

LEIGH AND BRANSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes Leigh and Bransford Parish Council held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 23rd September 2025 at Leigh & Bransford Memorial Hall

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

Cllr C McSweeney, WCC). Clerk: Anna Briggs. members of the public 2

42/25 Apologies received and accepted for absence from Councillors. Cllrs N Cresswell, P Hawkins, G Jones and Cllr P Whatley.

43/25 To consider applications for co-option to the Parish Council. None – to carry forward.

44/25 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.

45/25 Public Participation. Residents are invited to address the council on any local matters and Agenda items.

(Meeting closed).

Alan Soper and Revd Potter wanted to express their thanks in person to the Parish Council for confirming an allocation of CIL funds to help with the toilet/kitchenette build for Leigh Church. The drawings are now in the Church for all to see and that they're very much into the fundraising stage. The Chair confirmed the CIL money is in the Parish bank account and when appropriate the money will be passed to the Church. Cllr Ralph suggested an update be given at every Parish Meeting as to where we are with the CIL money handover.

(Meeting opened) – Both members of Public leave.

46/25 Reports of District and County Councillors.

MHDC – The Chair gave a summary of Cllr Whatley's report which focussed on planning and which can be viewed at the end of these Minutes. A discussion followed, especially around The Northern Area Planning Committee meeting.

Cllr McSweeney gave a little more background to the planning, SWDP, the 5 year housing land supply and a brief update on the unitary voting - we need to wait until November to see what happens next. Motion of Climate Change – this was passed. Motion of Parking passes (for people who need parking for medical related journeys). This was passed.

A conversation took place around a potential crossing at The Fold and the challenges based around it. Cllr McSweeney to report back.

Cllr Christie wanted to thank Cllr McSweeney for his time and support concerning the PROW Definitive Mapping (Agenda item 9) and that he and Cllr Sharp will start and try to identify land owners. Presently there are 4,600 km of footpaths in Worcestershire and 6,400 outstanding reports and the volunteer who walks our footpaths is frustrated that nothing is being done. Cllr Christie has logged a specific report on our patch so he will monitor this. There's also a consultative exercise the county council are currently doing on public footpaths and Cllr Christie asked if there's anything we would like to report. Cllr Sharp suggested stiles as many are broken and should be replaced with gates with disabled access. Recommendations need to be in by 26th October. Cllr Christie to action. A discussion took place around walking and wellbeing, the lack of footpath officers, Enforcement Officers and GDPR.

myself and Cllr Sharpe

Minute item 28.25 from July's minutes – cars parking on the footways by the Martial Arts Centre. Cllr Christie spoke to Julian Burton as to who maybe parking there. After a discussion, Cllr Christie and Cllr Bayston to speak to car owners. (See further addition under 58/25 below).

47/25 To consider and approve the minutes of Parish Council Meeting 22nd July 2025. After an amendment to 39/25 ref Cotswold Oak and their 33 properties which the Chair brought to the attention of the PC, the Minutes were approved unanimously and signed.

48/25 Planning

- a) To consider and approve the minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 26th August 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/25/01363/HP	Crowcroft Lodge Crowcroft Leigh SintonMalvernWR13 5ED	Infilling existing openings within rear elevations of outbuilding	Approval: J Sharp Approved, L Bayston Seconded. All in favour.
M/25/01399/HP	Longlands, Ashfields, Leigh SintonMalvernWR13 5DH	Single storey rear and side extension and new front porch	Approval: J Sharp Approved, L Bayston Seconded. All in favour.
M/25/01375/FUL Associated Ref:M/23/01759/FUL	Land At (Os 7895 5264), Suckley Road, Leigh	VARIATION OF CONDITIONS 2,4,5, 6, 8, 10 AND 11 OF PLANNING PERMISSION M/23/01759/FUL - Erection of two self-build dwellings as per planning reference 21/01256/FUL and appeal reference APP/J1860/W/22/3294214	Approval: P Ralph approved, J Sharp seconded. All in favour.
M/25/01264/LB	2 Hill Farm Barns, Dingle Road, Leigh, Worcester, WR6 5JX	Proposal: Replacement of existing windows/doors at	Approval: L Bayston approved, J Brazier

		rear, replacement of one window adjacent to front of	seconded. All in favour.
M/25/01445/FUL	The Forge Bransford Worcester WR6 5JD	2 no. proposed live/work units and associated works, change of use of existing grazing/haulage barns to storage and workshop use, and 2no. new residential parking spaces for the property The Forge.	Approval: J Sharp approved, N Christie seconded. All I favour. See Comment 1 below.
M/25/00988/HP	Cherry Tree Cottage, 3 Suffield, Bransford, Worcester, WR6 5JE	Installation of a dropped kerb with new boundary wall to front of property to include resurface of the drive	Refusal: J Sharp refused, L Bayston seconded. All in favour of refusal.
M/25/01422/HP	Old Cider Mill Cottage, Stitchins Hill, Leigh Sinton, Malvern, WR13 5DJ	Proposed demolition of disused stable building and erection of a replacement building to provide a residential annexe	Approval: J Sharp approved, J Brazier seconded. 2 in favour, 2 against. Approved.
M/25/01083/PIP (Northern Area Planning Committee on 1/10/25)	38 Suckley Road, Leigh, WR6 5LE	<i>Permission in Principle for the construction of up to 3 dwellings and associated works with the retention of the existing dwelling.</i>	<i>For information only.</i>

Comment 1. The Parish Council approve, subject to approval being granted to divert the PROW.

d) To note planning decisions received.

