

MINUTES of the MEETING of LEAVENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL held on Wednesday 7th December 2022 at 7.00 p.m. at Leavenheath Village Hall and by Video Conferencing.

PRESENT: P Mortlock (Chairman), C Morgan, R Bellenie, D Kingham, Y Roder, T Smith, S Whitelaw, J Finch (County Cllr) and 1 member of the public attended in person and the Clerk and 2 members of the public attended by Video Link.

PUBLIC FORUM: Nothing was raised.

APOLOGIES: R Cowell had sent apologies and these were accepted. D Hattrell (Clerk) attended by video link. L Parker (District Cllr) had sent his apologies.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: Nothing was declared.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 2ND NOVEMBER 2022: These were accepted as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: The Chairman is seeking some further information from our District Councillor on the offer of a bin for use by village litter pickers. The Chairman confirmed the Community Pantry is now in the Church and they are seeking some financial support from the Parish Council. This was to be considered under the Finance Agenda item. C Morgan reported that the Quiet Lanes project continues and they were waiting to collect the signs currently. Funding is available for warm spaces and the Committee Room was being considered. Discussions were on-going. T Smith reminded that he still has some spare COVID testing kits.

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 Committee met for the last time this year. They thanked Stella Grumann who had decided to stand down after many years as secretary, she will be greatly missed having done a fantastic job. Downton Abbey was a huge success for the final Film Night with a wonderful Christmas raffle. Thanks as always go to all the volunteers who work tirelessly to keep this event running. Lots of exciting films coming in the New Year. The electric car charger is proving increasingly popular and they urge local residents and visitors to the village to take advantage of the competitive charging rate while it lasts. Only a couple more weeks for Ladybirds and the regular hirers before a well earned rest over the Christmas holidays. You can recycle your Christmas Trees as usual by leaving on the grass outside the Village Hall between 5th-19th Jan, they must be less than 7ft tall and have all decorations removed please. They wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and look forward to welcoming everyone back in the New Year.

Tree Warden's Report

At the end of November, T Smith, our Tree Warden, received approximately 300 trees and 200 hedgerow plants from the Woodland Trust via the Suffolk Tree Warden Network for use around the village for both businesses and residents alike.

He also received two black poplar saplings (male clone no. 23, female clone no. 47). With only 600 female and 5000 male saplings in the country, these will be grown on before planting at a suitable place in the village. His proposal is on the Village Green as the Black Poplar ideally should be grown around 20m away from any other tree.

If you wish to reserve any trees or hedgerow, please contact Trevor Smith on 01206 262760 or at smith.2.trevor@gmail.com

Footpath Warden's Report

T Smith, the Footpath Warden, reported that there was one major issue this month when a medium size oak tree fell across FP13. The tree was about 24 meters south of the junction with FP21. The tree has now been cut up and cleared. The Chairman agreed to investigate the condition of the Suffolk Wildlife Trust path and will report it on-line - **Action Chairman.**

Police Report

3 crimes were reported in the Leavenheath area in October.

1 x Violence and Sexual Offences on or near Hawthorn Way - unable to prosecute suspect.

2 x Violence and Sexual Offences on or near Plough Lane - both cases unable to prosecute suspect.

Village Green Report

The Leavenheath Playground Action Group Committee had very productive meetings, two of which were site meetings and a further teams call to discuss the next steps. The equipment needs will be based on the results from the survey and these will be put to the suppliers as our first choice, subject to space and price. The area of land available to be determined with the suppliers ensuring it does not have any impact on the boundary of the cricket pitch. They now await some 3D drawings along with quotations which are expected around the end of January. It is the intention of the group for the proposed plans to be presented to both the Parish Council and the residents of the Village, once designs are available. The playground project is likely to cost between £70k and £80k . Various grants are being considered and the first quote should be received in late January. The unsuccessful CIL grant was due to the lack of information about the project at that stage. They will be approached again with full details.

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT: District Cllr L Parker had sent apologies as he was delayed.

