

MINUTES of the MEETING of LEAVENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL held on Wednesday 19th February 2025 at 7.00 p.m. at Leavenheath Village Hall.

PRESENT: Cllr C Morgan (Chaired the Meeting), Cllrs S Felgate, P King, T Taylor and S Whitelaw. D Hattrell (Clerk), District Cllr L Parker, County Cllr J Finch and 5 members of the public attended in person. Cllr J Evans and 1 member of the public attended by Video link.

PUBLIC FORUM: The Appeal Hearing was raised in relation to whether the Affordable Housing part was such when you factor in the cost of maintaining the public open space. Concern was expressed that the design may not accord with Leavenheath Neighbourhood Plan. It was noted the reasons the Planning Authority gave for refusal related to the connectivity to the settlement boundary and sustainability of the site. The Planning Inspector came to a different conclusion on these aspects. There was no reference to compliance with the design policies in the Leavenheath Neighbourhood Plan. This aspect was not picked up in the Planning Inspectors Report.

REPORT OF RESIGNATION: Cllr P Breary resigned immediately following the January Parish Council (PC) Meeting. Members were sorry to hear of his resignation, however, they understood the reasons. Cllr Sue Felgate was welcomed on to the PC. The official notices and declarations were being organized – **Action Clerk.**

APOLOGIES: were received and accepted from Cllr P Mortlock (Chair) and Cllr J Evans. Cllr Evans was able to join part of the Meeting via Video link.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: Nothing was declared.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 8th JANUARY 2024: These were accepted as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: Nothing was raised.

UPDATES FROM COMMUNITY, ORGANSISATIONS 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

After many years of hard work and service to the village, Paul Mortlock has decided to stand down from the Village Hall committee. Paul was thanked by all on the committee and undoubtedly, he and his extensive knowledge will be greatly missed. The committee continue to work with our new clubs/fitness hirers to ensure their success, providing a variety of events in the hall for all to enjoy. They are happy to have confirmed bookings for children's parties over the coming months. Please bear with the Committee with regards to the Electric Vehicle car charger, they are doing their best to make the right decision for the village going forwards.

Tree Warden's Report - Nothing was raised.

Footpath Warden's Report - Nothing was raised.

Police Report

Cllr S Whitelaw confirmed the December figures are the most up to date records on the Police Website (see below) and she has previously reached out to our local Community Police Officer seeking their attendance at a future PC Meeting.

1 x Criminal damage and arson on or near The Ridings - Under investigation

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

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

Village Green Report

The Playground Project engagement event with residents over the proposals went ahead with largely very positive feedback. The new potential location for the zip wire is supported by most residents. This is now being referred to the Chief Environment Team at the District Council (DC). The Safeguarding, Equality and Health and Safety Policies (requirement of 106 grant) had been circulated in good time ahead of the PC Meeting and these were duly approved. The CIL grant application will go before the DC Committee on 11th March. Thanks were noted to Nigel Rogers for all his hard work supporting this project. In relation to the Village Green Maintenance Contracts, one of our existing contractors is no longer able to assist. Quotes for next season had been received, and the Village Green Committee are suggesting Moser Ground care quote of £3000 plus VAT and also to cut outside edges at £2400 plus VAT. Dan Bowman was scheduled to cut the hedge on 21st February at a cost of £330. This was resolved and Cllr P Mortlock will provide the new contractors with our contact details for future billing – **Action Cllr P Mortlock.**

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT: District Cllr L Parker attended and reported that the DC briefing note had been circulated as usual. The new stretching housing targets may put pressure on the 5-year land supply in the future. If the building doesn't keep in pace with the targets, local planning policies are over-ruled by the National Planning Policies. The Neighbourhood Plan will need updating in the future. The Appeal Hearing was decided on different interpretations of connectivity and sustainability compared to the reasons for refusal by the Planning Authority (DC). The Appeal decision in relation to the outline application at the Orchard Site is still awaited and if approved reserved matters such as the design will be considered later. The Planning Conditions for the allowed appeal included an uncontrolled pedestrian crossing of the A134. The Clerk agreed to research the detail and circulated Councillors accordingly – **Action Clerk.**

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT: County Cllr J Finch attended, and his report covered that Suffolk County Council's (SCC) budget is set to increase the Council tax for their part by 4.99% overall. They have committed to devolution to a streamlined unitary council likely to cover Suffolk and Norfolk. National Grid are proposing to install pylons through the Waveney Valley as part of their Norwich to Tilbury project. Improvements are being implemented to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Services (SEND) in Suffolk. SCC and Ipswich Football Club are launching a stop smoking campaign. Virtual Fostering and Adoption Sessions continue. The Consultation on Devolution in Suffolk has now started.

