

**MINUTES of the MEETING of LEAVENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL** held on Wednesday 8th January 2020 at 7.30 p.m. at The Village Hall, Leavenheath.

**PRESENT:** P Mortlock (Chairman), R Cowell, S Whitelaw, D Kingham, R Bellenie, D Hattrell (Clerk), J Finch (County Cllr) arrived late, L Parker (District Cllr) and 2 members of the public.

**PUBLIC FORUM:** Concern was expressed regarding the poor signage and resulting confusion over the road closure of the A134 by Anglian Water. A further accident was reported on Stoke Road again supporting calls for further safety measures. R Cowell confirmed he has photographs showing the issues involved. It was agreed to discuss with J Finch when he arrived. The Chairman had enquired about the reason for the water burst leading to the A134 closure. It was apparently due to a fire at the caravans in the vicinity which was put out by the Fire Service. It seemed the pipes could not cope with the back pressure.

**APOLOGIES:** were received from C Morgan.

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST:** None were made.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 4TH DECEMBER 2019:** These were accepted as a true record.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:** All items were covered by the Agenda.

**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 had 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 further progress had been made since the Golf Club cut back the foliage on Footpath 5. Part of the route is under water currently.

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. This was agreed and the order progressed, however, the completion date is still awaited. The landowner had agreed to cut back obstructing gorse and has been chased. The yellow backed signage has been ordered, however, the County Council requested payment ahead of the work. The Invoice has been paid and J Finch has been urged to chase early completion.

3) Speed on Stoke Road - J Finch had raised the issues with County Council Engineers previously. They did not see this as priority. It was agreed to continue to monitor and raise concerns. J Finch had been asked to forward the policy in respect of changing speed restrictions. J Finch clarified that unless serious accident data show a need, the County Council will not create new speed limits. Since D Kingham requested the policy again, J Finch has been chasing but without success at this stage. D Kingham confirmed he has located the policy on-line and will do some work interpreting against the Police accident statistics.

**BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT:** L Parker attended and reported that the District Council is back in full swing after the holidays. Budget is being considered and their part of the Council Tax is likely to rise by 3%. Changes have been proposed reducing the empty property discount. Babergh's investment arm is demonstrating some success now central government funding has stopped. The Long term parking fees may increase but there are no plans to

introduce charges for short term parking. The new homes bonus is being phased out. It is recognised planning enforcement could improve, so a transformation program is in place. He enquired about the status of The Lion application. It is likely an consultation amendment will follow. Currently our land supply is holding strong. L Parker agreed to investigate the maintenance of 2 pieces of Babergh land in poor condition currently.

**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 ongoing since November which are showing on the site which include 1 local report of a burglary in Honey Lane.

**SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT:** County Cllr J Finch attended and his report covered the approaching deadline for school place applications. More Special Educational Needs and Disability unit places will be available from September 2020. Budgets are in progress. Further Adoption/Fostering Information Sessions are arranged. On local matters he was disappointed with the response of Anglian Water during the necessary A134 road diversions. He was constantly in contact with them to ease the issues involved. He would like a formal apology from them and better systems in place for any future diversions. Members asked J Finch about the Public Forum item of a further accident on Stoke Road. D Kingham will liaise with J Finch between meetings regarding the policy implementation - **Action D Kingham**. S Whitelaw agreed to email to ensure that the SLOW markings get re-painted as a minimum - **Action S Whitelaw**.

**NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING/ HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY:** D Kingham reported that they are starting to analyse the data from the survey. The Prize draw will happen at the coffee morning on Saturday. It was agreed that the prize will be reimbursed under Payments. The Steering Group is looking at grants and being approached by landowners. A Community Meeting is being arranged for February to look at Objectives going forward. A leaflet drop was suggested and agreed.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** On-going correspondence was discussed. A Complaint about Plough Lane drainage, as a previous ditch is no longer open, will be passed on to the Golf Club.

**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 6th January are £34804.87 in the Community Account and £15479.93 in the Rate Reward Account making a total of £50284.80.

The Precept form was signed in respect of a standstill budget of £19490 approved at the December Meeting.

The Financial Regulations had been reviewed and updated with the most recent model from NALC. Approval of these was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by S Whitelaw and unanimously carried. It was agreed to start seeking quotes for maintenance jobs identified.

**The following were authorised for payment: -**

Funds Transfer	421.35	D K Hattrell	Clerk's Salary
Funds Transfer	100.40	Inland Revenue Only	Clerk's Deductions

Funds Transfer	169.13	SCC Pension ACC	Clerk's Pension
Funds Transfer	36.00	Leavenheath Village Hall	Hall hire
Funds Transfer	100.00	D Kingham	NP prize draw
<b>Total</b>	<b>£826.88</b>		

**REPORTS FROM ORGANISATIONS AND REPRESENTATIVES :** Reports were given from the Village Green, Village Hall and Community Woodland. Encouraging levels of on-going hiring was reported at the Village Hall. Plastic fence posts have been agreed to extend the lifespan. The Cinema has had its best year. There is a new Secretary in place at the Village Green and R Cowell has carried out the Village Green Risk Assessment. Activity continues at both Woodlands. Some branches have been blown down in Royston Wood in recent high winds.

**IDEAS TO IMPROVE THE VILLAGE:** R Cowell reported the need to promote the Tree Warden activity with younger people in the Village. It was agreed to sound out the Coffee Morning for ideas. There is now renewed interest in Community Speed Watch. If a co-ordinator comes forward this can be progressed. The Clerk agreed to look out the contacts of the representatives who presented at the Annual Parish Meeting 2 years ago - **Action Clerk.**

**REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS:** An advert is being put together to encourage new Parish Council Members. It was noted that legal deeds are referred to in the new Financial Regulations. The ones for the Village Hall are still being located. D Kingham agreed to investigate the light obscured by a tree. D Kingham agreed to put a reminder on Facebook about the deadline for Primary School Places. The Chairman received an update from the Lady Anne Windsor Trust Charity over the holiday period.

The meeting closed at **9.20 p.m.**

**Planning Meeting on 8th January 2020**

*The following decisions was advised from the Planning Authority:-*

A) **DC/19/05136** - 7 Mayfield, Leavenheath - Planning Permission had been granted for a two storey rear extension.

B) **DC/19/04551** - The Old Bakery, Honey Tye - There was a refusal of discharge of conditions application in respect of the window design as the proposals were not considered acceptable by the Heritage Officer.

C) **DC/19/05174** - Leavenheath Farmhouse, Locks Lane - Planning Permission had been granted to the variation of condition 2 in respect of the erection of a replacement dwelling.

The following applications were discussed: -

1) **APP/D3505/W/19/3237656** - Land East Of, 18 Oaklands, Leavenheath - Appeal against the Decision to refuse permission. This was considered by the Planning Group. Strong Objections were strengthened further and issued ahead of the deadline. We requested that the Planning Inspector dismiss the appeal.

2) 47 High Road - Application for Planning Permission for roof tiles to existing conservatory - **DC/19/05687**. This was considered between meetings to comply with the deadline. There were **No Objections**.

3) Beachams Farm, Cock Street - Application for Planning Permission without compliance of conditions - **DC/19/05871**. This was being considered by the Planning Group - **\*There were No Objections**.

4) Any other Urgent Planning items: It was agreed to email new planning applications to the Chairman for his information.