

MINUTES of the MEETING of LEAVENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL held on Wednesday 1st February 2017 at 7.30 p.m. at The Village Hall, Leavenheath.

PRESENT: B Sadler (Chaired the Meeting), P Mortlock, C Morgan, C Jackson, R Cowell, D Hattrell (Clerk), J Finch (County Cllr) arrived late and 2 members of the public.

APOLOGIES: B Rowe, H Bonnar and J Jenkins (District Cllr).

PUBLIC FORUM: A member of the public out-lined concerns about the behaviour of some dogs on the Village Green and shared information about a recent incident. Concerns were also expressed about dog mess in the play area. She felt there was village support to the idea of fencing the play area and will urge people to come forward. B Sadler out-lined some of the aspects considered by the Village Green Committee leading to the decision not to fence the area. The play value to children, cost of the fencing and potential for vandalism are all factors that have been considered. On other matters the Parish Council was reminded about the Village Green hedge near Rowans Way and notice of tree work in the vicinity would be appreciated by residents.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: Nothing was declared.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 4th JANUARY 2017: These were accepted as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: P Mortlock confirmed the Church path post is in hand and the work will be completed when weather conditions allow. H Bonnar had confirmed between meetings that he wasn't recommending moving the Parish Council reserves to a new bank account, as interest rates available seem low. B Sadler read the opinion from the authorities on the boundary wall on the High Road between Wrights Way and the Village Green. It was noted that the inspection pit has been filled.

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT: District Cllr J Jenkins was unable to attend, however, had sent a written report.

Members from both Mid Suffolk and Babergh have attended three workshops in order to address the Leader Cabinet model of working and how many Councillors they think will be needed in order to fulfill the Council's obligations. This will enable a paper to Full Council with an indication to the Boundary Commission of the size required.

The Boundary Commission meet in April to decide the numbers, then it goes out to Public Consultation, the review comes into effect in May 2019.

The Budget comes to the Full Council in February, there are a number of recommendations including a rise in Council Tax of £5 per annum which equates to just under 10 pence a week on a Band D property.

POLICE REPORT: There was no report, however, an email from the Police sharing details of Police Connect messages was discussed. It was agreed to send the flyer to LSPN and at the same time query with the Police why we no longer do not receive crime figures - **Action Clerk.**

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT: County Councillor J Finch attended and his full report is available.

CORRESPONDENCE: The report had been issued ahead of the meeting and key areas were discussed. It was agreed not to follow up the playground inspection training. B Sadler read a

letter from Konings, who have taken over the Boxford Suffolk farm plant, about their expansion plans over the next 10 years.

HIGHWAYS: The speed signs and Community Speed Watch were mentioned. It was agreed for C Morgan to get information to J Finch about issues with pavements - **Action C Morgan.** C Jackson reported on the hedge cut from Assington to Stoke Road and that all the pot holes were now marked on the A134 through the village.

FINANCE: The bank balances as at 31st January 2017 were **£24538.60** in the Community Account, **£15331.64** in the Reserve Account making a total of **£39870.24.**

The following were authorised for payment: -

1431	400.88	D K Hattrell	Clerk's Salary
1432	94.60	Inland Revenue	Clerk's ddtns & ERS NIC
1433	155.12	SCC - Pension ACC	Clerk's Pension
1434	36.00	Leavenheath Village Hall	Hall Hire
Funds Tr between meetings	400.00	Pete Irving	Approved Tree work
Total	£1086.60		

REPORTS FROM ORGANISATIONS AND REPRESENTATIVES : Reports were given from the Village Hall, Village Green, the Tree Wardens and in respect of Church Path Ditch. No resolutions were passed in relation to these headings.

CIRCULAR PATHS: R Cowell outlined the extensive investigation required to determine the work to link the lakeside path which involves 100 meters and figures were discussed. The idea of using S106 money (up to £4000) together with the Locality budget (up to £1000) was agreed as a contingency plan in the absence of other funding. C Morgan agreed to support the funding bids.

RESERVING POLICY: It was agreed for the Clerk to draft a suitable policy using the example as a starting point - **Action Clerk.**

IDEAS TO IMPROVE THE VILLAGE: Nothing was raised.

REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS: R Cowell reported that the Tree Review continues. P Mortlock reported on Rowley Wood and a dedication to the late Ron Jackaman was discussed.

The meeting closed at **9.30 p.m.**

The following application was discussed:-

B/17/00004 - The application to clad top half of all elevations with weatherboarding at Woodlands, Harrow Street - **No Objections**.

It was agreed not to issue a comment to the Minerals and Waste Local Plan Consultation.