

**MINUTES of the ANNUAL MEETING of LEAVENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL** held on Wednesday 4th May 2016 at 7.30 p.m. at The Village Hall, Leavenheath.

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

**PUBLIC FORUM:** A question was raised asking when a Housing Needs Survey was anticipated to start in conjunction with neighbouring Parishes. This had been read in the Nayland with Wissington Community Times. The Chairman confirmed that whilst some neighbouring Parishes were looking to carry out a survey, one is not currently planned in Leavenheath. Details of the recent meeting between Parish Council representatives from Nayland, Polstead, Stoke by Nayland and Leavenheath were requested. The Chairman confirmed that this was included later in the Agenda, however, she brought this item forward. She confirmed agreement was reached for the Parishes to work together in relation to matters affecting all the Parishes. They were looking to join together for some training. A replacement cheque in respect of hall hire was requested.

**ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN:** C Jackson proposed B Rowe as Chairman. This was seconded by P Mortlock and unanimously carried.

**DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE:** The Chairman duly completed the relevant form.

**APOLOGIES:** were received from C Morgan, H Bonnar and J Jenkins (District Cllr).

**ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN:** P Mortlock proposed B Sadler to continue as Vice Chairman. This was seconded by C Jackson and unanimously carried.

**NOMINATION OF REPRESENTATIVES:** The following were agreed to continue as before: -  
Planning group - R Cowell, P Mortlock and C Morgan - documents to be delivered to P Mortlock  
Tree Wardens - C Jackson and R Cowell  
SALC - H Bonnar  
Planning Strategy Group - R Cowell and C Morgan  
Village Hall - B Sadler  
Village Green - P Mortlock  
Risk Assessment - B Sadler  
Police - B Sadler  
Website - P Mortlock  
Community Woodland - P Mortlock, R Cowell & C Jackson  
Liaison on Footpaths - R Cowell

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST:** No declarations were made.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 6th APRIL 2016:** These were accepted as a true record and the Chairman took the opportunity to thank the Clerk for sending out a draft version for checking.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:** The Chairman confirmed that she sent thank you letters on behalf of the Parish Council to helpers in respect of the circular path project. R Cowell provided an update on his findings in respect of the path near Oaklands. Following discussion, it was agreed to leave things as they stand currently.

**BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT:** A report from J Jenkins (District Cllr) had been circulated to members ahead of the meeting. She had confirmed at their Annual Council meeting at the end of April Peter Burgoyne was voted in as Chairman of the Council and Peter Beer as Vice Chairman. Simon Barrett remains as Deputy Leader and she remains Leader of the Council. At the recent Community Achievement Awards Ceremony, Maggie at Leavenheath SESAW won a very deserving award for all her work with animals over the years, it was a very well supported application and the Judges gave it top marks. Devolution carries on at a pace with work streams now in place to go into the fine details of the bid. Ministers have confirmed that despite Cambridge trying to get their own Bid there is only one deal on the table for East Anglia which is Cambridge, Peterborough, Norfolk and Suffolk. Their Chief Executive is leaving to take up a position with Kingston on Thames authority, they wish her well and she leaves Babergh and Mid Suffolk in a good position to attract high calibre applicants.

**POLICE REPORT:** No report had been provided and it was agreed to establish whether we would have Police attendance at the Annual Parish Meeting - **Action Clerk.**

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

➤ **Suffolk continues upward trend towards national education excellence**

Continuing to improve Suffolk's schools and ensuring excellence in their leadership and governance are two key parts of the Raising the Bar programme to ensure every child in Suffolk can reach their full potential. The increasing number of Teaching Schools and highly qualified school leaders demonstrates the action being taken by this administration to back this up.

We promised to tackle educational attainment in our manifesto and the upward trend continues; improvements in the quality of education in Suffolk have been reinforced by a further four schools achieving Teaching School status. This means that more than 260 school staff across the county are currently undertaking national qualifications in leadership.

The following schools have joined five others cross the county that have already been recognised as National Teaching Schools:

- Springfield Junior School (Ipswich Teaching Alliance)
- Bedfield CoEVC Primary School (Five Rivers Teaching School Alliance)
- Highfield Nursery and Castle Hill Infants (Ipswich)
- Debenham High School

The Teaching School Alliances are part of The School to School & Settings Support Partnership which will be the driving force across Suffolk leading a school led self-improvement system. Other partners include:

- Bury Schools Partnership
- SWISS Partnership (South West Ipswich Secondary Schools)
- Gipping Valley Partnership of Schools
- Diocese of St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich and the Local Authority

➤ **Over 90% of Suffolk children get 1st choice of primary school**

At a time when many areas across the UK are facing real difficulties in sourcing sufficient primary school places, it is a real achievement that here in Suffolk we are able to give the majority of parents places for their children. In the majority of cases, we are able to allocate school places at the parents preferred schools.

In fact, almost 91% per cent of Suffolk children got their first choice of primary school this year and 97.5% got one of their three preferences. The percentage of children allocated their first preference has increased by 0.5% between 2015 and 2016. In total, 7920 applications for reception places were received by the county council, compared with 7928 who applied in 2015.

