

MINUTES of the MEETING of LEAVENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL held on Wednesday 5th October 2022 at 7.00 p.m. at Leavenheath Village Hall and by Video Conferencing.

PRESENT: P Mortlock (Chairman), C Morgan, T Smith, Y Roder, 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: Residents had attended to express concern about the proposed Bramford to Twinstead pylons and they commented that the online plans seem vague. They were not aware of any supporters of these plans. D Kingham, who had joined by Zoom, explained how this Council, together with other Parish Council's, have objected to the proposals. He explained that objectors also should contact their MP. The residents then expressed concern about further caged fruit growing fields that may lead to expansion of the Koning's processing which would increase the impact on surrounding residents in Leavenheath. The Clerk explained that Boxford Parish Council had contacted planning who were considering whether planning permission was needed. Finally the residents reported some collared doves dying in their garden which they have reported to DEFRA. Other residents joining by Zoom confirmed the tree cutting on the A134/Stoke Road junction was nothing to do with them or their land.

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

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: Nothing was declared.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 7TH SEPTEMBER 2022: These were accepted as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: Correspondence between meetings about lost water hydrants was discussed. Parish Online can be used to record the locations. It was agreed to issue a thank you note to Pete Irving, Tree Surgeon for reducing the cost of necessary tree work from the Village Green - **Action Clerk.** R Cowell confirmed the team action for the working group investigating Cycle path provision to discuss with relevant land 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

There were no further updates from the Committee since last month.

Tree Warden's Report

T Smith, Tree Warden, reported a quiet month on the Tree front with no actual visits made to residents. However, he did confirm Pete Irving had completed the work on the tree on the Village Green, where branches were actually resting on the roof of the property. Despite quoting £300 to undertake the work, Pete only invoiced the council for £200, therefore once again our thanks go to Pete for his kind generosity. Finally last Friday the chairman and T Smith, removed and cut back

the trees that had been felled on the A134 junction with Stoke Road, these had just been left on the side of the road, causing a potential hazard.

Footpath Warden's Report

With our volunteer's - Reuben Print - final report in hand, the Chairman and T Smith, Footpath Warden, visited all those paths that needed clearing and the necessary work has now been done. A nice letter was received from Reuben thanking us for his small gift and stating he will continue to help on an ad-hoc basis. Last month T Smith reported on the forthcoming piece of work to be undertaken by the County Council on the footpath between Radleys Lane and the High Road. This commenced the following week and it is very disappointing to report that only half the work to date had been completed and we have already received two complaints in this regard, especially when time was taken to erect the traffic lights etc. The footpath between Radleys Lane and Honey Lane is now wide enough to walk two abreast, unfortunately from Honey Lane to High Road is extremely narrow along what is a very dangerous part of the A134. It was agreed for T Smith to report on the Online Reporting Tool again. R Cowell reminded about FP16 - Spouses Grove and T Smith agreed to investigate and report issues with the path.

Police Report

One crime was reported in July
Burglary on or near The Old Road - Investigation complete; no suspect identified.

Village Green Report

T Smith agreed to offer to take the Chair of the Village Green Management Committee. This will avoid the Parish Council stepping in and taking over the Charity. New members to join the Committee would be welcomed and are very much needed.

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT: District Cllr L Parker attended and confirmed some Council Meetings were delayed and are now resuming. CIL monies are supporting various good causes in the District and the current round ends on 31st October. The Cabinet were discussing the Parking Strategy. The local out-breaks of bird flu are concerning. The most recent Plans at Belle Vue park, Sudbury were rejected by the District Council. County Cllr J Finch took the opportunity to ask about CIL money allocation and whether it needed to involve capital expenditure. He explained more about the project and L Parker agreed to enquire for him. The Chairman and T Smith agreed to investigate the potential gate removal on the Babergh path raised at last meeting - **Action Chairman and T Smith**. L Parker remembered he also needs to follow up the disposal of waste from our village litter pickers - **Action L Parker**.

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT: J Finch (County Cllr) had sent his report in advance and attended. His report covered support from central government for households towards the cost of living. The County Council are offering further support to residents facing hard times and he pleaded for Parishes to be open to encouraging people to seek help where needed. He confirmed an urgent message from Creffield Medical Centre of a flu and covid clinic on 19th October. The Hold, Suffolk Archives, is holding an autumn exhibition. Parents can now apply for

school places for next year. The Ipswich Register Office will be re-locating to Endeavour House. Virtual Fostering and Adoption Sessions continue.

J Finch was seeking volunteers to help him support the Jab's on 15th October. J Finch explained the progress in relation to the East Anglia Green Pylon challenge by MP James Cartlidge. D Kingham asked whether the same principle applied to the Bramford to Twinstead pylons. J Finch believed it did. J Finch advised the AONB are looking at examples of T pylons. D Kingham expressed concern that the National Grid did not act on feedback relating to the Bramford to Twinstead Consultations and that our MP James Cartlidge is fighting the East Anglia Green proposals rather than the Bramford to Twinstead proposals.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING UPDATE: Babergh District Council are conducting their regulation 16 consultation for 6 weeks.

