

**MINUTES of the MEETING of LEAVENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL** held on Wednesday 7th October 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:** A representative from a neighbouring parish, raised the issue about access to Beachams Farm and the conflict with the bridleway. He was also keen to observe the Neighbourhood Planning Agenda item in relation to the potential to support the Lady Anne Windsor Charity proposals. County Cllr J Finch has been investigating and the Chairman agreed to inspect to see what is being done. S Whitelaw has photographed the bridleway recently. District Cllr L Parker agreed to assist following full details of the issues we would like him to follow up.

**APOLOGIES:** None were given.

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST:** Nothing was raised.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 2ND SEPTEMBER 2020:** These were accepted as a true record.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:** It was agreed for Y Roder to use her expertise and become the Covid-19 Risk Assessment Advisor to the Parish Council. S Whitelaw will add this new responsibility to the website.

#### **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 VH committee had a socially distanced meeting at the Village Hall.

The thorough risk assessments are almost complete and soon they will send letters to the regular hirers to gauge interest in a possible return in 2021 once the government advise safe to do so. They are looking very carefully at how to manage time between hirers to clean the hall and will possibly have to consider weekly rotations for those clubs who wish to return. Ladybirds continue to be the only hirer three days per week. So far all working well thanks to rigorous cleaning procedures. They will shortly lose another long standing committee member, Lesley Collin, due to her move away from the village. She was thanked for her enormous input to the running of the hall over many years and will be greatly missed.

##### **Tree Warden's Report**

Contact details were provided to the Clerk to follow up on the issues raised at last meeting with Boxford Suffolk Farms. Further work has been undertaken on the larger trees on the Village Green, with the removal of the low hanging branches.

The Radleys Lane bench is to be maintained with teak oil following clearance of moss etc.

On the 26<sup>th</sup> September the Tree Warden attended the National Tree Council Conference, celebrating 30 years of the Tree Council; it was attended by Tree Wardens from all parts of the UK. The key messages were around plant health, pests and diseases, and making trees matter in the

community. Attached is a replay of the conference which is now available on You Tube:

<https://youtube/9HOJ0zurgIg>

On the 1<sup>st</sup> October he attended the AGM of the Suffolk Tree Warden Network; it was a very interesting and informative meeting highlighting the issues and concerns of all the Tree Wardens, as well as discussing tree nurseries and closer links with all the Tree Wardens in the county. To this end we are all now in regular contact via a Whatsapp group. Issues such as training and promoting Tree planting were discussed, and as a result he has 50 Trees/seedling being delivered at the end of November for planting in and around the village or being available to residents for their gardens. Finally the Tree Warden was arranging a site inspection in relation to a tree application in Maple Way.

### **Police Report**

There were no new crimes reported in the Leavenheath area in August.

**BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT:** District Councillor Lee Parker attended and reported that the revised land supply exceeds 6 years, so local planning policies remain valid. Babergh District Council responded to the Planning White Paper. There was consensus that they were against the proposals and in particular the targets and changes to CIL. The District Council recently agreed to bring the Public Realm function back in house which will involve the management of open spaces. There is a new master plan for Sudbury following the collapse of the Hotel project. D Kingham asked for an update on the Joint Local Plan and L Parker confirmed the final submission will go before the Council shortly. T Smith raised the dangerous state of former Lion Pub site. R Bellenie had made the owners aware. J Finch, L Parker and the Parish Council are working together to get this resolved. Some Highways conditions are part of the delay, however, the owners have a legal duty to make the premises safe regardless of further Planning/Highways negotiations.

**SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT:** County Cllr J Finch attended and announced investment into electric vehicle charging points in rural Suffolk. 100 charging points were to be installed. Suffolk's public sector leaders met to agree collective action to start the recovery process as a result of COVID-19. They will invest in economic growth, support the vulnerable and focus on community safety. The County Council is not prepared to support the plans for Sizewell C in its current form. This is due to too many unanswered issues including transport impacts, site design and environmental impact. So far Suffolk has installed 43 sensors on Street Lights to gather data as part of a project funded by the Department of Transport which is now a year since it started. Applications are now invited from parents and carers for next year's school places. A public consultation is being conducted on improving rail capacity at Ely. The Boundary Commission has published proposals for County Councillor divisions in Suffolk which would require 70 Councillors, 5 fewer than the current arrangements. Residents and local organisations are encouraged to take a look at the proposals and share their views:

<https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/18495>. Further virtual Fostering and Adoption Sessions are taking place: To book email [Claire.Gwatkin/suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Claire.Gwatkin@suffolk.gov.uk) .

