



Minutes: Ordinary Meeting of Leysdown Parish Council
Tuesday 25th March 2025 at Leysdown Village Hall at 7pm

Present: Cllr. Moore, Cllr. Noe, Cllr. Partis, Cllr. Switters, Cllr. Munns, Mrs E O'Neill – Parish Clerk, Mrs S Poole - RFO/Proper Officer

Members of the Public: 15 parishioners; PC Kinrade and another PC arrived at 19.04pm and left at 7.50pm.

LOSPC24/25/199 Apologies:
No apologies received.

LOSPC24/25/200 Public Session (30 minutes)

A parishioner noted that they would prefer the public session to be later in the agenda. Cllr Moore requested that members of the public should look at the agenda in advance and if there were any issues they would like to raise that is not covered, to raise the issue during the public session at the start of the meeting.

The same parishioner advised that her workplace, Neptune's Café, had been involved in a road traffic accident overnight, resulting in a large amount of damage. They asked whether traffic calming measures along Shellness Road could be implemented; Cllr Noe noted that KCC have previously been approached about this, but as it is not a residential area, it is not deemed to be high priority, however it is something that is regularly discussed.

A parishioner raised that the parking outside the shops and bakery in Leysdown has increased again, meaning that people are parking on the zigzags and causing a danger and asked if traffic wardens can be placed here. Cllr Moore noted that this will form part of the Highways Improvement Plan, for them to look at. Members of the Parish Council will be attending the CCTV Control Room soon, to understand what/where can be seen. PC Kinrade confirmed he works closely with the CCTV control room at Swale Borough Council.

A parishioner asked where the policing presence was in Leysdown. Cllr Moore explained that every incident of anti-social behaviour needs to be reported via 101. This will ensure that Leysdown is provided with adequate policing cover in the coming months. This will help to tackle any issues with cockle pickers in the local area. A parishioner also noted that a child had been seen throwing plants out of planters on the Promenade; another parishioner confirmed that she had spoken to the child's mum, and that the issue had been resolved.

A parishioner asked PC Kinrade if Special Constables have their own directive still. PC Kinrade confirmed that such constables are now integrated into a different department. PCSOs will be in Leysdown from April 2025.

A parishioner informed the Council that the Salvation Army will be holding an Easter Egg hunt on Good Friday, leaving from the Village Hall and using the Spinney. The Clerk is to contact Swale Borough Council to ascertain if any permit is required.

A parishioner noted that fly tipping has increased within the Parish. The member of public has several wildlife cameras in his garage which are owned by the Parish Council and have previously been set up in fly tipping hotspots. It was mentioned that there are several tyres and boxes along the ditches along the Lower Road, although they are not within the boundary of the Parish.

A parishioner asked if the new banking hub in Sheerness High Street accepts cash as he had heard that it does not. The Clerk will investigate this issue and report back.

LOSPC24/25/201

To receive any report from Borough Councillor:

Report received from Cllr. Noe.

Swale Borough Council will be updating the public on their plans to charge for the parking at Shellness.

16 families within the Parish have been affected by the lack of Year 7 spaces at schools on the Island and have instead been offered places at schools in Faversham and Maidstone.

Cllr Noe noted that letters had been sent to chalets in the Parish to say that they will be charged a premium for Council Tax. This has been confirmed as erroneous by Swale Borough Council and residents have since been informed.

Cllr Moore is asking a question at the next Swale Borough Council full meeting about why Sheppey East is so underfunded, compared to other areas.

LOSPC24/25/202 To receive any report from County Councillor:

Reports from Cllr Booth and Cllr Whiting were received and noted.

LOSPC24/25/203 To receive any report from Community Warden Jack Gilbey and PC Neil Kinrade

PC Kinrade attended the meeting and provided an update on recent activity within the Parish. It was agreed that a Police Surgery with PC Kinrade will be set up in the Parish. In the meantime, PC Kinrade asked parishioners to report any issues they see, either by calling 101 or reporting online.

A member of the public asked PC Kinrade if Operation Parish is in place for the upcoming season; PC Kinrade confirmed that it is. PC Kinrade also confirmed that there are good links between the CCTV Control Room and the Police.

The CCTV coverage of the Parish was discussed. It was agreed that Councillors will attend the CCTV Control Room in Sittingbourne.

LOSPC24/25/204 For Members to make or receive declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests

Cllr. Munns declared her non-pecuniary interest in running a holiday park business within the Parish and will abstain from any planning application relating to other holiday parks.

Cllr. Noe and Cllr. Moore have declared non-pecuniary interests due to possibly sitting on the Planning Committee at Swale Borough Council as Borough Councillors. They will not be able to participate in voting on planning applications.

