

LEIGHTON & EATON CONSTANTINE PARISH COUNCIL

Tuesday 7th November

MINUTES

1. **Chairman's Welcome.** The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting
2. **Present and Apologies:** Councillor J Hayter-Chairman; Councillor M Corrie- Vice-chairman; Councillor S Jones; Councillor E Parton; Councillor R Harper; Councillor P Brewer; Councillor G Godwin; Shropshire Councillor C Wild; Also, present John Campion Police & Crime Commissioner for the West Midlands L Pardoe, clerk to the Council and two members of the public. (Please see sheet attached to the minutes)
3. **Declaration of Pecuniary Interests;** There were none at this point
4. **Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) John Campion to speak to members on their concerns about speeding within the Parish;** the PCC spoke on what his position entails. He is a civil person representing the community. He wants to deliver efficient and effective policing. He holds the purse strings.
He must set a manifesto in the first 12 months of his tenure.
He has the power to remove the Chief Constable should it be necessary to do so.
He holds the Chief Constable to account.
He has a plan with 4 specific areas
 - i) Victims and survivors; people need different levels of support following a crime. He intends to ensure that this is available,
 - ii) A secure West Midlands- This is a safe part of the Force Area and county. He aims to get the phones answered and rapid response.
 - iii) Reform Area. The existing force is very cumbersome with some parts having no Wi-Fi in the buildings and outdated IT. Now all PCs have smart phones and this is looking to provide an extra 1 hour a day away from the office. He has 212 million pounds to spend. Crime is changing and they must be able to keep up with the new cybercrime.
 - iv) Safe & Secure area. He wants communities to feel safe and confident this will give a reassured community. He wants more visible policing.

Questions from members;
Councillor C Wild said there has been a spate of 6 or 7 burglaries in Kenley in the past week. The PCC said that often in cases like this they were often done by the same burglar who was possibly doing it to fund a drinks/drugs habit. He spoke on the usefulness of using Smart Water to protect property. It is a very useful preventative.
Councillor G Godwin asked if there was any way on increasing police presence as the local PC has a huge area. The PCC said he was unlikely to be able to increase manpower. He feels that with the introduction of better IT the Police will be able to spend more time out and about in the community.
Councillor S Jones asked if the additional violent crimes were due to lack of funding. There have been instances where aggressive gangs have been out in the community with masks on. The PCC said that this was a cross border problem with organised gangs coming out from the West Midlands into the rural areas to commit crimes against wildlife- poaching and hare coursing.
Fly tipping is a particular problem with the gangs coming out from the urban areas, these gangs are masked and quite aggressive. John Campion asked that anyone who saw a van that was fly tipping, or even just suspected they MAY be involved in fly tipping they should take a picture and forward to the police. The ANPR system could trace the van and make checks.
Councillor Corrie asked if the Police shared information across the districts. The PCC said yes, they do and this is quite easy for them to do.
The PCC replied that he has to have confidence in the Chief Constable that these crimes are responded to as soon as possible.
Councillor P Brewer asked about dashcam footage being accepted in crimes. The PCC said they would take it as evidence. He also asked if the Police could inform what crimes were happening locally so the

residents could keep a look out for any suspicious vehicles or people. The PCC said his could be done through the police Facebook pages and Neighbourhood watch schemes.

Councillor Brewer asked if there was a central cyber-crime depot to deal with this and does it affect the PCC Budget. The PCC replied that there are three areas for dealing with these types of crimes;

- i) Action Fraud deals with the big cases and is funded by The Home Office
- ii) Staffs and West Mercia have a cybercrime team
- iii) West Mercia has a small cyber department in the area. If you ring the Police they will direct you to the right department.

Councillor S Jones asked why the Police will not enforce a speed limit of 30mph on the road through Leighton. The PCC was shocked to hear the police have said they wouldn't enforce the limit and would look into it. He did state that the police would be consulted by the council when setting speed limits and that 'perception' would play a part in any police recommendation. The PCC responded that people tend to drive on their perception of the speed of the road, what they feel the road speed is rather than the limit on it. He also added that engineering can affect the way people drive a stretch of road. He will support small engineering scheme works with the Shropshire Council.

He will speak to Brian from the Police who looks at Leighton's traffic calming scheme.

Councillor Wild asked for assurance from the PCC that if an engineering scheme was implemented the Police will enforce the limits. The PCC gave this. The PCC also said he would look into whether he could help with funding the scheme.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Campion for his time. The PCC left the meeting at 8.30pm.

