

MINUTES of the MEETING of LEAVENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL held on Wednesday 5th February 2020 at 7.30 p.m. at The Village Hall, Leavenheath.

PRESENT: P Mortlock (Chairman), C Morgan, R Cowell, S Whitelaw, D Kingham, R Bellenie, D Hattrell (Clerk), J Finch (County Cllr), L Parker (District Cllr) and 8 members of the public.

PUBLIC FORUM: A resident reported the narrowing of the pavement on the A134 between Plough Lane and the Church. Heavy rain is also causing flooding in the vicinity potentially due to blocked ditch. Flooding was also reported on the A134 near the High Road due to failure of the drains. The resident was urged to report on-line with the Highways Reporting tool. The Leavenheath Playground Action Group discussed their plans for a fund raising event to celebrate VE75. They are seeking financial support from the Parish Council towards the event of £500. They also enquired about Public Liability Insurance. The Chairman agreed to seek advice from the Village Green Insurers in relation to Public Liability for the Event - **Action Chairman**. The Chairman of the Neighbourhood Planning Group attended to encourage support to their Community event on the coming Saturday. A representative from the Lady Anne Windsor Charity Trustees attended to seek the outcome of the Housing Needs Survey. It was confirmed that information would be available at the Community Event on Saturday. A neighbour to the Oaklands Farm, Heathlands plans had a query about the curtilage of the barn subject to the change of use. R Bellenie confirmed the Planning Group had submitted No Objections as they interpreted it was just the building footprint that would be affected, however, agreed to investigate this point with the Planning Officer - **Action R Bellenie**.

APOLOGIES: District Cllr L Parker.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None were made.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 8TH JANUARY 2020: 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 has been chased regularly. However, no further progress had been made since the Golf Club cut back the foliage on Footpath 5. Chase up emails have been sent since with no response.

2) A134 Crossing (Royston Wood/Plough Lane) - J Finch achieved agreement to yellow backed signage subject to the cost of £1250 being met by the Parish Council. The yellow backed signage had been ordered and paid for. J Finch reported the work was scheduled for 14th February.

3) Speed on Stoke Road - J Finch had raised the issues with County Council Engineers previously. They did not see this as priority. J Finch had previously clarified that unless serious accident data show a need, the County Council will not create new speed limits. D Kingham confirmed he had located the policy on-line and would do some work interpreting against the Police accident statistics. J Finch agreed to work with D Kingham in this regard.

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT: L Parker had sent apologies and had provided an update on the maintenance of their land reported at last meeting.

POLICE REPORT: There was no report, however, the Chairman had provided a link showing our crime figures that can be accessed from our website. S Whitelaw reported on the crimes ongoing since December which are showing on the site which include 3 local reports of violence/sexual offence and other theft.

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT: County Cllr J Finch attended and reported the high rating of Suffolk's Adult Social Care Locations at 89% rated Good or Outstanding by the Care Quality Commission. A New Roadwork permit scheme is being introduced giving Suffolk Highways more powers to place conditions on road closures. Parking patrols will be the responsibility of the District Council from 6th April. Most Active County initiatives are giving opportunities to individuals who are not currently physically active to take part in training and support with a goal of completing the Great East Swim or Great East Run. More Fostering and Adoption Sessions were scheduled. J Finch updated the meeting on the Bus Service Consultation giving the reasons for the necessary reductions and the compromises that have been negotiated. The important message was for people to use the Buses to make them viable. Further information is to follow.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING/ HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY: It was reported that a Community Consultation Meeting was to be held the coming Saturday where the Survey Results would be discussed and further views from the Village gained. Consultants are now required to take Neighbourhood Planning forward to the next stage. It was agreed to include Finance Agenda items at the March Meeting to consider funding the costs involved - **Action Clerk**. These include the Neighbourhood Planning Consultants introductory visit and a separate Traffic Survey.

CORRESPONDENCE: On-going correspondence was discussed. No further actions were agreed.

HIGHWAYS: There were no additional Highways matters other than the items under the Public Forum and unresolved items already discussed.

FINANCE: The Bank Balances as at 3rd February are £33977.99 in the Community Account and £15484.00 in the Rate Reward Account making a total of £49461.99.

A review of effectiveness of Internal Controls was carried out. The meeting was reminded that the Internal Control Policy was reviewed on 4.9.19. Members expressed their satisfaction of SALC as the Internal Auditors who carry out a comprehensive review. We have recently updated our Financial Regulations.

Attention then turned to our Insurance Cover. The Clerk has compared the cover with our Asset Register and telephoned the Insurers as the Sum's Insured exceed our requirements under the Property section. All other covers fit with our needs including Liability and Personal Accident including volunteers working on Parish Council projects. The Policy values under the property section are populated based on the size of our Parish and amendment is only required if our requirements exceed the Sums Insured generated. So whilst our cover exceeds our needs, there is no additional charge for this as part of the package. Therefore, it was resolved that no amendment is required.

It was agreed to include an Agenda item at the March Meeting of "Consider the request for a contribution of £500 towards the VE75 Fund Raising Event" - **Action Clerk**. Meanwhile the Chairman will request a breakdown of the costs - **Action Chairman**.

DC/19/05687 - 47 High Road, Leavenheath - Planning Permission had been granted to tile existing conservatory.

The following applications were discussed: -

1) **DC/20/00158** - Erection of single storey front extension at 14 Elm Tree Lane -
The following response was sent to the Planning Authority: -

"In relation to the above planning application Leavenheath Parish Council have no objections, but we would like to note that whilst the proposal is in line with policy HS33 of the Local Plan and the proposal has reduced frontage from the previous planning application it still goes beyond the original footprint of the property as per our concerns from the previous application."

2) **DC/20/00166** - Application to determine if Prior Approval is required for a Proposed Change of Use of agricultural buildings to dwelling houses (Class C3) and for building operations reasonably necessary for the conversion. Town & Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015 as amended Schedule 2, Part 3, ClassQ - The Barn, Oaklands Farm, Heathlands -
The following response was sent to the Planning Authority: -

"In relation to the above planning application Leavenheath Parish Council have no objections. We would like to note that the whilst the design/materials are meant to replicate an agricultural building and Western Red Cedar is becoming more popular in rural areas, it is not in keeping with the properties facing the proposal, and therefore we would like to request that consideration is given to screening/landscaping the property to create a softer and more sympathetic view for facing properties."

3) **DC/20/00189** - Application for a single storey rear extension at 2 Kingland Lane -

The Parish Council had **No objections**.

4) Any other Urgent Planning items: A tree application at 30 Bramble Way had recently been received and was being reviewed by the Tree Wardens. R Bellenie agreed to telephone the Planning Officer to check information following the Public Forum item for The Barn, Oaklands Farm application - **Action R Bellenie**.