CORRESPONDENCE: On-going correspondence was noted by the meeting. The Chairman had received a letter from a resident regarding Wildlife corridors and will pass it around for members to consider.

URGENT HIGHWAYS SAFETY MATTERS: including Cycle path provision. There was nothing further to report beyond the team action under the Matters Arising heading.

FINANCE: The Bank Balances as at 3rd October 2022 were £58855.60 in the Community Account and £15510.85 in the Rate Reward Account making a total of £74366.45.

The following pre-agreed payments were made: -

Cheque No.	Amount	Payee	Details
<u>As at 3rd October</u>			
Funds Transfer	768.32	Clerk/HMRC/SCC	Staffing costs
Funds Transfer	283.33	Stoke by Nayland Club	V/Green Maintenance
Funds Transfer	200.00	Pete Irving Tree Services	V/Green trees
Funds Transfer	39.00	Leavenheath Village Hall	Hall hire
Funds Transfer	50.00	S E Whitelaw	Chairman's expenses
Funds Transfer	14.39	D Kingham	NP Expenses

Risk Management Policy

R Cowell had circulated the policy and following discussion members approved this document for the current Financial Year. The Village Green Committee were reminded that we need to see their Risk Assessment. The Risks associated in relation to Community Speed Watch were discussed and all were satisfied the Police had this covered and appropriate training delivered to the Volunteers.

Website Accessibility Regulations - it was noted we have a statement on our website provided by our web hosts which complies with the relevant regulations.

External Audit Update - An interim statement is now on the website from our Auditors as they were unable to meet the Statutory deadline this year for the full Audit. The Conclusion of the Audit is still awaited.

Village Sign quotations - Members agreed to instruct the Village Sign People to restore the Sign and Bakers of Danbury to restore the plinth. The Chairman agreed to take this forward - **Action Chairman.**

Leavenheath Events Sub-Committee - Flyer - Members were supportive of the idea and agreed to fund the flyer at £89.

IDEAS TO IMPROVE THE VILLAGE: It was reported that the paths around the Village Green which are the responsibility of the County Council were in need of attention, it was agreed for the Village Green Committee to investigate further and make an On-line Report - **Action T Smith.**

MAINTENANCE OF VILLAGE ASSETS: The Chairman and T Smith have again spent the last Fridays 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 still requires restoration and this was discussed under the Finance Agenda item. The condition of the Kingsland Lane blocks was raised and the Chairman and T Smith agreed to investigate - **Action Chairman and T Smith.**

REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS : The Community Speed Watch Program is now ready to commence, volunteers Trevor Smith, Mandy Smith and Pete Reason undertook the final part of the training and are now in receipt of all the necessary equipment. This training will be rolled out to the other members of the group, and they were looking to undertake their first session within the next couple of weeks. Our sincere thanks go to PC Darren Marshall (Sudbury) for all his help and assistance in finally completing the training and providing the equipment. In relation to the Playground project things are moving ahead nicely with an application for funding due in October. They are in discussion with four companies to provide quotes and have a 3D view of what our residents would like to see, and these will be made available on receipt. They had a presence at the Leavenheath Dog Show giving residents an update of progress. Our application for additional funding was still with BMSC and a response was expected. In relation with the Events Sub Committee, they had two very productive meetings this month and the proposed events are now beginning to take shape, these included assisting the Dog Show and the Christmas Sleigh, a fun and games night and a summer fete on the Village Green. Finally, the committee has designed and printed a flyer to be delivered to every household in the village, by the members highlighting all the forthcoming events, as well as a flyer for the Fun and Games Night in February. The cost of these flyers is approximately £100 - see Finance item.

C Morgan reported on the progress of Quiet Lanes and confirmed that signs have been ordered. Apologies were given for next meeting from P Mortlock (Chairman), R Bellenie and D Kingham.

The meeting closed at **8.45 p.m.**

Planning Meeting on 5th October 2022

The following Decisions were confirmed by the Planning Authority: -

- A) Planning Permission was granted for side extension, alterations and carport at 18 Oaklands, Leavenheath - **DC/22/03212**.
- B) Conditions were approved at the Hare & Hounds, Harrow Street for materials, boundary wall bricks/brickwork and surfacing materials - **DC/22/03459**.
- C) Additionally conditions were approved at the Hare & Hounds for fenestration, eaves, materials, rainwater goods and rooflights - **DC/22/03477**.

The following applications and planning matters were discussed: -

- 1) Re-consultation for barn conversion at Plough House, Plough Lane - **DC/22/03612**. This was being considered by our Planning Group and there was no change to their previous view at the time of the meeting.
- 2) The Bramford to Twinstead pylon Consultation - D Kingham is linking again with other interested Parish Councils and he agreed to circulate a draft response when available - **Action D Kingham**.
- 3) Any other Urgent Planning items: Nothing was raised.