

MINUTES of the MEETING of LEAVENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL held on Wednesday 4th September 2019 at 7.30 p.m. at The Village Hall, Leavenheath.

PRESENT: P Mortlock (Chairman), C Morgan, R Cowell, S Whitelaw, R Bellenie, D Hattrell (Clerk), L Parker, J Finch (County Cllr) and 3 members of the public.

PUBLIC FORUM: It was suggested that Tree Preservation Orders should be considered on the High Road oak trees as they may be under threat from potential housing development in the future. This had arisen from the indication in the Joint Local Plan Consultation. The Tree Wardens agreed to make enquiries. Attention then turned to the Lion application. A point was raised that in addition to the potential new residents having obstructed visibility when accessing their properties, existing residents who rely on the openness of the application site to see vehicles approaching would have that obstructed by the development. R Bellenie explained the Parish Council's further response to the application which is strong objections. L Parker was making enquiries with the Planning Officer. It was also noted that the Heritage team has expressed strong views and Highways has listed various conditions. The consensus was the changes were no improvement on the original application.

APOLOGIES: D Kingham

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: R Cowell declared an interest in the Lion application.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 7RD AUGUST 2019: These were accepted as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: Nothing was raised.

UNRESOLVED ITEMS LIST: The outstanding items were discussed as follows: -

1) The Lake Walk - Progress was being chased regularly. Activity was previously observed, however, stopped. The Chairman and R Cowell visited the Golf Club to seek an update. The work was close to completion, however, no recent progress observed which led volunteers to stop working in the vicinity. No progress observed since last meeting, so it was agreed to chase again.

2) A134 Crossing (Royston Wood/Plough Lane) - J Finch achieved agreement to yellow backed signage subject to the cost of around £1250 being met by the Parish Council. This had been agreed and the order is progressing, however, we do not have a completion date at this stage. The landowner has agreed to cut back obstructing gorse. J Finch was asked for an update on the new signage and he confirmed it is on list and he will continue to chase. The work has been ordered, so J Finch agreed to chase completion.

3) Speed on Stoke Road - J Finch had raised the issues with County Council Engineers. They did not see this as priority. Various factors were discussed including accidents at the location, camber on the bend and increasing traffic volumes due to the Konings expansion plans. It was agreed to continue to monitor and raise concerns. The availability of a crash map was discussed covering the past 20 years, however, not all accidents are reported. D Kingham will continue to monitor and chase progress. J Finch was asked to forward the policy in respect of changing speed restrictions - J Finch confirmed he has requested the policy and was awaiting the document to pass on.

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT: District Cllr Lee Parker attended and reported on the continued work on the Joint Local Plan. Bin collection changes had brought about initial problems, but he was hopeful these were now close to resolution. The refurbishment of Kingfisher Leisure Centre is underway and should be completed by Christmas. L Parker will follow up the request for an access key at the Public Open Space path maintained by the District Council - **Action L Parker**. J Finch noted that he needs to investigate access issues from the highways leading to the path.

POLICE REPORT: There was no report, however, P Mortlock had provided a link showing our crime figures that can be accessed from our website. S Whitelaw reported on the crimes during July which are showing on the site which include 1 local report.

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT: County Cllr J Finch attended and reported on improvements to GCSE results across a range of subjects, the winners of the Suffolk's Creating the Greenest County awards were announced, Red House Residential Home in Sudbury crowned the 2019 Suffolk Care Home Olympics Champions, new Lorry Watch schemes launched and Cllr Finch had walked six legs of his sponsored walk along the Stour Valley Path. Further Adoption/Fostering sessions have been arranged.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING/ HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY: The Lady Anne Windsor Charity attended the Neighbourhood Planning Meeting to share their on-going plans. They are considering some rented properties to help fund the Scheme. In relation to the Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group, progress is being made. S Whitelaw proposed this Council funds the Housing Needs Survey to avoid any unnecessary delays. This was seconded by C Morgan and duly carried. The Terms of Reference had been considered by the Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group and they felt it covered what was required. The Parish Council therefore agreed to adopt the Terms of Reference with immediate effect.

CORRESPONDENCE: On-going correspondence was discussed

HIGHWAYS: The hedge had been reported as obstructing vision from exiting the High Road onto the A134. R Cowell felt the verge may be more of the issue. A broken manhole cover had been reported between meetings.

FINANCE: The Bank Balances as at 4th September are £32930.29 in the Community Account and £15459.25 in the Rate Reward Account making a total of £48389.54. An ash tree had been identified as having died. It is located on the Village Green and a quote had been obtained totaling £200 to remove it. The Parish Council resolved to accept the quote and have the tree removed as soon as possible - **Action Chairman/ Tree Wardens**. The Internal Audit Report was discussed showing we were fully compliant on book keeping, payment controls, budgetary controls, income controls, payroll controls, asset controls, bank reconciliation and Internal Audit Procedures. Recommendations included reviewing Financial Regulations, the insurance cover, Internal Controls including the effectiveness of Internal Audit and to ensure documents on the website are displayed until after audit. In relation to GDPR Legislation, the Auditors recognised our progress towards compliance with the introduction of privacy notices and further work was suggested to get fully compliant. A draft Internal Control Policy was then considered and adopted by resolution. It was agreed to include a future Agenda item to Review the Effectiveness of Internal Audit - **Action Clerk**.

A) DC/19/02702 - 2 Eglantine Way - Planning Permission had been granted for a single storey rear extension, erection of front infill extension and conversion of garage.

B) DC/19/02815 - Land East Of 18 Oaklands - Outline Planning Permission had been Refused for single storey dwelling and outbuilding.

The following applications were discussed: -

1) DC/19/01849 - The Lion, Honey Tye - Reconsultation with revised plans for 5 dwellings. The Parish Council considered between meetings to comply with the deadline - The Parish Council continues to **strongly object** to these plans on Heritage and Highways grounds.

2) DC/19/03794 - Oak Cottage, Breach Grove, Kingsland Lane - There were **No Objections** to vary condition 2 (Plans and drawings) to revise the garage and alter door and fenestration.

3) DC/19/03943 - 15 Bramble Way - There were **No Objections** to reducing protected Oak tree by 35%.

4) **Local Plan Consultation:** A Meeting was agreed to agree a response to the Consultation with assistance from Lee Parker. The response can be reported on at the October Parish Council Meeting.

5) **Other urgent Planning Matters:** Nothing was raised.