

MINUTES of the MEETING of LEAVENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL held on Wednesday 3rd August 2016 at 7.30 p.m. at The Village Hall, Leavenheath.

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

APOLOGIES: None received.

PUBLIC FORUM: Some residents commented that they were interested to find out more about the plans at the Golf Club and were concerned about any loss of trees. Another resident reminded about the state of Church path. R Cowell confirmed his dialog with Babergh District Council to try to get this resolved. It was agreed for both the Clerk and J Jenkins to chase up. Thanks were given to C Jackson and P Pratt for all their work to cut back vegetation obstructing the High Road paths.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: The Chairman declared a non pecuniary interest in the Golf Club Planning as a neighbour.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 6th JULY 2016: These were accepted as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: The Chairman was pleased to report that a volunteer has been found to distribute the newsletter to residents along the A134.

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT: District Cllr J Jenkins attended and spoke about the Devolution Consultation. The Ward Boundaries for District Councillors were being reviewed. The spread of District Officers over two premises was not working out to be economically viable, so the intention will be to operate out of a single office once a location is agreed. Deborah Cadman has taken over as temporary Chief Executive. The Chairman took the opportunity to thank J Jenkins for keeping the Parish Council closely informed of developments.

POLICE REPORT: The Area Newsletter was circulated together with emails of forthcoming area meetings. Vandalism in Nayland was of concern in the vicinity.

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

➤ **Suffolk's schools to benefit from new funding partnership**

More than a third of Suffolk's publicly funded schools have been awarded funding through a new £600,000 partnership between Suffolk County Council's Raising the Bar programme and the nationally renowned Education Endowment Foundation (EEF). The partnership aims to boost the attainment of pupils by bringing the best education research to the county.

Suffolk schools were invited to bid for money from the Challenge Fund to use for projects that have been evaluated by the EEF and have shown promise in raising educational attainment elsewhere in the country.

The additional cash will enable the successful schools to implement different programmes covering mathematics, reading and writing, and science. Some focus on developing effective teaching strategies, while others are aimed at students who are at risk of not reaching their potential by providing focused additional support.

Suffolk schools responded positively to the opportunity and a total of more than 120 schools have been offered funding, to train a total of more than 600 school staff.

Over the last two years, almost £600,000 has already been invested in helping schools improve education in Suffolk by funding interventions and approaches put forward and developed by schools. The new fund will support more disciplined innovation, where schools are financially incentivised to implement evidence-based programmes and interventions.

➤ **Outline Proposals approved for Ipswich Park and Ride**

Suffolk County Council's Cabinet met in July to approve proposals for the future of Ipswich Park and Ride.

The proposal suggests local operating bus companies taking over the contract for delivering commercial services from the Copdock and Martlesham sites, making the service self-funding through passenger revenue. Potential infrastructure changes to road networks are also included in the outline proposal.

This proposal has been developed over the last 3 months by Suffolk County Council, working closely with Ipswich Borough Council, local bus operators, Ipswich Hospital and Ipswich Central. The main focus has been to find a way to maintain Park and Ride services in Ipswich whilst lowering the operating subsidy paid by taxpayers. Savings need to be made across the Council to balance the books. As part of that work SCC are looking at ways for the Park and Ride service to continue to operate, but at a lower cost to the tax payer.

SCC's partners, local bus operators, Ipswich Borough Council, and business representatives are all working together and are rising to the challenge of helping design a new service that uses overall resources more efficiently. There is a collective confidence that between us we can keep it operating, so please keep using the service and tell your friends !

Following his report J Finch explained that he is still investigating improvements to the cycle crossing. He also spoke of the speed limit changes for the A134. B Sadler reminded J Finch of the request from the Village Hall for support towards their kitchen project.

CORRESPONDENCE: The report had been issued ahead of the meeting and key areas were discussed. C Morgan and H Bonnar agreed to meet the solicitors on Hargreaves field to point out issues - **Action Clerk**. The Chairman referred to the Nayland Post Office Questionnaire. It was agreed to chase the request for the street lighting units near the village hall to remain on all night to aid the use of the Community Defibrillator - **Action Clerk**.

HIGHWAYS: It was noted that the High Road and Elm Tree Lane had been swept. It was agreed to report overgrown foliage obstructing the highway along the High Road towards Assington opposite Gedding Hall - **Action Clerk**.

FINANCE: The bank balances as at 29th July 2016 were **£22455.59** in the Community Account, **£15296.09** in the Reserve Account making a total of **£37751.68**. The Clerk confirmed she had responded to a query from the External Auditors by sending the minutes showing the Risk Assessment was conducted and reviewed last autumn. The VAT from last financial year has been re-couped.

The following were authorised for payment: -

1398	410.52	D K Hattrell	Clerk's Salary
1399	93.40	Inland Revenue	Clerk's ddtns & ERS NIC
1400	153.59	SCC - Pension ACC	Clerk's Pension
1401	289.20	P Mortlock	Barriers in Kingsland Lane

1402	192.00	SALC	Internal Audit Fee
1403	9.11	Chilton Office Supplies	Stationery
1404	19.80	B Sadler	Council Travel Expenses
1405	16.40	P Mortlock	Barriers in Kingsland Lane

CIRCULAR PATH PROJECT: R Cowell reported on recent progress and confirmed a meeting would be arranged to discuss the permissive path arrangements with the Golf Club.

TREE WARDENS REPORT: C Jackson reported on the success of new trees that have been planted.

VILLAGE HALL: B Sadler reported that the arrangements for the Quiz night, on 24th September, had been made. The kitchen project was going ahead this month with assistance from the Committee. They were making savings, for example, by cleaning and re-using the sink. P Mortlock agreed to investigate a robust replacement noticeboard for outside the village hall - **Action P Mortlock.**

VILLAGE GREEN: P Mortlock confirmed the Village Green Committee met the week before. There were on-going repairs to the playground and they were investigating solutions to the dead tree stump in the vicinity.

IDEAS TO IMPROVE THE VILLAGE: R Cowell was concerned at the number of unresolved items that affect people in the village such as the state of Church path and the School Bus Stop suggestion. All of these items have been reported and chased but have not been concluded. It was suggested that R Cowell could research ownership of sections of the Church path ditch. Before taking that action, it was agreed to ask the Environment Agency to attend a site meeting with P Mortlock, C Jackson and H Bonnar to seek guidance on potential resolutions - **Action Clerk.** The Clerk will chase the Education Department in respect of the School Bus Stop - **Action Clerk.**

REGIONAL DEVOLUTION CONSULTATION: The Chairman explained the different sources of information received in relation to Devolution. It was agreed to put an article in LSPN to bring this to the attention of residents, however, it was noticed that there wasn't time ahead of the deadline. However, it had been widely publicised and surveys were also being conducted.

REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS: C Jackson repeated his concern over littering from cars coming through the village. The Chairman advised our new Parish Priest is now in place.

The meeting closed at **8.50 p.m.**

Planning Meeting on 3rd August 2016

The following was discussed: -

1) **B/16/00890 & 891 - Gedding Hall, Nayland Road - Application to convert agricultural dwellings into residential.** Between meetings the planning authority had been advised that the Parish Council had No Objections, however, were minded to point out the extra traffic that would come with the conversions.

2) **B/16/00928 - Stoke by Nayland Golf Club - Application for a new 18 hole golf course.** Between meetings the planning authority had been advised that the Parish Council had No Objections.