

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

PRESENT: B Rowe (Chairman), B Sadler, P Mortlock, C Jackson, R Cowell, C Morgan and H Bonnar, D Hattrell (Clerk), J Finch (County Cllr), J Jenkins (District Cllr) and 1 member of the public.

APOLOGIES: None

PUBLIC FORUM: A representative from the Village Hall Committee explained the last Invoice for hall hire was underpaid by £12. It was agreed to issue a further cheque and adjust on a future payment on checking if necessary.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: The Chairman declared an interest in an item under Village Hall of a new piano.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 2ND DECEMBER 2015: These were accepted as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: Nothing was raised.

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT: District Councillor J Jenkins attended and discussed their reducing grants over the next 4 years. Their element of Council tax is likely to increase by just under 2 %. They are considering the viability of charging for short stay parking. The officers at Babergh are looking to answer our questions at the Place Shaping Meeting on 22nd January. This will involve a walk about followed by a meeting at the Village Hall.

POLICE REPORT: The Clerk read the November crime figures showing 2 dwelling burglaries, 1 ABH, 1 theft, 1 criminal damage and 2 assaults on a Police Constable. It was agreed to ask for further details about these crimes as the numbers are higher than usual - **Action Clerk.** P Mortlock had attended the Police Meeting and he provided the handouts for our circulation envelope.

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT: County Councillor J Finch attended and had provided a written report as follows: -

➤ **Access to Superfast Broadband in Leavenheath**

Whilst the majority of Leavenheath households and businesses have access to Superfast broadband – there will be pockets of houses that still do not have access.

I am pleased to say Suffolk County Council (SCC) is now able to offer a package via Satellite to such households as discussed earlier in the year to those who do not have access to Superfast Broadband and where their existing speed of service is less than 2mb per second. More details can be found on the attached web links which include the background to the scheme, options available to you and the application form for applying for the satellite service.

A full guide to the satellite scheme can be found here:

<http://www.betterbroadbandsuffolk.com/ApplicationGuide.aspx> and the application form for this service can be found here:

<http://www.betterbroadbandsuffolk.com/ApplicationForm.aspx>.

What will the scheme provide?

The Scheme will provide a 'voucher' (actually, a unique code) that you will be able to present to one of a selected number of retail service providers to obtain a satellite broadband service.

You will need to place an order with one of the selected retail service providers, and enter into a contract for satellite broadband services provision for a minimum period of 12 months. The voucher will cover most of the cost of installation and commissioning of your satellite broadband service. You will be responsible for paying any remaining cost of installation and commissioning (if any), for choosing the features of the satellite broadband service you require, and for paying the monthly subscription for the service you have selected, and for paying any VAT on the amounts payable.

The voucher does not have a specific fixed value, but when used to obtain a satellite broadband service from one of the selected retail service providers, the use of the voucher will reduce the total cost (ie installation and commissioning costs plus 12 monthly subscriptions) by around £300. The voucher has no other value, and cannot be redeemed in any other way than through the Scheme.

I would ask that Parish Councillors make this information known as widely as possible in the parish. For those who would like to make use of this offer, I would ask them to complete the form which can be sent electronically to The Suffolk County Council Better Broadband Service for them to consider and process for you.

➤ **Budget 2016 - 2017**

SCC is now on plan to offer a zero increase in its standard council tax rate for the 2016 -2017 year. Following the government's announcement of permitting SCC are still considering a special tax for adult care services following the planned implementation of significant increases in the living wage over the next three years. The decision will be made by SCC at its Full County Council Meeting on 11th February.

➤ **Suffolk Highways Winter Programme**

The winter programme for salting and gritting has now started and to date there have been five nights where salt or brine has been spread in parts of Suffolk. From now until the end of the winter there is a team that can be on 24 hour alert to ensure that the roads in Suffolk are kept safe. This week has been unusually warm for the time of year but the team uses Meteorological forecast data together with sensors in the highway to determine what the highway temperature is and thus the need for treatment or not. It is likely that we will have a cold spell before too long and we will be ready.

➤ **Rail Franchise renewal**

The demand for new trains and more frequent passenger rail services on Suffolk's railway were made directly to franchise bidders competing to run the new East Anglia Rail Franchise at the Suffolk Rail Conference which took place on Friday 4th December 2015 in Ipswich.

The Suffolk Rail Conference saw delegates speaking directly to the three short-listed franchise bidders about the rail improvements that are required to meet passenger and the economic growth needs for the future.

Demands included:

- New rolling stock

- Faster and more frequent rail service between Suffolk and London Liverpool Street
- An hourly passenger rail service between Ipswich and Peterborough
- A half-hourly service between Ipswich and Cambridge
- Faster line speeds and more frequent passenger rail services on East Suffolk Line
- A more resilient service on the Felixstowe branch line
- Improvements to stations.

Conference delegates learned more about the East Anglia Rail Franchise Invitation to Tender and the actions needed to ensure the best possible rail franchise and infrastructure deals. Ben Gummer, MP for Ipswich provided information about the work of the Great Eastern Main Line Taskforce and representatives from Network Rail will identified plans for expanding and improving Suffolk's railways.

A series of workshops then took place to draw together discussions and ideas regarding how the county's needs should be addressed by the new rail franchise. The outcomes of these workshops were reported back to the audience at the end of the conference under the four headings of Rolling Stock, Passenger Train frequency, Connectivity and Line Speed and Station Services.

I emphasised that this was important opportunity for us to send a clear and united message to the franchise bidders about what Suffolk needs from the new 10 year rail franchise. I will be listening carefully to what they propose and will offer challenge to ensure they are fully aware of the need for a clear plan that delivers improvement in the quality and provision of network services and new rolling stock. In my opinion Suffolk has been overlooked for far too long and we needed to use this opportunity of the new franchise to redress the balance."

