

MINUTES of the MEETING of LEAVENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL held on Wednesday 2nd August 2023 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, S Whitelaw, D Hattrell (Clerk), J Finch (County Cllr) and 7 members of the public attended in person. Two members of the public joined by video link.

PUBLIC FORUM: A representative from Community Pantry updated the Meeting and had arranged to come along as funding to the Pantry was ceasing. The Pantry is inside the Church which is open all the time. The Pantry is separate from the PCC. She is aware some local families are regularly benefitting from the Pantry. The warm space will be organised shortly and hopefully will start from mid October. The social element of the warm space is the most valued. Funding to the Pantry is due to start again and she promised to return when further funds are required. Volunteers to assist with the Pantry would be welcomed. Various residents had attended the public forum to consider joining the Parish Council in response to the plea in LSPN. They were advised to formally apply via email and how the cooption process works.

APOLOGIES: were received from District Cllr Lee Parker.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: Nothing was declared.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 7th JULY 2023: 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

Cllr Whitelaw gave the Village Hall Report as usual. They would like to thank all hirers for their patience, the new heating system is now in place. Their hire charges have remained the same since 2015 but due to increased utility bills and general maintenance, they have made a small increase to the rates to reflect this. Heating charges are now included in the new rates and there are no more coin operated meters. All regular hirers have been informed. Thank you to those committee members who have worked so hard to make this improvement to the hall. School holidays have arrived and Ladybirds will run some holiday clubs over the summer. The Village Hall has a new website <https://www.leavenheathvillage.com>

The Leavenheath Events team will also advertise details of their upcoming events. Thanks to Chris Barker for setting up this new website and for managing it going forwards. Martyn Griggs has managed the website for the last ten years and he has continued to support us despite moving hundreds of miles away from the village and particularly through the difficult Covid years. The Committee are extremely grateful to him. The Village Hall Committee meet on the first Monday of every month so if you would like to get involved in any small way, please get in contact with one of the committee members. The Village Hall AGM will be held on Monday 2nd October 2023 at 6.30pm in the Committee Room, all welcome.

Tree Warden's Report

The Chairman had responded to a report of a tree in need of attention.

Footpath Warden's Report

There were no developments to report.

Police Report

One crime reported in May.

Violence and Sexual Offence on or near Oaklands. Investigation complete, unable to prosecute suspect.

Village Green Report

There were no developments to report

Leavenheath Events Sub-Committee

See the Finance Agenda item

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT: District Cllr L Parker had sent his apologies.

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT: J Finch (County Cllr) attended and reported that the Consultation for the National Grid Norwich to Tilbury pylons is open until 21st August 2023. The new electricity line is proposed for 111 miles between Norwich and Tilbury. It will run underground in the AONB. Warm Homes Suffolk has new funding available for eligible households to put towards energy efficient measures such as insulation, solar panels or heat pumps. A recent fire at Haverhill Waste Transfer Station is suspected to have been caused by batteries. Similarly one at Great Blakenham last year was likely to have been caused in the same way. All batteries should be disposed of at recycling centres or collection points at large stores. A free exhibition is being held at The Hold exploring The Legacy of Cardinal Thomas Wolsey this Summer. Virtual Fostering and Adoption Sessions continue. The County Council are still pressing for off shore transmission in relation to the Bramford to Twinstead and Norwich to Tilbury proposals. It was noted the compound proposed for Leavenheath will service the whole length of the Bramford to Twinstead route for the entire construction period. Part of the Norwich to Tilbury route is planned to cross at Horkesley, so there is potential for considerable traffic disruption in the vicinity. J Finch agreed to investigate the state of roadside kerbs with vegetation in the Village. He will also set up the site meeting at the Stoke Road bend with R Bellenie and the Highways Officer - **Action J Finch.**

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING UPDATE: The Referendum went ahead on 19th July and the Leavenheath Neighbourhood Plan has been Adopted. The Chairman has personally thanked the Neighbourhood Planning Group. All were proud of what they had achieved for the Village. The next step will be to get some hard copies of the plans for use by the Parish Council.

