

**MINUTES of the MEETING of LEAVENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL** held on Wednesday 6th March 2024 at 7.00 p.m. at Leavenheath Village Hall.

**PRESENT:** P Mortlock (Chairman), C Morgan, J Evans, T Taylor, D Hattrell (Clerk), J Finch (County Cllr), L Parker (District Cllr) and 3 members of the public attended in person. 2 attended by Video link.

**PUBLIC FORUM:** The applicant for the 40-dwelling application on Land South of High Road commented that County Highways had not objected to the change of entrance; however, some other points were made. She confirmed that the response from Anglian Water was awaited and upon receipt, they will consider the best approach going forward. She noted their Outline application was likely to be included on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March Planning Committee. Another resident had observed the Community Wardens doing some clearance in Boxford and he wondered whether Leavenheath PC could consider instructing them to clear the A134 pavement as the usable part is narrowing from encroachment of high- and low-level vegetation and soil. He confirmed the Community Wardens would be happy to give a presentation on the services they can provide. It was agreed to include an Agenda item at the next Meeting regarding the principle of taking on jobs the responsibility of County Highways – **Action Clerk**. It was confirmed that this Council were already in contact with the Community Wardens on other matters.

**APOLOGIES:** were received and accepted from S Whitelaw and P Breary.

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST:** Nothing was declared.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF 7th FEBRUARY 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**

There was nothing to report.

**Tree Warden's Report**

There were no recent updates.

**Footpath Warden's Report**

There was nothing to report.

## **Police Report**

There were no crimes to report in December.

## **Village Green Report**

The Chair reported that quotes are being sought regarding the annual garden maintenance contracts. A further playground meeting was arranged.

**BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT:** District Cllr L Parker attended and confirmed the District Council has managed to deliver a balanced budget with the use of reserves. Costs are increasing significantly due to inflation and interest rates. If the financial position worsens, the steps needed to be taken would be less democratic. The increase to residents for their element of Council Tax is 2.99%. He agreed to help with the Lion signage. Cllr Morgan congratulated Cllr Parker on his business award.

**SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT:** County Cllr J Finch attended and confirmed that 60 additional staff are to strengthen the reform of Special Educational Needs and Disability services in Suffolk. A 10-week public consultation on Suffolk Devolution is due to start on 18<sup>th</sup> March. New dragon patcher technology is being used to fix rural potholes. Residents are invited to share information on how they travel to help inform Suffolk's Local Transport Plan. In February 2022, for environmental reasons County Highways agreed to stop using glyphosate for routine weed treatment and to find more natural alternatives. Unfortunately, the alternative products have not been as effective. Further research is on-going with some responsible usage of glyphosate. The County Council have issued formal objections to the making of a Development Consent Order for the Bramford to Twinstead lines. 98% of pupils have received a place of one of their preferred secondary schools. Virtual fostering and adoption sessions continue. Following his report, the issue with the necessary clearance along the A134 pavement was raised as a health and safety issue. Cllr Finch agreed to investigate. He was also reminded that the drains in the vicinity remain blocked.

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

**URGENT HIGHWAYS SAFETY MATTERS:** Items were raised in the Public Forum and directly with County Cllr Finch after his report.

**LEAVENHEATH EVENTS:** The arrangements for the Fun and Games night were all in hand and the tickets were nearly all sold out. The Fete was postponed due to a lack of volunteers from the Village to help.

**FINANCE:** The Bank Balances as of 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024 were £14964.44 in the Community Account and £52,000.00 in the Rate Reward Account, making a total of £66,964.44.

The following pre-agreed payments were made: -

<b>Cheque No.</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b><u>As at 1<sup>st</sup> March</u></b>			
Funds Transfer	£858.14	Clerk/HMRC/SCC	Staffing costs.
Funds Transfer	£360.00	Bowman & Son	Village Green hedge.
Funds Transfer	£90.00	Leavenheath V/Hall	LE - hire for Fun & Games.
Funds Transfer	£76.80	SALC	Training
Funds Transfer	£35.00	J Dunkley	LE - Fun & Games.

**IDEAS TO IMPROVE THE VILLAGE:** The Chair was arranging a spring litter pick, and all agreed we needed volunteers to help with this and with other events and organisations in the Village.

**MAINTENANCE OF VILLAGE ASSETS:** The Chair agreed to get a quote from our usual noticeboard supplier and in respect of a dog bin in need of renewal – **Action Chair.**

**REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS:** The books in the bus shelter are getting damp and in a poor state. The Chair agreed to investigate. The Chair is considering a suitable date for the Annual Parish Meeting – **Agenda item April – Action Clerk.**

The meeting closed at **8.45 p.m.**

## **Planning Meeting on 6th March 2024**

### **The following Decision was confirmed from the Planning Authority: -**

Planning Permission was granted to extend Beaumont, Cock Street - **DC/23/05773**.

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

- 1) Any updates on full planning for 23 dwellings at Land East of Blackthorn Way and Campion Way - DC/23/03653.**

Objections had been submitted between Meetings as this site does not meet the requirements of the newly adopted Leavenheath Neighbourhood Plan. The cumulative impact of applications in the vicinity, including the Bramford to Twinstead project were brought to their attention. The Chair attended the Planning Committee Site Meeting and pointed out the ditches full of water. Cllr L Parker believed the Planning Officer will be recommending refusal; however, the application would be decided by the Planning Committee.

- 2) Any updates on the Re-consultation for Outline Permission for 40 dwellings on Land South of High Road - DC/23/04452.**

Objections had been submitted between meetings which at the time of sending, the key statutory consultee (Highways) had not responded. The cumulative impact of applications in the vicinity was drawn to the attention of the Planning Authority. The Chair attended the Planning Committee Site Meeting and pointed out the ditches full of water. Cllr L Parker believed the Planning Officer will be recommending refusal; however, it would be decided by the Planning Committee.

- 3) Any other Urgent Planning items:** Nothing was raised.