

MINUTES of the MEETING of LEAVENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL held on Wednesday 6th April 2016 at 7.30 p.m. at The Village Hall, Leavenheath.

PRESENT: B Rowe (Chairman), P Mortlock, B Sadler, C Morgan, H Bonnar, C Jackson, R Cowell, D Hattrell (Clerk), J Jenkins (District Cllr), J Finch (County Cllr) and 4 members of the public.

APOLOGIES: None were given.

PUBLIC FORUM: Issues contributing to the number of accidents along Stoke Road were discussed again and reports were made of site visits between meetings. J Finch agreed to follow up again. On other matters the state of Church path was mentioned and R Cowell confirmed this had been reported to the relevant District Council Officer. J Jenkins agreed to pursue this.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: Nothing was declared.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 2ND MARCH 2016: These were accepted as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: C Jackson apologised for providing the incorrect surname of a village volunteer in respect of litter. The full name should read "Ian Gilbert". The up to date Standing Orders had been provided to P Mortlock who had put on the website.

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT: District Councillor J Jenkins attended and confirmed the Annual Meeting of the District Council was scheduled later in April where all the Committees were to be decided. She then provided up to date information towards Devolution. The proposal included the Counties of Suffolk, Norfolk and Cambridgeshire and now the financial provision and governance were being discussed.

POLICE REPORT: A recent Police Report had not been provided. It was agreed to chase again for a reply to our earlier enquiry about the crime statistics - **Action Clerk**.

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT: County Councillor J Finch attended and reported as follows: -

➤ **£1bn Devolution Deal announced for East Anglia**

Following weeks of negotiation between central Government, local councils and Local Enterprise Partnerships, a proposed Deal worth in excess of £1bn for East Anglia has been announced by George Osborne MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer.

As part of the proposed Deal, East Anglia would receive:

- £900m (£30million per year for the next 30 years) to invest in infrastructure
- £175m to invest in housing

The proposed Deal, which sets out a fundamentally different relationship between central Government and local public services, was negotiated by Leaders from councils across Suffolk, Norfolk, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and the New Anglia and Greater Cambridgeshire and Greater Peterborough Local Enterprise Partnerships.

The proposed Deal reflects the fact that Suffolk and the rest of East Anglia delivers some significant economic benefits to UK PLC and beyond through agriculture, on and offshore energy and research and innovation in science and technology.

At this stage, it is important to be very clear that what has been published to date is not a 'done Deal'. It will require ratification by each of the local councils and the LEP Boards.

In addition to seeking further clarification on the specifics of the proposed Deal, there will now also follow an extensive period of engagement over the coming months with local communities and businesses across the county, with feedback being used to inform the paper that each individual council will consider at their full council meetings over the summer.

The proposed Deal, if ratified by the relevant councils and LEP Boards, would see decisions currently being made by Government on such things as infrastructure, growth, employment and skills being made in East Anglia in the future.

As it stands, the proposed Deal will require the creation of a Combined Authority and directly elected Mayor and it is proposed that the first mayoral elections would be in May 2017 alongside county council elections.

The directly elected Mayor would act as Chair to the East Anglia Combined Authority and would exercise the following powers and functions devolved from Government:

- Responsibility for a multi-year, consolidated and, devolved local transport budget
- Responsibility for a new Key Route Network of local authority roads that will be managed and maintained by the Combined Authority on behalf of the Mayor
- Powers over strategic planning and housing, including £175m ring-fenced funding to deliver an ambitious target of new homes

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The new East Anglia Combined Authority, working with the Mayor, would receive the following powers:

- Control of a new additional £30 million a year funding allocation over 30 years, to be invested to the East Anglia Single Investment Fund, to boost growth
- Responsibility for chairing an area-based review of 16+ skills provision, the outcomes of which will be taken forward in line with the principles of the devolved arrangements, and devolved 19+ adult skills funding from 2018/19.
- Joint responsibility with the government to co-design the new National Work and Health Programme designed to focus on those with a health condition or disability and the very long term unemployed.

This is the first proposed Deal for East Anglia but, as has happened elsewhere in the country, the local authorities and LEPs are keen to negotiate further Deals over the coming months and years. The proposed Deal document can be found at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/east-anglia-devolution-deal

➤ **New road safety measures in place for Suffolk's towns and villages**

Twenty new temporary vehicle activated signs have been purchased by the Suffolk Road safe Board in a bid to tackle concerns around speeding, especially in locations where there are vulnerable road users

Speeding is often the biggest contributor to accidents where drivers lose control of their vehicles on changing road surfaces and in areas they are not used to driving frequently. These new signs will serve local communities across the county, providing a warning and deterrent to drivers who drive without due care and attention.

Moving the signs around different locations means that they can be directed to those areas in greatest need and will also ensure their effectiveness as drivers will not become reliant on them being situated in fixed spots.

➤ **Suffolk's Trading Standards team continue the fight against underage alcohol sales with two key prosecutions**

Suffolk County Council's Trading Standards team is continuing its fight against underage alcohol sales with further prosecutions against those selling alcohol to youngsters under the legal age limit.

Underage sales test purchase operations take place across the county targeting a variety of premises such as supermarkets, off licences, pubs, bars, and clubs. This critical work plays an important part in reducing anti-social behaviour and reducing the associated health risks which underage drinking has on young people. Both Suffolk's Trading Standards team and the Police work collaboratively, sharing intelligence to crack down on the offenders.

Retailers know the law and that it is illegal to sell alcohol to anyone under 18 years old. Trading Standards advice is to operate a 'Challenge 25' policy so anyone who looks under 25 should be asked for ID.

