

**MINUTES of the MEETING of LEAVENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL** held on Wednesday 6th February 2019 at 7.30 p.m. at The Village Hall, Leavenheath.

**PRESENT:** B Rowe (Chairman), B Sadler, R Cowell, H Bonnar, C Morgan, P Mortlock, R Bellenie, D Kingham, S Whitelaw, D Hattrell (Clerk), J Jenkins (District Cllr) and J Finch (County Cllr).

**PUBLIC FORUM:** No public were present.

**APOLOGIES:** None were received

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST:** R Cowell declared an interest in the Tree Application as he lives nearby.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 2nd JANUARY 2019:** These were accepted as a true record.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:** The question of file storage was discussed. The Clerk was authorised to research lockable cabinets around the size of 2 four draw filing cabinets standing side by side - **Action Clerk.**

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

1) The Lake Walk - Progress is being chased regularly. Some activity has been observed in the vicinity, so positive progress is anticipated.

2) A134 Crossing (Royston Wood/Plough Lane) - J Finch had been following up. The intention was to make the presence of pedestrians and cyclists obvious to motorists to encourage careful driving at the crossing point. This has not been achieved. J Finch reported that he is still pressing for a conclusion and he has suggested the warning signs be put on a yellow background to make them stand out. He had asked members to view the signs at Assington with the yellow background which they had done between meetings. Members agreed the yellow would be an improvement. However, J Finch reported that he will continue to press, but has been told by the Highways Officer that our signs do not fall within the national regulations to be upgraded.

3) As a result of the survey of ash trees, 1 has been identified as leaning at the top of Rowans Way. The Tree Wardens are seeking advice from Tree Surgeons and the Babergh Tree Officer. No immediate concerns have been identified. A full Tree Wardens Report will be available at the March Parish Council Meeting - **Action Tree Wardens.**

**BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT:** District Cllr J Jenkins attended and confirmed the Joint Local Plan has been delayed to enable the newly elected Councillors to take it forward. The Revenue Support Grant has ceased. The New Homes bonus as a source of income to the District Council is disappointing and budget considerations are on-going. The polling stations in the vicinity of the Parish remain unaltered. The proposed major development at Konings will go before Committee. R Cowell enquired with funding dropping to the District Council whether their obligations were decreasing also. J Jenkins confirmed not, the Statutory obligations need to be met, however, the discretionary ones are constantly reviewed. It was confirmed that Brexit preparations are going ahead.

**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 December 2018 which are showing on the site which include 4 local reports.

**SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT:** County Cllr James Finch attended and reported that demand is growing for specialist education placements in Suffolk and recommendations are made for 3 new schools and 36 units attached to mainstream schools. Funding is being sought. Suffolk Highways has invested in new technology for repairing road surfaces which is proving successful. Suffolk Trading Standards continue to give out No Cold Calling Stickers which make it an offence for traders to ignore. Grants have been issued to Norfolk and Suffolk businesses to make them more energy efficient. Finally J Finch reminded about the drop in Foster Care sessions arranged in the vicinity. The Chairman thanked J Finch for following up the bus parking complaint. Following questioning, J Finch agreed to review the data in respect of Stoke Road accidents in view of further calls to reduce the speed limit. It was confirmed that Brexit preparations are going ahead.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** On-going correspondence was discussed and all agreed the new Council should meet for the first time on 15th May following the elections. Scope are looking for further textile recycling locations, however, the Parish Council could not think of any suitable positions within the Village at this stage. The Village Hall are asking for more visits to empty the bottlebanks. Members thanked D Kingham for offering to clear around the Old Road noticeboard.

**NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING/ HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY:** The Chairman thanked all concerned for the preparations for the Neighbourhood Planning Meeting. The order of the speakers was agreed. D Kingham will produce a form for the event and all agreed to attend at 7.00 p.m. to help set up.

**HIGHWAYS:** The 40 mph sign on the A134 beyond Plough Lane in the Sudbury direction is missing and it was agreed to report - **Action Clerk.**

**FINANCE:** The bank balances as at 6th February 2019 were **£33108.15** in the Community Account, **£15423.22** in the Reserve Account making a total of **£48531.37**.

The Clerk explained the amount we are holding for CIL and the requirement to account for the expenditure. R Bellenie agreed to carry out some further research on the criteria - **Action R Bellenie.** A Neighbourhood Plan/Housing Needs Survey may be an appropriate use of the funds.

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

Funds Transfer	409.04	D K Hattrell	Clerk's Salary
Funds Transfer	97.40	Inland Revenue Only	Clerk's Deductions
Funds Transfer	163.96	SCC Pension ACC	Clerk's Pension
Funds Transfer	56.00	Spingold Design & Print	Leaflets (NP)

**Total**                      **£726.40**

**REPORTS FROM ORGANISATIONS AND REPRESENTATIVES :** Reports were given from the Village Green, Village Hall, Footpath Warden and Community Woodland. The Village Hall Car Park is to be re-stoned shortly and they are celebrating 10 years of the digital cinema. Benches had been received for the Village Green and fitting was being arranged. Some trees were cut back by a neighbouring resident to Rowley Wood which led to a discussion.

**IDEAS TO IMPROVE THE VILLAGE:** Nothing was raised.

**REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS:** R Bellenie had emailed about the dog bins and was chasing for a response. There was damage to a private front garden in the vicinity of the Village Hall and the resident was encouraged to make a report of the incident.

The meeting closed at **8.55 p.m.**

*The following decisions were confirmed by the Planning Authority: -*

**A) DC/18/05457** - Non material amendment to B/13/01385 of the addition of a rear window to detached garage had been approved at Honey Tye Cottage, Honey Tye.

**B) DC/18/05156** - Planning Permission had been Granted for extensions, balcony and replacement roof and cartlodge at Leavenheath Farmhouse, Locks Lane.

**C) DC/18/03942** - Planning Permission had been Granted for agricultural workers dwelling, cattle shed, hay barn, workshop and machinery store with new vehicular access via Cawley Road at Rose Hill Farm, Honey Tye.

*The following was discussed:-*

**DC/19/00409** - Gabriella, Kingsland Lane - Application to carry out works to protected oak. Members agreed to be guided by the views from the Babergh Tree Officer.