Following his report, J Finch confirmed the speed on the A134 has been reviewed. He was questioned on prevention of pot holes and he explained the steps being taken and the plans for surface dressing. He was questioned on safety concerns along Stoke Road with a further report of an accident on the bend. He agreed to investigate further.

VILLAGE HALL: B Sadler reported on the recent meeting of the Village Hall Committee and of various maintenance that has been completed recently. There is a good balance currently between income from hirers and maintenance costs. In relation to the potential replacement digital piano for the hall, the Village Hall Committee have pledged a contribution of £500. It was agreed to include as an Agenda item for February to establish whether the Parish Council would be prepared to contribute - **Action Clerk.** R Cowell volunteered to help establish suitability and value for money of a potential replacement piano. The Chairman confirmed the PCC would be discussing the following week which is relevant because the Church has been the main user of the piano.

CORRESPONDENCE: The report had been issued ahead of the meeting and key areas were discussed. A letter received from North Hill Medical Group was read to the meeting. This was in relation to our request for outreach services in the village. The letter was put in the circulation envelope for members to consider further. It was noted that John Fowlers Solicitors now have an order of appointment from the Court of Protection, so they are able to assist in relation to the field and were in fact corresponding with adjoining landowners.

HIGHWAYS: R Cowell had reported the drainage issue at Locks Lane and would chase up. C Jackson reported on the work to fell two dead Hawthorn Trees at the junction of Old Road and

Stoke Road. They were grateful for the assistance of Tim Lugsden in this regard. An email was sent to David Pizzey, Babergh Arboricultural Officer, requesting that the significant mature oak tree in Old Road has the crown reduced and deadwood removed. Branches overhanging the road are a potential hazard.

FINANCE: The bank balances as at 31st December 2015 were **£18218.74** in the Community Account, **£15251.55** in the Reserve Account making a total of **£33470.29**. It was resolved to agree a standstill budget for the Precept as far as residents are concerned. A circular had been issued via the email outlining future audit arrangements and cost. P Mortlock thanked the Parish Council for on-going financial support to the Village Green.

The following were authorised for payment: -

1358	400.66	D K Hattrell	Clerk's Salary
1359	92.92	Inland Revenue Only	Clerk's ddtns & ERS NIC
1360	148.58	SCC - Pension ACC	Clerk's Pension
1361	330.00	Stoke by Nayland Club	V/Green - grass
1362	229.20	Tree & Lawn Co Ltd	V/Green - grass
1363	12.00	Leavenheath Village Hall	Hall Hire
1364	120.00	P Mortlock	Misc Assets
1365	39.75	R Cowell	Circular path expenses

Total £1373.11

CIRCULAR PATH PROJECT: R Cowell thanked members for providing comments on the publicity material. The design meeting was scheduled for the following day at the golf club. The work to the "Lakes Walk" had been delayed. R Cowell advised that talks to publicise the walks needed to be arranged. Suggestions were welcomed.

VILLAGE GREEN: P Mortlock confirmed a meeting was due at the end of the month. Tenders are being requested for grass cutting. Vandalism on the pavillion was reported to the Police and graffiti had been cleared from the playground.

IDEAS TO IMPROVE THE VILLAGE: R Cowell reminded members that a previous member of this Council put together ideas for improving communication. It was agreed to include this as an Agenda item for next meeting - **Action Clerk.**

REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS: The Elm Tree Lane street sign has rotten posts. P Mortlock will check whether it has been reported - **Action P Mortlock.** From personal experience, H Bonnar confirmed the defibrillator was obtained during a recent incident. It was agreed to arrange a meeting ahead of the 22nd January visit, by Babergh Officers, for all members attending that day - **Action Chairman.** It was agreed to add a further Agenda item to the February Meeting of "Notices for events and from organisations outside the village" - **Action Clerk.** The Chairman advised that Linda Esdner and Sue Jameson will be retiring from their Newsletter Distribution duties. Members were grateful for their support and further volunteers were therefore needed for deliveries along the A134 and Wrights Way.

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

Planning Meeting on 6th January 2016

The following decisions were advised from the Planning Authority: -

a) Permission was granted for new agricultural access on land to the south of Nayland Hall Farm, Cock Street - **B/15/00546**

b) Approval was granted to reduce oak tree to previous pruning points at 16 Maple Way - **B/15/01594/TPO**

The following were discussed: -

1) **B/15/01600** - proposed garage outbuilding following demolition of existing garage at Oak Cottage, Breach Grove, Kingsland Lane.

The following observations were made to the Planning Authority from Leavenheath Parish Council: -

- Access is not, nor should be, from the green lane known as Kingsland Lane. The existing application map is incorrect, ergo the proposed map is incorrect. Unless BDC has granted permission for motorised vehicles to travel along a green lane, could you please amend your maps to show accordingly?

- The proposed garage is not where the old shambolic buildings/sheds are, but has moved to be alongside the house, bulking up further the built volume and further messing up what should be a special site.

- The Parish Council are against over development on this site.

2) **B/15/01596** - proposed relocation of 2m high boundary fence at 1 Oaklands.

The following observations were made to the Planning Authority from Leavenheath Parish Council: -

Although there will be no loss of vehicular vision when exiting Oaklands, on entering, it is severely restricted by the loss of the open plan front garden. As SCC have already commented on this matter, we have No Objections.

3) **Planning Priority Document** - R Cowell noted thanks to J Jenkins for chasing this matter. He expressed disappointment, however, for the lack of support from Head of Planning, Christine Thurlow. The Chairman agreed to raise the issues with the officers attending the 22nd January Meeting on Place Shaping.