

MINUTES of the MEETING of LEAVENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL held on Wednesday 7th August 2024 at 7.00 p.m. at Leavenheath Village Hall.

PRESENT: Cllr P Mortlock (Chair), Cllrs C Morgan, P Breary, J Evans, P King, T Taylor and S Whitelaw. D Hattrell (Clerk), Cllr L Parker (District Cllr) and 4 members of the public attended in person and 1 attended by Video link.

PUBLIC FORUM: The Parish Council (PC) was reminded that the clearance of the A134 pavement is still outstanding. A resident of Blackthorn Lodge on Stoke Road near Stone Street junction has had the bollards hit again. She has details of the responsible party. She reported it to County Highways in the usual way, only to be told there is insufficient budget to restore the bollards. She also reported issues with Highways signs positioned on junctions blocking visibility. The resident was therefore asked to email details to the Clerk who was happy to report to Highways and our County Cllr. Another resident reported damaged 30 mph signs on the A134 and the High Road. The Chair confirmed both signs have already been identified and reported.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from County Cllr J Finch.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: Nothing was declared.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 3rd JULY 2024: These were accepted as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: The Clerk agreed to obtain the latest version of the Model Standing Orders from SALC for Cllr S Whitelaw to review – **Action Clerk**. The Chair agreed to send a photo of the Village Sign/post to Cllr J Evans for the purposes of obtaining the quote to restore the brick plinth – **Action Chair and Cllr J Evans**.

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

Ladybirds have worked tirelessly to clear the hall of all their belongings, a very difficult time for all involved. They had a wonderful leaving party in July for families past and present, it was very much enjoyed by all who attended.

September Film Night is One Life, please book your tickets via the website or by phoning Marion. Two cars remain in the car park despite notices being left on the cars, we would be grateful for these being moved ASAP as this is a private car park for hall hirers.

There have been various plumbing and gutter maintenance issues which have now been sorted out thanks to P Mortlock.

The Committee will be holding their AGM on Monday 16th September at 6.30pm in the Committee Room to which everyone is very welcome.

Tree Warden's Report

The Chair reported on the inspection of trees at Breach Grove which were in a poor condition.

Footpath Warden's Report

The Chair has been approached by residents happy to monitor the condition of some Footpaths. This is great news, and he has explained what is required.

Police Report

Crimes reported in May:

1 x Other Crime on or near Campion Way (includes forgery, perjury and other miscellaneous crime)

Suspect charged, going through Crown or Magistrates court and awaiting outcome

Crimes report in June:

1 x Violence and sexual offence on or near Oaklands - Under investigation

1 x Other theft near SBN golf club - Under investigation

1 x Burglary on or near Plough Lane - Under investigation

1 x Other theft on or near Edies Lane - Investigation complete, no suspect identified

Village Green Report

Cllr P Breary explained the progress towards a new playground. He has researched various local playgrounds. Designs are being received from contractors and these are being reviewed in relation to the original survey. Fencing is currently not being recommended as it is not required on safety grounds. The project team will meet soon to consider the proposals.

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT: District Cllr L Parker reported that during both pre-election periods, no political decisions were made, however, day-to-day business continued. Since then, the parking charges have been agreed without a free period. They should be introduced around October this year. A local control order is being drawn up to relax planning restrictions on Listed Buildings to improve eco-efficiency. He will urgently chase County Cllr J Finch to ensure the Planning Condition of the Lion Development can be sanctioned by County Highways so the Vehicle Activated Signage and posts can be appropriately organised by the Developer. Once a workable agreement is in place with County Highways, Planning Enforcement can enforce if the Developer fails to deliver – **Action Cllr L Parker.**

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT: County Cllr J Finch had sent his apologies for both this and the September PC Meetings. His report was circulated ahead of the meeting which included a £600m solar farm given the go ahead in West Suffolk despite local objections. Further investment has been approved to expand special educational needs and disabilities services. A new all age Autism strategy has been launched in Suffolk. The County are bringing more community EV charging points to Suffolk as “Plug in Suffolk” project expands. Virtual Fostering and Adoption Sessions continue. In local news, Cllr Finch is establishing the requirements of Village Gateway arrangements.

