



**Minutes of the meeting of  
Leverington Parish Council, held in the Village  
Hall Gorefield Road on Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> October 2023.**

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

**1. Welcome by the Chairman.**

The Chairman welcomed everyone, pointed out the fire exits and asked for mobile phones to be switched off.

- 1.1 No apologies received.
- 1.2 There were no Declarations of Interest disclosed.
- 1.3 The follow up meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> October with the Police was informative. A update on Roman Bank work was given by Mr. S. Proctor. A report of the meeting is recorded on the website.
- 1.4 The Chairman attended the Village Hall A.G.M.
- 1.5 It will be 80 years since the D D Landings next June. (06/06/1944). The Council resolved to mark this occasion and discuss in the New Year.

*Public Forum.*

The Parishioner voiced concerns that the bench in Bank Drive was attracting youths who were drinking and causing a nuisance. This was discussed at item 9.2

**2. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023.**

Sent to Councillors 14.10.23. The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.

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

None.

**4. Finance.**

- 4.1 Balances to 04.10.2023. Scrutinised by Councillors Collins and Ward.

*Current Account*

Date	No.	Invoice	Item	Amount
		Opening balance		45,059.46
Receipts		F.D.C.	½ precept	29,375.00
		P. Richardson	Garden plot	<u>17.00</u>
				74,451.46
		Payments		
07.09.23	44	N Power	Street lights	316.10
12.09.23	45	A.P. Freeman Ltd	Defib electrical	132.00
15.09.23	46	A1 Engraving	Allotment sign	10.80
20.09.23	47	Transfer	Precept amount to cemetery	8,000.00
"	48	L. Bennett	Month Sep. Web site	25.00
"	49	B. Boyce	Month Sep payment	604.73

"	50	Fenland Leisure Products	Maintenance zip wire/various	664.08
"	51	Employer Contributions	PAYE	<u>717.17</u>
		Closing balance		63981.58

## Cemetery Account.

		Opening balance		102,088.68
Receipts		Coates	Holingberry Memorial inscription	150.00
		Transfer	From General Account	<u>8,000.00</u>
				110,238.68
Payments		AI Engraving	No Parking/funeral signs	68.40

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

## 5.1 District.

Sent to Councillors: FDC Consultation regarding Polling districts, stations etc.

Report from Councillor C.Seaton.

I have arranged, through Dan Horn at FDC, for Clarion to attend a meeting with residents and council members to address the many concerns and issues that have been raised many times . Clarion have agreed to attend and I have asked Dave Gibb to liaise with Leverington PC and provide some dates and a suggested venue. As Dave is Clerk to Newton-in-the -Isle and Tydd St Giles he is best placed to co-ordinate with Leverington. Hopefully residents/councillors will attend to voice their concerns at the lack of progress.

I sent a message to Inspector Andy Morris thanking him and the team for attending the police update meeting last week.

I understand that the Emergency numbers have not been changed but will give any update at Next weeks meeting. Very happy to answer any questions on the night.

## 5.2 County.

Sent to Councillors by the C.C

**New Local Highways Officer.**

I have received this:

*"I have no problem with the Parish having my number (07557 135358) to contact me if required. However, I would urge them as anyone to use the 'report it' tool for any faults so they are easier to track and open to all.*

*Always happy to meet on site on an arranged date and time to discuss jobs where needed"*

[Bob.Rossiter@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Bob.Rossiter@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

All outstanding highway issues will be dealt with by the former LHO.

