

MINUTES of the MEETING of LEAVENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL held on Wednesday 4th November 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, D Hattrell (Clerk), J Finch (County Cllr), L Parker (District Cllr) and no members of the public.

PUBLIC FORUM: No public were present.

APOLOGIES: Y Roder had sent her apologies.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: S Whitelaw declared an interest in the Harrow Lodge application as a neighbour.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 7TH OCTOBER 2020: These were accepted as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: No matters were raised.

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

Reports were provided from the Village Hall, Footpath Warden (which is available as usual on the Parish Council website), Tree Wardens, Village Green, Community Woodland and from the Police Website.

Village Hall Report

The committee had a socially distanced meeting in the committee room on Monday 2nd November. Ladybirds continue to be the only user of the Village Hall and had just had two weeks off for October Half Term. No indoor maintenance had been carried out this month however the hedges have been cut outside the hall. Responses and risk assessments are being received from regular hirers to establish how to safely accommodate those who wish to return when the government advise it is safe to reopen the hall. The committee have recently made an application for an Electric Vehicle charging point through Suffolk County Council as part of the Plug in Suffolk initiative. If the application is successful it would be installed in the Village Hall car park. Further progress will be reported when available. Lesley Collin and Ken Fuller were given gifts from the committee in gratitude for their hard work over many years.

Tree Warden's Report

The Tree Warden investigated the tree application at Maple Way and supported the proposal to prune back to the previous cutting points. He has attended to all the trees on the Village Green that were causing concern and lawnmower access is restored. Finally this month in conjunction with the Suffolk Tree Warden Network and Suffolk County Council, he along with 15 other Suffolk Parishes, have started a Tree Nursery. The reasons for this project are:

- Shortfall in UK sourced and grown trees from commercial UK tree nurseries
- Pressure from government to plant lots of trees
- Health and wellbeing - mental health benefits of biodiversity as well as giving people a purpose in life. Good for community, especially engaging young families.
- Opportunity to safeguard genetic heritage of our amazing ancient and veteran trees

The Suffolk County Council are currently funding the STWN tree nursery project, and discussions with Babergh District Council about possible DEFRA and district council funding is also being

considered. With the sole objective of providing more trees for the parish whether it be in woods or on public and private property. These trees will be provided free of charge to both residents and businesses in the parish.

Police Report

Police Report for September: 1 x Violence and Sexual Offences crime reported near the Village Hall.

Village Green Report

The annual independent safety inspection of the Play park has been carried out and the Committee are considering the action points.

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT: District Councillor Lee Parker attended and confirmed the District Council has contacted the owner of the former Lion pub in relation to ensuring it is safe pending planning agreements.

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT: County Cllr J Finch attended and reported on the latest Covid 19 news including the increasing cases across Suffolk. His report reminded about the prevention measures of space, hand washing, ventilation, masks and not sharing utensils. He outlined the financial support the County Council is giving to people in need. Following feedback, significant changes have been made to the plans for the Sizewell C Nuclear Power Station. These will make more use of rail and sea and therefore reduce HGV construction traffic. By working closely with Sizewell A which is being decommissioned, this will reduce the use of AONB land. Suffolk County Council is encouraging residents to keep walking and cycling which has increased during the Pandemic. Further virtual sessions are being arranged for fostering only and adoption only. The sessions are not combined. To book a place email Claire.Gwatkin@suffolk.gov.uk. He was supporting the Village Hall in respect of their electric vehicle charging point application.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING UPDATE: Since the last Parish Council meeting the Neighbourhood Planning group have had 3 further virtual meetings. Two of these have been to discuss the potential policies for the plan and to create a set of draft policies. The other meeting has been with AECOM to discuss design codes/policies. AECOM are now considering our discussion and will be reporting back to the group within the next 4-6 weeks. The Neighbourhood Planning group are meeting again later in November to continue working on the potential policies for the plan. They remain hard at work to progress Leavenheath's Neighbourhood Plan. The question of the Lady Anne Windsor charity proposals were then addressed. Following discussion, the Parish Council unanimously resolved that they are happy for the Lady Ann Windsor Charity to consult residents regarding the potential development.

CORRESPONDENCE: On-going correspondence were discussed. Correspondence had been received by the Parish Council as a regular hirer of the Village Hall. Members took the opportunity to share their views on future face to face meetings. S Whitelaw agreed to respond on behalf of the Parish Council.

