and dykes need the weeds cut.

Laurel hedge will need trimming ASAP.

Side entrance at the cemetery gates needs cutting back as it's now difficult to walk through.

Entrance into the eco burial area needs to be made.

Working party met 30.08.23 and have discussed most of the above

*(See separate report sent to Councillors 20.09.23)*

*All recommended actions were confirmed by the Council:*

*The council agreed that M.Ward should purchase weed killer and spray mulch and gravel areas.*

#### **9.4 Defibrillators and kiosk. Councillor Downes.**

All checked and in working order. Did have to remind Table Tennis Club not to allow parked cars to completely block access to Cabinet. *No action required.*

#### **9.5 Foal Ground Family Park. Councillor Edghill.**

The new benches look good and are being used a lot. They do though need cleaning as there is a lot of 'moss' on the legs of the benches. The seat under the tree and the old bench continue to look unsightly and we should consider removing them. I noted that the zipwire had been fixed. Councillor Collins referred to the trimming of the hedge.

*Action required: D.England has been asked to trim hedge and remove/replant horsechestnuts. Person to remove seat and bench to be sought. S.Ward confirmed that she cleans the picnic tables.*

*Following a report by a parent, and with the help of the parent, without delay, M.Ward located a piece of wire protruding from the ground in the bug spinney which he removed immediately. He was thanked for his help.*

The plaque commemorating the Coronation should be completed in October.

#### **9.6 Highways. Councillor Downes.**

##### **9.6.1**

22/09/2023: Ref 00440747 Damaged grating A1101 opposite 180 Leverington Road. Work ordered up to 12 weeks to complete.

5/09/2023: Footpath No1. Pedestrian Gate on PROW Chained and Padlocked. Referred to Mark Peck CCC ROW Officer who has also contacted Farmer and Environment Agency. New Kissing Gate ordered. Disabled Friendly and double size.

13/09/2023: Ref CRM 00024611441 14 Leverington Common Road and Drive Flooding, Possibly Drains Blocked. Work Ordered.

13/09/2023: Leverington Common/Hawthorne Avenue. Leverington Common Footpath now repaired and Hawthorne Avenue Roadway tarmac replaced and is now correct length.

18/09/2023 **Reference:** 00442742. **Date reported:** 18/09/2023. **Fault type:** Manholes and Gratings. **Address Location:** 14 Leverington Common, Leverington  
**Description of fault:** Flooding with photographs included. Problem could be blocked drains. Please expedite a repair/drain cleaning process in order to alleviate this issue

**9.6.2** A1101 from Crowson's Garage to Harecroft Road is now down to 30 mph.

**9.6.3** Bill White is new village speedwatch coordinator. 18 vehicles were recorded well over the allowed limits in just one hour. Mr. White comments that with so many offenders it really does need a police presence or maybe investing in a proper enforcement camera. Perhaps a permanent camera could be considered on Leverington Common.  
*Action: The Chairman will ask Andy Morris for advice on how we approach this.*

**9.6.4** Councillor Collins report of pavements overgrown with weeds and nettles.  
*Action required: Reported numerous times and petition to CCC signed on behalf of the Council.*

**9.6.5** The chairman and clerk met at Burcroft Road and progressed from there to along West

Parade to locate and confirm for the future, the exact points of the boundary of Leverington Parish as shown on the map held by all councillors. The fencing of the industrial buildings along West Parade stands on the boundary line with the buildings inside the boundary. The street light stands outside these buildings but no record of installation is shown in any record from the year 2000. The Proper Officer of the Council has scanned all minutes from the year 2000 to the present however, there is a reference to the light in West Parade staying on all day and needing attention. The council resolved to adopt the street light and carry out any repairs or renewals.

#### **9.7 Memorials and noticeboards.** *Councillor Ward.*

All noticeboards checked and cleaned out, weeds and bushes next to them cut back. The one in The Chase is difficult to get to because of plants and weeds - also it still doesn't say Leverington Parish Council on the top of it.

*Action: S. Ward will clear rubbish. A name plate will be ordered.*

War Memorial visited and checked. all ok.

*Action: Street Pride usually inspects the memorial before Remembrance Sunday and cleans if necessary. Councillor Cropp will clean the cemetery memorial.*

#### **9.8 Village sign.** *Councillor Baker.*

No problems.

*No action required.*

#### **9.9 Public footpaths** *Councillor Cropp.*

12/13/09/2023

Most areas are a little overgrown but still passable. The first part of the path at the end of Horseshoe terrace has quite a number of nettles and brambles but is passable with care.

