

LEIGH AND BRANSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

www.leighandbransford.org.uk**Minutes Leigh and Bransford Parish Council held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 25th November 2025 at Leigh & Bransford Memorial Hall**

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

Cllr C McSweeney, WCC). Clerk: Anna Briggs members of the public: 3

- 61/25 Apologies received and accepted for absence from Councillors. Cllrs J Brazier, G Jones and P Whatley.
- 62/25 a) Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and any Other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda (Personal and Prejudicial). Cllr Fereday declared an interest in the first planning application M/25/01815/HP
 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.
- 63/25 Public Participation. Residents are invited to address the council on any local matters and Agenda items.
 (Meeting closed).
- No public participation.
- (Meeting opened)
- 64/25 Reports of District and County Councillors.
 WCC – Cllr McSweeney. Reported back on the ongoing one or two unitary decision making. He pointed out that many cuts will take place and potentially ‘property’, eg roads could come our way. There is little money left in his budget so financial help could be available for small projects in our Parish. The crossing at Bransford; he’s still looking into, but realistically it’s unlikely to be executed. The road closure at Leigh has caused problems but hopefully the road will be open this Friday as Hopton Lane closes on the 1st December. Cllr Sharp said the verges by the unofficial diversion are a real mess, especially as tractors have been using this route. It needs to be made good. Cllr McSweeney to visit the area again. Cllr Christie enquired about the pot of money – the footpaths on Suckley Road, going towards the Bank House; the gulleys are blocked with leaves and need to be cleared. Cllr McSweeney to look into this matter. Cllr Sharp mentioned the footpath by Haywoods Close is narrow (wide enough for one person only). It was agreed about 18 months ago that the footpath be made wider. Cllr McSweeney to look into this matter. Agenda item 10) Defibrillator b/f. Cllr Sharp said we have agreement with Bank Farm to put a defibrillator on their farm wall. After a brief discussion, Cllr Sharp proposed that Cllr McSweeney to cover cost of defib (@£900) and the parish would pay for cabinet and fitting. Cllr McSweeney to confirm.

MHDC – Cllrs P Whatley and S Rouse. In their absence the Chair summarised the two reports which can be found in full at the end of these minutes. One issue that was brought to the attention of Cllr McSweeney were the crashes into the wall on the A4103 junction with Malvern

Road. Cllr Bayston suggested a barrier to be erected. The cost would be quite a lot of money. This issue is ongoing.

65/25 To consider and approve the minutes of Parish Council Meeting 23rd September 2025. The Minutes were approved unanimously and signed.

66/25 Planning

- a) No planning meeting took place on 28th October (one very small application came through for two bollards at The Fox Inn which was dealt with between the councillors.
- b) Updates on ongoing planning matters. None.
- c) Planning applications for consideration.

MHDC Reference	Location	Proposal	Recommendation
M/25/01815/HP Planning application: M/25/01815/HP - Malvern Hills District Council	1 Brockamin Court, Dingle Road, Leigh, Worcester, WR6 5JX	Proposed alteration and extension to provide an extra bathroom	Approved Cllr Christie, seconded Cllr Cresswell. All in favour.
M/25/01796/HP	The Wainhouse, Dingle Road, Leigh WR6 5JX	Extension to outbuilding.	Approved Cllr Sharp, seconded Cllr Hawkins. All in favour.

M/25/01363/HP - Crowcroft Lodge Crowcroft: Infilling existing openings within rear elevations. **Approved.**

M/25/01375/FUL - Land At (Os 7895 5264)Suckley Road. Erection of two self-build dwellings as per planning reference 21/01256/FUL and appeal reference APP/J1860/W/22/3294214. **Approved.**

M/25/01422/HP - Old Cider Mill Cottage, Stinchins Hill. Proposed demolition of disused stable building and erection of a replacement building to provide a residential annexe. **Approved.**

M/25/01264/LB - 2 Hill Farm Barns Dingle Road Leigh. Replacement of existing windows/doors. **Approved.**

M/24/01781/FUL - Monksfield Farm, Newland. **Refusal.**

M/24/01379/FUL – The Fold. Polytunnel and growing area. **Approved.**

M/25/00988/HP - Cherry Tree Cottage. Installation of a dropped kerb with new boundary fence. **Refusal.**

(Cllr McSweeney leaves meeting).