LOSPC24/25/205 Approval and Adoption of Minutes

The minutes from 25th February 2025 were circulated to Councillors; they were approved by Cllr. Noe and seconded by Cllr. Switters. All agreed. **Resolved: Accepted.**

LOSPC24/25/206 Matters arising from the previous minutes and not covered by other agenda items:

24/116 **Planters Within the Parish – Bayview Garden Centre: Cllr Switters to update**

Cllr. Switters has been discussing with various members of public the best time to plant new plants and will provide an update at the next meeting. Cllr. Switters will also contact Brambledown and Bayview Garden Centre to ascertain if they are able to sponsor any materials.

24/123 **Bandstand Flower Beds**

It was noted that there is some overgrowth around the bandstand. Cllr. Switters noted that in Parish Council minutes from 2024, it was suggested that the bandstand flower beds be grassed over. However, plants are attractive to wildlife and so new perennials will be planted over the coming months.

24/131 **Funding towards graveyard from Warden Parish Council**

The Clerk updated the Parish Council about the current maintenance arrangements. The Community Service/Payback team are currently maintaining the graveyard and the team in place are keen to continue. There is no cost to the Parish Council, and it will be undertaken fortnightly. This is run in conjunction with the Church Warden.

A member of the public also asked whether the fencing on the left-hand side as you look at the graveyard can be fixed; it was deemed that it was a private fence. The Clerk will discuss with the landowner as to whether this can be fixed.

A member of the public noted that discarded waste (i.e. broken pots) had been left in the vicinity of a friend's parents' memorial bench. The Clerk will discuss this with the Community Payback team.

24/139 **St Clement's School**

Cllr. Munns updated the Parish Council on her latest discussions with the school. The school are happy to be involved with the VE Day event with the Over 60s Club.

The school would like a donation of £400 for some small plant pots and plants to be displayed around the school.

Cllr. Munns proposed that the Council provide the school with £400 towards this. Cllr Noe seconded. **All agreed. Resolved: Accepted.**

24/142 **Bus shelter replacement - update**

Cllr. Switters has enquired with Swale Borough Council as to who owns the wooden bus shelter opposite the Bay View pub. It appears that it is

owned by Leysdown Parish Council. The bus shelter needs to be assessed from a safety point of view.

24/145 Defibrillator at Bay View

The number of defibrillators within the Parish were discussed. The defib at Bay View was purchased by Big Local and gifted to the Parish Council. It appears that maintenance has not been undertaken. Mrs Poole to check where the defib is on the Circuit.

24/157 Devolution Update from Cllr Noe

Cllr. Noe noted that there is a further meeting at Swale Borough Council on 21st March 2025. No firm decisions have been made with regards to devolution within Kent, and its geography and local identity is going to play an important part in any changes. Cllr. Noe asked that a Parish Councillor attends the Devolution Forum. Cllr Partis agreed to attend and will email Larissa Reed to confirm his availability.

LOSPC24/25/207 Community Engagement – Working Groups

a) VE Day 80 8th May 2025:

The working group met in March 2025. It consisted of the Clerk, Cllr. Switters and Cllr. Munns, as well as seven members of the public.

At the meeting, it was agreed that a small evening event would take place, from 6pm onwards, in the Village Hall. Light refreshments would be provided. Memorabilia from Muswell Manor and from Bluetown Criterion would also be provided. The lighting of the lamp of hope is to take place at 9.30pm at the bandstand as per the Government schedule. The members of public present at the working group event were clear that they did not feel spending more money on a larger beacon would be appropriate.

Cllr. Munns agreed to contact St Clemence school to ascertain if a choir of pupils could come to sing at the Over 60s event during the day on 8th May. Cllr Moore proposed that the Council provide £100 to the Village Hall for the purchase of some food and drink. Cllr Switters seconded. All agreed.

Resolved: Accepted.

Cllr Moore proposed that the Council purchase three tripod lights for use at the evening event for £165. These can also be used for future events. Cllr Switters seconded. All agreed. **Resolved: Accepted.**

b) VE Day Celebration.

A representative of Leysdown Village Hall noted that they would like to set up a small celebration event on 10th May on the Spinney, comprising of some small stands and stalls, and some entertainment. Cllr. Moore asked the representative what help they would like from the Council. It was suggested that having several Councillors present on the day and willing to help would be enough.

c) Possibly designing a Newsletter for Parishioners.

