

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

PRESENT: P Mortlock (Chairman), C Morgan, S Whitelaw, Tina Taylor, Phil Breary, D Hattrell (Clerk), J Finch (County Cllr), and 9 members of the public attended in person. 1 attended by Video link.

CO-OPTION OF MEMBERS: Phil Breary was invited to be Co-opted onto the Parish Council. He confirmed his willingness and completed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office form before joining the Meeting.

PUBLIC FORUM: A resident expressed his objection to the proposed 23 houses on land east of Blackthorn Way and Campion Way. His main concern was due to surface water drainage. He advised that the whole estate drains into a ditch which has no authority responsible to clear. Anglian Water have cleared it in the past; however, it is not their responsibility. The applicant for the 40 dwellings on the orchard site confirmed that they have amended the entrance to their proposed development addressing some concerns from residents. There are no trees to remove with this new entrance. Highways have not formally responded to this change. As this is an outline application, future consideration needs to be taken to the drainage provision. Currently, the plan is to hold back drainage allowing a later release when there is capacity in the system.

APOLOGIES: were received and accepted from Jeremy Evans. District Cllr L Parker sent his apologies.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: Nothing was declared.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 17th JANUARY 2024: These were accepted as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: No matters were 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

Firstly, a big thank you to those who work so hard on our Film Night committee. The February film "The Great Escaper" was very popular, and they were delighted to see the numbers back to pre-Covid levels. Having been lucky to secure a Living Well in Winter grant from Babergh, they are currently offering half-price tickets to all those who pre-book, free tea and coffee on arrival and a lovely warm hall. The new heating system is unsurprisingly taking a while to get used to and testing the patience of those who remotely set the hall to the right temperature for all the different bookings throughout the month! The extremely cold weather at the start of January was a huge challenge so thank you for bearing with us.

The Warm Space held every other Tuesday is well attended, as are the Saturday coffee mornings. They are looking at the future of their electric car charger and the possibility of it being run by a third party from July onwards. It is still fully up and running and at only 35p/kWh it is a very competitive price for all residents or visitors to the village to use. Broken glass on the pavement

around the bottle bank was cleared after being reported. Please may we remind residents that these are community assets which prevent unsightly kerbside collections and there is no additional charge on council tax. The revenue from the bottle banks is put towards the ever-increasing maintenance bills at the Village Hall. If any of the banks are full, please do not leave bags of bottles or papers on the ground. Also, a polite reminder that nothing other than bottles or paper can be recycled at the Village Hall. We do not expect to find unwanted items by the bins, these need to be disposed of responsibly by individual residents please.

Tree Warden's Report

The Chair reported that fallen trees on Kingsland Lane have been cleared. The branch hanging over the play area of the Village Hall has been removed. The need to raise the canopy on trees along the High Road for safety reasons has been identified and reported on the Highways Reporting Tool.

Footpath Warden's Report

The Chair has been in contact with our new Footpath Warden, Penny King, who has agreed to get out and about checking the paths this year.

Police Report

There were no crimes to report in December.

Village Green Report

The first meeting this year of the Village Green Committee was held on 25th January 2024. They are moving to restart the Play Area project. It was agreed to get quotes for grass cutting and edges. The weed and feed quotes were also being obtained. Some repairs to the fence have been identified. A new bench on the green has been offered and repairs to an existing bin were in hand.

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT: District Cllr L Parker sent his apologies, and the meeting were reminded they can make a comment regarding the proposed parking charges at Sudbury and Hadleigh via the website.

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT: County Cllr J Finch attended and confirmed construction commences on Sizewell C and the Suffolk County Council (SCC) has various monitoring responsibilities over highways, archaeology and flooding. They will also administer funds secured through the Deed of Obligation to limit the impact on local communities during construction. The partnership responsible for children and young people with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) services in Suffolk have apologised to families and commits to urgent action to improve following Ofsted and Care Quality Commission inspections. SCC are offering new funding for arts and heritage in Suffolk. He reminded people to register for alerts about roadworks in the area under the one. network map and to continue to report defects on the Highways Reporting Tool. Virtual Fostering and Adoption Sessions continue.

