

MINUTES of the MEETING of LEAVENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL held on Wednesday 3rd August 2022 at 7.00 p.m. at Leavenheath Village Hall and by Video Conferencing.

PRESENT: P Mortlock (Chairman), C Morgan, R Bellenie, D Kingham, T Smith, Y Roder, D Hattrell (Clerk), L Parker (District Cllr) and 6 members of the public attended in person and R Cowell and 1 member of the public attended by Video Link.

The Meeting scheduled for 6th July was cancelled as there were insufficient numbers of Councillors attending to make a quorum.

PUBLIC FORUM: Residents attended to share concerns about flooding at Honey Tye affecting their properties which has been going on since 2016. Some investigations have been made and County Cllr J Finch has been involved, however, no progress is being made and from the communication so far, they do not have confidence the problem will be resolved. T Smith explained he has followed the correct complaints process twice already and no formal engagement in response to the written complaints has been received. T Smith agreed for it to be an on-going action for him to keep demanding action - **Action T Smith**. Another resident asked for the reasons for the delay with the Neighbourhood Plan. It was confirmed the plan is currently with Babergh District Council and updates are being requested regularly. District Cllr L Parker agreed to research the matter.

APOLOGIES: S Whitelaw had sent apologies. R Cowell had sent apologies however attended via Zoom.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: Nothing was declared.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 31ST MAY 2022: These were accepted as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: Nothing was raised.

UPDATES FROM COMMUNITY, ORGANISATIONS AND WARDENS ON URGENT MATTERS DURING THE RESTRICTIONS BY COVID 19:

Reports were provided from the Village Hall, Footpath Warden, Tree Warden, Village Green, Community Woodland and from the Police Website.

Village Hall Report

The Village Hall Management Committee congratulated the Platinum Jubilee Committee for organising such a successful and well attended event for the village. Thanks also went to the members of the Village Hall committee who were involved. The Film Nights continue to be well supported and they can now offer card payment on the door for ticket sales. The Emergency lighting in the hall and kitchen sink hot water heater have all been replaced. They finally have the Electric Vehicle Charger fully functional in the car park after some frustrating technical issues. As part of the Plug in Suffolk scheme from Suffolk County Council, they are grateful for their support with this grant and hope this will be useful for residents, hirers of the hall and visitors to the village. Full instructions are on the unit for card payments or it can be accessed via the Clenergy EV App.

Tree Warden's Report

T Smith reported that he has made two visits this month to residents who had applied for planning permission to prune back a couple of trees with Tree Preservation Orders. These were both deemed acceptable with no objections raised. One of which was declined by Babergh Council and our Tree Warden was in discussions with the resident as to the next steps. A few trees on the Village Green and along some of the public footpaths have been cut back, as they were causing issues with the grass cutting and were hanging low, causing potential obstructions. The Leavenheath Tree Nursery had a stall at the Platinum Jubilee Event and gave away around 120 trees to villagers free of charge as part of the Queens Green Canopy. It also donated a couple of trees to Ladybirds

Footpath Warden's Report

R Print continues to investigate and report footpath issues. The issues and concerns raised in the report have all been completed. An official complaint has been raised with Suffolk County Council concerning the footpath between Radleys Lane and the High Road regarding overgrown hedges along the entire length, which is causing the footpath to become extremely narrow in places.

Police Report

Updates are now on the website showing the crimes to June 2022

Village Green Report

It was reported that the Chairman of the Village Green Committee whilst still a Trustee has resigned from the post as Chairman. The Committee have not met recently to consider the next steps but one option may be for the Parish Council to take this on.

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT: District Cllr L Parker attended and confirmed the Housing Revenue Account business plan had been updated following reviewing priorities and survey results. The Energy Rebate scheme has been extended and applications were being considered. A new fund to improve neighbourhoods with a maximum per bid of £20,000 was available with a deadline of 16th September. Members felt both the new Playground and Cycle path provision may fulfill the criteria. L Parker agreed to check whether a Parish Council could apply for more than one project - **Action L Parker**. Wildflower verges are being trialled. Businesses can be nominated (including by themselves) for an Innovative Businesses Award being held in October. Social Housing schemes have recently been finished at both Newton and Groton. L Parker will support a request to remove a gate on their Public Open Space path subject to full details from the Parish Council. The Chairman will take a look with R Cowell in the first instance - **Action Chairman and R Cowell**.