M/25/00832/FUL - Our Place School, Bransford: Retention of and external alterations and provision of basket swing, and associated works. **Approved.** Noted.

M/25/01127/FUL - Crowcroft House Farm, Crowcroft, Leigh Sinton. Change of use of building to dual use as an annex to the main dwelling and holiday accommodation including alterations to external elevations. **Approved.** Noted.

M/25/01150/HP. 1 Brockamin Court, Dingle Road, Leigh. Single storey extension, first floor extension and alterations. **Refused.** Noted.

M/24/01028/OUT. Rural Exception Site for 18 homes Haywood Drive. **Approved.**

M/23/01119/FUL. Land at Lower Howsell Road. Change of use of land to a caravan site to provide 46 holiday caravans. **Refused.**

49/25 Finance

a) To approve schedule of accounts payable. Payments noted and approved.

50/25 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

a) WC and kitchenette in Leigh Church

b) Scout Hut – The Big Build

The Chair said nothing to report but he again acknowledged the Thank You from the Church.

51/25 PROW – To consider way forward with Definitive Mapping. Nothing more to add from ‘Reports of District and County Councillors’ above.

- 52/25 To appoint a PC representative on Memorial Hall Committee. Chair formally informed group of Cllr Beach's resignation and after a brief discussion Cllr Bayston put herself forward to become the Memorial Hall Representative. All in favour.

(Cllr Ralph leaves meeting).

- 53/25 Website update. After a couple of tweaks, Cllr Sharp informed all that the new website is now live.

- 54/25 Bransford Post Box update. A lengthy discussion took place around the taped up post box with Cllr McSweeney confirming he'd been approached by an unhappy resident. Clerk to draft letter to Harriet Baldwin concerning this matter and to get the box reopened with better access.

- 55/25 Defibrillator Update. The Clerk informed all that an application has been submitted to the BHF for their free scheme defibrillator. They will be in touch with their decision before not too long. With regard to MHDC and their scheme – hopefully we'll hear something in the autumn.

- 56/25 Rural Exception Site update. Approved - as above under Planning d).

- 57/25 Reports from Working Groups and Representatives

- a) **New-build developments.** The Chair informed the PC that all Potters Reach properties had been sold. He confirmed the communication channels with Potters Reach and Lioncourt are positive ones. The Chair confirmed he would follow up for any updates.
- b) **Memorial Hall Committee.** Cllr Bayston will write to Jon Gamble to confirm her new post as Memorial Hall representative.
- c) **Play areas.** Nothing to report.
- d) **Open Spaces.** Cllr Sharp stated that the Lengthsman needs to trim Rectory Wood every autumn (part of ongoing maintenance budget.). Cllr Brazier to liaise with Lengthsman.
- e) **Lengthsman Scheme.** A resident was concerned about the overgrown edges by Lioncourt which seemed to limit vision. The Lengthsman has now trimmed the edges in question. A lengthy discussion took place around The Jubilee Gardens, the state it appears to be in and what the solution may be. The metal edging still needs to be done (but not all of it); Cllr Brazier to ask Lengthsman for revised quote. There's been no positive response from our shout out in The Sphere for voluntary help so all agreed we should find someone to keep it ticking over as a self employed paid role. Cllr Sharp to pass to Clerk the name of someone he knows. Clerk to write advert for FB and The Sphere.
- f) **Public Footpaths.** As above.
- g) **Highways and Road Safety.** The Chair said nothing to report (Cllr Sharp has now passed the 'VAS reading' equipment to The Chair).

The chair commented that many children were playing on the new Potters Reach play area.

- 58/25. Progress reports on items from previous meeting not otherwise listed on the agenda
- a) Parking in Leigh Sinton covered above. Cllr Christie suggested instead of residents in the vicinity receiving a visit from two Parish Councillors he thinks a better way would be to write a 'round robin' note to cover the general area and not specific houses.
 - b) Atlas Mast Update. No real update – conversations are ongoing.

- c) 46 caravan site update – See planning
- d) Cotswold Oak – amended and agreed as per 47/25 above.

59/25 Other reports and items for future consideration.

Cllr Sharp confirmed that two Highways issues he logged were both speedily dealt with.

Namely:

- The school sign were not flashing again
- The bollard at the junction of Suckley Road and the main Road.

The Highways Liaison Officer: Cllr Sharp confirmed any issues need to be reported on the hub first before sending issues through to the HLO. Cllr McSweeney confirmed this.

Hoopers Close: Cllr Sharp confirmed that a new accessible salt box is in place but that the inaccessible one is still in situ and needs to be removed.

60/25 Planning Meeting: 28th October (if applicable), Parish Council Meeting: 25th November

All meetings 7pm at Leigh & Bransford Memorial Hall

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Meeting closed at

Chair.....

Date

(MHDC Report submitted – attached).

The only other item relevant to the parish would be planning. MHDC are being threatened by Westminster with being placed into "special measures", due to the quantity of planning applications being overturned on appeal. Most of those decisions will be ones that councillors have taken to the planning committees because residents have objected to them. So, effectively, MHDC and its councillors might be stripped of powers for doing what our residents want. The remedy currently being proposed is more training for councillors, so we will be more knowledgeable about which applications are likely to be overturned on appeal - with the obvious corollary that we do not take contentious items to committee and thus disappoint our electorate.