5. Police Report

6. **Public Session.** Mr. P Richards spoke on a proposed application his client Mr T Davies is wanting to submit to Shropshire Council. He handed the members a copy of a map with the land marked out on it. They are looking to downsize and retire and wish to have a general purpose agricultural building on land between Eaton Constantine and Garmston. This will be used for fodder storage and some livestock storage. The members asked a few questions for clarification. They wished to make the Parish Council aware of their potential application. They thanked the Parish Council for listening to them and then left the meeting.

Standing Orders were re-instated

7. Reports from:

- **Shropshire Councillor;** Councillor C Wild reported that there had been a prior approval notice to remove the Ironbridge cooling towers. Shropshire Council had 28 days to look at this. There has been a condition that no traffic should go through Leighton but use the Ironbridge bypass. Councillor Wild has requested that if that road is closed then all site traffic stay on site until the closed road is re-opened. Any deviation to this would result in the contractor being removed from working at the site.
- **Councillor C Wild then left the meeting to attend another parish council meeting.**
- **AONB:** AONB has applied to Defra to obtain funding direct rather than having to go through Shropshire Council.
- **LJC;** There has not been a LJC meeting yet. Date and venue to be agreed later.
- **Area Committee Meeting;** this had focussed on the Local Plan. Leighton & Eaton Constantine will stay the same. See attached report from Councillor S
- **Town & Parish Forum meeting;** this has focussed mainly on business rates. See attached report from Councillor S Jones

8. **To Confirm & Accept minutes from 5th September 2017;** It was agreed that these were a true and accurate record of the meeting; proposed by Councillor M Corrie; seconded by Councillor S Jones and agreed by all members

9. **Clerk had nothing to report all items were covered on the agenda.**

10. **Council to discuss problems with the siting of wire for broadband delivery in the parish;**
Councillor Corrie reported that all the loose wires near his property had now been amalgamated in to one larger strand. His internet is now working. The Chairman reported that other problems had not been resolved and would not now be resolved in the current phase of development. We would have to wait for the next stage for complete broadband delivery throughout the parish.
11. **Correspondence from Uniper with regards to traffic impact from work at Ironbridge Power Station site.** The Chairman spoke to members on correspondence she had received from Uniper. There would be no traffic from the site going through Leighton or Eaton Constantine for any reason whatsoever. If any traffic was sited then she asked for members to take the number plates of vehicles and photos if they could get them and forward to her and then to Uniper. These contractors would then be removed from working at the site.
12. **Council to consider & Comment on second stage of Local Plan development.** The Council agreed to remain as they were with Open countryside status.
13. **Council to review the sites of Community Concern following the September meeting** It was agreed to accept the amended Sites of Community Concern See below: Proposed by Councillor J Hayter; seconded by Councillor S Jones and agreed by all members;

Leighton:

The Parish Council is very concerned about speeding traffic in Leighton. Leighton has a statutory 30mph speed limit. We would like the speed limit to be enforced. We have been turned down for Community Speed Watch but consider enforcement by the Police or Camera Safety Partnership essential to slow the traffic.

We have been advised of several 'near misses' by residents and would like traffic calming measures to be prioritised.

The main areas for concern and consideration are:

- Poor lines of sight for the many residents pulling out of their properties or lanes onto the B4380. Residents take their lives in their hands exiting their properties onto the B4380.
- Poor lines of sight for traffic pulling out of the Kynnersley Arms public house particularly from Shrewsbury end of the village. The Kynnersley Arms has re-opened since the introduction of the 30mph limit making enforcement of the limit more valid and important.
- Poor signing of the entrance to the village from both ends. Improved signing and road markings to show the traffic that it is entering a residential village would encourage traffic to slow.
- Better sighting of the current VAS sign. The traffic from the Buildwas end of the village needs to be slowed before the Kynnersley Lane junction. The hill down into the village from the Buildwas end tends to speed up the traffic making the Kynnersley lane junction potentially lethal. Many near misses take place at this junction.
- Extra VAS sign entering the village from the Shrewsbury end to warn of the dangerous bend in the road and the junction with 'The Rudge'. Several near misses have been reported due to traffic approaching the bend too fast. There is also an extra hazard with the junction on to the B4380 with 'The Rudge' lane from Garmston. Very poor line of sight from the Lane towards Shrewsbury.
- Better lineaging of the village as a whole to slow traffic would help slow the traffic. Would suggest making the road appear narrower by removing the central lines and thickening the edging lines to the verge to give the appearance of narrowing. Similar to the scheme at Eaton Constantine.
- We are on a National Cycle route. Many cyclists travel through the village adding to the dangers from speeding traffic.