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT: J Finch (County Cllr) had sent his report in advance for the abandoned July Meeting covering that Suffolk's family carers were celebrated for their hard work and dedication in Carers Week. The County Council are objecting to the Norwich to Tilbury pylon proposals. The successful Suffolk Villages for the Reclaim the Rain project were named. More Special Educational Needs and Disability places are being funded. Virtual Fostering and Adoption Sessions continue.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING UPDATE: It was confirmed that the draft Neighbourhood Plan was submitted. Babergh District Council have confirmed receipt and our Neighbourhood Planning Group have asked for a time-line which is still awaited.

CORRESPONDENCE: On-going correspondence was noted by the meeting. C Morgan confirmed that all our proposed Quiet Lanes had been accepted. There is one sign to re-locate from the original plan and it was agreed for C Morgan to facilitate this including the relevant risk assessment and insurance confirmation.

URGENT HIGHWAYS SAFETY MATTERS: R Cowell explained the lack of support from the County Council and he proposed the project team initiate discussions with land owners and press ahead with proposals and involving the County Council at a later date as new rights of way would be under their jurisdiction. In relation to the clearance of the footway along the A134, this has been requested and chased to no avail currently.

FINANCE: The Bank Balances as at 29th June 2022 were £52313.76 in the Community Account and £15510.32 in the Rate Reward Account making a total of £67824.08. The Bank Balances as at 1st August are £49383.84 in the Community Account and £15510.58 in the Rate Reward Account making a total of £64894.42.

The following pre-agreed payments were made: -

Cheque No.	Amount	Payee	Details
<u>As at 29th June</u>			
Fund Transfer	603.36	Babergh District Council	Bin Empty Charges
Fund Transfer	570.49	BHIB Ltd	Village Green (VG) Ins
Funds Transfer	752.20	Clerk/HMRC/SCC	Staffing costs
Funds Transfer	408.70	BHIB Ltd	Parish Council Ins
Funds Transfer	283.33	Stoke by Nayland Club	VG Maintenance
Funds Transfer	231.84	Tree & Lawn Co Ltd	VG Maintenance
Funds Transfer	45.00	Leavenheath Village Hall	Hall hire

Urgent Jubilee Payments between Meetings

Funds Transfer	132.00	Philip Goodyer	Jubilee Expenses
Funds Transfer	28.15	Jill Dunkley	Jubilee Expenses
Funds Transfer	157.38	Nicky Weston Plumb	Jubilee Expenses
Funds Transfer	1061.58	Boxford Lane Joinery	Jubilee Expenses
Funds Transfer	30.00	Chris Barker	Jubilee Expenses
Funds Transfer	30.00	Colin Garrett	Jubilee Expenses
Funds Transfer	30.00	Dan Mansfield	Jubilee Expenses

We were notified that £50 of the first Jubilee Payment listed was reimbursed to us due to a duplication of receipts in the expenses claim.

As at 1st August

Funds Transfer	£781.98	Clerk/HMRC/SCC	Staffing Costs
Funds Transfer	£510.32	Suffolk County Council	Street Lighting power & maint
Funds Transfer	£300.24	Tree & Lawn Co Ltd	V Green Maintenance
Funds Transfer	£283.33	Stoke by Nayland Club	V Green Maintenance
Funds Transfer	£298.80	SALC	Internal Audit Fee
Funds Transfer	£175.00	K Hawley	Jubilee Event First Aid

The latest CIL Return (Year ending 2022) had been considered and was duly approved and then signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

The External Audit papers have now been submitted and the Internal Audit Report received with all matters approved with recommendations to be discussed at the September Meeting - **Action Clerk.**

T Smith confirmed he is finalising the Accounts for the Platinum Jubilee Event. In summary, the total amount raised was £8,899.77, and with expenses and associated costs totalling £3551.10 He confirmed we made a profit £5348.67 which is an amazing amount and we should all be extremely proud of our efforts and hard work. He has removed the VAT from this calculation as he proposed this to be claimed back by the Parish Council - **Action Clerk to research.** He is proposing the profit now be ring fenced and renamed the Leavenheath Playground Refurbishment Fund.

T Smith thanked the Clerk on behalf of the Platinum Jubilee Sub-Committee for all her hard work supporting the Jubilee Finances.

IDEAS TO IMPROVE THE VILLAGE: It was proposed that the group recently formed as Leavenheath Events becomes a Sub-Committee of the Parish Council. The Clerk confirmed due processes are required and the importance of adequately recording and documenting the finances which will be subject to our annual audit. The Platinum Jubilee Event was a good example of all of this coming together as a one-off and gave some insight into the additional work involved. It was noted the Parish Council is not currently resourced to undertake this, so some investigation is required to ensure correct provision is made ahead of the workload as this is intended to be ongoing. Members resolved to agree in principle to the sub-committee being formed headed by T. Smith. Forthcoming potential events were discussed and all agreed there was demand in the Village for such events and this was an exciting step.

