

LEIGH AND BRANSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes Leigh and Bransford Parish Council held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 22nd July 2025 at Leigh & Bransford Memorial Hall

Present: Councillors: D Fereday, N Christie, P Ralph, J Beach, L Bayston, J Sharp

Cllr P Whatley (MHDC). Clerk: Anna Briggs. 0 members of the public

- 24/25 Apologies received and accepted for absence from Councillors. Cllrs J Brazier, N Cresswell, P Hawkins, G Jones and C McSweeney
- 25/25 To consider applications for co-option to the Parish Council. None – to carry forward.
- 26/25 a) Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and any Other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda (Personal and Prejudicial). None.
b) Register of Interests. Councillors are reminded of the need to submit their Register of Interests. None.
c) To consider any written requests from Councillors to Grant a Dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) relating to items on the agenda. None.
- 27/25 Public Participation. Residents are invited to address the council on any local matters and Agenda items. No members of the public present so meeting not closed.
- 28/25 Reports of District and County Councillors. Cllr Whatley recapped on two communications he had recently distributed. Neighbourhood Plans: Things still very much up in the air and as yet no clear guidance moving forward. But he did reiterate the fortuitous position we're in as we have our Neighbourhood Plan which still holds value. SWDPR – We can expect something definitive from the Inspectors towards the end of the year. Cllr Whatley touched upon the Throckmorton site (ie, suitability and deliverability). Cllr Sharp asked more about Throckmorton issues: 1) reliance on car use 2) questions about the land itself. There seems to be more confidence in the Worcestershire Parkway housing expansion.
- Cllr Christie expressed his concern about parking on footways in Leigh Sinton, specifically where the Somers Arms used to be (He gave a recent example of a mother with her baby in a pram who were trying to get passed a parked car). After a brief discussion it was agreed that Cllr Christie would contact Julian Burton who runs the Martial Arts Centre as he may well know who parks on the footways.
- 29/25 To consider and approve the minutes of Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 27th May 2025. Having been circulated the Minutes were approved unanimously and signed.
- 30/25 Progress reports on items from the previous meeting not otherwise listed on the agenda. None.
- 31/25 Planning
- a) To consider and approve the minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 24th June 2025. Having been circulated the minutes were approved and signed.
- b) Updates on ongoing planning matters. None.

c) Planning applications for consideration.

MHDC Reference	Location	Proposal	Recommendation
M/25/01083/PIP	36 Suckley Road Leigh Worcester WR6 5LE	Permission in Principle application for the construction of up to three dwellings and associated works, with the retention of the existing dwelling.	Refusal: Cllr Sharp proposed, Cllr seconded. All in favour of refusal.
M/25/01127/FUL	Crowcroft House Farm, Crowcroft, Leigh Sinton, Malvern, WR13 5ED	Change of use of building to dual use as an annex to the main dwelling and holiday accommodation including alterations to external elevations (retrospective)	Approval: Cllr Beach approved, Cllr Bayston Seconded. All in favour of approval.

Cllr Sharp informed the PC that another planning application has been submitted from Crowcroft and that a campsite at Crowcroft's been opened. He also mentioned the polytunnels which have been there for years and the fact that retrospective planning had been put in for them. A brief conversation followed.

- d) To note planning decisions received. None.

(Cllr Whatley leaves meeting)

32/25 Finance

- a) To approve schedule of accounts payable. Payments noted and approved.
- b) To note verification of the 1st Quarter accounts. Cllr Cresswell in absence gave approval.
- c) To review and approve Internal Audit Plan 2024-25. Agreed by all and signed/dated by Chair.

33/25 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

- a) WC and kitchenette in Leigh Church
- b) Scout Hut – The Big Build

The Chair gave an update as to where the Scout Hut project is at the present time with regard to the finances – ie, an application for money from MHDC has been made. He said even though it's been minuted that the PC will give a portion of CIL money to the scout hut project, it would be helpful if the PC could write a letter to Dale to say we're in full support. (This would put a tick in the tick box with regard to Mark Hammond's department). Chair to draft letter to Dale Humpries. Cllr Ralph reiterated the importance of the Church securing CIL money for their toilet/kitchenette project. It seems there would be a ratio monies split of c 2:1 for the Scout hut and the Leigh Church's Kitchenette. A vote took place and all in favour of the 2:1 split.