URGENT HIGHWAYS SAFETY MATTERS: In relation to the A134 pavement clearance the following will be considered – a quote from the Community Wardens or other similar Highways Approved Contractors and a working party from Village Volunteers. If the latter, the Clerk explained a Parish Councillor would need to take responsibility for identifying risks and agreeing actions to minimize the risk to Councillors, volunteers, residents and road users. This is particularly relevant as the pavement is along the busy A134. Suggestions were made of doing the work at a quiet time such as early Sunday morning, working face on to the traffic, wearing hi-vis, only using familiar tools and equipment and checking on-coming traffic and not obstructing the pavement for walkers. The safety of our hard-working Cllrs and volunteers is paramount. Traffic calming on Stoke Road was raised again.

LEAVENHEATH EVENTS: It was agreed to contribute the cost of materials for the original Santa’s Sleigh at £378 to Boxford Lane Joinery – **Action Clerk**. The Bingo and Buffet was a great success with 81 tickets sold. Just over £630 from the Event has been secured to contribute towards the new Playground. The Santa’s Sleigh will go ahead again this year with more assistance from older Scouts. Arrangements are being made for the New Year’s Eve party at the Village Hall. The hire Invoice will be raised in November for payment by the PC.

CORRESPONDENCE: On-going correspondence was noted by the meeting. It was agreed for Cllr C Morgan to organize some posters to seek information on required bus usage for the Village – **Action Cllr C Morgan**.

FINANCE: The Bank Balances as of 30th July 2024 were £13,062.72 in the Community Account and £52,278.74 in the Rate Reward Account making a total of £65,341.46.

The following pre-agreed payments were made: -

Cheque No.	Amount	Payee	Details
<u>As at 1st August</u>			
Funds Transfer	1008.44	Clerk/HMRC/SCC	Staffing costs
Funds Transfer	688.80	Tree & Lawn Co	VG Maintenance
Funds Transfer	500.00	Sudbury CAB	Donation
Funds Transfer	344.40	Tree & Lawn Co	VG Maintenance

External Audit

The documents were submitted in good time ahead of the External Audit and an acknowledgment was received.

Any Other Urgent financial matters. Nothing was raised.

IDEAS TO IMPROVE THE VILLAGE: It was agreed to adopt a similar banner policy to Stoke by Nayland and Cllr T Taylor agreed to tailor the policy for our purposes for approval at the September Meeting – **Action Cllr T Taylor and Clerk to add to the agenda**.

MAINTENANCE OF VILLAGE ASSETS: Cllr P Breary asked some questions in relation to reviewing the Asset Register and the Annual Risk Assessment Policy.

VILLAGE HALL AND VILLAGE GREEN LEGAL WORK – The funding of legal work in respect of the Village Hall and Village Green was agreed – **Action Finance Sub Committee to incorporate**

into the budget for next year. In the meantime, our ear-marked reserves for Planning Consultants fees will retain £2000 and the sum of £3000 will be ear-marked for legal fees – **Action Clerk.**

REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS: In relation to potential Village Gateway Signage, County Cllr J Finch is chasing for information on the criteria and process for agreement of such signage. When the information is to hand, this will appear on the agenda again to consider – **Action Clerk.**

The meeting closed at **8.35 p.m.**

Planning Meeting on 7th August 2024

The following Decisions were reported from the Planning Authority: -

- A) Consent was granted for remedial work to various protected trees at Oak Cottage, Breach Grove, Kingsland Lane – **DC/24/02823.**
- B) A Non-Material Amendment was approved for alterations to doors, windows and external finishes at 18 Oaklands – **DC/24/02981.**

The following applications and planning matters were discussed: -

- 1) Oak Cottage, Breach Grove, tree application – **DC/24/02823.**

These trees were inspected by the PC together with a Tree Surgeon and there were **No Objections** to the work proposed in view of the poor state of the trees concerned.

- 2) Householder Application to extend cart lodge and driveway at Greens Farm House, High Road – **DC/24/02419.**

The Parish Council had **No Objections.**

- 3) Any other urgent Planning items including the VAS – condition of The Lion Development – this item was discussed under the District Council Report.