MAINTENANCE OF VILLAGE ASSETS: The Chairman and T Smith have again spent the last few Fridays' driving around the village, checking the village assets and cutting back overgrown brambles around benches and grit bins. The Leavenheath Village sign, still requires upgrading, and although only twenty years old it is showing considerable signs of wear and tear, the majority of tiles at the base, are either rotten, broken or crumbling away. The paint on the actual sign is also in a poor state of repair and needs a jet wash and re-paint, this would need a professional to

undertake the work. The wooden post has also split and requires treatment. We are still awaiting quotes from a couple of professionals to undertake the work.

REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS : The Platinum Jubilee was a tremendous success and praise has been received from all quarters. T Smith offered his sincere thanks to everyone on the Platinum Jubilee Committee, the Parish Council, the Village Hall Committee and the Village Green Committee for all their hard work and contribution to what was a magnificent day. We could not have done it without all the contributors. Well done everybody and thank you. In relation to the Leavenheath Playground Action Group, they have now had two very productive meetings and the project is moving ahead nicely with an application for funding due in September. The questionnaires determining what residents want is also currently being completed, to date including previous completed questionnaire they have close to 200 completed forms. Their next meeting is scheduled for 8th August. The Community Speed Watch Program is now all but ready to commence, the volunteers have now completed the first section of training issued by the Norfolk and Suffolk Police. All the documentation has now been sent and processed, and the final part of the training was scheduled.

The meeting closed at **8.40 p.m.**

Planning Meeting on 3rd August 2022

The following Decisions were confirmed by the Planning Authority: -

- A) Planning Permission had been granted for rear conservatory at 42 Wrights Way, Leavenheath - **DC/22/02275**.
- B) The Application at Plough House, Plough Lane had been withdrawn - **DC/22/01719**.
- C) Planning Permission was granted for rear extension (after demolition of conservatory) at 6 Mayfield, Leavenheath - **DC/22//02165**.
- D) The Application at Belynna Cottage, Nayland Road for a new dwelling was withdrawn - **DC/22/01214**.
- E) The Application for Planning Permission for 2 holiday lodges and detached garage was refused at Oak Cottage, Kingsland Lane, Leavenheath - **DC/21/06742**.
- F) Consent was granted to reduce crown of protected oak by 25% at Oak View, 38 Sweet Briar Close - **DC/22/03055**.
- G) Non-material amendment was approved in relation to changes to external facing materials at Hare & Hounds, Harrow Street - **DC/22/03074**.
- H) Planning Permission was granted for boundary wall and relocation of gate at 7 Mayfield - **DC/22/02887**.
- I) Consent was refused to cut back protected oak beyond established pruning points at 30 Bramble Way, Leavenheath - **DC/22/02998**.

The following applications and planning matters were discussed: -

- 1) Householder application for boundary Wall at 7 Mayfield - **DC/22/02887**. The Parish Council had **No Objections** between meetings.
- 2) Work to protected tree at 30 Bramble Way - **DC/22/02998**. No Objections were raised by the Parish Council.
- 3) Re-consultation for holiday lodges and garage at Oak Cottage, Kingsland Lane - **DC/21/06742**. **Objections** were issued between meetings by the Parish Council. This was due to the site being outside the Built Up Area Boundary and being an Ancient Woodland within a Local Wildlife Site.
- 4) Work to protected oak at Oak View, 38 Sweet Briar Close - **DC/22/03055**. No Objections were raised by the Parish Council.

5) Application to extend 18 Oaklands - **DC/22/03212**. No Objections were raised by the Parish Council.

6) Application to extend and alter The Diamonds, Nayland Road - **DC/22/03237**.

The Parish Council had No Objections between Meetings.

7) Application for barn conversion to form a dwelling and a 2 bay cart lodge with new vehicular access at Plough House, Plough Lane - **DC/22/03612**.

This application was still being considered and no questions were asked by the members present.

8) Any other Urgent Planning items:

A new Appeal had been received in the week of the Meeting for the Refusal to Grant Permission for 2 detached dwellings on Land Adjacent to Plough Lane - **APP/D3505/W/22/3298935**.

This had only just been received and will shortly be considered. Our previous response will be noted by the Planning Inspector if we make no further representations.

The Chairman agreed to publicise information about the Pylons Survey being conducted by our MP . D Kingham had provided the link. The crucial thing is whether the National Grid Consultation covered an off-shore option - **Action Chairman**.