

MINUTES of the MEETING of LEAVENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL held on Wednesday 5th June 2024 at 7.00 p.m. at Leavenheath Village Hall.

PRESENT: Cllr P Mortlock (Chair), Cllrs C Morgan, P Breary, J Evans, T Taylor, S Whitelaw, P King (joined the meeting following her cooption). D Hattrell (Clerk), J Finch (County Cllr), L Parker (District Cllr) and 4 members of the public attended in person and 2 attended by Video link.

PUBLIC FORUM: A resident asked about the progress regarding clearing the pavement along the A134 as he felt it was unsafe currently. He asked whether the Parish Council (PC) could consider the budget for the work themselves. County Cllr J Finch confirmed County Highways who are responsible for the work, are aware, however, it is not high enough priority currently. The Chair confirmed that we have requested a quote from local contractors, and it will be on the July PC Meeting Agenda – **Action Clerk**. Finally, the resident asked about progress with the Play Area which was to be reported later in the Meeting under Village Green.

CO-OPTION OF MEMBER: The PC invited Penny King to join as a Parish Councillor. Penny King confirmed her willingness to join the PC and was duly co-opted. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was then signed, and Cllr King joined the meeting.

APOLOGIES: No apologies were received, and District Cllr L Parker had confirmed he would be arriving later at the meeting.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: Nothing was declared.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 1st MAY 2024: These were accepted as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: Cllr C Morgan was asked if she was willing to continue as Vice Chair. This was confirmed and she was duly appointed.

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

Film Night had their fifth and final film under the Babergh grant which was well supported. Our next film on Saturday 6th July is Hairspray. Tickets will revert to £4 which is still excellent value so please book your tickets in the usual way. Positive feedback and thanks for the grant will be given to Babergh in the next month.

The car charger will be temporarily switched off from 30th June while they negotiate the ongoing operating contract with Suffolk County Council. The switch-on date will be announced as soon as it is known.

The committee are still looking for extra help to run the hall, particularly from those who hire the hall each week. The next meeting will be Monday 1st July. Please contact one of the existing committee members if you feel you could spare a small amount of your time. Contact details are on the website leavenheathvillage.com

Tree Warden's Report

There was nothing to report.

Footpath Warden's Report

Cllr S Whitelaw agreed to upload the footpath map to the website. Volunteers are still being sought to check the condition of the footpath network in the Parish. Kevin Verlander is our Right of Way Officer at the County Council, and he reports to Claire Dixon.

Police Report

3 x Violence and sexual offences or on near The Ridings
All three cases currently under investigation

1 x Other Theft near the SBN Golf Club (Includes theft by an employee, blackmail and making off without payment)
Under investigation

Village Green Report

The Village Green Insurance has just been renewed and there is now a requirement for weekly inspections of the Playpark. The Chair thanked G Deeks who is now assisting the Playground project. G Deeks is researching funding options which so far include Section 106 funds and Babergh District Council Capital grants. He then asked for clarification that the 106 funds were separate from the CIL monies. The Clerk confirmed that they were.

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT: District Cllr L Parker attended and confirmed the District Council is currently in the pre-Election period which prevents them from transacting new business ahead of the elections on 4th July. They have a new leader – Cllr Deborah Saw – who is the first Green Leader since the Councils inception. The Capital Grant window is now open. He then discussed the Enforcement matter of Vehicle Activated Signage which was a condition of The Lion development. It was agreed for Cllr Parker to send an email to the developer and copied to our County Cllr.

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT: County Cllr J Finch attended and confirmed pupils from 4 Suffolk Schools bid for and were awarded funding to deliver active travel projects. The desire for energy security for the UK is supported, however, the County Council objected to the Norwich to Tilbury pylons and called for a pause to consider alternatives. A new Suffolk Business board has been established to represent the local business community and takes over from the Local Enterprise Partnership. Funding has been secured to boost digital technology innovation. Significant Anglo-Saxon archaeology is to be celebrated this summer. Finally East of England local authorities collaborate to appeal for more foster families. Following his report, Cllr Finch was questioned about advertising signs on County Council land and why some potholes are filled whilst others nearby are left. Cllr Whitelaw agreed to send references to Cllr Finch for those reported in Harrow Street. A resident was briefly invited to speak, and he questioned the wisdom of employing people to investigate and colour mark potholes.

URGENT HIGHWAYS SAFETY MATTERS: Highways were covered in other parts of the meeting.

LEAVENHEATH EVENTS: It was reported that the tickets for the forthcoming Bingo were selling well.

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

FINANCE: The Bank Balances as of 31st May 2024 were £21,156.12 in the Community Account and £52,083.96 in the Rate Reward Account making a total of £73,240.08.

The following pre-agreed payments were made: -

Cheque No.	Amount	Payee	Details
As at 3rd April			
Funds Transfer	688.80	Tree & Lawn Co	VG Maintenance
Funds Transfer	1038.62	Clerk/HMRC/SCC	Staffing costs
Funds Transfer	637.74	Clear Ins Management	VG Insurance
Funds Transfer	505.11	Clear Ins Management	PC Insurance
Funds Transfer	45.00	Leavenheath VH	LE - Bingo & Buffet
Funds Transfer	30.00	Spingold Design	Footpath posters
Funds Transfer	344.40	Tree & Lawn Co	VG Maintenance

Village Green Insurance was renewed after we negotiated a discount of around £50.

The PC Insurance was renewed and is discounted as part of a long-term undertaking which ends on 31.5.26.

Consider quotes for

- replacement noticeboard on High Road (within earmarked reserve amount - £1800) - the quotation was approved and was to be ordered between meetings - **Action Chair and Clerk.**
- village sign plinth renewal (this work has been planned for subject to agreement of cost) - further enquiries are being undertaken and an alternative quote to build the plinth would be requested - **Acton Chair.**
- dog waste bins (within the Asset Repairs budget of £550) were approved and were to be ordered between meetings - **Action Chair and Clerk.**
- posts and concrete spurs for noticeboard were to be ordered (within earmarked reserve amount) - **Action Chair.**

Cllr L Parker reminded that Locality budget is available to assist the Parish.

IDEAS TO IMPROVE THE VILLAGE: Nothing was raised in view of on-going matters currently.

MAINTENANCE OF VILLAGE ASSETS: Cllr P Breary agreed to take on the role of Risk Assessment Cllr for the PC. Our Risk Assessment Policy is reviewed during the autumn each year.

VILLAGE GATEWAY SUGGESTION: A link had been provided to Glasdon products ahead of the meeting. The Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer had confirmed that we have Highways Capital Reserves of £2000, however, suggested that the PC may wish to finalise Vehicle Activated Signage to see if we need to contribute ahead of allocating the monies to a new project. The question for this meeting was whether this PC would like to consider Village Gateways providing budget/funding is agreed. Members had mixed views on this regard. It was agreed to check the process with County Highways and put it back on the agenda later – **Action Clerk.**

COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH: Cllr J Evans confirmed he was happy to assist subject to his availability.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING ON 21st MAY: It was agreed that the Lady Anne Windsor Trust item was well received, and this will form an Agenda item at the next meeting – **Action Clerk.**

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

The meeting closed at **8.30 p.m.**

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Planning Meeting on 5th June 2024

The following Decisions were confirmed by the Planning Authority: -

- A) Planning permission was granted for householder application for a double garage at Orchard Farm, Locks Lane – **DC/24/01605**

The following applications and planning matters were discussed: -

- 1) Any other Urgent Planning items: including The Lion Development Vehicle Activated Signage Condition. This was discussed under the report from our District Councillor.