It is important that action is taken against traders who sell alcohol to children; in particular, those traders who repeatedly break these laws, which are in place to protect these young people from the associated health risks that underage drinking has on them.

Anyone with information about illegal sales of alcohol, tobacco, knives, butane gas or other age-restricted products can inform Trading Standards by contacting the *Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on: 03454 040506*.

Following his report, the Chairman confirmed the cycle/pedestrian crossing was to be discussed. However, from her research of notes from a previous site meeting, there were concerns about the limited impact/visibility of the crossing to drivers then and that still seems to be the situation now.

CORRESPONDENCE: The report had been issued ahead of the meeting and key areas were discussed. The Chairman confirmed that date of the Annual Parish Meeting had been set for 24th May following agreement with the Scouts.

HIGHWAYS: The lack of impact of the pedestrian/cycle crossing was discussed. The original plan was reviewed and some suggestions were made. It was resolved for the Clerk to ask the

County Council to add a coloured surface to the build up to the crossing and also mark some zig zag lines - **Action Clerk**. This should improve the impact of the crossing. On another matter a response is still awaited from P Gant, County Highways regarding the Locks Lane drainage.

FINANCE: The bank balances as at 31st March 2016 were **£16286.19** in the Community Account, **£15270.56** in the Reserve Account making a total of **£31556.75**. The timetable for this years' External Audit was discussed.

The following were authorised for payment: -

1373	458.00	Babergh District Council	Bin Empty Charges
1374	412.66	D K Hattrell	Clerk's Salary
1375	92.92	Inland Revenue	Clerk's ddtns & ERS NIC
1376	148.58	SCC - Pension ACC	Clerk's Pension
1377	36.00	Leavenheath Village Hall	Hall Hire
1378	126.66	R Cowell	Materials for circ. paths

Total £1274.82

CIRCULAR PATH PROJECT: R Cowell confirmed the grants were being paid. Careful allocation and sufficient retention of remaining maps and booklets were discussed. Further thank you letters were being sent to project helpers by the Chairman. R Cowell took the opportunity to thank his colleagues on the Parish Council for all their support with this project. The Chairman agreed to write to Peter Pratt with special thanks for his assistance throughout - **Action Chairman**. Consideration was given to joining the "Walkers are Welcome" Accreditation scheme, however, on balance the Parish Council decided not to pursue this idea. In order to keep the circular paths well maintained it was agreed to budget a small amount each year for upkeep. A figure of £175 was agreed for next years' budget - **Action Clerk**.

COMMUNITY WOODLAND: General reports were made of things going to plan at both Royston and Rowley Woods.

VILLAGE HALL: B Sadler reported on successful film nights. The decoration to the outside of the hall took place and unfortunately the Parish Council Noticeboard fell apart, so a new one is required. Some external doors are deteriorating and the next major project will be to replace the kitchen and financial support would be appreciated from the County Council and Parish Council. Members indicated they would consider a contribution at a future meeting when further information is known. The Village Hall AGM is scheduled for 9th May. A replacement table is being organised for the Committee Room and after the kitchen, consideration will be given to internal decoration.

The Chairman proposed a 20 minute extension to complete the Meeting.

VILLAGE GREEN: P Mortlock confirmed this years' grass cutting contracts had started. It was agreed to follow up the action from a previous meeting of moving the school bus stop to near the Village Green to avoid congestion at the junction - **Action Clerk**.

IDEAS TO IMPROVE THE VILLAGE: C Morgan reported on the need to sweep the High Road footpath towards the A134. R Cowell had identified the correct address for the owner of the strip

of grass bordering the garden wall along the High Road between Wrights Way and the Village Green. It was agreed for the Clerk to write again - **Action Clerk**.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING: The date of Tuesday 24th May had been agreed. R Cowell agreed to talk about the Circular Paths - **Action R Cowell**. The Chairman will follow up a potential talk on Dementia Awareness - **Action Chairman**. It was agreed to advertise the event with leaflets and P Mortlock agreed to work on the leaflet - **Action P Mortlock**.

REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS: C Jackson provided a Tree Wardens Report. Following an approach from residents of Rowans Way a site meeting was held with Tree Surgeon to inspect the oak trees bordering the Village Green. It was agreed to cut back some branches and clear deadwood. The Tree Surgeon will seek permission to work on the protected trees. The new fruit trees from the Scattered Orchard Project have been checked and watered. Some minor work was to be done to trees near the electricity pylon on the Village Green. On other matters, R Cowell agreed to further investigate the status of the Oaklands footpath. The Chairman advised that five Parish Churches in the area were joining together to celebrate the Queen's birthday.

The meeting closed at **9.20 p.m.**

The following were discussed: -

1) **B/16/00242** - Greens Farm - Erection of detached double garage. This was considered between meetings to comply with the deadline - There were No Objections.

2) **B/16/00328** - Stewards Barn, Stoke Road - Proposed new dwelling including re-opening of old access. This was discussed during the meeting. Whilst the Parish Council had No Objections overall, they raised the following points for the Planners to consider: -

a) Too much information was provided to accompany this application, however, it was not substantive particularly in relation to archaeology, ecology and sustainability

b) There is concern about the re-opening of the old access.

c) The proposal will be in front of the building line for the barn

3) **Place Shaping** - Frustration was expressed over the lack of engagement from the Planning Authority and that this does not encourage participation in the process. It was noted the planning rules were changing and it seemed more attempts were being made to disregard the current rules. Activity was reported on Hargreaves field with grass cutting and the entrance still hasn't been closed. It was agreed to report to the Solicitors - **Action Clerk**.

4) **Planning together & Community Engagement** - the meeting had been scheduled for 14th April.