

**MINUTES of the MEETING of LEAVENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL** held on Wednesday 6th July 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 Councillor) and 1 member of the public.

**APOLOGIES:** None received.

**PUBLIC FORUM:** Overgrown hedges and trees were mentioned that were obstructing footways in the village. The condition of the path from Maple Way to the A134 was the subject of dialog with Babergh District Council.

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST:** Nothing was declared.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 1st JUNE 2016:** These were accepted as a true record.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:** The verge had been cut on the junction of the A134 with the High Road.

**BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT:** District Cllr J Jenkins was unable to attend and no report was provided.

**POLICE REPORT:** A recent Police Report had not been provided.

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

➤ **Devolution- Update**

All councils and both LEP Boards debated the Deal at Full Council meetings during the last week of June. All Suffolk Councils voted in favour. Four District Councils in Norfolk voted against. Devolution is still moving forward and it will be up to the Secretary of State to decide what impact the Norfolk Councils will have on the deal.

Formal consultation on the proposed powers (Governance) of the Mayor and Combined Authority will be carried out during **July** and **August**. The outcome of the consultation will be submitted to the government in early September, with a further meeting of the full council to be held by the end of October to consider giving consent to the establishment of a Mayoral Combined Authority for the two counties. The details of the consultation questions are still being drafted by Council Leaders and Government.

The highlights of the Deal which Councils voted on are:

- A single pot of £25m a year of new money for the next 30 years (£750m) to support economic growth, development of local infrastructure and jobs. 40% of the 'single pot' will be revenue, which can support capital borrowing

- £100m, over five years, of new money to support the building of new homes across Norfolk and Suffolk. Recognising the housing market conditions in Norwich and Ipswich, Government will also provide the Combined Authority with an additional £30m over five years, split equally for Norwich City and Ipswich Borough, to meet its housing needs
- A guaranteed £225m transport budget for the next four years
- Control of an existing c£20m a year Adult skills funding to ensure the training offer matches the needs of local businesses and the local labour market
- Control of an existing c£2m Apprenticeship Grant for Employers (AGE grant) to enable funding to better meet the needs of local Norfolk and Suffolk employers
- Greater control over who delivers transport services in Norfolk and Suffolk, and how they are delivered, rather than it being imposed on us by Central Government

Councils will need to agree the powers of the Mayors and combined authorities before the end of **October**. Before the end of **November** views from public consultation are reported to the Secretary of State for him to consider before creating combined authorities and putting in place arrangements for mayoral elections in May 2017

Following his report J Finch was questioned on the form of consultation in respect of devolution.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** The report had been issued ahead of the meeting and key areas were discussed. The Clerk read the letter from John Fowlers Solicitors on the subject of Hargreaves Field. It was agreed to issue a reply to them confirming that neither the entrance has been secured nor the ditch cleared - **Action Clerk**.

**HIGHWAYS:** Comment was made of disruption due to a recent road closure. The weight restriction sign on the A134 from the Sudbury direction is obscured by foliage. It was agreed to report on-line - **Action Clerk**.

**FINANCE:** The bank balances as at 5th July 2016 were **£22336.70** in the Community Account, **£15296.09** in the Reserve Account making a total of **£37632.79**. P Mortlock thanked the Parish Council for covering Village Green expenses. It was agreed for P Mortlock to proceed with Kingsland Lane barrier enhancement between meetings up to a cost of £400.

**The following were authorised for payment: -**

1391	412.00	D K Hattrell	Clerk's Salary
1392	93.60	Inland Revenue	Clerk's ddtns & ERS NIC
1393	153.59	SCC - Pension ACC	Clerk's Pension
1394	385.00	Stoke by Nayland Club	Village Green
1395	181.20	Tree & Lawn Company	Village Green
1396	48.00	Leavenheath Village Hall	Hall Hire
1397	36.00	SALC	Training

**Total**

**£1309.39**

**CIRCULAR PATH PROJECT:** R Cowell provided an update on the subject of the availability of the maps, the delay with the Lake side walk and the maintenance of the permissive paths. The Chairman confirmed the paths were providing good walking opportunities in the village and the diversion around the lake side walk operates well.

**FOOTPATHS:** R Cowell confirmed the paths have been reviewed and the identified issues were being followed up. One issue is the priority paths for cutting which he suggested needed reviewing and he was contacting the Right of Way Officer to discuss what can be done. B Sadler agreed to seek permission for signage in Oaklands - **Action B Sadler**. R Cowell was investigating the issue of the missing path in the vicinity. The Chairman was to host a walk for the Walking Festival, however, walkers did not attend. A damaged finger post near the entrance to The Sett was reported and had already been identified from the review of paths. C Jackson reported on a working party where the overgrown hedge and vegetation was cut back that was restricting the passageway near the Post Box on the High Road. He was grateful to all who helped with the work, removing the cuttings and providing much needed refreshment on the day.

**VILLAGE HALL:** B Sadler reported that the Cinema continues to prove successful. There has been no further progress towards the kitchen project. Some maintenance items have been completed and the Quiz night approaches.

**VILLAGE GREEN:** P Mortlock confirmed the Village Green meeting was coming up. He was questioned on the footpaths around the Green and a dead tree stump in the play area. He will follow this up during their meeting.

**IDEAS TO IMPROVE THE VILLAGE:** Nothing was suggested.

**REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS:** The Chairman agreed to chase improvements to the A134 crossing with J Finch - **Action Chairman**. Further requests for volunteers to deliver the newsletter along the A134 had been made.

The meeting closed at **9.00 p.m.**

## **Planning Meeting on 6th July 2016**

### **The following decisions were reported from the Planning Authority: -**

- 1) **B/16/00006** - Permission had been granted to extend the pavilion at the Village Green
- 2) **B/16/00550** - Permission had been granted for a two storey side and single storey rear extension at 27 Bramble Way.
- 3) **B/16/00328** - Permission had been granted for a two storey dwelling with cart lodge and vehicle access at Stewards Barn, Stoke Road
- 4) **B/16/00744** - Approval had been granted for work to protected oak tree at Sunnydale, 10 Stoke Road

### **The following was discussed: -**

**B/16/00550 - 27 Bramble Way - Erection of two storey side and single storey rear extensions.**  
Between meetings the planning authority had been advised that the Parish Council had No Objections.