

MINUTES of the MEETING of LEAVENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL held on Wednesday 2nd March 2016 at 7.30 p.m. at The Village Hall, Leavenheath.

PRESENT: B Rowe (Chairman), P Mortlock, C Jackson, R Cowell, H Bonnar, D Hattrell (Clerk), J Jenkins (District Cllr), J Finch (County Cllr) and 7 members of the public.

APOLOGIES: B Sadler and C Morgan.

PUBLIC FORUM: Issues contributing to the number of accidents along Stoke Road near the bend were discussed. Garden walls have been knocked down on numerous occasions. Issues reported were mud, concealed kerb, the road surface, the hedgerows and blind bend. J Finch advised that he had a site meeting arranged and will ensure all these concerns are taken into consideration. Forthcoming plans at Stewards Barn were explained to members.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: Nothing was declared.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 3RD FEBRUARY 2016: These were accepted as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: The Chairman confirmed that a volunteer was still needed to deliver the newsletter on Nayland Road. The completed petition for better mobile signal had been sent to our MP. The Transparency code documents had been uploaded onto the website. R Cowell had researched the correct address for the owners of the strip of land in front of the garden wall along the High Road between the Village Green and Wrights Way.

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT: District Councillor J Jenkins attended and confirmed the District Council element of Council tax will increase by 3.5%. There was an opportunity to make an increase this year and, due to pressures on finances, this was taken up. Work towards devolution continues with collaboration between Suffolk, Norfolk and Cambridgeshire. Consideration is being given to an elected mayor. The District Council priorities have now been agreed. The staffing review had recently been completed and now office accommodation is being considered.

POLICE REPORT: The Police Report for January was shared with the meeting. Out of the 74 crimes in the area, 2 were at Leavenheath. No information is available on these reports as no publicity had been requested.

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

➤ **SCC Annual Budget agreed at County Council Meeting on 11th February**

It was good to be back at this meeting and play my part having been indisposed for nearly a month. The summary of the key elements of the budget agreed the council were:-

- Annual savings of £34.4m as a result of government reductions in funding resulting in a net budget of £493m for 2016-17.
- A freeze in general council tax for this period of £271m so that the Band D council tax for County Services remains at £1,126.53p
- The introduction of a new precept to fund Adult Social Care of £5.4m which is equivalent to 2% of Band D council tax (£22.50p) bringing the total Council Tax to £1,149. This was

introduced to recognise the impact of the significant increases made by the government to the minimum wage and living wage over the next two years.

Your county council has faced some stiff challenges in the preparation of this budget plan but is confident that you will continue to receive the services you expect from a responsible county council administration.

➤ **Suffolk County Council's Children's Services are rated GOOD by Ofsted**

Following the publication of its inspection report on 11th February, it praises the work of the council in protecting and looking after children and young people, with some areas of outstanding practice highlighted in the report. The inspection was carried out for 4 weeks between 23 November – 17 December 2015 .

Ofsted's report highlights that "Leaders have a comprehensive understanding of what needs to be achieved and have made sustained progress since the inspection of services for looked after children in 2010 and child protection in 2013, which both were judged to be adequate". It says "Suffolk County Council is led by dynamic and capable leaders and managers and is delivering a good service overall to children and their families."

Suffolk County Council's Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Children's Services, Cllr Gordon Jones said: "I am absolutely delighted that we have received this GOOD rating from Ofsted. This achievement is testament to the work and commitment of all our staff at the authority and the support they receive from local community partners who share our drive and focus to protect vulnerable children and young people in Suffolk, and support their families.

➤ **Consultation to shape the future of Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service**

The consultation, which ended on 22nd February, sought views on a range of specific proposals for changing the way the fire and rescue service is set-up across the county. The changes have been proposed to meet the on-going reductions in funding for the fire service and also to reflect the more than 30 per cent reduction in 999 call demand over the last 10 years.

Engagement events were held in Bury St Edmunds, Ipswich, Lowestoft and Sudbury and the county council has received around 1,500 completed questionnaires and almost 200 enquiries from people engaging with the consultation. The aim was to ensure that as many people as possible had their say on these proposals. Details of the proposals can be found on Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service's web page: www.suffolk.gov.uk/fireredesign.

The consultation feedback is now being reviewed. This will help to shape future recommendations, which will be presented to the Council's Cabinet on Tuesday 17 May 2016.

CORRESPONDENCE: The report had been issued ahead of the meeting and key areas were discussed. The Chairman thanked the Clerk for responding to a resident suggesting that he contacts Babergh Environmental Department about noise concerns. R Cowell had reported fly tipping to the District Council in the layby ahead of Honey Tye on the A134, it was agreed to ask the District Council to reinstate a litter bin at this location - **Action Clerk**. P Mortlock will provide a sketch of the proposed siting of a dog bin to enable to Clerk to check whether it is a servicable location for the District Council Contractors - **Action P Mortlock and Clerk**. The Chairman mentioned the Dedham Vale AONB Annual Forum which she commended as an activity. This year it is to be held on 12th May. A brochure in respect of a perch seat for the Bus Shelter was put in the circulation envelope.

HIGHWAYS: C Jackson reported on a meeting with P Gant, SCC Highways. Investigations are being made into the drainage problem in Locks Lane.

FINANCE: The bank balances as at 27th February 2016 were **£15454.20** in the Community Account, **£15264.50** in the Reserve Account making a total of **£30718.70**. A list of expenses from the Circular Path project were handed to R Cowell to assist him to finalise the project costs.

The following were authorised for payment: -

1370	426.91	D K Hattrell	Clerk's Salary
1371	92.92	Inland Revenue Only	Clerk's ddtns & ERS NIC
1372	148.58	SCC - Pension ACC	Clerk's Pension
<u>Between Meetings:-</u>			
Funds Tr	393.86	Cox Landscapes	Materials for circ paths
Funds Tr	577.00	Spingold Graphics	Brochures for circ paths

Total £1639.27

CIRCULAR PATH PROJECT: R Cowell outlined the remainder of work required to the circular paths although he was satisfied that the work will be substantially completed in time for finalisation of the grants. It was agreed for the Clerk to send letters of thanks and brochures to the representatives from Suffolk Wildlife Trust who assisted with the project - **Action Clerk.**

FOOTPATHS: R Cowell had received an electronic report. All paths had been substantially reviewed and notes of any issues passed to County Council Right of Way. Kingsland Lane is now blocked to illegal traffic.

VILLAGE HALL: There was no report other than to confirm that the hall now has a donated piano.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING: A date of Tuesday 24th May was agreed subject to agreement from the regular hirers - the Scouts. The Clerk will liaise - **Action Clerk.**

REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS: C Jackson asked for thanks to go to Ian Gibbons and Dave Gardiner for regular litter picking - **Action Clerk.** H Bonnar reported on the SALC Meeting. The Chairman mentioned discussion with Stoke By Nayland about the almshouses.

The meeting closed at **9.40 p.m.**

Planning Meeting on 2nd March 2016

The following were discussed: -

1) **Place Shaping** - an email from Nick Ward was referred to on this subject where alternatives were out-lined. However, the only option that seems to give power to the Parish Council to influence planning is through a "Neighbourhood Plan" .

2) **Planning together & Community Engagement** - in response to the approach made by Stoke by Nayland Parish Council, the Chairman and B Sadler have arranged to meet representatives from other Parish Councils in the vicinity.