

LEIGH AND BRANSFORD PARISH COUNCIL
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Minutes Leigh and Bransford Parish Council held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 27th January 2026 at Leigh & Bransford Memorial Hall

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

Cllr C McSweeney, WCC Clerk: Anna Briggs members of the public: 1

76/25 Apologies received and accepted for absence from Councillors. P Hawkins, G Jones and P Whatley.

77/25 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.

78/25 Public Participation. Residents are invited to address the council on any local matters and Agenda items.

(Meeting closed).

A resident was keen for the PC to invite the leader of the CC or cabinet to a Parish Meeting to discuss two areas in particular 1: to look at government organisations and the implications for local democracy and 2: to hear views on the future management of finances. After he had given a comprehensive summary, the Chair suggested he speak to WCC Councillor McSweeney who would be joining the meeting a little later.

(Meeting opened).

79/25 Reports of District and County Councillors.

In the absence of Cllr Whatley, the Chair read through Cllr Whatley's brief report. MHDC's council tax rise, though not yet formally finalised, remains proposed to be a zero increase and progress on both SWDPr and Local Govt Reorganisation remains glacial.
(Cllr McSweeney to report a little later).

80/25 To consider and approve the minutes of Parish Council Meeting 25th November 2025. The Minutes were approved unanimously and signed.

81/25 Planning

- a) To consider and approve the minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 16th December 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/25/01893/FUL | The Low Barn Dingle Road Leigh Worcester WR6 5JX | Erection of triple garage and entrance gates, change of use of land to residential, formation of a residential driveway (Part Retrospective) | Refuse: Refusal proposed by Cllr Sharp, seconded Cllr Christie. All in favour. Refused. Comment: We reiterate our objection, as the gates are not in keeping with the rural character of the area. |
| M/25/01983/HP | Grove Cottage, Suckley Road, Leigh, Worcester, WR6 5LE | Removal of existing flat roof extension, replacement Oak Framed extension | Recommended: Approved Cllr Christie, seconded Cllr Sharp. All in favour. |
| M/25/01752/HP. | Grove House Bransford Worcester WR6 5JN | Alterations to front elevation including new entrance canopy and changes to facade finishes | Recommended: Approved Cllr Christie, seconded Cllr Bayston. All in favour. |

d) To note planning decisions received

M/25/01815/HP: 1 Brockamin Court. Proposed alteration and extension to provide an extra Bathroom. **Approved.** Noted.

M/25/01796/HP. The Wain House, Dingle Road. Extension to an outbuilding. **Approved.** Noted.

M/25/00404/FUL. Former Kennels And Cattery Buildings, Stocks Lane. Proposed part demolition of boarding kennels to form a single self-build dwelling. **Approved.** Noted.

Cllr McSweeney gave a WCC summary detailing LGR which is still ongoing and he addressed the crisis of WCC – who, as well as borrowing £30M this financial year, are looking to borrow an extra £70m next year. Closer to home he spoke of flooding /ditch clearing in our area (Stocks Lane was mentioned) – anything like this should be reported through the WCC Highways portal – if no joy with that, then to go directly to him. Defibrillator he said we will touch upon later. Questions: The Chair spoke of the flooding in Brockamin Lane due to the heavy rain over night. The recent highways works have worked which is great, but the amount of rubble which has been left on the road is a little concerning **ACTION – the Chair to report through portal (with photo evidence).**

Cllr Christie spoke of a parking issue around Kiln Lane and that he had spoken to the resident today. It could be safety issue of parking on a bend but probably more to do with obstruction. **ACTION – Cllr Christie to pass detail, along with photos to Cllr McSweeney.** Cllr Sharp spoke of the ‘bypass’ of when the roadworks were undertaken in Brockamin. The verges are a mud bath and someone’s gate has been damaged where people are trying to avoid the mud. Also the drain is full/ flooded. Cllr McSweeney said he would try and get out to have a look but suggested these issues to be logged on the portal. **ACTION – Cllr Sharp to report on portal.** The Chair spoke of Somers Terrace where cars are causing a real problem by still parking on the footway (letters were hand delivered to relevant houses late last year). A discussion took place around deterrents – bollards, parking restrictions. **ACTION – Cllr Christie to**

supply to Cllr McSweeney a copy of the letter which was sent, along with more recent photographs).

As discussed above, at this point in the meeting, the resident spoke to Cllr McSweeney.

82/25 Finance

- a) To approve schedule of accounts payable. Payments noted and approved. (Cllr Sharp confirmed that reference to works on Jubilee Gardens – this was for grass and hedge cutting for Jubilee Gardens, Leigh Hurst and strimming of woodland nr Leigh Hurst.)
- b) To consider and approve the budget and precept request for 2026-27. The Chair confirmed figures were slightly different from December's meeting due to the rise in Clerk's salary band SSLC 24-28. The Chair confirmed that Anna Briggs is the clerk and she will now be on Band 25 which is line with another parish she worked for. Proposed by Chair, seconded by Cllr Christie. All in favour. The precept of £27,000 at a 5% increase was formally approved. Proposed by Cllr Christie, seconded by Cllr Sharp. All in favour.

