

MINUTES of the MEETING of LEAVENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL held on Wednesday 2nd August 2017 at 7.30 p.m. at The Village Hall, Leavenheath.

PRESENT: B Rowe (Chairman), B Sadler, P Mortlock, C Morgan, H Bonnar, D Hattrell (Clerk), J Jenkins (District Councillor), J Finch (County Councillor) and around 25 members of the public.

PUBLIC FORUM: Concern was expressed about the lack of fencing of the Play equipment and the issue of aggressive dogs and fouling. It was agreed to pass these concerns to the Village Green Committee to consider and provide recommendations. A no. of residents then outlined reasons they believed the Konings proposal should be strongly opposed. Members of the Parish Council had already met residents between meetings and had listened to and researched the points raised. The areas raised focused on the increase in traffic movements, highways safety, the effects on the AONB including failure of the Dark night status proposal. They did not believe there was exceptional circumstances to justify the loss of tranquility or to justify the expansion at this location rather than a more suitable industrial area. The residents attending believed it was the duty of Leavenheath Parish Council to support them and oppose this application.

APOLOGIES: R Cowell.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: Nothing was declared.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 5TH JULY 2017: These were accepted as a true record. The Chairman thanked the Clerk for providing the report to the Community Newsletter.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: Nothing was raised.

UNRESOLVED ITEMS LIST: The same items remain as last month as follows: -

- 1) The Lake Walk
- 2) Community Speedwatch
- 3) Parcels of Land transferred from Beehive Estate
- 4) Noticeboard at Honey Tye
- 5) A134 Crossing - Royston Wood/Plough Lane
- 6) Church Path Gate
- 7) Iconfair investigation in relation to the ditch
- 8) 30 mph sign on route from Sudbury

A quotation had been received to repair the Church path gate. It was agreed to include a Financial Agenda item for the September Meeting - **Action Clerk.**

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT: District Cllr J Jenkins spoke about the new charges for Pre-application advice. The move to Endeavour House should be complete by the end of September. The Boundary Commission review is underway and Parish Councils are being encouraged to share views. H Bonnar enquired about the location of the next Babergh area SALC Meeting.

POLICE REPORT: There was no report, however, P Mortlock had provided a link showing our crime figures that can be accessed from our website.

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT: County Cllr J Finch spoke about his report which covered the new Strategic Priorities at the County Council, the Special send off for Suffolk Athletes

for the National Summer Games, Recycling and the recent Suffolk Health and Wellbeing Board Meeting. J Finch was following up the report in relation to The Ridings. He was aware of concerns about the Stone Street/Brick Kiln Hill junction which was to be discussed later in the meeting.

CO-OPTION OF NEW MEMBERS: It was noted that an Election was not requested, so the Parish Council was free to co-opt a new member. Now 3 Vacancies exist and it was agreed for the Clerk to put together a notice for the Community Newsletter advertising these Vacancies - **Action Clerk.** It was agreed to repeat the advert for 2 months. P Mortlock agreed to put the advert on the website - **Action P Mortlock.** It was agreed to update our Councillor list in the Community Newsletter - **Action Clerk.**

CORRESPONDENCE: The report had been issued ahead of the meeting and key areas were discussed. An email report between meetings of the grass being uncut near the substation was mentioned. It had been observed that the grass has since been cut.

HIGHWAYS: The question of road safety on Stoke Road was discussed. A request was made to extend the 30 mph speed limit beyond the Stone Street/Brick Kiln Hill junction. Also the hedge on the south side of the B1068 before this junction needs cutting to improve visibility. It was agreed to write to County Highways and County Cllr J Finch requesting a safety review and that the Parish Council are supportive of the reduction in speed limit and the improvement of visibility - **Action Clerk.**

FINANCE: The bank balances as at 1st August 2017 were **£25196.62** in the Community Account, **£15353.71** in the Reserve Account making a total of **£40550.33.**

The following were authorised for payment: -

1464	426.42	D K Hattrell	Clerks Salary
1465	95.60	Inland Revenue Only	Clerk's deductions
1466	160.76	SCC - Pension ACC	Clerk's Pension
1467	291.60	Tree & Lawn Company	V Green
1468	210.00	Suffolk Assoc. of Local Cou	Internal Audit Fee
Total	£1184.38		

REPORTS FROM ORGANISATIONS AND REPRESENTATIVES : Reports were given from the Village Green, Village Hall, Circular Paths and Footpaths. It was agreed to follow up the need to clear the Public Open Space path from the Village Green/Rowans Way. This is the responsibility of Babergh Council and Cllr J Jenkins agreed to chase. Members expressed their gratitude to Peter Pratt, footpath warden and volunteers including Andy Phipps, Kevin Marshall and Clare and Neil Morgan for all their work in making the footpaths accessible.

IDEAS TO IMPROVE THE VILLAGE: Motorcycles had been observed on Dead Lane which is in Assington Parish. The signs are obstructed and it was agreed to report to Assington Parish.

REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS: Nothing was raised requiring action.

The meeting closed at **8.50 p.m.**

Planning Meeting on 2nd August 2017

The following applications were discussed:-

1) DC/17/03133 - 2 Sweet Briar Close - **No Objections**. However, a request that the open land loss, albeit small, to the side of the bungalow does not set a precedent.

2) DC/17/03007 - 26 Maple Way - **No Objections**.

3) DC/17/03299 - 29 Edies Lane - **No Objections**.

4) DC/17/03117 - Konings, Hill Farm, Brick Kiln Hill, Polstead - Application to extend production premises, canning line, warehouse space, apple processing and juice storage including parking, landscaping and drainage. This application was reviewed following a meeting with residents and further information gathered. It was resolved to now object to these plans and the following wording was prepared and submitted following the meeting date: -

With respect to the above application Leavenheath Parish Council rescind our previous document and object to it.

From a recent meeting with local affected residents, we found that nobody was aware of the proposed expansion to the old Copella site by Konings.

Having listened to their concerns, we find that; -

The underdeveloped site by PepsiCo, granted permission in 2007, will now become an over developed site in Dedham Vale AONB.

Whereas only approx. 20% of the parish area and approx. 2.5% of the houses are indeed in the AONB, any planning applications would be scrutinized and any major development (which this is) would have to be in 'exceptional circumstances'.

Leavenheath Parish Council had always looked towards Babergh District Council's strategy plan of presumption of expansion in favour of employment.

However the small amount in employment would not offset the massive increase in HGV traffic along either way of the A134 (Sudbury or Colchester, taking into account Gt. Horkesley) or the only access road to site, the B1068 (Stoke Road)

Having confirmed with Suffolk County Council that a 'traffic movement' is a single journey. We now hear via those residents (via Konings) that it is not the case and indeed it is both ways. With that in mind the figure of 314 traffic movements becomes 628, which is not acceptable or agreed on in 2007, with no cap on future movements.

A better 'brown field' site should be sought with better access than this site.

We fully support our residents and urge Babergh District Council to object to this planning application.