

MINUTES of the MEETING of LEAVENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL held on Wednesday 2nd November 2022 at 7.00 p.m. at Leavenheath Village Hall and by Video Conferencing.

PRESENT: C Morgan (Chaired the Meeting), T Smith, S Whitelaw, D Hattrell (Clerk), L Parker (District Cllr) J Finch (County Cllr) and 2 members of the public attended in person and 2 members of the public attended by Video Link.

PUBLIC FORUM: A resident asked about her letter about wildlife corridors that was also sent to the District and County Councillors. It was confirmed that the letter was doing it's rounds to members of the Parish Council, however, in theory the Parish Council would support wildlife preservation. T Smith suggested some further hedge or tree planting may be worth considering. Attention then turned to the Planning Application for a Wedding Venue at the Golf Club. Whilst there was support for a local business, it was agreed essential to consider any potential loss of neighbour amenity. Traffic/pedestrian safety was also considered important on the small lane where access would be gained. It was noted that this application was on the Agenda for later in the meeting. C Morgan took some notes of the resident's concerns.

APOLOGIES: R Cowell, R Bellenie, D Kingham and Y Roder had sent apologies and these were accepted. R Cowell attended via Zoom.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: S Whitelaw confirmed her property was in close proximity to the proposed Wedding Venue.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 5TH OCTOBER 2022: These were accepted as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: R Cowell reminded the Village Green Committee regarding their Risk Assessment. A response had been issued between meetings regarding the removal of one of the gates along the Babergh path leading to the A134. The Spouse's Grove board walk is still requiring attention. The Clerk had written to the Solicitors acting in respect of Hargreaves field to determine whether it has been sold and asking for details of the new owners.

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 Committee were to meet on Monday 7th November. It had been a busy month on the maintenance front. The locks have been replaced on the main, kitchen and Committee Room doors which will be a huge improvement. Extra insulation has been added to the hall which will now enable the Committee to explore a heating upgrade. A water softener has been installed to help prevent any further plumbing issues due to limescale build up. The December Film Night has Downton Abbey - A New Era. There will be a raffle and the of course mince pies and mulled wine so please book your tickets. The Electric Vehicle Car Charger has been used since installation in July. The rates are 35p/kWh which is competitive compared with other charging stations so residents and visitors are encouraged to use this facility.

Tree Warden's Report

It was a quiet month on the tree front with only one visit to a tree in Harrow Street where a resident expressed concern over the safety of a tree. The tree was inspected by Pete Irving who deemed the tree safe. During the monthly tour of the Village, there was nothing causing concern in relation to the trees and hedgerow. At the end of November T Smith will be receiving approximately 100 trees from the Suffolk Tree Warden Network for use around the village for both businesses and residents alike.

Footpath Warden's Report

There were no major issues or concerns found during the month in relation to Footpaths. However, last month the Footpath Warden raised the issue of incomplete work by County Highways in relation to the clearance on the footpath between Radleys Lane and the High Road. Only half the work to date has been completed and as a result the stretch from Honey Lane to High Road is extremely narrow along what is a very dangerous part of the A134. They had, however, found the name of the owners of the field on the A134 and their solicitors and have written to them to get the hedgerow cut back

Police Report

Three crimes reported in Leavenheath area in September.

1 x Other theft on or near The Ridings - Under investigation by police

1 x Violence and Sexual offence on or near Honey Lane - Under investigation by police

1 x Public order offence on or near Campion Way - Under investigation by police

Village Green Report

The Leavenheath Playground Action Group Committee had another productive meeting this month and the project is moving ahead nicely. However, their application for funding from Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils was unsuccessful. They do have three other funding sources and will be submitting bids in the very near future. Two onsite meetings were arranged in mid-November with two companies who are bidding for the work. The equipment needs will be based on the results from the survey and these will be put to the suppliers as a 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. It is the intention of the group for the proposed plans to be presented to both the Parish Council and residents, once some designs are available.

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT: District Cllr L Parker attended and confirmed the District Council previously needed confirmation that the Parish Council were happy with removal of the footpath gate on safety grounds. This had been done and Public Realms were organising the work. R Cowell asked whether it was possible to retain the gate for use elsewhere in the Village. L Parker agreed to check. A Council Tax Reduction Scheme is available for some residents. The CIFCO resulted in nearly £10M of additional income for Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils. They are replacing bin lorries and asking the public to suggest names for each lorry. The Corks Lane re-development has started. The additional dustbin has been agreed for litter pickers. We just need to decide on a location for delivery - **Action Chairman and Clerk**. L Parker agreed to email the contact to the Clerk. L Parker confirmed his support to Wildlife corridors raised in the resident's letter.