83/25 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). The Chair confirmed the amount of CIL money we've already received is c £77,000 and that we expect in April to have a further £32,000. As agreed at July's meeting the 'Big Build' to receive 2/3rds and 1/3 to Leigh Church.

a) Scout Hut – The Big Build

The Chair read a brief report from Dale (Scouts) confirming that they have secured a further £20,000 from the Bernard Sunley Foundation. This brings the total funding raised, including the Parish Council's kind support, to approximately £110,000.

They have also resubmitted their final Lottery grant application, as the initial application was unsuccessful. The reasons for the rejection were identified and addressed in the revised submission, so they are hopeful for a positive outcome.

b) WC and kitchenette in Leigh Church. Nothing to report.

84/25 Defibrillator Update. Cllr Sharp thanked Cllr McSweeney for the generous donation of £900 towards a defibrillator. The clerk confirmed other costings: cost of a defib £728 and cabinets for about £371 (plus VAT). Cost of installation varies depending on where the machine is situated - £150-£300. Cllr Sharp proposed that we use the £900 donation towards a machine (and to part fund a cabinet with the Parish Council to fund the rest. This will be fitted at Bank Farm, Leigh, as agreed by the owner. Proposed by Cllr Sharp, seconded Cllr Cresswell. All in favour. We will await the imminent application forms to fund another defibrillator for the Fold and apply to the District council in the next financial year for help with installation. .
Action: Clerk to organise and bring together the required arrangements for defib/cabinet order.

85/25 Reports from Working Groups and Representatives

- a) **New-build developments.** The Chair confirmed Phase II of Potters Reach has been approved and the houses at The Hamlet (Lioncourt) are beginning to sell.
- b) **Memorial Hall Committee.** Cllr Bayston reported that the key code will be changing. A brand new oven has been fitted. She asked for confirmation with regard to the hedge. The Hall have cut their side, but roadside – who does this belong to. It seems it belongs to the Memorial Hall. Soundproofing has been completed and they're looking to replace door

and install soundproofing curtains around the stage. Lastly, the drain at front of all is causing problems and they're seeking a reasonable price for it to be fixed.

- c) **Play areas.** Cllr Christie confirmed all is in order. Some equipment needs to be cleaned which he will do in the spring. Dog mess bins – both by the play area and at Hoopers Close are not being emptied regularly (once a fortnight). **ACTION: Clerk to report.**
- d) **Open Spaces.** Cllr Sharp. The Lengthsman has ordered the metal edging for Jubilee Gardens and weather permitting will fit in February. He confirmed Lengthsman's quote for Grass/hedge cutting 2026/27 totalling £2,697.00 (plus VAT). After a brief discussion Cllr Christie proposed, Cllr Bayston seconded. All in favour that our present Lengthsman secures the contract. **ACTION: Clerk to confirm decision to Lengthsman.**
- e) **Lengthsman Scheme.** Nothing to report.
- f) **Public Footpaths.** Cllr Christie - nothing to report as it's far too wet and muddy at the present time. Cllr Brazier reminded everyone of an enquiry from a resident concerning speeding traffic by Haywood Drive and the danger when walking out with a young child. A detailed discussion took place around this issue. **ACTION: Cllr McSweeney to visit site, Chair to look at previous planning application with reference to the pavements and Clerk to confirm to resident their query is being addressed.**
- g) **Highways and Road Safety.** Confirmation that the wall by Waterside Care Home is being rebuilt. Cllr Sharp confirmed a report from a resident that the schools signs are not flashing again. He has again reported it. The resident said the kerb at the junction of Hoopers Close/Stocks Lane is very high which could cause damage to cars. Is this the responsibility of the landowner or County Council. (No reply given).
- h) **CALC.** Nothing to report.

86/25 Progress reports on items from previous meetings not otherwise listed on the agenda. The Chair summarised correspondence from Mark Hammond and Cllr Rouse concerning the **Community Land Project** (detail distributed to PC prior to meeting). **ACTION: Chair to respond to Mark Hammond.** If there is a Community Land Project Committee it would be prudent for one of our PC's to be on that Committee. **Mobile Mast update.** After discussion it seems that the original site isn't going to work so a new site will need to be sought. **ACTION: Cllr Sharp to liaise with Atlas.**

87/25 Other reports and items for future consideration. A discussion took place around our website needing to be WCAG 2.2AA compliant as per the instruction of AGAR. Our IT engineer will carry out the required work for £100. Cllr Sharp proposed, Cllr Bayston seconded. All in favour. **ACTION: Clerk to liaise with IT Engineer.** The Chair announced to the PC that due to personal circumstances Cllr Jones will be stepping down from the Parish Council. The Chair thanked Cllr Jones. There are now three vacancies on the Parish Council. Cllr Brazier mentioned the post box at Brockamin and the fact that post can get stuck in it. Cllr Bayston asked whether the Annual Parish Meeting will take place this year. The clerk confirmed it will be mid April (Tuesday 14th).

88/25 Planning Meeting: 24th February 2026 and Parish Council Meeting 24th March 2026
All meetings 7pm at Leigh & Bransford Memorial Hall

Meeting closed at: 9.05PM

Chair..... Date

(MHDC Reports submitted – None listed).