It was discussed why a newsletter is required and felt that it was an important way to communicate with members of the public who may not be on Facebook or be able to attend meetings. It was agreed that a short newsletter be worked on and sent out by the end of May 2025. It was agreed for a subscription to Canva to be purchased.

d) British Spring Clean:

A litter pick was held on Sunday 23rd March 2025 and 20 people from across the Parish took part. 72kg of waste was collected and Swale Borough Council collected it from the agreed pick up point the next day. Cllr. Switters would like to do one litter pick per month, going forward.

e) Annual Parish Assembly Date/Speaker:

The Parish Council discussed who they would like to speak at the Annual Parish Assembly. Cllr. Partis asked if a member of public who is interested in bringing a historical gun to Leysdown may be of interest. Cllr. Moore suggested that the RNLI be a good option, with the holidaymaker season upcoming and their role on the beaches within the Parish. Cllr. Moore to discuss with her contact at the RNLI.

LOSPC24/25/208 General matters raised by Parish Councillor's Reports for discussion.

Bandstand update from the Clerk:

The Clerk provided an overview of the recent safety report into the bandstand. Several remedial measures need to be put in place before it is able to be used, but all being well, it will be ready for the VE Day Celebrations in May. It was noted that the electric supply and the lighting provision are safe and fit for purpose.

Cllr. Switters proposed that the remedial works are carried out, with the Clerk to commission an external company to complete the work. Quotations will be sought. Under delegated powers of the RFO, Mrs Poole will agree the quote with Parish Councillors via email and the decision will be ratified at the next Full Council Meeting. Cllr Noe seconded. All agreed.

Resolved: Accepted.

LOSPC24/25/209 Financial Statement and Authorisation of Payments

Payments as per the schedule provided.

See Appendix 1.

- a) Cllr. Moore proposed that the payments were made, and these were seconded by Cllr. Noe. All agreed. **Resolved: Accepted.**
Mrs Poole confirmed that the Parish Council has £42, 658.55p in the account, but this does not include cheques that are still to be cashed.
- b) The RFO advised that the current bank, NatWest, only permits payments by cheque. The RFO proposed that the Parish Council move over to Unity Bank, which is an online bank account; this will ensure more banking functionality for the Parish Council. Cllr Moore proposed the Parish Council move from NatWest. Cllr Munns seconded. All agreed. **Resolved: Accepted.**
- c) Mrs Poole has set up a direct debit to HMRC for monthly payments to be made.
- d) Mrs Poole has also set up a direct debit to NEST for monthly payments to be made.

LOSPC24/25/210 Planning Applications

25/500878/FULL Erection of a single storey rear extension including a revised front dormer, 1no. rear dormer and 1no. roof light: 21 Leysdown Road.

The planning application was discussed in detail and the potential impact of it was noted. It was proposed by Cllr. Switters that no objection will be made. Cllr. Brennan seconded. Cllr. Moore and Cllr. Noe abstained. **Agreed. Resolved.**

Cllr. Moore proposed that this point of the meeting that standing orders were suspended; Cllr. Noe seconded.

LOSPC24/25/211 Consultations

a) Public Conveniences Consultation:

The Clerk updated the Council about the consultation that Swale Borough Council are undertaking with regards to the toilet blocks within the Parish. The two conveniences in discussion are The Spinney and Leysdown Beach Services. The Neptune toilets are owned by Swale Borough Council and maintained by Neptune Café. The Parish Council discussed the consultation. Mrs Poole advised that when a unitary authority is in place, that public toilets will either be taken on by Parish Councils or they will be closed down.

The Parish Council discussed the need for public toilets within Leysdown and how much they are required, not only for the settled community but also for the holiday season.

Cllr. Switters proposed that the Parish Council take on the toilet services when and if required. Cllr Brennan seconded. All agreed. **Resolved: Accepted.**

b) Community Bus Service with Warden, Eastchurch and Minster:

Cllr. Mike Whiting has suggested looking into a new bus service for the area. The Clerk will ascertain what services are/were being provided by Big Local and Sheppey Matters.

LOSPC24/25/212 Correspondence

a) KALC Newsletter.

The Clerk circulated the latest newsletter received from KALC.

LOSPC25/25/213 General matters raised by Councillors for discussion

a) Litter Picking Equipment to be purchased

Cllr. Switters asked if the Parish Council could purchase its own litter picking equipment. It will be added to the next Full Council agenda for discussion.

LOSPC24/25/214 Recommendations to Full Council

The following assets were noted: wildlife cameras, four bus shelters and defibrillators.

LOSPC24/25/215 Co-option: an election has been called by the Parishioners for the vacancy.

Cllr. Moore confirmed the notice of election has been received and read the notice out. The notice will be added to all Parish noticeboards, will be uploaded onto the Leysdown Parish Council Facebook and will be uploaded onto the Leysdown Parish Council website.

LOSPC24/25/216 Date of Next Meeting:

29th April 2025 at 7.00pm, Leysdown Village Hall

LOSPC24/25/217 The meeting closed at 9.03pm

Signed: Paper copy signed by Cllr Moore on 29th April 2025