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT: J Finch (County Cllr) had sent his report in advance and attended. His report covered that various investment zone bids were submitted to

Government on 14th October. Locally these include Ipswich at Copdock Interchange, the Eastern Gateway, Europa Way, Hadleigh Road and Seven Hills and in Sudbury - the Delphi site, the Hamilton Road Quarter and Chilton Woods. More Special Educational Needs places were funded at the October Cabinet Meeting. Ukrainian families are in need of further hosts. The deadline for secondary school applications had passed and for primary school places it is Sunday 15th January 2023. Automatic Number Plate Recognition Speed Indicator Devices will be rotated around rural problem sites. An Online survey has been launched on services important to residents. A short film to raise awareness of the need for Foster Carers has been launched. He confirmed budget is being worked upon with significant shortfalls. He thanked S Whitelaw and Y Roder for helping with the jobs.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING UPDATE: Babergh District Council are just finishing their regulation 16 - 6 week consultation.

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

URGENT HIGHWAYS SAFETY MATTERS including Cycle paths: There was no progress to report.

FINANCE: The Bank Balances as at 2nd November 2022 were £57,500.56 in the Community Account and £15,510.97 in the Rate Reward Account making a total of £73,011.53.

The following pre-agreed payments were made: -

Cheque No.	Amount	Payee	Details
<u>As at 2nd November</u>			
Funds Transfer	773.03	Clerk/HMRC/SCC	Staffing costs
Funds Transfer	283.33	Stoke by Nayland Club	V/Green Maintenance
Funds Transfer	195.12	Tree & Lawn Co Ltd	V/Green Maintenance
Funds Transfer	124.80	SALC	Training
Funds Transfer	93.16	N Weston Plumb	Events Leaflet
Funds Transfer	30.00	Spingold Design & Pr	Playgrd Survey & Posters

The purchase of a Football Game Table at £399 was then considered. A business case for this purchase had been sent to the Parish Council for consideration. Following discussion it was agreed to put as a Financial Agenda item for next Meeting - **Action Clerk**. The Half Year Budget Review was discussed showing Expenditure at 54% of the overall budget at this half point in the year. T Smith then needed to leave the meeting, so the meeting was closed as no longer quorate.

IDEAS TO IMPROVE THE VILLAGE including a Community Pantry for Leavenheath: This item needed to be postponed.

MAINTENANCE OF VILLAGE ASSETS: T Smith had reported ahead of the meeting as follows: The Chairman and T Smith have again spent time driving around the village, checking the village assets and cutting back overgrown brambles around benches and grit bins. This will continue on a regular basis for the foreseeable future. The Leavenheath Village sign quotes had been agreed and the terms needed signing off for the Contractors to undertake the work. As discussed previously the sign although only twenty years old 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. The wooden post has also split and requires treatment.

REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS : T Smith had reported ahead of the meeting as follows: The Community Speed Watch Program is now ready to commence, with all the necessary equipment and volunteers ready to begin the program. The training will be rolled out to the other members of the group, and they were looking to undertake their first session once a date can be agreed with the minimum number of volunteers. It is not their intention to prosecute as many drivers as possible. The objective is to highlight and help reduce the speed driven through our village. They therefore intend to give notice to all residents of the days and dates, via social media, so would urge residents to keep an eye out for the dates and when passing to give a friendly hoot or a wave. In relation to the Leavenheath Events Sub Committee, they had another 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.

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

Planning Meeting on 2nd November 2022

The Planning Agenda item was covered whilst the meeting was still quorate.

The following Decision was confirmed by the Planning Authority: -

Planning Permission was granted for barn conversion, cartlodge and new vehicular access at Plough House, Plough Lane - **DC/22/03612**.

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**.

The planning working group were finalising a response to this application and it was agreed for the draft to be sent to the Clerk for sending onto the Planning Authority - **Action C Morgan and Clerk**.

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 planning working group were finalising a response to this application and it was agreed for the draft to be sent to the Clerk for sending onto the Planning Authority. C Morgan had noted the concerns expressed during the Public Forum - **Action C Morgan and Clerk**.

3) **Any other Urgent Planning items:** It was confirmed that feedback was sent to the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement Consultation in accordance with the draft circulated from D Kingham following agreement with other Parishes.