##### LEIGH AND BRANSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of conference call (to replace the meeting of Leigh and Bransford Parish Council cancelled due to Covid-19) held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 24 March 2020.

Attended by: Mr J Sharp (chairman), Mr B Porter, Mr D Fereday, Mrs A Oliver, Mr N Cresswell, Mr P King Mr P Ralph, Mr G Jones, Mr P Hawkins, J Barker (clerk), Cllr P Whatley (MHDC)

On behalf of the parish council the chairman expressed condolences to Mr Porter on the recent loss of his wife, Ann, who will be sadly missed by the whole community.

93/19 Apologies

There were apologies from Dr M Hinchliffe, Cllr S Rouse (MHDC)

94/19 a) Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and any Other Disclosable Interests in items on the Agenda (personal and prejudicial) - None

b) Notification of any changes to the Register of Interests - None

95/19 Minutes

The minutes of the parish council meeting held on 28 January 2020 had been circulated. No objections or abstentions; approved unanimously

96/19 Reports from representatives of other bodies:

Cllr Whatley provided an update on the district council response to the Covid-19 crisis. He confirmed that refuse collections will be maintained as normal for as long as possible and collections from residents will be prioritised over collections from businesses. There is up to date information on district council services on the MHDC website

97/19 Progress reports on ongoing issues

* The first stage of work to Rectory Wood is complete, other than the installation of bat/bird boxes. Bulbs will be planted in the autumn.
* The footpath by Leigh Sinton bus shelter has been inspected to ascertain the best way to carry out repair and improvement. Since it is tarmacked the first approach will be to ask our county councillor if it can be carried out using his personal budget.
* The parish council now has copies of the WCC map showing the location of gullies. We will mark those that are blocked and update with any not shown.
* The parish clean-up has been postponed until the autumn

Planning committee chairman Mr Fereday took the chair for item 98/19

98/19 Planning

1. Minutes of the planning committee meeting held 25 February 2020 had been circulated. No objections; no abstentions; approved unanimously.
2. Planning applications

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| L&B  Ref | MHDC  Ref | Proposal Details | Location | PC  Recommendation | Notes |
| 19/28 | 20/00322/HP | Single storey side extension and two first floor extensions | River Lands  Teme Lane  Leigh, WR6 5JY | Approval  No objections or  absentions. Unanimous | n/a |

1. Planning decisions

19/01723/FUL Multi-purpose activity building Scout Hut, Sherridge road Approved

20/00062/HP Single storey side extension Fir Tree Cottage, Coles Green Approved

Mr Sharp resumed the chair for the remainder of the meeting.

99/19 To consider the parish council response to the coronavirus crisis

Chequebook - the chairman currently has the parish council chequebook to facilitate cheque signing.

Planning applications – will be dealt with by email circulation. Applications to be circulated and responses to be returned to Mr Fereday, copying in the clerk.

Community response – there are four co-ordinators across the parish and so far 67 volunteers, and people are being encouraged to be in contact with their neighbours.

Emergency fund – it was proposed that an emergency fund of £2000 be earmarked, which can be drawn upon if needed. No objections or abstentions; agreed unanimously. Details of any spend – omitting details that could identify the recipient - to be circulated by email to ensure approval and provide an audit trail.

Play areas – in accordance with recent guidelines, both play areas have now been closed.

100/19 Request for grant funding – Leigh and Bransford Memorial Hall

The Memorial Hall had applied for £594.34 for four new tables. Proposed by Mrs Oliver, seconded by Mr King, agreed unanimously. It was noted that the current style of table is difficult to open and handle, and the committee might like to consider alternatives; this point to be conveyed to Mr Gamble.

101/19 To consider proposals for improvements to Leigh Hurst play area

Mrs Oliver presented the final proposal from Ludus which utilises the full S106 funds available. Mrs Oliver and the Chair had met with Ludus on site and cleared all the outstanding issues and agreed the final layout. Mrs Oliver will now complete the S106 application for submission to MHDC. Once approval has been obtained from MHDC for the allocation of the S106 monies Ludus will be contracted to undertake the work. Once started it will take two weeks during which the play area will be closed. Start date will be dependent upon coronavisus regulations. The new quote and scheme were approved unanimously.

102/19Finance

1. Online banking. In order to facilitate payments, particularly during the current restrictions on movement, it was proposed the parish council set up online banking as soon as possible. No objections or abstentions; all in favour.
2. To approve accounts paid

Accounts paid

R Wilks Lengthsman February £230.40

J Barker clerk March £741.75

J Barker HMRC Q4 re-imbursement £37.23

J Crankshaw Rectory Wood labour £3250.00

J Crankshaw Bench in Rectory Wood £170.00

J Sharp Rectory Wood Materials £753.31

Playsafety Inspection and Rospa £82.80

Viking Direct Office supplies £89.39

Memorial Hall Grant £594.34

1. Support for the clerk to take Cilca qualification.

Registration for the qualification costs £350, and it was noted that some years ago the council received a grant of £150 from MHDC for this purpose which has not been used to date and is held in reserves. No objections or abstentions; approved unanimously.

Bank balances

Current account (at 28/02/2020) £25,695.69

Savings account (at 28/02/2020) £4,897.03

103/19 Other reports

Memorial Hall – is currently closed for a period of 12 weeks.

Motorcycles speeding along the A4103, particularly on Sunday mornings, has worsened now that the roads are quieter. The clerk to inform the local police team.

Road safety - Mr King had circulated the report from the police on road traffic accidents in Leigh Sinton, and his response on behalf of the parish council to the recent road safety consultation. These were discussed and the chairman thanked him for his work on these.

104/19 Date and time of next meeting

Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 26th May 7.00pm, to be held by conference call if Memorial Hall

remains closed.

Conference call ended at 7.45 pm

Chairman............................................. Date...............................................