**Village signs.**

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

*"We can pick up and progress this for the parish. However they would need to fill out the correct form on the website, under the design & delivery section please [Privately Funding Highway Improvements - Cambridgeshire County Council](#)*

*They will note this asks for a bit more detail, including the applicant confirming how much they have set aside to deliver the project, and that they are happy being invoiced for the £500 fee associated with private works up front. I note seven locations are mentioned, as well as removal / amendment of existing, and as the signs are going to be fairly large with the wording the parish have requested so the cost is likely going to be in the region of £15k total. I appreciate this figure may not be what they are expecting, so we may have to explore alternatives".*

**Footpath weeds**

Unfortunately at the County Council meeting on 17/10, the Conservative motion for weed killing to begin again immediately was defeated. An amended motion was adopted that requires a report to go to the Highways & Transport Committee on 23/1/24 assessing the impact of the policy so all of your lobbying efforts were not in vain - thank you!

**Peatlings Ln overgrown vegetation**

Unfortunately the former local highway officer has not responded to my repeated requests for an update so I will now escalate this

**Bank Drive/ Walsingham Court hedge**

Unfortunately the former local highway officer has not responded to my repeated requests for an update so I will now escalate this

**Popes Ln flooding**

Unfortunately the former local highway officer has not responded to my repeated requests for an update so I will now escalate this

**Footpath on Dowgate Rd**

Unfortunately the former local highway officer has not responded to my repeated requests for an update so I will now escalate this

**New A1101/B1169 speed limit temporary signs**

Following my chase-up request for temporary signage, I have received this from the Design Engineer, Design & Delivery, Project Delivery

*"I have been informed that they have been installed on-site, I just wasn't informed"*

**6. To receive Health and Safety reports and discuss any action required.**

**Following the alleged accident, it is imperative that reports are sent in each month for inclusion in the minutes.**

**6.1 Allotments. Councillor Cropp.**

14th October 2023: "Keep clear " sign fitted to prominent position on the gate.

There may be an allotment available so if anyone knows someone who wants one please let us know. All areas are tidy and well kept. There is a bicycle leaning up against the hedge.

Investigations underway *No action required*

Invoices sent 01.10.23. Some payments still outstanding.

**9.2 Benches. Councillor Collins.**

**9.2.1** 12.10.23 Benches all checked this week. With reference to the complaint of young people leaving litter, there was no evidence of bottles/cans on Monday at 13.30 at the bench at Bank Drive. Complainant wishes bench to be removed. The clerk wrote to the complainant (see Public Forum) The Council resolved to remove the bench for a period of three to six months to see if this alleviates the situation. Councillor Cropp and M.Ward will remove and R.Cropp will store for the time being.

**9.2.2.** Ringers Lane bench, paint is beginning to peel in places.  
No action at this time.

**9.3 Cemetery. Councillor Cropp.**

15th Oct 2023

**9.3.1** No parking signs fitted to the fence on the access road and one to the right hand gate post. An easel and "Funeral today keep clear" sign have been purchased ( the easel has been painted black ) These are mobile so can be put anywhere, they are currently stored with me.

**9.3.2** Quotes have been received to trim the Laurel hedging, the eco burial area and the edges of the dyke. The Council agreed that D.England should complete the cutting for this year and the job offered to the other contractor for next year. The Chairman had spoken to

- T.Blackamore regarding the strimming of the dyke and the green burial site.
- 9.3.3 A price required for reducing the height and density of the trees all around the cemetery. The clerk will contact a tree surgeon.
  - 9.3.4 Some form of small building needed to be erected at the cemetery to store the paraphernalia. Various storage solutions will be investigated.
  - 9.3.5 Some trees at the far side of the cemetery are causing problems to the owner of the adjacent bungalow. The Chairman and Councillor Cropp will look into the problem.
  - 9.3.6 The car park sign is unclear as to which side of the fence you need to park. It may need moving or an arrow painted. The Chairman and Councillor Cropp will consider the best option.
  - 9.3.7 Grass in the outlying areas has not been cut recently and is quite long. The Chairman has spoken to T. Blackamore and a final cut will be made imminently.
  - 9.3.8 Shrubs on the west periphery have been reduced in height so they are below the neighbour's fence level. A 'thank you' mail has been received.

