

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

PRESENT: B Sadler (Chaired the Meeting), P Mortlock, C Jackson, H Bonnar, R Cowell, D Hattrell (Clerk), J Finch (County Cllr) arrived late and 1 member of the public.

APOLOGIES: B Rowe (Chairman), C Morgan and J Jenkins.

PUBLIC FORUM: An enquiry was made in respect of the new access being put in for Nayland Hall Farm.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: Nothing was declared.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 3rd AUGUST 2016: These were accepted as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: All agreed to reimburse minor expenditure in respect of ownership searches in relation to Church path ditch. It was agreed to chase the Environment Agency to arrange for advice along the same stretch - **Action Clerk**. P Mortlock has obtained two quotations for modern robust noticeboards. Some feedback was given and P Mortlock agreed to make some further enquiries - **Action P Mortlock**.

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT: District Cllr J Jenkins had sent her apologies and her report was read to the meeting. She had reported that at their September Council Meeting they were to be discussing and making a decision on the preferred option as to where their combined Head Quarters will be, there has been very detailed work gone into the facts and figures around this issue. The Boundary Commission have already started work and Babergh expect a paper to come before them in December. The closing date for applications in respect of a Chief Executive is the 12th September and they are hopeful that by January 2017 they will have a successful applicant in place. They are setting up Task and Finish Groups to set about starting to deliver their Joint Strategic Priorities. There is a Norfolk and Suffolk Leaders Meeting on Wednesday 7th September to discuss the outcome of the Devolution Consultation and the way forward, details will be on the relevant website.

POLICE REPORT: The Area Newsletter was circulated and an invite had been received and circulated about an open event involving the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable.

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

➤ **Government Devolution consultation closes but Suffolk residents can still give their views**

Over the last seven weeks people across Norfolk and Suffolk have been offering their views and feedback on a proposed devolution deal and associated governance arrangements for the two counties. The consultation closed at the end of the day on Tuesday 23 August.

Devolution is about transferring certain decision-making powers and funding down from Central Government to a local area. It means that decisions are taken close to where they have an effect.

The majority of councils across Norfolk and all in Suffolk, along with the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership supported the deal and agreed to ask the public for their views.

Key elements of proposed Norfolk/Suffolk deal are:

- £25m funding each year for the next 30 years (£750m) to support economic growth, development of local infrastructure and jobs (this will increase the local economy to £43bn and create 95,000 jobs by 2026)
- £130m investment over five years to support the building of new homes across Norfolk and Suffolk
- Over the lifetime of the deal around 200,000 homes could be delivered
- Control of a £225m transport budget for the next four years
- Control of an existing c£20m annual adult skills fund to ensure the training offer matches the needs of local businesses and the local labour market
- Control of an existing c£2m annual Apprenticeship Grant for employers

As part of the consultation, people have been asked for their views on more decisions being taken locally, rather than at central government and whether they support the creation of a combined authority chaired by a directly elected Mayor for the two counties.

Over 2500 submissions were made as part of the consultation by people completing the online survey. Ipsos-Mori have also been carrying out more than 6000 phone surveys across the two counties to ensure decision makers have a representative sample of views.

Suffolk County Council plans to continue its own consultation until October when Councillors will be asked to give the proposals final approval. The consultation will soon go live on www.suffolk.gov.uk

➤ **Raising the Bar Community Fund grants are now available**

Voluntary and Community Sector organisations urged to apply

A community fund programme that has been created by Suffolk County Council as part of its Raising the Bar Programme is now open for applications.

The Raising the Bar Community grant of up to £20,000 is available for projects aiming to provide a positive environment where learning is valued and children are encouraged; In particular, the grant looks to support the involvement of parents and carers in a way that complements learning at school and early years' settings.

Funding is available to voluntary and community Sector organisations, and is recognition of the valuable contribution that the voluntary and community sector can make to the education of children and young people. In projects, the organisations will be expected to work in partnership with schools or nurseries.

- Enabling parents to support their children with their learning at school/nursery, through additional learning in the home (e.g. reading with their children).
- Helping parents to value their children's education and engage with their school.
- Building parental skills and confidence in supporting their children's education and development.