(Agenda item 8/Minute item 68/25 – CIL was discussed here). The Chair summarised by way of a chart on what CIL money has been received and what is due to come. Received to date: £77,567. Maybe another £32,000 in April so a total around £110,000. A brief discussion took place around which individual new builds may or may not generate further CIL money. Of that money and as was minuted 2/3 to the scouts (£86,000) and 1/3 to the church (£43,000). The Chair also summarised the latest report with ref to the scout hut. The Chair to draft Letter of Intent.

67/25 Finance

- a) To approve schedule of accounts payable. Payments noted and approved.
- b) To discuss the budget and precept for 2026-27 (preliminary discussion only – final decision to be made at the meeting for 27th January 2026). Cllr Sharp asked about the noticeboard at the Fold as the backboard has become damp and has pulled away from main frame. He confirmed an agreement with Will Tooby that the Fold would maintain the frame. Clerk to liaise with Will Tooby on revarnishing and potential replacement of backboard. Cllr Sharp also said that parks open spaces costs are likely to go up (this would include a gardener for Jubilee Gardens). The clerk summarised the three applications received for a gardener. A resident present at the meeting will send to the clerk detail of the gardener used on their

estate. On receipt of this, clerk to pass applications to Council to make a decision. No alterations were made to suggested draft budget figures at this point and after a discussion it was agreed an initial 3% uplift on £25,000 = £25,750. Cllr Christie proposed, Cllr Sharp seconded. All in favour. Figure to be finalised at January's meeting where uplift could potentially change.

68/25 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). As Above.

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

69/25 Bransford Post Box update. It seems the post box has been stripped of the brown parcel tape and appears to be in working order. Cllr Bayston to confirm this to be the case!

70/25 Defibrillator Update. As above.

71/25 Reports from Working Groups and Representatives

- a) New-build developments. A brief summary from Cllr Fereday – The Hamlet build is now under way. Potters Reach: he tried to find out what was happening to the 12 houses which were supposedly meant to be self build – no one there to help. (2 members of public leave).
- b) Memorial Hall Committee. Cllr Bayston reported back on what a very busy meeting: Bookings up year on year, along with money saved due to their solar panels. Porch has been refurbished, as have the planters at front of hall. Costs are being colated for better drainage, the lobby floor needs replacing, oven etc in kitchen needs replacing. They've applied for the MHDC Legacy Grant of £15,000 to cover soundproofing costs. There's a push to change the hall names (Big/Small) to something more interesting!
- c) Play areas. Cllr Christie reported all was well. The woodwork needs a bit of treatment next spring. The waste bin is not being emptied. Clerk to report to MHDC. It was noted the ROSPA playground inspection will take place in January.
- d) Open Spaces. Cllr Sharp reported Rectory Road has been strimmed. We haven't yet had the bills for grass and hedgecutting from the Lengthsman.
- e) Lengthsman Scheme. Cllr Brazier to check her junk mail to see if Lengthsman emails are going in there. The black and white bollards at Coles Green have been painted. The spraying still needs to be done. Leaves along the Suckley Road; Cllr Sharp to action. Also the white gates to the village which need cleaning – the Lengthsman is on board with this.
- f) Public Footpaths. Cllr Christie has the map – he and Cllr Sharp need to meet to go through it.
- g) Highways and Road Safety. The Chair again mentioned the A4103 in Leigh Sinton and the crossing by the Fold. Also the deterioration of the road in Brockamin Lane, esp the pothole and verge damage as people avoid it.
- h) CALC. Cllr Bayston reported that a briefing was given by the Chief Inspector of West Mercia- two points to note: that shop lifting was up. He also said Behaviour Detection Officers are being deployed to work covertly around public gatherings (bonfire/Halloween etc). The main point for our parish is for all councillors to adopt the .gov.uk email Clerk to liaise with James. Cllr Sharp mentioned a couple of business which have been burgled.