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

URGENT HIGHWAYS SAFETY MATTERS: It was noted that complaints about parking near the Village Hall obstructing drivers is a Police matter which has already been reported to them. County Cllr J Finch agreed and confirmed a traffic regulation order would take far longer. He suggested putting a polite notice in LSPN asking for residents to park considerately – **Action Clerk**. There has been antisocial disposal of dog waste reports between meetings. This has been reported to the Police and it was agreed to ask our District Cllr and report to Babergh Public Realms – **Action S Whitelaw**. J Finch confirmed that they have new technology to mend potholes. The Vehicle Activated Signage which was a condition of the Lion development has still not been put in place. It was agreed to circulate information to our District Cllr, County Cllr and the Parish Council to work together to urge the developer to fulfill his obligations.

LEAVENHEATH EVENTS: G Deeks attended to give a report for the Events Sub Committee. The Fun & Games night preparations were going well with 80% of the tickets sold. The event is to take place on 16th March. They had requested help with organizing the Fete scheduled for June, however, sadly not enough people have come forward. They will arrange smaller events as these are more feasible without additional helpers. They are undertaking a survey to assess what the community would like and residents’ willingness to assist. He noted every organization is struggling to attract new volunteers.

FINANCE: The Bank Balances as of 1st February 2024 were £52,527.32 in the Community Account and £15661.57 in the Rate Reward Account making a total of £68,188.89.

The following pre-agreed payments were made: -

Cheque No.	Amount	Payee	Details
<u>As at 3rd January</u>			
Funds Transfer	863.60	Clerk/HMRC/SCC	Staffing costs.
Funds Transfer	205.00	Suffolk Cloud	Domain & Emails
Funds Transfer	88.89	P Mortlock	Equipment - speaker.
Funds Transfer	85.00	Keith Avis Printers	LE – Fun & Games

Review of Reserves Policy

This was reviewed between meetings and members were provided with the draft wording in good time ahead of the meeting. The document was duly approved, and S Whitelaw agreed to upload it to the website.

Any other urgent financial matters

The Chair reminded the Meeting of the need for the Village Green hedge cutting and this was agreed with the Invoice to follow. A dog bin has deteriorated, and the Chair will provide full details to the Clerk to get a quote from the Community Wardens – **Action Chair**. The order could be made to be delivered to the Community Wardens to install.

IDEAS TO IMPROVE THE VILLAGE: S Whitelaw suggested that to assist the Footpath Warden, all paths could be assigned to different members to regularly walk those and report on the condition. This could be extended to include a map on-line so that residents could do the same.

MAINTENANCE OF VILLAGE ASSETS: The Chair reminded us that the Village Sign has been restored/painted and he is now seeking quotes to repair the plinth. A new wooden pole could easily be sourced. He reported that all other assets are in good order. Damaged highways signs have been reported.

REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS:

Nothing was reported.

The meeting closed at **8.00 p.m.**

Planning Meeting on 7th February 2024

The following applications and planning matters were discussed: -

1) 7 Edies Lane, single storey rear extension – **DC/24/00431**.

The Parish Council had **No Objections**.

2) Re-consultation of Full Planning Application for 23 dwellings with associated works at land east of Blackthorn Way and Campion Way. - **DC/23/03653**. An extension of time was granted until this Meeting.

The changes have been reviewed and there was no substantial change to the originally submitted application and our original response and objections still stand. It was agreed for C Morgan to draft a suitable response for the Clerk to submit – **Action C Morgan**.

3) The Orchard Site, 40 dwellings – **DC/23/04452**

The change of position of the proposed entrance does not provide reason to change our originally submitted objection currently. It was agreed for C Morgan to draft a suitable response for the Clerk to submit – **Action C Morgan**.

4) Any other Urgent Planning items: Nothing was raised.