- 34/25 To consider a pedestrian crossing on A4103 near The Fold. A discussion took place around the detail received from a resident who brought this issue to the PC. It seems the problem would be where it would go due to the logistics of paths on either side of the road. Cllr Beach said that this type of issue would become more commonplace as more and more houses are being built, without sufficient infrastructure. The Parish Council in support of a pedestrian crossing in this area; Clerk to draft letter to Cllr McSweeney, WCC.
- 35/25 Website update. A positive update from Cllr Sharp – most outstanding issue had been sorted (one issue needs to be ironed out, but this shouldn't cause any particular problems). Photos of some Councillors have been taken, so we're nearly ready to launch!
- 36/25 Atlas Mast Update. Cllr Sharp confirmed that negotiations are about to recommence.
- 37/25 Defibrillator Update. A brief update from Cllr Sharp – Bank Farm are still on board with paying for the electricity. Cllr Sharp to chase up Will Tooby from The Fold as to his decision. Clerk to chase up Richard Vakis-Lowe again. If no joy we could try MHDC to secure some funds. Cllr Sharp confirmed there is a defibrillator at Our Place which is in a good position by the main road. This one, along with one at Bank Farm and The Fold would cover a good area between them.
- 38/25 Reports from working groups and representatives
- a) New-build developments. One issue Cllr Beach flagged was that of dust from the Lioncourt site but this seems to have sorted itself out. The builder said mitigations had been put in place and it was noted how quickly they replied to the Parish's correspondence. No real update concerning Cotswold Oak, although Cllr Beach did declare an interest as her son's buying a property there. She thinks the maintenance fee will come up again as it's a substantial amount of money which everyone living there has to pay. Cllr Sharp confirmed that the play parks on the site are public open spaces (ie, you don't need to be a resident to use these spaces).
 - b) Memorial Hall Committee. Cllr Beach said they're replacing quite a lot of equipment in the kitchen and have a grant to replace the front porch. They're doing a bit of investigative work around the cost of water/electricity bills (the latter seems to be more at night when no one is using the premises). Bookings are doing well.
 - c) Play areas. Cllr Christie had nothing to report with play areas/open spaces, although it seems we have a bird of prey who likes to leave a lot of mess on the play equipment!
 - d) Open Spaces (above).
A brief discussion took place around play areas and the Parish's role/responsibilities.
 - e) Lengthsman scheme. Cllr Sharp gave update – a weeds complaint had been sorted out but other than that, things seem OK. Our Lengthsman's a very busy man and we could do with more of his time to maintain our parish areas. The post-box at Bransford was mentioned and that it's still inaccessible due to being taped up. Cllr Sharp to ask Lengthsman to quote for a slab to be placed there to enable people to reach the slot.
- (Cllr Ralph left meeting)
- f) Parish Footpaths. Cllr Christie to meet Cllr Sharp and along with maps to ascertain who owns what bits of land. This is in readiness for Cllr Christie to take over from Cllr Sharp.
 - g) Highways. Cllr Sharp reported that Ringway will resolve the grit bin issue in Hoopers Close. Also (hopefully) along with a further grit bin which was damaged back in 2020.
 - h) Road Safety. The Chair confirmed he and Cllr Sharp will do a handover as Cllr Sharp is standing down from this role.

- 39/25. Progress reports on items from previous meeting not otherwise listed on the agenda.
- a) The Chair informed all that there is still no news on the site for the 46 caravans and the date for appeal.
 - b) The rural exception site for 18 homes adjacent to Haywood Drive - again no decision as yet on this.

A conversation took place around Cotswold Oak and the 33 properties which had been earmarked for affordable housing are now up for sale on the open market. The remaining 12 units, which were originally designated for self-build (with no expressed interest), will also be made available for sale on the open market. Because of this, more CIL money will be available.

40/25 Other reports and items for future consideration.

41/25 Planning Meeting: 26th August, Parish Council Meeting: 23rd September

All meetings 7pm at Leigh & Bransford Memorial Hall

Meeting closed at 8.15pm

Chair.....

Date

(No separate reports submitted by WCC or MHDC)