Further information: Where to find details

<http://suffolkcf.org.uk/grants/raising-the-bar-community-fund/>

Closing date - 29th September 2016

This grant programme has been created by Suffolk County Council as part of its Raising the Bar Programme and involves working in partnership with Suffolk Community Foundation who administer the programme. The current round is targeting projects focused on parental involvement, particularly supporting those who are disadvantaged or deprived.

A grant of up to £20,000 is available to spend over the course of one year but lower cost projects will be equally welcome. We would generally expect for the higher cost projects to involve more than one school and be more transformational.

Following his report, J Finch agreed to chase up the safety issue of school bus waiting at the entrance to Kingsland Lane- **Action J Finch**. The Parish Council had suggested re-locating to a safer location 50 yards up the road to the Village Green gates. J Finch advised on an on-going debate about enforcement of parking offences involving double yellow lines.

CORRESPONDENCE: The report had been issued ahead of the meeting and key areas were discussed. It was noted that the entrance has been secured and the ditch cleared at Hargreaves field. P Mortlock advised of the forthcoming closure of the free website facility for Parish Councils in the area. H Bonnar reminded about a fund to help smaller authorities.

HIGHWAYS: J Finch confirmed he has been liaising with D Stiff at County Highways in relation to the lack of impact at the A134 crossing. It was agreed for P Mortlock to report the pavement area at the Village Green for Highways to resolve - **Action P Mortlock**. Holes in the road surface along Plough Lane were reported.

FINANCE: The bank balances as at 7th September 2016 were **£30623.98** in the Community Account, **£15309.09** in the Reserve Account making a total of **£45933.07**. The Internal and External Audit Reports were read to Council. It was agreed to re-fund R Cowell £7 at next meeting for the land registry fee - **Action Clerk**. The "Reserve Policy" and also the "Option of Reducing the size of the Minutes" will form Agenda items at the October Meeting - **Action Clerk**.

The following were authorised for payment: -

1406	400.66	D K Hattrell	Clerk's Salary
1407	93.60	Inland Revenue	Clerk's ddtns & ERS NIC
1408	153.59	SCC - Pension ACC	Clerk's Pension
1409	543.60	Tree & Lawn Co Ltd	V Green
1410	0.62	Chilton Office Supplies	Photocopies

Total **£1192.07**

CIRCULAR PATH PROJECT: R Cowell reported on recent progress and that the various paths were being monitored.

COMMUNITY WOODLAND: The annual working picnic was going ahead later in the month. The AGM had been arranged for 18th October. The "pollinator patches" project was being considered.

VILLAGE HALL: B Sadler reported that the kitchen has been re-fitted and the decoration is still outstanding. The arrangements for the Quiz night were complete. It was agreed to check on the

Minutes whether an amount had been agreed to contribute towards the kitchen. If not this should form an Agenda item at the October Meeting - **Action Clerk.**

VILLAGE GREEN: P Mortlock confirmed the Playground repairs were on-going. Work had started at the pavilion. There is a damaged bench on the Village Green.

IDEAS TO IMPROVE THE VILLAGE: Nothing was raised.

REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS: R Cowell reported that the public footpath and ditch that were the subject of a forthcoming meeting with the Environment Agency were owned by the developers. This was found from the land registry search. C Jackson reported on plans to cut back brambles on footpaths following exceptional growth this season.

The meeting closed at 9.25 p.m.

The following was discussed: -

The Parish Council had **No Objections** to the following applications: -

1) **B/16/01012 - Cornerways, 1 Maple Way - Application for a two storey rear extension.** It was also pointed out that the footprint is the same as the 2013 application.

2) **B/16/01060 & 61 - Rose Hill Farm, Honey Tye - Application including Listed Building Consent or a two bay cartlodge, conversion of granary to pool house with construction of external pool, internal alterations to attic of farmhouse, proposed tennis court, demolition of existing open sided store.**

3) **B/16/01121 - 3 The Old Road - Proposed first floor extension.**

Additionally R Cowell had raised issues about the Oak Cottage, Breach Grove access.