

MINUTES of the MEETING of LEAVENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL held on Wednesday 3rd April 2024 at 7.00 p.m. at Leavenheath Village Hall.

PRESENT: Cllr P Mortlock (Chairman), Cllrs C Morgan, S Whitelaw, T Taylor, and P Breary. D Hattrell (Clerk) and Cllr J Finch (County Cllr). Cllr L Parker (District Cllr) joined by Video link and 5 members of the public attended in person and 2 attended by Video link.

PUBLIC FORUM: A resident noted the 5% increase in Precept and questioned the staff costs including whether the Clerk was employed for PAYE, had a contract of employment, whether the Parish Council paid National Insurance etc. The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council employed her (she was not self-employed) and all relevant employment regulations were followed. The Clerk confirmed that it is now best practice to put the full Internal Audit Report on the website and this will be uploaded confirming that the audit had checked all matters relating to the resident's concerns – **Action Clerk.** He went on to ask about the Annual Accounts which again are available on the PC website. He asked for details of the monies ring-fenced for the Playground and this was explained. He concluded by stating with the proposed developments refused planning consent recently would have resulted in CIL monies to be spent locally. It was noted that the fouling between Wrights Way and Maple Way is being addressed. Finally, another resident suggested Essex County Council is invited to extract gravel from the A134 drains in view of the lack of clearance!

APOLOGIES: were received and accepted from Jeremy Evans. District Cllr L Parker joined by Zoom.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: Nothing was declared.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 6th MARCH 2024: These were accepted as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: Nothing was raised.

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 report included reference to a well-deserved Easter holiday for Ladybirds and Little Ladybirds. Leavenheath Events held their Fun & Games night in the hall which was very well attended and a great success. They thanked all the volunteers who organised this for the village. The Monthly Film Night is still only £2 per ticket with free tea and coffee thanks to our Babergh Living Well in Winter grant. Saturday 6th April is "Wonka", please see website and noticeboards for 4th May film.

Investigations are underway into a new broadband connection for the hall and various grants to allow the Committee to make improvements. If you have felt, you would like to help the Committee to look after the village hall new members would be welcomed and their next meeting was on Monday 15th April at 6.30pm in the committee room.

Tree Warden's Report

was nothing to report.

Footpath Warden's Report

There was nothing to report.

Police Report

Two crimes were reported in the Leavenheath area during January.

- Anti-social behaviour near Mayfield - this is the fouling in the hedges and path on the cut through between Mayfield and Wrights Way. Babergh District Council nobly cleaned it all up and put signs up. Sadly, the problem persists. Two residents are monitoring regularly reporting developments with photos!
- Violence and sexual offence near SBN Golf Club. Suspect charged and now going through the magistrates or Crown Court, awaiting outcome.

Village Green Report

The Chair reported that a quote has been received for the grass cutting and the Clerk agreed to check the increase compared to last year - **Action Clerk**.

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT: District Cllr L Parker attended and confirmed the Police Elections are scheduled for 2nd May. There has been an unexpected boost from the government to support energy efficient homes, so they will be upgrading their Council House stock. He explained about the CIL grants of which the Parish Council gets 25% in view of the Neighbourhood Plan. 75% goes into a much larger pot from which bids can be made. He was hoping a bid could be made towards new Playground facilities in the future for Leavenheath. The Car Parking Charges at Sudbury and Hadleigh have been agreed. The District Council have given a formal response to the Bramford to Twinstead pylons confirming the impact would be too great. Following his report, Cllr Parker was questioned over the Village Hall premises License which has doubled the charge. Cllr Parker explained Village Halls have gone through a process of re-valuation. He is trying to establish further information from the Valuation office.

