

MINUTES of the MEETING of LEAVENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL held on Wednesday 7th December 2016 at 7.30 p.m. at The Village Hall, Leavenheath.

PRESENT: B Rowe (Chairman), B Sadler, P Mortlock, C Jackson, R Cowell, D Hattrell (Clerk), J Finch (County Cllr), J Jenkins (District Cllr) and 2 members of the public.

APOLOGIES: H Bonnar and C Morgan.

PUBLIC FORUM: Concern was raised regarding speeding and dangerous driving around the Village. A member of the public volunteered to get involved in Community Speed Watch. It was agreed to report this in Community News to see if others in the village want to join him - **Action Clerk.**

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: Nothing was declared.

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

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: The Chairman confirmed that following approval by this Council to obtain prices for a perch seat for the bus shelter, information has come to light of an earlier agreement not to put seating in the bus shelter. Members therefore agreed not to pursue this matter any further.

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT: District Cllr J Jenkins attended and reported on budget which may result in a 2% increase in their element of Council Tax this year. Other income streams are being pursued Talks continue regarding Devolution despite the withdrawal of the offer. The District Council is likely to move to a Leader/Cabinet style. The Boundary Commission were reviewing District Cllr numbers and areas. The Chairman confirmed she attended the Town and Parish Liaison Meeting and commented that the information Cllr Jenkins brings us regularly enabled her to feel in touch with discussion at the meeting.

POLICE REPORT: There was no report.

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

➤ **Suffolk County Council commits to pursuing principles of devolution further**

At its full council meeting on Thursday 24th November, Suffolk County Council voted to support a number of recommendations towards looking at the potential for a future devolution deal for Suffolk. The vote was 57 in favour and there were 7 abstentions. The full recommendations discussed and agreed were as follows:

This Council agrees:

1. To reiterate the commitment given previously by the Council to devolution as a means of delivering accelerated growth in the local and national economy and of helping local people and places to fulfil their potential;
2. To authorise the Leader and Chief Executive to:
 - a) seek an urgent meeting with the Secretary of State to discuss the Government's intentions in relation to devolution
 - b) work with Government and local partners to agree an alternative devolution deal as soon as possible

3. That further reports are presented to the Council and Cabinet, as appropriate, as the devolution process progresses.

All seven other local authorities in Suffolk have voted on these recommendations - namely Ipswich, Mid Suffolk, St Edmundsbury, Babergh, Suffolk Coastal and Waveney Councils have all agreed these principles.

➤ **Your chance to have your say in budget setting process**

People in Suffolk are being asked to share their views on what matters most to them to inform the budget setting process.

As grant funding from central government continues to reduce, Suffolk County Council is required to make savings of **more than £46million in 2017/18**, followed by further savings in the years after. This means the council needs to look at where it should prioritise spending and how it can make savings across the services it provides.

As part of the public engagement, people are being asked where they think Suffolk County Council should prioritise spending. The survey closes on 30 December 2016 and the budget report will be considered by the Suffolk County Council Cabinet on 24th January 2017, who will make recommendations to Full Council on 9th February 2017.

To have your say, visit www.suffolk.gov.uk/budgetsurvey2017

➤ **Help for Family carers**

Suffolk County Council has released a new video and booklet giving an insight into what it means to be a carer.

The Council and Suffolk Artlink have worked in partnership to produce the video and booklet which bring together the stories of carers living in Suffolk. Carers have shared their advice and experiences of the carer's assessment process, their ways of coping and how this role has changed their lives.

A carer is anyone who spends a significant proportion of their time providing unpaid support to a family member, partner or friend who cannot manage without help. This can be due to illness, frailty, mental health need, substance misuse or disability.

The aim of the video and booklet, 'Talking Care' is to help further inform people about the carer's assessment and what the assessment could mean for them.

Anyone who provides unpaid care can ask for a carer's assessment from Suffolk County Council as long as the person you care for lives in Suffolk. A joint assessment for you and the person you care for can also be carried out.

To request a carer's assessment, contact Customer First by telephone on 0808 800 4005 or by email at customer.first@suffolk.gcsx.gov.uk

More information can be found on our website: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/adult-social-care-and-health/care-and-support-for-you-and-others/what-is-a-carer/carers-assessment/>

J Finch agreed to follow up the Speedwatch enquiry. He has also agreed some further improvements to the A134 crossing place.

CORRESPONDENCE: The report had been issued ahead of the meeting and key areas were discussed. It was agreed not to leave our Street Lights on all night on Christmas Eve and New Years Eve - **Action Clerk to advise the County Council.**

HIGHWAYS: Nothing was raised.

FINANCE: The bank balances as at 7th December 2016 were **£27418.82** in the Community Account, **£15328.18** in the Reserve Account making a total of **£42747.00**. It was noted the Precept Form needs to be completed during January, so that will give a further meeting to finalise budget. The first draft of the Precept Working Sheet had been circulated ahead of the meeting. Input from H Bonnar was awaited as in previous years.

The following were authorised for payment: -

1424	430.59	D K Hattrell	Clerk's Salary
1425	101.00	Inland Revenue	Clerk's ddtns & ERS NIC
1426	165.84	SCC - Pension ACC	Clerk's Pension
1427	1000.00	Leavenheath Village Hall	Grant for kitchen

Total **£1697.43**

REPORTS FROM ORGANISATIONS AND REPRESENTATIVES : Reports were given from the Village Hall, Village Green and the Tree Wardens. No resolutions were passed in relation to these headings.

RESERVING POLICY: It was agreed to defer this item pending information from SALC - **Action Clerk to include as an Agenda item for January Meeting.**

CHURCH PATH DITCH: A report on developments was made and the Environment Agency representative had suggested email dialog instead of a further site meeting. It was agreed for R Cowell and P Mortlock to draft a letter for the Clerk to send on behalf of this Council to the landowner - **Action**. P Mortlock agreed to investigate the new barrier installed by Anglian Water and this will form an Agenda item for January - **Action P Mortlock and Clerk.**

IDEAS TO IMPROVE THE VILLAGE: It was agreed Community Speed Watch comes under this category.

REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS: Peter Pratt will take over as Footpath Warden and it was agreed to write thank you letters to him and the previous Warden, Penny Easting - **Action Clerk**. R Cowell confirmed progress has been made in respect of the priority of footpath cutting. It was noted that in view of the short deadline, it was unlikely the Clerk would provide a report to LSPN this month. The Chairman will be away for the next couple of meetings.

The meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.

Planning Meeting on 7th December 2016

The following decision had been advised from the Planning Authority:-

Permission had been granted for a two storey dwelling garage and boundary wall at Keebles Cottage, Nayland Road - **B/16/01244/FUL**

The following application was reported on: -

B/16/01418 - Woodbarn Farm, Nayland Road - Erection of new entrance gates and wall - Objections had been issued between meetings as it shows the beginning of a "gated" community which is out of keeping with the rest of the village and at odds with the present farmland gate. Leavenheath is mainly residential, with open frontage or individual properties behind individual gates.