

**MINUTES of the MEETING of LEAVENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL** held on Wednesday 1st July 2020 at 7.30 p.m. by Video Conferencing.

**PRESENT:** P Mortlock (Chairman), C Morgan, R Cowell, S Whitelaw, D Kingham, R Bellenie, T Smith, Y Roder, D Hattrell (Clerk), J Finch (County Cllr), L Parker (District Cllr) and 1 member of the public.

**PUBLIC FORUM:** An update was given in relation to the proposal for almshouses at Plough Lane. Members were reminded of the information given at various Parish Council and Annual Parish Meetings. The boundary limitation was extended so now includes any inhabitant of Leavenheath. Grants have now been secured and in view of the requirements for a rural exceptions site, a Housing Needs Survey is needed.

**APOLOGIES:** None were received.

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST:** S Whitelaw and Y Roder declared interests in respect of the Golf Club and also the application at Harrow Street.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 3RD JUNE 2020:** These were accepted as a true record subject to a minor amendment to the Neighbourhood Planning item - "consider whether to move forward with site allocations".

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:** Nothing was raised.

**UPDATES FROM COMMUNITY, ORGANISATIONS AND WARDENS ON URGENT MATTERS DURING THE RESTRICTIONS BY COVID 19:**

Reports were provided from the Village Hall, Tree Wardens and from the Police Website. The Village hall has been open 3 days per week in June for Ladybirds only. They are adhering to strict cleaning routines as per government advice. The Village Hall Committee had a socially distanced meeting in a members garden recently. Agreement was reached that it is too early to reopen the hall to all other clubs and the next review will take place in mid August. A note has gone on the local Facebook page to explain that the hall will remain shut until August review and also asking for new committee members to come forward as they will be losing a few members in the coming months. A communication has been sent from the Village Hall Committee to the regular hirers also by way of an update. From the Police website, 2 crime reports were made in May including 1 x Other Theft in Honey Tye area and 1 x Violence and Sexual offences near Village Hall/Village Green.

New Councillor Trevor Smith had provided his first report as Tree Warden. The handover with Richard Cowell has now completed; this included taking ownership of all the relevant documentation and TPO information for the Parish Registration with the National Tree Council and the Suffolk Tree Warden Network (STWN) has been completed following a virtual meeting with the STWN co-ordinator. He is now receiving the Tree Council's monthly news letter; the key message for June is the long awaited **England Tree Strategy** which is now out for consultation. All Tree Wardens and Parish Councils have been urged to fill in the consultation form and make our Tree Warden voice heard by government. (Deadline 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020). Opportunities for funding are also available via the Branching Out Fund, funds are available to assist schools and community groups proposing to undertake well-planned tree and hedge planting projects this winter (November 2020 – March 2021) preferably during National Tree Week: 28<sup>th</sup> Nov – 6<sup>th</sup> Dec)

100% grants available from £300 to £1500, this will enable the Parish to purchase any trees required for both the village and Royston Wood. Finally site visits made to Royston Wood and Cherry Wood in Stoke by Nayland with the Chairman to look at the condition of the woods and consider potential improvements and works required. As the lockdown eases some key messages for us all. **Monitoring tree health on regular walks** e.g. oak processionary moth (don't get too close) and ash dieback – taking photos if you can is a great way to record what you see. **Monitoring planning applications** – via our local planning portal keep an eye on trees and development. **Keeping an eye out for suspect tree activities** and reporting incidents to our Tree Warden. Suspected illegal tree felling can also be reported to the Forestry Commission. At the Village Green, the Committee will be reviewing the strict cleaning regime among other measures required for Play Park re-opening.

**BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT:** District Councillor Lee Parker attended and had provided a written report ahead of the meeting. This covered Discretionary Business Grants, Tackling Climate change, celebrations for Armed Forces Week, approval of outline planning for 64 homes in Boxford and full planning permission for 100 homes in Acton. Both developments will bring Affordable Housing. Encouragement is being given for residents to shop locally, CIFCO property investments continue despite coronavirus, however, the plans for Sudbury Town Centre have been set back. Babergh Communities are due to receive nearly £300,000 in funding. Guidance is available to support the opening of Village Halls/Community Buildings. Normal arrangements for collection of the CIL has resumed. He praised the Suffolk wide effort in response to the Covid-19 challenge including the "Stick with It Suffolk" message. He felt everyone at the District Council were getting more experienced at working from home, so it was feeling more like business as usual. He was questioned about the recent decision in Boxford which went against the views in the Village and the Neighbourhood Planning Group and was outside the settlement boundary. He explained that details reasons were given for the refusal of the previous 80 homes. It was considered that those reasons had been addressed with the new application for 64 homes. The Neighbourhood Plan in Boxford was not advanced enough to hold any weight. L Parker urged members to take heart that as the Neighbourhood Plan at Leavenheath progresses it will increasingly influence future decisions. He advised that the Appeal at Hartest was dismissed due to the Neighbourhood Plan.

**SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT:** County Cllr J Finch attended and reported on Covid-19 related news including the critical test and trace. They can now respond to outbreaks on a local basis. People undertaking journeys on buses are being encouraged to travel at quieter times if they can. The temporary relaxation of concessionary travel rules will end shortly. The County Council's Renewable Energy Fund is open to eligible businesses looking to reduce their carbon footprint through solar power. Virtual Events will take place on the subject of fostering and adoption as demand has increased significantly. On the buses, the usage is not typical due to Covid-19 and the temporary bus stops are to remain for now.

**NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING UPDATE:** The Neighbourhood Planning Group was due to meet shortly. Matters are progressing and the Group is working closely with the Consultants. Consideration would be given to a Housing Needs Survey and potential Site Allocations.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** On-going correspondence were discussed. It was agreed to support the organiser of the community response to Covid-19 for the Village by keeping the emergency phone in place. Details of the costs involved will be considered for reimbursement between meetings.

**URGENT HIGHWAYS SAFETY MATTERS:** A Stoke Road resident has suggested that 30 mph is painted on the road when the lining is renewed on Stoke Road.

**FINANCE:** The Bank Balances as at 1st July are £47146.42 in the Community Account and £15504.38 in the Rate Reward Account making a total of £62650.80.

The following pre-agreed payments were made: -

<b>Cheque No.</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b><u>As at 1st July</u></b>			
Funds Transfer	457.44	D K Hattrell	Clerk's Salary
Funds Transfer	100.40	Inland Revenue Only	Clerk's Deductions
Funds Transfer	163.76	SCC Pension ACC	Clerk's Pension
Funds Transfer	330.00	Stoke by Nayland Club	V Green Contract

Consideration was given to the cost of a new Defibrillator at the Hare and Hounds pub to be coordinated by the existing team who look after the one at the Village Hall. Approval of the cost was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by C Morgan and unanimously carried.

The Chairman confirmed the grounds maintenance has resumed at the Village Green and an Invoice was being forwarded. Members agreed minor expenditure to repair a fence post at the Village Green. The agreement with the Neighbourhood Planning Consultants was passed for signing which will be arranged between meetings.

**REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS :** It was agreed to put Charity Payments on the Agenda for the August Meeting - **Action Clerk**. It was agreed to put Maintenance to Village Assets on the Agenda for August - **Action Clerk**. "Ideas to Improve the Village" and "Unresolved Items List" will return to the Agenda again before long and the timing can be agreed at the August Meeting - **Action Clerk**. The hedge is overgrown along the path between Maple Way and the A134.

The meeting closed at **9.03 p.m.**

## **Planning Meeting on 1st July 2020**

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

**DC/19/01849 - Application to erect 4 dwellings following demolition of existing buildings at The Lion, Honey Tye, Leavenheath**– Planning Permission was granted – Leavenheath Parish Council submitted objections.

The following applications were discussed: -

**1) DC/20/01942 - Application for change of use of land to seasonal wedding venue incorporating two gazebos, temporary timber seating, event tipi, ancillary cabin, 10 overnight guest tipis, car parking and landscaping at Stoke by Nayland Hotel, Keepers Lane, Leavenheath** – R Bellenie gave a report on behalf of the Planning Group. She explained the concerns over loss of amenities in particular noise and the security surrounding the proposal. They are currently looking at planning policy to strengthen concerns. The deadline has been extended to the 7<sup>th</sup> July and the planning officer is on maternity leave, so details of the new case officer were awaited. R Bellenie attended a meeting with M Manning the Manager at Stoke by Nayland Club together with the Stoke by Nayland Parish Council planning team. Matters discussed and updates are summarised below:

- Noise - They had a test wedding last year, subsequently they carried out another test using the sound system they are looking to purchase. They are going to release the report/information that was prepared from the second sound test and it will be uploaded onto the planning application, so we can expect this at some point for review. They have said they would not find it suitable to have live bands unless the drums were electric drums so that they could control the noise levels and acoustics from it.
- Security and overnight pods - They have said that the pods will most likely be removed as they are not sure it would work well, due to having to supply security guards overnight, and they cannot control the noise easily. This will not however be removed from the planning application it appears.
- Lighting - they will be looking to install some soft LED type lights for way finding.
- Fireworks - these are permitted anyway, but they will only use their current two suppliers and only in the normal locations (across the reservoirs). They have a list of local horse/animal owners that they contact in this event.
- Toilets and showers - these will be fully plumbed in using an existing water source in the cabin and a Klargest type system for sewage.

- Amount of weddings -The idea is the wedding party will have access to the tipis the day before the wedding for set up, the wedding day and then they will depart the day after. Realistically this could be done twice a week e.g. for a Wednesday wedding and a Saturday wedding.
- Alternative site - they have looked at an alternative site, which is the field behind the current proposed site that runs behind the fishing lake. If this site was to be used they would use the small corner of it that links directly onto their woodland. The only issue with this is that it forms part of their new golf course proposal with one of two holes expected to go on it, so they would then have to re-work all of their golf course plans.
- Public Footpath - This runs along the middle of the field where the proposal is and they have already planted a tree line in there. They will also put a post and rail fence in there which will run from the bottom right up to the alleyway cut through, then it will run along the service sheds and out the public gate redirecting walkers down Keepers Lane to pick up the rest of the circular walk.

**2) DC/20/02073 - Harrow Lodge, Harrow Street for housed swimming pool, cartlodge and annexe**-No objections were submitted by the planning group. We await the decision.

3) Any other Urgent Planning items: All out-lined above.