

**MINUTES of the MEETING of LEAVENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL** held on Wednesday 3rd April 2019 at 7.30 p.m. at The Village Hall, Leavenheath.

**PRESENT:** B Rowe (Chairman), B Sadler, R Cowell, H Bonnar, P Mortlock, C Morgan, R Bellenie, D Kingham, D Hattrell (Clerk), J Finch (County Cllr) and 6 members of the public attended.

**PUBLIC FORUM:** Comments were raised in respect of the Old Vicarage application. Concern was expressed regarding the proposed garage/garden store being too large, the potential to use for independent occupation and the felling of an oak tree on the site. The forthcoming site meeting was discussed. On a separate point, residents/parents had attended to introduce their plans to work with the Village Green Committee to upgrade the Playground. They welcomed the support of the Parish Council financial and otherwise.

**APOLOGIES:** S Whitelaw and J Jenkins

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST:** The Chairman declared an interest in the Planning item for the Old Vicarage. R Cowell and P Mortlock declared interests in the planning for Orchard Farm.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 6TH MARCH 2019:** These were accepted as a true record.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:** The item of a lockable cabinet for Parish Council storage at the Village Hall is on-going. The work to the ash tree at Rowans Way has been scheduled. D Kingham confirmed he has put the items on the Facebook page as agreed.

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

1) The Lake Walk - Progress is being chased regularly. Activity had been observed in the vicinity and the work was advancing well. Work seemed to have stopped recently and was being chased again.

2) A134 Crossing (Royston Wood/Plough Lane) - J Finch had continued to press for a yellow background making the warning signs more visible to motorists. He has achieved this subject to the cost being met which was to be discussed under finance. He has potentially reduced the cost to £1250 as the existing posts will be used if suitable. It was agreed to seek cooperation from a nearby landowner to cut back the gorse encroaching the verge and therefore visibility of this crossing point - **Action Clerk.**

3) Speed on Stoke Road - J Finch had raised the issues with County Council Engineers. They did not see this as priority. Various factors were discussed including accidents at the location, camber on the bend and increasing traffic volumes due to the Konings expansion plans. It was agreed to continue to monitor and raise concerns.

**BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT:** We are now into the purdah period leading into the Election on 2nd May. All people wishing to stand in one of the new 32 Wards have to have their nomination papers in by the 3rd April. The Monitoring Officer was to validate them and after that a Media release was to go out naming all the applicants and the Wards in which they were seeking to be elected. Regarding the local issues brought up at the last PC meeting, the quality of the sound regarding the main switchboard has been checked, nothing was found to be out of order, however it continues to be monitored. Officers have been out to check road signs but could not

find anything untoward, having got in touch with the Clerk they now know it is the High Road sign itself and it was to be repaired within the next 7 days.

There was a site meeting that coming Friday at 1.30pm at the Old Vicarage to discuss the planning application, the Planning Officer and several residents were to be in attendance. It was agreed for Paul Mortlock to represent the PC and Jennie Jenkins in her capacity as Ward Member.

**POLICE REPORT:** There was no report, however, P Mortlock had provided a link showing our crime figures that can be accessed from our website. He reported on the crimes during January/February which are showing on the site which include 4 local reports.

**SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT:** County Cllr James Finch attended and reported on changes to the opening hours of Recycling Centres, further investment due on business broadband and 96% of Suffolk students receiving their Preferred Secondary School place. Analysis of the Care Quality Commission data shows Social Care locations in Suffolk rated above the national average. Further fostering and adoption drop in sessions were being arranged. An email from a resident was discussed regarding the reasons for introducing speed limit reductions along the A134. The reasons for the changes were due to serious accidents and to make the road safer. It followed a long consultation period. Some support and objections were made along the way before final agreement to implement changes. It was agreed for the Clerk to respond to the resident concerned- **Action Clerk.**

**CORRESPONDENCE:** On-going correspondence was discussed and there was nothing to take forward which was not included under other Agenda items. It was noted that approval to locate new dog bins had been gained. R Bellenie was making the order and billing details were confirmed. The Parish Council thanked the Clerk for reviewing and successfully delivering Election forms.

**NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING/ HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY:** A working party including D Kingham, C Morgan, R Cowell and R Bellenie was formed to produce a Housing Needs Survey. It was agreed to include as an Agenda item for the May Meeting - **Action Clerk.**

**HIGHWAYS:** There was nothing further to report.

**FINANCE:** The bank balances as at 3rd April 2019 were **£31643.35** in the Community Account, **£15433.19** in the Reserve Account making a total of **£47076.54.**

It was agreed to go ahead with the improvements to the signage at the crossing point and J Finch will check any outstanding billing in respect of previous work undertaken.

**The following were authorised for payment: -**

Funds Transfer	477.18	Suffolk County Council	St Light - power & main
Funds Transfer	458.00	Babergh District Council	Bin Empty Charges
Funds Transfer	425.49	D K Hattrell	Clerk's Salary
Funds Transfer	97.20	Inland Revenue Only	Clerk's Deductions
Funds Transfer	163.96	SCC Pension ACC	Clerk's Pension
Funds Transfer	100.00	Suffolkbiz	Web hosting
Funds Transfer	36.00	Leavenheath Village Hall	Hall Hire
Funds Transfer	521.44	Suffolk Assoc. of Local	Subscription fee
<b>Total</b>	<b>£2279.27</b>		

**JOINT AREA PARKING PLAN:** This consultation had been examined and it was agreed no response was required.

**REPORTS FROM ORGANISATIONS AND REPRESENTATIVES :** Reports were given from the Village Green, Village Hall and on the Footpaths. A further meeting had been arranged by the Village Green Committee to discuss the potential to upgrade the Playground. Additionally the safety of some damaged equipment was being investigated.

**IDEAS TO IMPROVE THE VILLAGE:** It was agreed to include the Public Open Space path from the A134 to Maple Way on the unresolved list in respect of the rotting sleepers - **Action Clerk.**

**REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS:** All agreed the content for the forthcoming Annual Parish Meeting. Both the Chairman and Vice Chairman thanked all their fellow Councillors and Clerk for support during their time on the Parish Council.

The meeting closed at **9.15 p.m.**

**Planning Meeting on 3rd April 2019**

*The following decision was advised from the Planning Authority:-*

**DC/19/00778** - The Old Vicarage, Nayland Road - Application to demolish existing garage and erect a ground floor and first floor extension. Planning Permission had been Granted. The Parish Council had No Objections to this.

The following applications were discussed: -

- 1) **DC/19/01232** - The Old Vicarage, Nayland Road - Application for a detached garage/garden store. An extension for comments had been agreed and comments would be deferred until after the Planning Officer Site Meeting.
- 2) **DC/19/01303** - Orchard Farm, Locks Lane - Application for a detached chalet bungalow and cartlodge following demolition of existing bungalow. The Planning group were considering this application between meetings.
- 3) Other urgent Planning Matters: nothing was raised.