

**MINUTES of the MEETING of LEAVENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL** held on Wednesday 1st March 2023 at 7.00 p.m. at Leavenheath Village Hall and by Video Conferencing.

**PRESENT:** C Morgan (Chair), P Mortlock (minute taker), Y Roder, S Whitelaw, L Parker (District Cllr) and 2 members of the public attended in person and 2 members of the public attended by Video Link.

**PUBLIC FORUM:** 2 residents attended to state their objection to application from Stoke by Nayland Hotel's change of use of land to seasonal wedding venue (**DC/23/00669**). They both cited loss of amenity in the AONB due to noise pollution if permitted, and air pollution if the expected number of cars materialised. Both would like clarification as what was different to the original application that could allow this to go through.

The lack of notification to parishioners by BDC planning for this and previous application was addressed by District Cllr Lee Parker

**APOLOGIES:** were received and accepted from T Smith, D Kingham, R Bellenie, D Hattrell (Clerk) and County Cllr James Finch.

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST:** Nothing was declared except from S Whitelaw and Y Roder pertaining to the above planning application at Stoke by Nayland Hotel.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 1ST FEBRUARY 2023:** These were accepted as a true record and Chair will sign and pass on to Clerk at next meeting.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:** Quiet lanes were raised and S Whitelaw informed council that there is a new pole at the end of Harrow Street. C Morgan stated this is the start, when all poles in situ then she can collect the signs and install them where proposed.

Grit bins were again brought up for Harrow Street, but unfortunately J Finch was not here to clarify.

In relation to a new dog waste bin, also in Harrow Street, P Mortlock has spare bin but new post will cost in the region £75 - full committee to discuss/vote next time - **Action Clerk to include an Agenda item.**

#### **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**

S Whitelaw reported that the February Film Night was a huge success showing "Mrs Harris Goes to Paris". The March film was to be "Road Dance" and tickets were available via the website or by phone. Payment can be taken by card or cash on the night. All the volunteers are greatly appreciated. There is ongoing research into upgrading the hall heating system, thanks go to committee members who have been to see heaters in another Village Hall to assess their suitability for our Hall. Leavenheath Events Fun & Games night was a great success after much planning from their committee members. Plumbing and electrical issues swiftly resolved thanks to Paul Mortlock. Coffee Mornings and Warm Space continue to be well supported, please come and join in.

### **Tree Warden's Report**

T Smith, Tree Warden, reported that he is now in possession of 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**

There were no developments to report.

### **Police Report**

No crimes reported in December. The January report is not available as yet.

### **Village Green Report**

The Playground Action Group have now received confirmation that one contractor have completed their initial 3D design and a zoom call to go through their drawings along with quotation is awaited. The Action Group are still awaiting the proposal from the other provider they had approached. 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 we have some designs available.

### **Community Woodland**

P Mortlock informed council that he attended a planting ceremony of 7 lime trees at the Northern boundary of the Community Woodland as per article in LSPN.

### **Leavenheath Events Sub-Committee**

The second event - the Fun & Games Night proved to be real success the feedback was way beyond expectations, this will now be an annual event and they are now considering a Family Fun and Games Night. They raised £459, as well as securing £55 in donations. The Sub Committee had another productive meeting this month and the proposed events are beginning to take shape, these include The Big Breakfast, a Summer Fete on the Village Green on the 17<sup>th</sup> June and a Snail Race Evening.

### **BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT:**

District Cllr L Parker attended and stated that the budget had been agreed with a 2.99% rise which equates to a £5.30 pa increase on a Band D property. But there has been a 20% increase to run the services that they do now. Waste Bin depots are amalgamating to make £12m in savings.

Houses for Homes Service are offering financial assistance of up to £20k to help get over 1000 plus empty houses up to standard to be used for homes.

VCFSE - Voluntary Community Faith Social Enterprise - has a money available to assist in helping those that need it. Voter ID is now necessary at the next elections - No ID = No vote.

L.Parker reported back on last month's question on a big litter bin at the Hare and Hounds which has now been agreed and they were also offering litter sacks/plastic bags to assist our litter picker(s).

**SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT:** J Finch (County Cllr) had sent his apologies due to a family emergency and there was nothing to report.

**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 - 2 complaints had been received about parking in Wrights Way opposite the entrance to the Village Hall. Photos were distributed beforehand to show the problem. A quiet word was agreed ahead of County Highways or the police getting involved - **Action:- T Smith**

**URGENT HIGHWAYS SAFETY MATTERS:** There was nothing to report.

**FINANCE:**The Bank Balances as at 1st March 2023 were £53187.31 in the Community Account and £15513.87 in the Rate Reward Account making a total of £68701.18.

The following pre-agreed payments were made: -

<b>Cheque No.</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b><u>As at 1st March</u></b>			
Funds Transfer	810.13	Clerk/HMRC/SCC	Staffing costs
Funds Transfer	360.00	Bowman & Son	Village Green hedge

**IDEAS TO IMPROVE THE VILLAGE:** There was nothing to report.

**MAINTENANCE OF VILLAGE ASSETS:** The Chairman and T Smith took a ride round the village to look at work that needs to be undertaken in the Spring. They are looking to remove the damaged seats from the play area on the Village Green this month.

A complaint at warm space event concerns the footpath along High Road toward the A134 - overgrowth has made it too narrow to get a wheelchair along safely. **Action Chairman and T Smith.**

**REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS:** 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 are looking to undertake their first session once a date can be agreed with the minimum number of volunteers.

Leavenheath **APM** was due on 15<sup>th</sup> March - reports would be provided in advance from all and the provision of biscuits, coffee and tea was organised.

The meeting closed at **8:25p.m.**

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### **Planning Meeting on 1st March 2023**

**The following applications and planning matters were discussed: -**

1) Stoke by Nayland Hotel - Full application for change of use of land to seasonal wedding venue incorporating ceremony gazebo - **DC/23/00669**.

The comments in the public forum had been noted. R Bellenie was not present at the meeting to provide an update. The Planning Group will consider between meetings.

2) 10 Edies Lane - Householder application for extensions - **DC/23/00846**.

R Bellenie was not present at the meeting to provide an update. The Planning Group will consider between meetings.

3) **Any other Urgent Planning items:** Nothing was raised.