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

01.10.23 All monthly checks completed and reported to CHT and EEAS. No problems.

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

- 9.5.1 The old seat and bench have been removed. The astro turf from gate to roundabout will be inserted shortly by T.Moore. The benches and concrete will be cleaned of moss shortly by Councillor Ward.

*Report from Councillor Collins 15.10.23:*

- 9.5.2 Litter picked beer cans, may have been thrown from car in lay-by rather than drinking in the Foal Ground.
- 9.5.3 Hedge needs attention, tall in places, blocking view from road/footpath. Width has grown through wire fence, making it awkward to get children out of passenger seat/children seat in lay-by. D.England will be trimming this within the next two weeks.
- 9.5.4 The 'Danger' sign on the bottom fence, is now virtually covered in ivy. The Council agreed to ask T.Moore to clear the notice of ivy. Another sign will be ordered. For the fence/gate at Gadds Lane end.
- 9.5.5 There are weeds around football goal mouth and around play equipment. T.Moore to be asked to clear these.
- 9.5.6 To right hand side of gate, branch debris lays in Hedgerow. T.Moore to be asked to clear.
- 9.5.7 Still no easy access to the wheelchair friendly roundabout. The Chairman has contacted Steve Fisher for turf and T.Moore has been asked to lay the turf.
- 9.5.8 Gate way seems to held out with all the foot fall. T.Moore to look at the problem and rectify.

On a positive note, chatting with families playing up there, they love the open space, play equipment and keep fit items. Love the fact that they can bring a picnic and happily spend their mornings there. With open space, loved picking up the conkers and trying to identify leaves, birds noises etc. . Asked if they would like a dog area at bottom and both families said NO - Keep it as it is.

- 9.5.9 Play and fitness equipment : No problems. All in good order.

#### 9.5.10 *Accident Report;*

The insurers are dealing with this case. Information sent to them so far:  
 3 sets of minutes including Annual meeting with designated councillors for H & S. The minutes (thankfully) show the reports from councillors on their inspections.  
 Reports from the Chairman and Michael Ward (removal of object).  
 RoSPA report.  
 Also asked for past accident reports.

They want shown maintenance of the area and D.England has been contacted but I've only got invoices from him and Blackamore. (D.England has given me details of work carried out in this area)

This is the latest request:

- *On what date did the insured first become aware that the claimant allegedly caught her leg on barbed wire sticking out of the ground? If the accident was reported prior to the CNF being received, please provide a copy of the report.*
- *Please could the insured provide a photograph of the accident location/locus*
- *Is there any barbed wire/wire, under the flooring/around the area in which the claimant allegedly got her leg caught?*
- *Risk assessments pre/post-accident*
- *Details of any implementations put in place post-accident to prevent further accidents from occurring*
- *Any other relevant information/documentation.*

The clerk will meet with M.Ward for the photographs. A new sign will be put in place with all others. Suggested wording: *Use of this park is at your own risk. LPC cannot accept responsibility or liability for any claim, loss, damage or injury whatsoever which may arise resulting from the use of this park area, except for as provided by statute. Children under the age of 12 (twelve) must be accompanied by an adult.*

## 9.6 Highways Councillor Downes

9.6.1 Gullies to be jet cleaned for 100 metres either side of 14 Leverington Common.

9.6.2 Village entrance signs.

Another form required with deposit and site meeting. Not to be funded by CCC, a quote will be made to the council. (Could be 15,000 to 20,000).