In relation to the Highways Conditions of the former Lion Pub Planning, it was confirmed the Parish does not have a Community Speed Watch program. J Finch will investigate the implications and whether Speed Activated Signs could be managed by the Village.

**NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING UPDATE:** The Neighbourhood Plan group have continued to progress the production of the plan following the recent community vote. The team have recently met virtually with the consultant and having discussed the results from the survey and feedback from the community stakeholder engagement will now move forward to the drafting of the plan. A rough timescale for completion of the drafting is February, which takes into account work on design codes. In view of the community vote the village do not have a mandate to support the Lady Anne Windsor Trust proposals and a potential Housing Needs Survey. Members spoke of the potential benefits in achieving true local needs affordable housing through the scheme and would be supportive if the community were behind it. D Kingham and R Bellenie will consider the next steps with the Neighbourhood Planning Group.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** On-going correspondence were discussed.

**URGENT HIGHWAYS SAFETY MATTERS:** C Morgan reported some oak tree branches at risk of falling onto the road following the high winds. Suffolk Highways were attending to it, but left and haven't returned. It was agreed for C Morgan to put on the reporting tool and for J Finch to follow up with the reference. T Smith reminded about the damaged signs and J Finch confirmed that as it was not a legal requirement, the work was being prioritised. Members commented about issues with roadwork diversions again recently. J Finch apologised on behalf of the utilities and support services and agreed to investigate again.

**FINANCE:** The Bank Balances as at 1st October are £51152.57 in the Community Account and £15507.73 in the Rate Reward Account making a total of £66660.30.

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 October</u></b>			
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

The Internal Control Statement was reviewed and has updates to reflect the Video Conference Meetings. It was resolved to approve the new version. The CIL return for Year ending 31st March 2020 was accepted and approved. It was agreed to have the Review of the Risk Assessment Policy as an Agenda item for the November Parish Council Meeting - **Action Clerk**. R Cowell continues to review and work with the Village Green to secure information from them in this respect. The Chairman confirmed the Annual Playground safety assessment was due shortly.

**MAINTENANCE OF VILLAGE ASSETS:** S Whitelaw updated the meeting regarding the Village Hall Deeds. Sudbury Solicitors are now involved and the matter should be resolved shortly. It was agreed for the Clerk to give R Cowell details of the purchase of the storage cabinet located in the Village Hall store - **Action Clerk**. The table tennis tables can be removed from our Asset Register. T Smith will inspect the grit bins to check their condition and R Cowell will update the Asset Register with the new and replacement dog and litter bins.

**REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS :** C Morgan has been asked to enquire about a report of a party at the Village Hall. S Whitelaw assured the meeting the only user of the hall currently is Ladybirds. S Whitelaw will discuss with the Community Response Coordinator about putting the mobile phone contact in LSPN and ask the Coordinator to update the Clerk particularly in relation to whether further reimbursement of expenses is due - **Action S Whitelaw.** The Chairman agreed to chase the Golf Club in respect of Footpath 5 - **Action Chairman.** Y Roder encouraged everyone to get a Flu jab this winter.

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

## Planning Meeting on 7th October 2020

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

**DC/20/03347** - Planning Permission had been granted for a two storey side and single storey rear extension, conversion of garage and erection of fencing at **Vine Cottage, Harrow Street**. The Parish Council had **No Objections**.

*The following applications/matters were discussed: -*

**1) Government Planning Consultation (White Paper) response.**

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

**2) Application for Planning Permission for a two storey rear extension and garden room (following demolition of existing single storey extension); insertion of 3 dormer windows and replace front porch at Vincents Farm, Harrow Street - DC/20/04292 - The Planning Group were considering this application that had only recently been received and were to follow up an aspect with the balcony. So far they had No Objections.**

**3) Application for work to Trees at 16 Maple Way - DC/20/04192 - The Tree Warden was arranging to visit the site.**

**4) Any other Urgent Planning items:** Nothing was raised.