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT: J Finch (County Cllr) had sent his report in advance and attended. His report covered that two Suffolk Social Worker's, Helen Southgate and Clare Fisk won Gold and Silver Awards respectively at the Annual Awards in London. Further hosts are needed for Ukrainian families. The County's Cassius digital technology service was named "Best Elderly Care Technology Solution by Awards presented by Health Tech Digital Magazine this year. The Bramford to Twinstead pylons proposals are due to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for Examination next year. The East Anglian Green proposals will be subject to Statutory Consultation next year. Suffolk Archives online are showcasing the death of Queen Elizabeth II. Grit is being replenished and the road gritting program has started. A short film is showing to raise awareness of the need for Foster Carers. Foster Carer and Adoption Events continue.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING UPDATE: Babergh District Council had completed their regulation 16 - 6 week consultation. The Examiners Report had been received. The Local Green space that was contended has been removed. The Examiner has changed some of the wording in the policies which is causing concern to the Neighbourhood Planning Group currently. It was suggested that the Chair of the Neighbourhood Planning Group speaks to our District Councillor in the first instance.

CORRESPONDENCE: On-going correspondence was noted by the meeting.

URGENT HIGHWAYS SAFETY MATTERS: Nothing was raised.

FINANCE: The Bank Balances as at 1st December 2022 were £56002.05 in the Community Account and £15,511.00 in the Rate Reward Account making a total of £71513.05.

The following pre-agreed payments were made: -

Cheque No.	Amount	Payee	Details
<u>As at 2nd November</u>			
Funds Transfer	1246.94	Clerk/HMRC/SCC	Staffing costs
Funds Transfer	141.60	AIS Ltd	Playground Inspection

In relation to the potential purchase of a Football Game Table for £399, S Whitelaw has offered the Events Committee the use of her table. It was agreed to review the table to see if it is suitable for the Games Night. It was agreed to include the Agenda item again for January - **Action Clerk**.

In relation to Financial Assistance towards a Leavenheath Community Pantry, following discussion it was resolved to pay £300 initially and invite the organisers along in a couple of months to a Meeting to discuss how the venture was going - **Action Clerk and Chairman**.

IDEAS TO IMPROVE THE VILLAGE: It was agreed to concentrate on the on-going projects for the present time. The Chairman shared ideas from his recent training. He identified Community Engagement, more use of the website and Parish On-line as areas to consider further.

MAINTENANCE OF VILLAGE ASSETS: There was nothing to report this month.

REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS : T Smith reported that the Leavenheath Events Committee had another very productive meeting this month and the proposed events are now beginning to take shape, these include assisting, the Christmas Sleigh, a fun and games night, a summer fete on the Village Green and a Snail Race Evening. Their next meeting was scheduled for the following evening. Sponsorship for the sum of £45 was placed in the PC bank account last week. T Smith invited the full Parish Council to a dry run of the Fun & Games Night on 28th January 2023. The Community Speedwatch team are ready to start in accordance with the report to last meeting. The Chairman thanked C Morgan for covering last month and all the Council for their support throughout the year.

The meeting closed at **8.15 p.m.**

Planning Meeting on 7th December 2022

The following Decision was confirmed by the Planning Authority: -

Planning Permission was granted for 4 bay cartlodge with first floor accommodation at Plough House, Plough Lane - **DC/22/05016**.

The following applications and planning matters were discussed: -

1) Application for 4 bay cart lodge with first floor accommodation at Plough House, Plough Lane - **DC/22/05016**.

Subject to clarification of the intended access to each component of the development, the Parish Council had No Objections in principle to the proposals.

2) Application for change of use of land to seasonal wedding venue incorporating ceremony gazebo, temporary timber seating, event tipi and landscaping at Stoke by Nayland Hotel - **DC/22/03806**.

The Parish Council could not support this application in its present form and detailed concerns to the Planning Authority relating to noise and acoustics and road safety. It was noted that the application did not mention a limit to the number of events per week during the April to October period. These points were made to the Planning Authority.

3) Application for 2 storey side extension at 23 Wrights Way - **DC/22/05140**.

The Parish Council had No Objections between Meetings.

4) Application for two storey dwelling at Belynna Cottage, Nayland Road - **DC/22/05099**. This application was still being considered by the Planning Group and the response will be reported at the January Meeting.

5) The application for holiday lodges at Oak Cottage, Kingsland Lane - **DC/22/05478**- was still being considered by the Planning Group and the response will be reported at the January Meeting.

6) Any other Urgent Planning items: Nothing was raised.