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

URGENT HIGHWAYS SAFETY MATTERS: Including parking near the Village Hall, concerns at bend on Stoke Road and declining state of roadside kerbs. It was noted that the Clerk had discussed with the business owner regarding the commercial vans obstruction Wrights Way near the Village Hall. He understood the problem and agreed to try to park more considerately.

Members had observed some improvement and will monitor and report to future meetings any further concerns. The other items were taken away by County Cllr J Finch to investigate.

FINANCE: The Bank Balances as at 1st August 2023 were £55443.92 in the Community Account and £15565.51 in the Rate Reward Account making a total of £71009.43.

The following pre-agreed payments were made: -

| Cheque No. | Amount | Payee | Details |
|---|---------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| <u>As at 1st August</u> | | | |
| Funds Transfer | 652.08 | Tree & Lawn Co Ltd | VG Maintenance |
| Funds Transfer | 806.41 | Clerk/HMRC/SCC | Staffing costs |
| <u>Between Meetings on 18th July</u> | | | |
| Funds Transfer | 645.55 | Babergh District Council | Bin Empty 23-24 |
| Funds Transfer | 326.04 | Tree & Lawn Co | VG Maintenance |
| Funds Transfer | 88.40 | FILCRIS Ltd | Bin posts for asset repair |
| Funds Transfer | 76.00 | A Deeks | LE - Fete expenses |

Community Pantry - further funds

Funds are not needed currently and the representative shall return when further help is needed.

Leavenheath Events Committee Finance items

The budget for the Big Breakfast was considered and approved. It was explained that as tickets were purchased in advance, there will be no waste as the exact numbers will be known ahead of the event. It was resolved to pay 25% of takings from the Fete Cream Teas to Leavenheath Ladies as recommended by the Sub Committee. The takings have been checked and the full amount for the Cream Teas amounted to £505.98, so 25% is £126.50. This amount will be paid between Meetings.

IDEAS TO IMPROVE THE VILLAGE: The Village Sign is being refurbished. The Chairman explained that we are looking to get a new post and have the base restored. Suggestions were made that the speed limit signs are looking worn, so it may be worth the Parish Council considering supplying some funding if the County Council are unable to fund. It was agreed to report any damage on the Highways Reporting Tool in the meantime - **Action D Kingham and S Whitelaw.**

MAINTENANCE OF VILLAGE ASSETS: The Chairman has received the posts to repair a Village Green Dog Bin and install a new bin on Harrow Street next to the existing one. Once installed the Clerk will ask Public Realms, Babergh District Council to add to the empty list - **Action Chairman and Clerk.**

REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS : It was agreed to include details of the new website link for the Village Hall in the report for LSPN - **Action S Whitelaw and Clerk.** D Kingham agreed to do a notice about the Bramford to Twinstead pylon compound on the edge of Leavenheath and all agreed for him to suggest residents complain to our MP with any concerns - **Action D Kingham.** The meeting closed at **8.15 p.m.**

Planning Meeting on 2nd August 2023

The following decisions were advised from the Planning Authorities: -

A) Planning Permission was granted to extend 16 Mayfield - **DC/23/02760**.

B) Consent was granted to fell protected oak at Oak Cottage, Breach Grove - **DC/23/02664**.

The following applications and planning matters were discussed: -

1) Householder Application to extend 10 Edies Lane - **DC/23/03027**.

The Parish Council still objects to the car port in view of its proximity to the road and that it is likely to be visible from the street. This is in conflict to the Neighbourhood Planning Policy which should be given full weight. Otherwise there is no objection to the extension, however, an inaccuracy in the drawings was brought to the attention of the Planning Authority.

2) Any other Urgent Planning matters: R Bellenie will provide contact details to District Cllr L Parker to help chase the Vehicle Activated Signage which was subject to a condition on the former Lion development. She will also follow up with the Enforcement Team at the District Council - **Action R Bellenie**.