72/25 To formally nominate Elaine Draige as a Trustee of the Leigh & Bransford United Charities. Trustees: Cllr Sharp Pauline Phillips and Graham Jones. As Cllr Sharp has moved from the parish, he can no longer be a Trustee. After conversations with Elaine Draige, she put herself

forward. Cllr Sharp formally nominated Elaine Drage, Cllr Fereday seconded. Formalities to be finalised at our Annual Parish Meeting in April.

73/25 Progress reports on items from previous meeting not otherwise listed on the agenda. Jubilee Gardens quote from Lengthman concerning the edging. Two quotes – one to replace all edging with Everedge metal edgings (£1,946) or replace rotten wooding edging with Everedge £649. The former proposed to replace all edging: Cllr Hawkins, seconded Cllr Christie. All in favour. Letter drop concerning parking – Cllr Christie reported a slight improvement – to keep an eye on things. Atlas Mast – No update. Cllr Hawkins said a recent powercut outed all mobile phones. Cllr Hawkins also muted that the land by the school that was earmarked for the football pitches – could this be used for the mast? The Chair to write to Mark Hammond.

74/25 Other reports and items for future consideration. None.

75/25 Planning Meeting: 16th December (if applicable), Parish Council Meeting: 27th January 2026

All meetings 7pm at Leigh & Bransford Memorial Hall

Meeting closed at: 8:35pm

Chair..... Date

(MHDC Reports submitted – attached).

Cllr Whatley

1. SWDPr final comments from the Inspectorate and/or signoff are not now expected before the end of 2025. The new date is "early 2026", whatever that may mean in practice. I don't think that this will amend any conclusions, but MHDC will be having a further meeting on Dec 16th regarding updates.
2. Funding will be provided from MHDC for Local Neighbourhood Plan development or updating. This is intended to replace the funding withdrawn by Westminster. It'll be on a first come, first served basis, so move swiftly if you are looking for funding.
3. The formal submission by MHDC and 4 of the other 5 District Councils (Wyre Forest is the exception) for Local Government Reorganisation with 2 new Unitary councils was approved by a majority of councillors. As a reminder, Wyre Forest, Worcs CC and our local MP all support a single unitary. I think it's fair to say that the mood last night was fairly glum, reinforced by those MHDC Councillors who are also Worcs CC Councillors. They presented a particularly grim picture of WCC's current position. It is agreed across the board that whatever proposal is adopted by Westminster, Council Tax is likely to rise

steeply from 2028 onwards as the new unitary/ies will have to have their finances "rebaselined" to avoid immediately going bust. Whether there are meaningful savings down the line (2030 at the earliest - more likely 2033 onwards), Council Tax will certainly not be reduced as a result of reorganisation.

Cllr Rouse

After the NAPC committee meeting to discuss the extra Bromford site I met with Walter Beard, Wolverley homes and Cotswold Oak. I raised the links at the meeting and they requested a follow up.

We met onsite to discuss linking up these sites.

It was agreed that this was all possible and would be brought forward in the next reserved matters.

This will allow residents of those two estates to access all the public open space and to walk that way to school.

This is all positive news for the residents there.

The link to Malvern Rise as per the planning permission agreed will be put in from the Cotswold Oak side. Whether it ever gets linked up is another matter.

But it will be great for the residents of the new estates to have safe access to three play areas and lots of lovely open space to utilise and a safer walk to school.

An issue has been raised about the capacity of the SUDs on the Lioncourt site and this is being investigated.

Cllr McSweeney is still looking into safety at the Malvern rd /A4103 junction.

As you will know the two CIL projects were unsuccessful in their Legacy Grant bids at MHDC. I have no idea if there will be another round of funding or not.