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT: County Cllr J Finch attended and confirmed to reduce pollution there is a new Suffolk Campaign to urge drivers to switch off their car engines when parked - this is particularly relevant outside schools. The County Council considers the National Grid projects of Lion Link and Sea Link could share infrastructure. Further funding has been allocated for new and existing bus services and Electric Vehicle charging points in Suffolk. Suffolk Highways have a new machine called "The Roadmender" to join their new "Dragon Patcher" to fill potholes in the County. Virtual Fostering and Adoption information sessions continue. They have asked to delay the Bramford to Twinstead pylons as there is potentially an opportunity to use better technology. The buses are scheduled to come into the Village again for 2 years and the new timetable will be available soon. A site meeting was scheduled with Cllr Finch, our Chair and

Melanie Hall, Highways Officer to look at the A134 footway, the drain near Honey Tye and the speed of traffic in Plough Lane.

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

URGENT HIGHWAYS SAFETY MATTERS: The two points to discuss were the principle of taking on jobs the responsibility of County Highways. It was agreed for the Clerk to issue guidance and for the matter to be reviewed after the site Meeting – **Action Clerk**. The request to review the speed limit on Plough Lane/Keepers Lane will also be covered at the site Meeting. In relation to the mess/anti-social behaviour between Mayfield and Wrights Way, it was agreed to investigate guidelines for surveillance in public places. The Babergh Environmental team may be able to advise.

LEAVENHEATH EVENTS: The Bingo budget was considered and approved. The Fun & Games was a great success, and a small surplus has been recorded subject to checking. The Sub-Committee will consider and suggest a good cause for any profit from the Bingo Event.

FINANCE: The Bank Balances as of 3rd April 2024 were £14,313.39 in the Community Account and £52,083.96 in the Rate Reward Account making a total of £66,397.35.

The following pre-agreed payments were made: -

Cheque No.	Amount	Payee	Details
<u>As at 3rd April</u>			
Funds Transfer	651.36	Suffolk CC	Street Lighting
Funds Transfer	858.14	Clerk/HMRC/SCC	Staffing costs
Funds Transfer	147.74	R Garrett	LE - Fun & Games
Funds Transfer	120.00	Suffolk Cloud	Web hosting
Funds Transfer	92.15	G Deeks	LE - General
Funds Transfer	79.31	G Deeks	LE - Fun & Games
Funds Transfer	54.00	Leavenheath VH	Hall hire

Leavenheath Events

See above – the Bingo budget has been agreed.

Any other urgent financial matters

There were some further payments due to reimburse expenditure from the Fun & Games night.

IDEAS TO IMPROVE THE VILLAGE: More volunteers are needed for Community Speed watch. It was agreed to provide names and contact details to the Clerk and to include an Agenda item for the May Meeting - **Action Clerk**.

MAINTENANCE OF VILLAGE ASSETS: The Chair agreed to try to make some progress in finding a suitable contractor to restore the plinth for the Village Sign. If a toilet is required to meet the requirements, then this cost will need to be met – **Action Chair**.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING: 21st May

It was agreed to arrive at the Hall at 7.00 p.m. to set up for a 7.30 p.m. start. Cllr C Morgan agreed to organize posters and Cllr S Whitelaw agreed to organize the refreshments - **Action Cllr C Morgan and Cllr S Whitelaw.**

REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS: Nothing was raised.

The meeting closed at **8.20 p.m.**

Planning Meeting on 3rd April 2024

The following Decisions were confirmed by the Planning Authority: -

- A) Land East of Blackthorn Way and Campion Way, Leavenheath - **DC/23/03653.** Full Planning Permission was refused for 23 dwellings.
- B) Land South of High Road, Leavenheath - **DC/23/04452.** Outline Planning Permission was refused for 40 dwellings.

The following applications and planning matters were discussed: -

1) 5 Edies Lane, householder application to construct pitched roof over ensuite (following removal of existing flat roof) - **DC/24/01186.** This was considered between meetings to comply with the deadline.

The Parish Council had **No Objections.**

2) Any other Urgent Planning items: including The Lion Development Vehicle Activated Signage Condition. It was agreed to chase the Developer again - **Action Clerk and Cllr Parker.**