9.6.3 Items reported:

**Reference:** 00443821. **Date reported:** 01/10/2023

**Fault type:** Overhanging trees/hedges.

**Address:** PERRY ROAD,

**Location:** Between 2 Walton Road and 17 Perry Road Leverington Overgrown Hedge

**Description of fault:** Hedges blocking free passage of footpath. Via Parishioner.

**Reference:** 00443830. **Date reported:** 01/10/2023

**Fault type:** Damaged fence

**Address:** CHURCH ROAD,

**Location:** Directly outside Leverington Primary Academy

**Description of fault:** Safety Fence separating Highway from School struck by vehicle on 01/10/2023 Approximately 5 panels damaged. Reg No AO 06 ZKK. Blue VW Polo

**Reference:** 00444539 **Date reported:** 12/10/2023

**Fault type:** Overhanging trees/hedges

**Address:** HORSESHOE TERRACE,

**Location:** Between Bank Drive and Horseshoe Terrace

**Description of fault:** Report from Parishioners that access is poor due to overhanging bushes and trees

**Reference:** 00444864 **Date reported:** 16/10/2023

**Fault type:** Flooding

**Address:** MAYSFIELD DRIVE,

**Location:** Outside 4 Maysfield Drive

**Description of fault:** Drain outside no 4 is blocked.

**Reference:** 00446076

**Date reported:** 24/10/2023

**Fault type:** Flooding

**Address:** CHURCH ROAD,

**Location:** Whole length of Church Road

**Description of fault:** Report from Parishioners re blocked drains causing flooding

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

Noticeboards all fine. S.Ward will clear the weeds at The Chase location M.Bruce will be cleaning the Parish Memorial before Remembrance Sunday.

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

All in good order. The weeds at the base need removing. T.Moore to be asked.

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

9th 14th October 2023

All clear. Nothing major to report. Usual dogs mess along Roman Bank.

There was a dumped scooter on Roman Bank but it disappeared within an hour.

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

9.10.1 Inspections will take place more frequently than fortnightly. The contractor who came on Monday did say some of the 'cracks' are because the council has some old wet pour and some new wet pour. The work they did do is very smooth and looks good.

08.10.23. Returned to the playground today. The wet pour has been completely removed. (photos to councillors). Not sure what we are going to do about this, but it could get very expensive if it keeps happening.

16.10.23 Basically the wet pour has been put back into the hole again.

Gentlemen are sitting in the playground watching the football. This is not thought appropriate but any action will be difficult. No problems with playground equipment.

9.10.2 Mick George Monitoring Statement Form:

This is in reference to the grant for the playground equipment. Filled in and sent by clerk.

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

All checked and okay. Electrical Testing contacted and asked to inspect the street light at West Parade. A review inspection of all previous installations is due and that light will be included.

### **10. Development.**

Report from Councillors Downes and Cropp on attending FDC Planning Committee Meeting on 18/10/23 for discussion and decision on F/YR23/0321/F Land North of 120 Leverington Common accessed via Hawthorne Gardens (Private Road). The application was granted subject to conditions.

F/YR23/0669/F

Erect 1 x dwelling (2-storey 4-bed) at Land East Of Bank House Church End

Leverington Cambridgeshire

Revised proposals have been received in respect of the above.

The revision is: Amended Proposed Site Plan and amended design of the new dwelling.

Any additional comments you may wish to make in respect of this revision must be

received on or before 1 November 2023.

*No additional comments made by council*

#### **11. Report from Working Party.**

The changes were agreed by the Council.

**11.1 Standing Orders.**

One alteration on Page 4, item D.3. All complaints against the Council must be made to the Monitoring Officer at Fenland District Council with a copy to the Clerk.

**11.2 Complaints Policy.**

Changes recommended in items in No.2 mainly referred to the time required to report on a complaint as council meetings are a month apart. The time will now change from 20 days to 31 days.

**11.3 Vexacious Complaints Policy.**

The main change recommended was that all communications must be in writing, by e mail or post and a third party to be appointed to deal with all communications over a period of three to six months. A report will go into the council after this time has elapsed.

**11.4 Formal Complaint.**

The Working Party considered a formal complaint against the Clerk, Chairman and Council. The Council agreed that there was no case to answer and that the complaint should be rejected.

#### **12. Close of Meeting.**

The meeting closed at 9.12p.m.

The Parish Council Remembrance will be held on 12<sup>th</sup> November, after the Church Service.

Next full meeting of the council is 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023.