

**MINUTES of the MEETING of LEAVENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL** held on Wednesday 18th October 2023 at 7.00 p.m. at Leavenheath Village Hall.

**PRESENT:** P Mortlock (Chairman), C Morgan, S Whitelaw, Y Roder, D Hattrell (Clerk), J Finch (County Cllr), L Parker (District Cllr) and around 30 members of the public attended in person. No Video link was available for the Meeting.

The Meeting scheduled for 4th October was cancelled due to low numbers of Councillors available to attend.

**PUBLIC FORUM:** The residents attending were mainly concerned about the proposed developments being considered under Planning currently. Some spokespeople raised concerns during the forum and C Morgan from the Planning Sub Group made notes to feed into their consideration of the Planning items. Concerns were expressed about effects on the habitat and wildlife corridor, the lack of infrastructure, loss of mature trees and hedging, loss of open countryside when more industrial sites were available, drainage and flooding. Infrastructure issues were elaborated on including school places, doctors, dentists, highways including bus service and parking. Residents asked if the Parish Council had read all the objections on the Planning Site and it was confirmed that the Parish Council does read every item. District Cllr L Parker explained that any application with over 15 dwellings will go before the Planning Committee. He also confirmed the applications will be decided on valid planning law, so comments on other matters may be disregarded. The Chairman explained that the Parish Council response will be related to Planning Policy considerations including in the recently adopted Neighbourhood Plan. The representatives for the application of 40 dwellings on the orchard site explained some of the highways considerations regarding access and that the minimum number of trees will be taken down to make the access. The owner for the site explained they wanted to invest more into the neighbourhood and it wasn't their decision re the access and would be happy to move it to the A134 if Highways were agreeable. Their design is to have single storey where the views need to be preserved and 14 dwellings will be part of a housing association for Affordable homes. She explained that the second orchard will remain as a fruit producing field. L Parker explained that if someone owns a piece of land they can bring forward an application. The point about other potentially redundant brown field sites is irrelevant as the Planning Authority needs to consider the applications that are made. Residents urged the Parish Council to ensure that all residents are aware of the current proposals and there were a few offers of help to get leaflets delivered. Other topics were raised including problem parking on Wrights Way and elsewhere and Community Speed Watch. The Chairman explained his discussions with the Police in relation to the parking issues. He also encouraged any resident wanting to be more involved in Parish Council and other Community issues to email the Clerk with their details.

**APOLOGIES:** were received and accepted from D Kingham and R Bellenie. The Clerk attended during her Annual Leave week.

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST:** C Morgan had declared an interest in respect of the Planning at 13 Campion Way.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 6TH SEPTEMBER 2023:** These were accepted as a true record.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:** Nothing was raised that wasn't already on the Agenda.

**UPDATES FROM COMMUNITY, ORGANISATIONS AND WARDENS ON URGENT MATTERS:**

Reports were provided for the Village Hall, Footpaths, Village Trees, Village Green, Community Woodland and from the Police Website.

**Village Hall Report**

The Committee held their AGM at the start of October. There were no members of the public present but a query was raised regarding the new lighting in the hall from one of their sports clubs. Yvonne Roder has kindly agreed to stay on as Chair for six months unless a suitable candidate volunteers. Julie Decort-Effeny was voted onto the committee and they all look forward to working with her. It was agreed to meet every other month going forwards due to individual workloads and all of the committee being members of multiple committees. They do however keep in contact between Meetings on urgent matters. If you feel you could help in any way to keep the hall running for everyone in the village to enjoy, you would be very welcome to make contact or come to their next meeting on Monday 6th December 6.30pm.

The next film is Allelujah on Saturday 4th November and tickets can be reserved on the website [www.leavenheathvillage.com](http://www.leavenheathvillage.com) or by phoning Marion Jones on 01206 263301. Anita and Greg Deeks have sadly resigned from the committee due to personal reasons. They have both been thanked for their huge contribution to the running of the Village Hall and will be greatly missed by all of us.

**Tree Warden's Report:** There was nothing to report and our Chair is doing his best to cover this area assisted by a local Tree Surgeon whilst we have no Tree Warden in place.

**Footpath Warden's Report:** There was nothing to report, however, we may have another young person interesting in volunteering which is great news.

**Police Report:** No crimes were reported in our Parish during August.

**Village Green Report:** There was nothing to report.

**BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT:** District Cllr L Parker attended and confirmed a temporary change to Leadership at the District Council due to ill health. John Ward is standing in and business is continuing as usual. Part 1 of the District Council Joint Local Plan has gone through examination and now gains statutory weight, so the new Joint Local Plan is a material consideration in Planning matters. This still needs to be ratified by full Council. The Community Infrastructure Levy continues to plough funds back into the Community. Y Roder questioned about the use of those funds to perhaps relieve pressure on GP's by increasing the availability of Nurse Prescribers. L Parker confirmed only new capital projects can be supported currently due to the requirements of these funds.

**SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT:** J Finch (County Cllr) attended and covered that the County Council has £1.8m to spend each year for the next two on enhancements to the passenger transport network in Suffolk. He reported that Milestone Infrastructure was awarded Suffolks new highways services contract commencing this month. This includes roads, pavements, right of way, drainage, hedge trimming, construction of new road schemes, snow clearance, gritting and many other services. Funding has been allocated to upgrade Haughley and Ely rail junctions. When complete this is hoped to ease road congestion and provide a boost to the local economy. Fire Service control is being brought back to Suffolk by the end of 2024. Inflation, transport for children with Special Educational Needs and the cost of children in Care is contributing to a predicted overspend this year. Councils unite against National Grid pylon proposals for Norwich to Tilbury. A new fostering film has been launched and virtual Fostering and Adoption sessions continue.

**NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING:** There was nothing to report other than the Neighbourhood Planning Policies will be used fully, as always, to respond to the current development proposals.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** On-going correspondence was noted by the meeting. Members approved the proposed notice in LSPN by D Kingham and S Whitelaw agreed to advise him.

**URGENT HIGHWAYS SAFETY MATTERS:** There was nothing to report as the Parish Council were busy with the current Planning proposals.

**FINANCE:** The Bank Balances as at 2nd October 2023 were £60450.46 in the Community Account and £15607.22 in the Rate Reward Account making a total of £76,057.68.

The following pre-agreed payments were made: -

<b>Cheque No.</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b><u>As at 2nd October</u></b>			
Funds Transfer	978.12	Tree & Lawn Co	V Green Maintenance
Funds Transfer	806.18	Clerk/HMRC/SCC	Staffing costs
Funds Transfer	313.20	SALC	Internal Audit Fee
Funds Transfer	252.00	PKF Littlejohn	External Audit Fee
Funds Transfer	53.00	Leavenheath Village Hall	Hall hire

### **External Audit Report**

All matters were approved on the External Audit and the report had been uploaded to the Parish Council Website.

### **Half Year Budget Review**

Whilst this shows overall expenditure at 73% at this halfway point in the Financial Year, Leavenheath Events had Income to cover expenditure and some big expenditure on the Village Sign painting and a Neighbourhood Plan payment rolled over from last year. If you factor out those amounts, expenditure is running at 43% of budget - so the Clerk confirmed all is on track.

### **Review of Risk Assessment Policy**

It was resolved that our Risk Assessment Policy continues to meet our needs, so the document was approved. Members were reminded to review the condition of Village Assets ahead of the forthcoming budget. It was agreed to seek a quote from the Sudbury Community Wardens to replace posts on certain dog bins. C Morgan agreed to take this forward and it may be that other maintenance work in the Village could be considered in this way for the future - **Action C Morgan**.

### **Standing Orders and Financial Regulations**

Amendments were made between Meetings to comply with the new procurement legislation. This is an interim measure until new model wordings are produced by the National Association of Local Councils. Members approved the amendments and the new Standing Orders and Financial Regulations would be installed on the Parish Council website - **Action S Whitelaw**.

**Financial Reports provided by D Kingham** - discuss the principles of these expenditure items including: -

#### **Traffic and Speed Survey**

This item was deferred until the November Meeting - **Action Clerk**.

#### **SID devices**

This item was deferred until the November Meeting - **Action Clerk**.

**Expert Report on Undergrounding power lines** - Bramford to Twinstead - adjacent to the AONB S Whitelaw proposed to contribute up to £1000 towards this report being commissioned by nearby Parish Councils with the costs shared. This was seconded by C Morgan and unanimously carried.

**IDEAS TO IMPROVE THE VILLAGE:** Nothing was raised.

**MAINTENANCE OF VILLAGE ASSETS:** Nothing was raised.

**REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS :** It was agreed to meet at an earlier time on 1st November at 6.00 p.m in the main hall (if it is available) to increase awareness and listen to feedback about the current Planning Applications. The Meeting will be publicised as widely as possible. In relation to Leavenheath Events - The Big Breakfast Event went well and a joint snail race with Friends of St Matthews Church will be held next. It was delegated to S Whitelaw to liaise between meetings and agree the Leavenheath Events costings for this event within agreed parameters - **Action S Whitelaw**.

The meeting closed at **9.00 p.m.**

## Planning Meeting on 18th October 2023

### The following Decisions were confirmed by the Planning Authority: -

A) The Planning Application for single storey side extension at 81 High Road has been withdrawn - **DC/23/03618**.

B) Planning Permission was granted for single storey rear extension at 44 Wrights Way - **DC/23/03710**.

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

1) 10 Edies Lane - Householder Application - Construction of part single/ part two storey side and rear extension - **DC/23/04100**. The Parish Council had **No Objections** between Meetings.

2) Land East of Blackthorn Way and Campion Way - Full Planning Application - Erection of 23 dwellings etc - **DC/23/03653**. An update was given to the meeting that a planning response was being drafted for rejection. An extension of time to consider this application had been approved.

3) Fairview, Stoke Road - Householder Application - Erection of single storey front extension to garage, and first floor extension over including conversion of garage to additional living accommodation - **DC/23/04447**. The Planning Group recommended **No Objections**.

4) 13 Campion Way - Householder Application - Conversion of part of garage to additional living accommodation - **DC/23/04514**. C Morgan had declared an interest in this application which was still being reviewed by the Planning Group. So far there were **No Objections**.

5) Land West Of A134 Honey Tye - Application for Outline Planning Permission for 14 dwellings (including 4 affordable) - **DC/23/04425**. An extension of time had been agreed to consider this application, so further discussion can take place at our November Parish Council Meeting. Currently the application doesn't appear to be compliant with our Neighbourhood Plan.

6) Land South of High Road, Leavenheath - Outline Planning Application for 40 dwellings etc - **DC/23/04452**. A further extension of time had been requested. The Highways response was awaited and various investigations were in hand.

7) Any other Urgent Planning items: We have requested an update regarding the Stoke by Nayland Golf Club Wedding Venue. Meeting flyers will be organised ahead of our earlier 1st November Meeting out-lined during the Meeting.