Kissing gate at the river is broken.

*Action: Kissing gate reported.*

#### **9.10. Playground** *Councillor Edghill.*

In August I reported an overflowing bin at Church Road, which had also been reported by Street Pride. The chairman contact FDC and it was emptied.

In September it was noted that there had been some vandalism at the Church Road playground and when inspecting again on 11th, there had been a big hole dug in the wetpour. There was also an indication of another part of the wetpour had started to be peeled away. I spoke to the Chairman who was going to report this to the police and we considered closing the playground on health & safety grounds. The Chairman wrote to the council to get permission to close it, but hadn't heard anything from them when we last spoke.

Some playground equipment could do with being repainted. Whether this is too late in the year now, I'm not sure, but we should put a marker in the funds to do so in Spring next year.

*Action required: The S & S Club had volunteered to spray the weeds. S.Edghill will chase.*

*Wet pour. (clerk reported to OLP and asked for immediate repair).*

From the Chairman: *Having seen largest photographs from Councillor Edghill and taking into consideration that we do not have a firm date for repairs it would be prudent under Health and Safety Grounds to CLOSE Playground until repairs completed.*

#### **9.11 Street Lights.** *Councillor Downes*

All checked and okay.

*No action. Also note 9.6.5 West Parade Street light.*

## 10. Development plans received.

Our ref: F/YR23/0669/F 11 August 2023

Erect 1 x dwelling (2-storey 4-bed) at Land East of Bank House Church End, Leverington Cambridgeshire

An application for planning permission has been received in respect of the above.

*Council comment:*

*This is a plan to replace original request for 5 bed dwelling on same size garden site(F/YR23/0330/F)*

*This was originally refused in May 2023. The only differences are that it has been reduced to 4 bedrooms by rejigging rear part of dwelling in that kitchen/dining/ family area has been altered. The width of dwelling has been reduced by 1 metre and depth by between 3 and 4 metres. By removing the L shape of Family Room and Bedroom thus just squaring off rear of dwelling. The overall street view is not altered. Still an infill using a side garden. Incongruous with its surroundings. It is not in keeping with its surroundings. It still does not comply with LP12 and LP16 of Fenland Local Plan 2014 and as such consider it should again be refused.*

Our ref: F/YR23/0641/F 9 August 2023

Conversion of existing stable to form an annexe (2-storey 2-bed) ancillary to existing dwelling, including changes to the window and door arrangements. At Coachhouse And Stables Fencroft Leverington Common Leverington, Cambridgeshire. *Council comment: (Linked with 0642)*

*No objections provided that applicants adhere to statements that only materials sympathetic to surrounding areas are used and that it will remain an annex for family uses and not regarded as a separate property for eventual sale.*

F/YR23/0642/LB 9 August 2023

Works to a Listed Building to convert existing stable to form an annexe (2-storey 2-bed) ancillary to existing dwelling, including changes to the window and door arrangements. at Coachhouse And Stables Fencroft Leverington Common, Leverington Cambridgeshire.

## 11. Communications, agenda and minute issues

### 11.1 Sent to Councillors and logged.

01.08.23	Community Gritting Scheme
10.08.23	Statement of Community Involvement
11.08.23	Planning Training slides
23.08.23	Community Safety Partnership Survey
31.08.23	QEH meeting
08.09.23	CCC Weed Spraying Policy
13.09.23	Electrical Charging points
"	Flood Action Conference
"	Draft Climate Action Guide.

### 11.2 Council Current Communications.

The Council currently uses the web site, Leverington Letter and three Parish noticeboards to communicate with parishioners. The remaining noticeboards are specific to their location. After consultation with the chairman, occasionally Councillor Collins posts on to the 'Love Leverington' site, but this is purely for information and not dialogue. The council resolved to continue with these forms of communication at this time.

### 11.3 Agendas and I Pads.

11.3.1 Some of the I pads have ceased working. The Council decided not to purchase replacements.



- 11.3.2 Councillors may not be aware that each month the agenda is reduced to headings on an A4 sheet for the noticeboards and website with a note in the header stating that anyone who wishes for a full agenda can contact the clerk. These requests need to go to the clerk and not to individual councillors.
  - 11.3.3 A formal complaint has been made against the clerk, the chairman and the Council. A working party will meet and give recommendations to the full council at the next meeting.
12. **Close of Meeting.**  
The meeting closed at 9.12 pm.  
Next meeting Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2023.