URGENT HIGHWAYS SAFETY MATTERS: It was agreed to defer the agenda item to start planning the spring working party to clear A134 pavement to the March PC Meeting – **Action Clerk.**

LEAVENHEATH EVENTS: The Bingo Budget was duly approved, and it was noted the Fete is being arranged for this year. It was hoped the new playground would be ready to open on the same day. A budget for the Fete will be prepared and some deposits will be required up front.

CORRESPONDENCE: On-going correspondence was noted by the meeting. Model Publication Scheme tailored for the PC will form an Agenda item at the March Meeting for approval – **Action Cllr T Taylor.**

FINANCE: The Bank Balances as of 28th January 2025 were £9,604.14 in the Community Account and £52,670.49 in the Rate Reward Account making a total of £62,247.63.

The following pre-agreed payments were made: -

Cheque No.	Amount	Payee	Details
<u>At 5th February</u>			
Funds Transfer	1844.40	Holmes & Hills	VG Legal Costs
Funds Transfer	1032.93	Clerk/HMRC/SCC	Staffing costs
Funds Transfer	215.43	Leavenheath Scouts	L Events – Santa’s Sleigh
Funds Transfer	195.20	Cllr T Taylor	L Events – New Years Eve
Funds Transfer	99.99	N Weston-Plumb	L Events – General
Funds Transfer	97.20	N Weston-Plumb	L Events – Santa’s Sleigh
Funds Transfer	91.00	Keith Avis Printers	VG – Playground Leaflets
Funds Transfer	52.56	N Weston-Plumb	L Events – New Years Eve
Funds Transfer	17.99	J Decort-Effeny	L Events - New Years Eve
Funds Transfer	12.49	G Deeks	L Events – Santa’s Sleigh
Funds Transfer	12.00	G Deeks	L Events – New Years Eve
Funds Transfer	28.00	Leavenheath Village Hall	L Events - Hall hire

Two of the payments above needed to be repeated from the previous month, due to a problem with on-line banking at Barclays - they were not processed. The above payments were all delayed due to a further online payment outage at Barclays from Friday 31st January. All was working again in the week commencing 3rd February, so the payments were processed on 5th February.

Reserves Policy Review – Some minor amendments were suggested and this was duly approved. The up-to-date version will be uploaded to our website – **Action Cllr S Whitelaw *this was done.**

Bank Signatories Mandate – A new signatory was to be added, and some previous Councillors removed. This document was duly approved for signing – **Action Clerk to submit to the Bank.**

Any Other Urgent financial matters – Nothing was raised.

IDEAS TO IMPROVE THE VILLAGE: A spring litter pick would be arranged between meetings. Cllr S Whitelaw has tracked down the litter picking equipment. Cllr S Felgate enquired about the Community Cinema as she knows someone interested in helping. A textile recycling bin was

suggested; however, it was agreed to monitor in view of changes to household waste collection planned shortly. The books in the bus shelter are in a poor state, so it was agreed to monitor potential solutions between meetings.

MAINTENANCE OF VILLAGE ASSETS: It was noted the post at the Village Green entrance from the Village Hall car park needs repair. This will be investigated between meetings.

DATE FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING: 7th May was suggested as the PC Meeting could take place following the Annual Parish Meeting. Cllr S Whitelaw agreed to check the availability of the Village Hall – **Action Cllr S Whitelaw.**

REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS: Cllr P Mortlock confirmed he is resigning from the PC. Members were sorry to hear the news and thanked him for considerable work he has put in over many years for the Village. Cllr Mortlock will remain on the Village Green Committee. A new PC Chair will need to be appointed at the March PC Meeting as the first item – **Action Clerk to put on the agenda.** In relation to the updating of the Neighbourhood Plan, Cllr C Morgan agreed to join the Steering Group as a representative from the PC – **Action Cllr C Morgan.**

The meeting closed at **9.10 p.m.**

Planning Meeting on 19th February 2025

The following Planning Applications were discussed: -

A) Any updates relating to the on-going Appeals. The Appeals had been discussed earlier in the Meeting.

B) Observations for the lawful development application at Norton Villa, 14 Nayland Road.

There was No evidence to contribute between meetings.

C) Porch extension application at Fiddlers Green, Plough Lane – **DC/25/00338**.

There were **No Objections** by the PC between Meetings.

D) Any other urgent Planning Matters including update on the Lion Development Speed Signage Condition. The developer has been asked to supply the VAS, solar powered with a spare battery and two compatible poles ready for installation. Delivery is awaited.