Upper Longwood

The Parish Council had asked for traffic calming measures to be completed with the Eaton Constantine scheme. Unfortunately, this could not happen. We would like to reapply for Upper Longwood to be considered. The main areas of concern are:

- Sharp 90-degree bend in the middle of the hamlet. Residents have told us that there have been several incidents of cars not making the bend and coming off the road into resident's gardens.
- No signage to warn traffic of the bend. There is no sign from either side of the bend to warn traffic of the danger. Better signage is a priority.
- Speed of traffic. There is no statutory speed limit only advisory. It is difficult for residents to cross the road or pull out of their drives due to the poor line of sight caused by the bend and the speed of the traffic. Traffic calming measures to slow the speed would help.
- Many Lorries have used this road as a short cut. The firms using this route should be told to use more appropriate routes for the size of their vehicles.

Lower Longwood

- Speeding at the Coal Pit crossroads in the dip of the road (B4380) is a concern. There are 5 houses there and the potential for 10 cars entering and leaving the development is causing the residents grave concerns.

14. Council to receive and review the Place Plans. The members received the Place Plans and made some amendments; see below

Place Plan Priorities for 2017

Critical -Strategic

An additional Vehicle Activated Sign in Leighton so there can be one at either end of the village
Speeding control in Leighton & Eaton Constantine

Priority -local strategic

Widening of Pavements

Better maintenance of pavements

Improvements to the Village Halls in both Leighton & Eaton Constantine.

The need for litter signage by The Meanders

Key- Community

Replace Parish Notice Boards

Improvements to both Village Halls in Leighton & Eaton Constantine

The need for litter signage by The Meanders

The need for a litter bin in Stan's layby

15. **PLANNING MATTERS**

(a) Clerk to report on previous applications

- Reference: 17/01646/REM:
Address: Baxters Farm, Eaton Constantine, Shrewsbury. SY5 6SF
Proposal: 6 Approval for Reserved Matters ((appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) pursuant to Outline Application 14/04154/OUT for the erection of an agricultural workers dwelling to include means of access. Permission **granted 6th October 2017**

(b) Council to consider new applications.

- Reference:17/04251/FUL
Address: Morrells Wood Farm, Leighton,
Proposal; Use of existing buildings to allow a mixed use of up to 20 events per year as a wedding venue and the use of two exiting hardstanding areas and part of existing field for additional occasional car parking provision.
After discussion it was agreed to leave this decision to Shropshire Council. Proposed by Councillor J Hayter; seconded by Councillor S Jones and agreed by all members present.

(c) Council to consider applications received after agenda was sent out

16. **Highways Matters –**

- The clerk had received an update from R Ayton on the traffic calming proposals. It was more or less completed and would now be included in the 2018/2019 construction

programme and would have to take its chance in the bidding system to see if it was successful.

- The clerk had received some Posters to encourage people to report any dog fouling to Shropshire Council using a confidential telephone number. She was looking at getting some signs to inform that dog faeces if bagged could be placed in ordinary litter bins.

17. Financial Matters

- a) To approve invoices for payment: it was agreed to pay the accounts as presented by the clerk;
 b) To approve payment of invoices received after agenda was sent out; it was agreed to pay the additional invoice for the October grass cut to R Hutchinson.

chq no	payee	Description	amount
D/D	ICO	Data Protection	35.00
663	Hutchinson Groundcare	Grasscutting	229.00
664	L Pardoe	Expenses	61.93
665	HMRC	PAYE	81.80
S/O	L Pardoe	Salary	161.71
666	Hutchinson Groundcare	Grasscutting	157.50
			726.94

- c) To accept Bank reconciliation. It was agreed to accept the bank reconciliation as presented by the clerk.
 d) All the above were agreed: Proposed by Councillor R Harper; seconded by Councillor S Jones and agreed by all members present.
 e) To receive financial paperwork in preparation to setting the precept in January 2018. This was handed to members and the clerk explained that last year there had been an increase of 1 ½% to allow for the possible removal of the Environmental Maintenance Grant to Parish Councils. This had been received this year but it was still unclear if it would continue next year at this point in time. The members would think about the figures and make a decision in the January meeting.

18. CORRESPONDENCE; this was noted.

19. PARISH MATTERS

- a) Councillors had nothing to report.

20. Date & Time of the next meeting Tuesday 2nd January 2018 starting at 7.30pm at Leighton Village Hall

21. The Chairman thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 9.25pm.