

MINUTES of the MEETING of LEAVENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL held on Wednesday 1st February 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 no members of the public attended in person and 2 members of the public attended by Video Link.

PUBLIC FORUM: Nothing was raised.

APOLOGIES: were received from T Smith and District Cllr Lee Parker.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: Nothing was declared.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 18th JANUARY 2023: These were accepted as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: Y Roder had followed up in relation to the proposed new grit bin. Residents were in support and all agreed the suitable location to be opposite the entrance to Oaklands on Harrow Street. This location is difficult to negotiate in icy conditions especially with the dog walkers and other leisure users of the lane. It was agreed for the Clerk to complete the application for permission and will seek information from Y Roder if required - **Action Clerk.** The Chairman reported that the funeral for Richard Cowell was well attended and a good tribute to Richard. The Chairman has been investigating the gates that were removed on the Babergh District Council path near the A134. It may be possible to construct one gate from the remaining materials. The Community Warm Space sessions at the Village Hall are going well.

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

As it was only two weeks since the last Parish Council Meeting there was not much to report. The Community Warm Space is being well attended on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month thanks to those who are giving up their time to help organise this. "Mrs Harris Goes to Paris" was the film for Saturday 4th February, "The Road Dance" is being shown in March and tickets can be booked in advance. Jill Dunkley has taken over the role of Minutes Secretary for the Village Hall Committee from February and Anita Deeks has kindly stepped in as Booking Secretary. The Committee thanks them both.

Tree Warden's Report

T Smith, the Tree Warden, confirmed there have been no developments since his last report 2 weeks ago.

Footpath Warden's Report

There were no developments over the past 6 weeks.

Police Report

There were no crimes reported in December 2022 in the Leavenheath area

Village Green Report

T Smith reported ahead of the meeting that there have been no developments on the Village Green and Playground over the past 2 weeks since the January Parish Council Meeting.

Leavenheath Events Sub-Committee

T Smith reported in advance of the Meeting that there have been no developments since the previous Parish Council Meeting 2 weeks ago. However, the dry run of the Games Night for both the Parish Council and Village Hall Committee went well.

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT: District Cllr L Parker had sent apologies and there was nothing new to report since the meeting 2 weeks ago.

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT: J Finch (County Cllr) attended and spoke about his report issued for the 18th January Parish Council Meeting. C Morgan questioned about the road signs left on the High Road and A134 following recent works. This was noted by J Finch. J Finch also confirmed in relation to the drains and potential flooding at Honey Tye, a blockage had been found in a drain nearby.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING UPDATE: Babergh District Council had completed their regulation 16 - 6 week consultation. The Examiners Report had been received and the findings accepted by the Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group and the Parish Council. The Post Examination Decision had been received. Consideration is being given to the best time to hold the Referendum. It was confirmed at last meeting that the emerging Neighbourhood Plan will carry full weight between Examination and Referendum.

CORRESPONDENCE: On-going correspondence was noted by the meeting and members interests had been updated with Babergh District Council between meetings.

URGENT HIGHWAYS SAFETY MATTERS: Nothing was reported.

FINANCE: The Bank Balances as at 1st February 2023 were £53607.93 in the Community Account and £15513.87 in the Rate Reward Account making a total of £69121.80.

The following pre-agreed payments were made: -

Cheque No.	Amount	Payee	Details
<u>As at 1st February</u>			
Funds Transfer	818.22	Clerk/HMRC/SCC	Staffing costs
Funds Transfer	50.00	Suffolk County Council	Quiet Lanes Contribution

External Audit Report

The Final External Audit Report and Certificate are available on our website. All matters were approved.

Standing Orders and Financial Regulations Review

Members had reviewed the wording of both the existing Standing Orders and Financial Regulations. It was resolved that both wordings still meet our needs. It was agreed for S Whitelaw and the Clerk to update the review date on the documents on our website - **Action S Whitelaw and Clerk.**

IDEAS TO IMPROVE THE VILLAGE: It was agreed to re-visit the cycle path project as soon as the current projects are progressed. Attention is being given to the Playground and Leavenheath Events.

MAINTENANCE OF VILLAGE ASSETS: The Chairman and T Smith were to do their usual reviews the following Friday. The Chairman had followed up the condition of the Suffolk Wildlife Trust path and reported it to the Trust. They are now chasing the County Council as a result - **Action Chairman to monitor.**

REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS : The forthcoming Annual Parish Meeting was discussed with ideas of what to include. It was considered important to encourage further residents to apply to be Parish Councillors, so proper succession planning can result. The danger always is if numbers of Councillors drop, we may not have sufficient numbers to run the Council without intervention from the District Council. Many good initiatives are happening which can be shared at the Annual Parish Meeting. It was agreed for all to liaise with the Chairman with their ideas - **Action All.**

The meeting closed at **8.10 p.m.**

Planning Meeting on 1st February 2023

The following Decision was confirmed by the Planning Authority: -

The Appeal was allowed and planning permission granted for 2 detached dwellings at land adjacent to Plough Lane - **DC/22/00821**. This was a development outside the settlement boundary, however, no consideration was given to the emerging Neighbourhood Plan, so is not a test in this respect.

The following applications and planning matters were discussed: -

- 1) The Decision Notice for the Golf Club as a Wedding Venue had been circulated between Meetings.
- 2) Any other Urgent Planning items: R Bellenie confirmed in respect of the speed signs for the development at The Lion that the intention was for them to be erected ahead of the occupation of the new homes. She is therefore chasing for updates - **Action R Bellenie**.