

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

**PRESENT:** B Rowe (Chairman), R Cowell, H Bonnar, P Mortlock, R Bellenie, D Kingham, S Whitelaw, D Hattrell (Clerk), J Jenkins (District Cllr), J Finch (County Cllr) arrived after the start of the meeting due to other commitments and 6 members of the public attended.

**PUBLIC FORUM:** The ash tree in Rowans Way was raised and it was confirmed this was scheduled to be discussed later in the meeting. The deteriorating state of the Playground was discussed and residents were encouraged to go along to the Village Green Meeting. Some concerning incidents of some residents not keeping control of their dogs were described leading to dog mess and bad behaviour. Fencing around the play area was suggested. P Mortlock advised the actions the Village Green Committee were considering.

**APOLOGIES:** B Sadler and C Morgan

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST:** The Chairman declared an interest in the Planning item for the Old Vicarage.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 6th FEBRUARY 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 Parish Council thanked members D Kingham and R Bellenie for clearing around the Old Road noticeboard.

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

1) The Lake Walk - Progress is being chased regularly. Activity has been observed in the vicinity and the work is advancing well.

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. J Finch continues to press and will now escalate as Highways Officer have stated that our signs do not fall within the national regulations to be upgraded.

**BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT:** District Cllr J Jenkins attended and confirmed the budget has been agreed. The Corks Lane plans for housing were going to be discussed at an extra planning meeting. She thanked the Chairman for her support at the Konings Planning Committee. The decision went against this Parish Council's views and the plans were approved. J Jenkins confirmed she wouldn't be standing at the forthcoming Elections and she took the opportunity to thank the Chairman, Councillors and Clerk for all their support during Jennie's time as District Councillor. All thanked Jennie for her support over the years and the excellent working relationship we have. R Cowell raised an issue regarding the sound quality of the District Council Reception telephones. J Jenkins agreed to follow this up.

**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 and January which are showing on the site which include 5 local reports.

**SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT:** County Cllr James Finch attended and reported that the County Council budget had been approved increasing the basic Council Tax by 2.99 %. A further 1% is being taken for Adult Care. Funding had been agreed for Suffolk Citizens Advice next year. A Consultation in relation to Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service is currently taking place. Changes to the School Travel arrangements will be starting this September. The Information sessions for potential Foster Carers had been arranged in the vicinity. During questioning J Finch confirmed the rumours about the number 84 bus were incorrect. There were no plans to stop that service. The speed limit changes on the A134 were still scheduled for mid March. The continuing danger from traffic in Stoke Road was raised again with J Finch including a further boundary wall impacted by a vehicle.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** On-going correspondence was discussed and there was nothing to take forward which was not included under other Agenda items.

**NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING/ HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY:** Around 70 residents attended and listened, questioned and commented about potentially completing a Neighbourhood Plan. The speakers gave an interesting insight into the process and use of a Neighbourhood Plan. The Chairman thanked members for organising the event and confirmed good feedback had been received. She suggested that a motion is considered at the Annual Parish Meeting of whether to follow through with a Neighbourhood Plan. Following discussion this was agreed. Additionally D Kingham and R Cowell will start drafting a Housing Needs Survey, which will form an Agenda item at the April Parish Council Meeting - **Action Clerk.**

**HIGHWAYS:** A 40 mph sign on the A134 had been knocked down and is now reinstated. The High Street nameplate at the junction with the A134 needs securing. J Jenkins agreed to report to Babergh Council officers. It was agreed to add the Stoke Road speed limit to the unresolved items list for future meetings - **Action Clerk.**

**FINANCE:** The bank balances as at 6th March 2019 were **£31655.35** in the Community Account, **£15427.95** in the Reserve Account making a total of **£47083.30**.

The **CIL return for 2017/18** was duly approved and signed and dated by the Chairman and Clerk. The **Standing Orders** were discussed and it was agreed they meet our needs currently, however, a comprehensive **review** was suggested in the next financial year by the newly elected Parish Council. The **Asset Register** was discussed and updated. It was agreed to **appoint** SALC again as the **Internal Auditors until further notice.**

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

Funds Transfer	409.24	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	12.00	Leavenheath Village Hall	NP Hall Hire
<b>Total</b>	<b>£682.40</b>		

**The first 3 payments listed had already been authorised between meetings.**

**REPORTS FROM ORGANISATIONS AND REPRESENTATIVES:** Reports were given from the Village Green, Village Hall and Tree Wardens. The tree wardens reported on an ash tree leaning over Rowans Way. The Parish Council considered the quotations and the advice from the Tree Surgeons and the Babergh Arboricultural Officer and agreed to proceed with the most competitive quote. The Village Hall reported on on-going improvements including the car park surface and cooker. The Cinema was well attended. The Village Green Committee were obtaining quotations for next seasons contracts.

**IDEAS TO IMPROVE THE VILLAGE:** D Kingham agreed to use the Facebook page to raise awareness of the need to cut back vegetation, blocking paths and of picking up after dogs. He will also put up details of the forthcoming Elections. R Cowell and S Whitelaw agreed to produce a leaflet publicising the Annual Parish Meeting, which is scheduled for Tuesday 28th May.

**REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS:** No actions were agreed other than in the Specific Agenda items above.

The meeting closed at **9.20 p.m.**

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### **Planning Meeting on 6th March 2019**

*The following was discussed:-*

**DC/19/00778** - The Old Vicarage, Nayland Road - There were No Objections to the application to demolish existing garage and erect a ground floor and first floor extension.