The county council has an excellent track record of offering places at preferred schools, using the application rules to offer school places. Chances of applications being unsuccessful increase when applications are submitted after the closing date, but there are some helpful FAQs to assist parents at: [www.suffolk.gov.uk/offerday](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/offerday)

### ➤ **More Suffolk schools than ever now rated Good or Outstanding by Ofsted**

Testament to this administration's commitment to delivering real improvement in education standards, 80% of Suffolk's schools have now been rated Good or Outstanding by Ofsted in April 2016, an improvement of 6% compared to just 10 months ago, when 74% of schools were rated Good or Outstanding.

This represents really significant progress towards the county council's ambitious objective that all children in Suffolk can attend a Good or Outstanding school. Ensuring that every child can achieve their full potential is a key element of the Raising the Bar programme.

Schools in Suffolk are also improving twice as fast as those across the country as a whole. Over the same ten months, the percentage of Good or Outstanding schools nationally has only risen 3%, compared to Suffolk's 6%.

The 80% of schools figure related to all publicly funded schools in Suffolk with a current Ofsted judgement; as inspections are carried out on a continual basis, the number and percentage is therefore subject to constant change.

### ➤ **Suffolk's young people star in new film about positive mental health**

The Mental Health Foundation estimates that 1 in 10 children and young people are affected by mental health problems; more children and young people are experiencing problems with their mental health today than 30 years ago and here in Suffolk, protecting the most vulnerable is at the very heart of everything we do.

A new film highlighting the experiences of young people dealing with emotional wellbeing and mental health has been produced by young people in Suffolk.

Finding the language to express how they are feeling, whilst overcoming any perceived stigma around mental health, are just two of the many challenges facing our young people today. The film has been designed to prompt discussion on the often taboo subject of mental health in the classroom and empowers young people to identify what support is available to them and to feel confident in this support should they need it.

*Mind. Your Language* has been scripted and developed by aspiring film-makers from Samuel Ward Academy in Haverhill, alongside representatives from Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust's (NSFT) Youth Council. Presented almost exclusively by young people and illustrated by personal stories, the film invites young people, teachers and parents to take up the subject and make simple pledges to tackle the stigma around mental health.

The first public screening took place at Haverhill Arts Centre on 19<sup>th</sup> April and the film will be shared widely throughout schools in Suffolk. It can be viewed at: [www.healthysuffolk.org.uk](http://www.healthysuffolk.org.uk)

To make a pledge to support others, or to encourage discussion around the issues highlighted in the film, please take the time to visit: [www.healthysuffolk.org.uk/projects/mind-your-language](http://www.healthysuffolk.org.uk/projects/mind-your-language)

Following his report, he confirmed having started to review the crossing with relevant officers. He advised against red tarmac, but more white lines and signage might be the way forward.

**VILLAGE HALL:** B Sadler confirmed the AGM was scheduled for the following week.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** The correspondence report was provided ahead of the meeting. R Cowell out-lined the on-going issues with the Church Path ditch. It was agreed for the Clerk to contact the owner in respect of the hedge cuttings and also to chase the Environment Agency about clearance of the ditch - **Action Clerk**. Members agreed for the Chairman to display posters from our MP.

**HIGHWAYS:** Items were raised in respect of highways improvements at Honey Tye and cars left for sale in the vicinity. The 30 mph sign as you exit the village towards Sudbury has been knocked - it was agreed for the Clerk to report to County Highways - **Action Clerk**.

**FINANCE:** The bank balances as at 4th May 2016 were **£25333.99** in the Community Account, **£15283.74** in the Reserve Account making a total of **£40617.73**.

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

1379	458.31	Aon UK Ltd	PC Insurance
1380	400.86	D K Hattrell	Clerk's Salary
1381	94.08	Inland Revenue Only	Clerk's ddtns & ERS NIC
1382	153.59	SCC - Pension ACC	Clerk's Pension
1383	36.00	Leavenheath Village Hall	Hall Hire replacement Cheque

**Total £1142.84**

**VILLAGE GREEN:** P Mortlock confirmed the AGM was scheduled for 26th May.

**TREE WARDENS REPORT:** C Jackson confirmed he has been chasing County Highways in respect of necessary work to an oak tree in Old Road.

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

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING:** Final arrangements were made for the Annual Parish Meeting.

**REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS:** A query from a nearby landowner to the Circular paths was outlined. P Mortlock confirmed the owl boxes are being monitored.

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

**Planning Meeting on 4th May 2016**

**Decisions reported from the Planning Authority: -**

- a) Approval had been granted for tree work on land west of Rowans Way - **B/16/00374/TPO**
- b) Permission had been granted for a detached double garage at Greens Farm, High Road - **B/16/00242/FHA**

**The following were discussed: -**

- 1) There were No Objections to the application for a Pavilion Extension - **B/16/00006**
- 2) **B/16/00540** - Whilst the Parish Council had No Objections to some work to oak trees at Oak Cottage, Breach Grove, they did Object to the proposed felling of 3 trees. The Tree Warden agreed to submit a suitable response ahead of the deadline - **Action C Jackson**