URGENT HIGHWAYS SAFETY MATTERS: It was reported that the broken tree branches overhanging the High Road raised at the last meeting have been resolved. Members took the opportunity to express their thanks for the support local Tree Surgeon Pete Irving is providing in relation to tree work and disposal of the waste. It was noted that the High Road drains are

blocked with leaves, so it was agreed to seek support from Babergh District Council in sweeping the Road - **Action Clerk**.

FINANCE: The Bank Balances as at 2nd November are £49920.96 in the Community Account and £15507.87 in the Rate Reward Account making a total of £65428.83.

The following pre-agreed payments were made: -

Cheque No.	Amount	Payee	Details
As at 2nd November			
Funds Transfer	900.00	Road Data Services Ltd	Neighbourhood Planning
Funds Transfer	462.96	D K Hattrell	Clerk's Salary
Funds Transfer	103.20	Inland Revenue Only	Clerk's Deductions
Funds Transfer	168.25	SCC Pension ACC	Clerk's Pension
Funds Transfer	277.20	Tree & Lawn Co	Village Green
Funds Transfer	220.00	Stoke by Nayland Club	Village Green
Funds Transfer	192.00	RH Security	Defibrillator Installation
Funds Transfer	138.00	AIS	V/Green - Playpark inspection
Funds Transfer	16.00	T Smith	Expenses - Teak Oil

The half year budget review had been issued to members ahead of the meeting and the figures were discussed. A point raised was the maintenance of village assets and this should be made clear in the Precept calculation/budget that will follow next month. The Risk Management Policy and Asset Register had been updated by R Cowell and circulated ahead of the meeting. The Risk Management Policy was discussed and approved and updates to the asset register were continuing. The various risk assessments were being carried out including at the Village Green. T Smith reported that the Grit bins have been checked for damage and all seem fine.

MAINTENANCE OF VILLAGE ASSETS: T Smith reported some maintenance work he has carried out for the Parish including the bench by the junction of Radleys Lane treated and the notice board situated in The Old Road, repainted and tidied. The Notice board is unfortunately on its last legs the wooden framework and doors are rotten and water ingress has damaged the cork. T Smith recommends looking at the purchase of a metal framed Notice Board, similar to the one in Radleys Lane, in the very near future. This will be considered with the budget next month.

REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS : S Whitelaw and the Chairman updated the meeting regarding the search for Village Hall ownership documents. It is now proposed that Solicitors are instructed costing in the region of £1250. The implications of not demonstrating ownership could affect the security of the Village Hall provision in the future. It was agreed to include as a Finance Agenda item for next meeting - **Action Clerk**. R Cowell reported deterioration of the concrete blocks at Kingsland Lane, however, they were not considered a hazard, it was agreed to add as an Agenda item for next meeting - **Action Clerk**. It was noted that the Playground fundraising group has now been disbanded. It was agreed for D Kingham and R Bellenie to investigate specifications and costs of speed reduction devices which are subject to the planning conditions for the former Lion Pub. T Smith confirmed that he would be happy to lead a Community Speed Watch Scheme if sufficient volunteers came forward. It was agreed to put the Quiet Lanes Scheme on the Agenda for next meeting - **Action Clerk**.

The meeting closed at **9.18 p.m.**

Planning Meeting on 4th November 2020

The following applications/matters were discussed: -

1) Government Planning Consultation (White Paper) response.

D Kingham issued a response to the 2nd Consultation on behalf of the Parish Council after considering the Babergh District Council submission and views from Parish Councillors.

2) Application for Planning Permission for a rear extension and alterations at Vincents Farm, Harrow Street - DC/20/04292 - The Planning Group considered between meetings to comply with the deadline. The following response was issued: -

"Leavenheath Parish Council have considered the proposal for the above application and our only objection is in regards to the first floor balcony, due to the loss of amenity to neighbouring properties, we do not feel this would be acceptable. We support all other aspects of the proposal, therefore, would encourage the removal of this part of the design."

3) Application for work to 3 oak trees at 16 Maple Way - DC/20/04192 - The Tree Warden visited the site and the following response was issued:

"In relation to above application for tree works, Leavenheath Parish Council have No Objections to the proposal to cut back to previous cut points."

4) Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for Existing use for use of barn as annexe for a period in excess of 10 years at Harrow Lodge, Harrow Street - DC/20/04473. The following response was issued:

"Leavenheath Parish Council have considered the proposal for the above application and we have No Objections, but would like to request that a planning condition is applied so that the property cannot be split and sold separately at any time."

5) Any other Urgent Planning items: Nothing was raised.