

MINUTES of the MEETING of LEAVENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL held on Wednesday 6th December 2017 at 7.30 p.m. at The Village Hall, Leavenheath.

PRESENT: B Rowe (Chairman), P Mortlock, H Bonnar, S Whitelaw, D Kingham, D Hattrell (Clerk), J Jenkins (District Cllr) and 3 members of the public.

PUBLIC FORUM: Nothing was raised.

APOLOGIES: B Sadler, R Cowell, C Morgan, R Bellenie and J Finch.

CO-OPTION OF MEMBERS: Following last meeting Dean Kingham was invited to join the Parish Council. He had agreed. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office form was therefore duly completed.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: Nothing was declared.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 1ST NOVEMBER 2017: These were accepted as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: The Chairman recorded thanks to B Sadler for updating our information in LSPN. She thanked P Mortlock for his on-going work on the website. P Mortlock confirmed he was waiting on quotes for the barrier at Wrights Way/ Sweet Briar Close. The Clerk confirmed Boxford Suffolk Farms have matters in hand to clear Footpath 5 in relation to the Footpath Wardens Report.

UNRESOLVED ITEMS LIST: The outstanding items were discussed as follows: -

- 1) The Lake Walk
- 2) Community Speedwatch
- 3) Parcels of Land transferred from Beehive Estate - was to be discussed under the Agenda item.
- 4) Noticeboard at Honey Tye
- 5) A134 Crossing - Royston Wood/Plough Lane - no further information had been received between meetings.
- 6) Church Path Ditch - was to be discussed under the Agenda item.

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT: District Cllr J Jenkins confirmed the move to Endeavour House had taken place and all were working hard in their new location. The contact point at Sudbury was also proving popular. Options for the Hadleigh premises were being considered. She asked for views in relation to the proposed merger of the District Councils. The Chairman and B Sadler attended the Parish Liaison Meeting held by the District Councils.

POLICE REPORT: There was no report, however, P Mortlock had provided a link showing our crime figures that can be accessed from our website. P Mortlock reported on the October crimes which are now showing on the website. These included a theft and a public order offence in Leavenheath.

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT: County Cllr J Finch was unable to attend due to sickness absence and no report was provided.

CORRESPONDENCE: The report had been issued ahead of the meeting and key areas were discussed. It was decided not to keep our Parish Council owned Street Lights on all night on Christmas Eve and New Years Eve. The Clerk read an email from the County Council agreeing to re-locate the school bus stop on the High Road from Kingsland Lane to the Village Green gates. This was to discourage parent parking at the junction and the resultant safety issues. P Mortlock agreed to put signs out and the County Council are contacting the school to advise parents accordingly. The Chairman referred to correspondence from a landowner in relation to preserving the Right of Way but also preventing possible unauthorised field access near Radleys Lane. County Rights of Way have approved the changes. Members of the Parish Council commented that they also didn't have any issues.

HIGHWAYS: Nothing was raised.

FINANCE: The bank balances as at 6th December 2017 were **£33491.83** in the Community Account, **£15366.55** in the Reserve Account making a total of **£48858.38**. Potential tree work between Wrights Way and The Village Green was estimated at £150, which was duly approved.

The budget and Precept for the next Financial Year was discussed. Following discussion, it was agreed to increase the Precept by 1.5% to residents giving a total Precept of £19461. This was proposed by P Mortlock, seconded by S Whitelaw and unanimously carried.

The following were authorised for payment: -

1480	438.39	D K Hattrell	Clerks Salary
1481	102.00	Inland Revenue Only	Clerk's deductions

Total **£540.39**

CHURCH PATH DITCH: The landowner had requested more evidence ahead of last meeting so, as agreed, R Cowell had drafted a response and provided photographs between meetings. This was sent by the Clerk recently, so a response was awaited.

PARCELS OF LAND: The plan of the three parcels of land transferred to the Parish Council for upkeep was shared with the meeting. The land was as members expected and were being maintained.

REPORTS FROM ORGANISATIONS AND REPRESENTATIVES: Reports were given from the Village Green, Village Hall, and Community Woodland. No actions were agreed.

IDEAS TO IMPROVE THE VILLAGE: Nothing was raised.

REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS: A Tree Wardens Report was provided. It was agreed to set up working groups in the New Year to complete the tasks identified from Audit. These will need to be concluded by the last meeting in the Financial Year in March - **Action Clerk: Agenda item January**. It was agreed to report to the District Council the need to clear low-level vegetation obstructing the Public Open Space path from Maple Way to the A134 - **Action Clerk**.

The meeting closed at **8.45 p.m.**

Planning Meeting on 6th December 2017

The following decisions were confirmed by the Planning Authority: -

DC/17/05430 - 32 Sweet Briar Close, Leavenheath - Permission had been Granted to reduce crown volume of large oak tree by up to 25%.

The following applications were discussed:-

1) DC/17/05430 - 32 Sweet Briar Close, Leavenheath - This application was discussed between meetings to comply with the deadline. The Parish Council had No Objections to reduce the crown volume of oak providing the pruning is no more than the 25% stipulated.

2) DC/17/04402 - Beachams Farm, Cock Street, Leavenheath - this re-consultation followed further drawings. These were considered and the Parish Council still objected strongly due to the size of the proposal and the inevitable damage to the bridleway if it went ahead. A response was sent between meetings to comply with the deadline.

3) The Konings application was thought to be scheduled for January.