

MINUTES of the MEETING of LEAVENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL held on Wednesday 2nd September 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) and L Parker (District Cllr).

PUBLIC FORUM: No residents were present.

APOLOGIES: None were received.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: S Whitelaw and Y Roder declared interests in the Golf Club application.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 5TH AUGUST 2020: These were accepted as a true record.

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, 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

Maintenance work to the hall is almost complete. The hall was reopening but only to Ladybirds playgroup. A Sub-group has been formed to look at Risk Assessments and possible reopening to other clubs in January 2021. Ken Fuller has unfortunately stepped down from the committee. He has been thanked by the Chair for all his hard work. They are still looking for more committee members.

Tree Warden's Report

As agreed at last month's meeting, work has been undertaken and completed at Radleys Lane. It was agreed to consider the cost of oil for the bench under the maintenance of Village Assets Agenda item. Further work was also undertaken around the Grit Bins and Village signs, as well as the continuation of the removal of the low hanging branches of the three larger trees on the Village Green. Whilst undertaking this work an issue was identified - the sign at Plough Lane is in a very bad way and somewhat dangerous - this has been reported to SCC Highways. The "Tree Offer 2020" mentioned last month was placed on facebook; to date there has been no requests for additional trees or hedgerows via this forum. However, locally Chris Jackson has proposed the planting of three may trees on the Village Green, just behind the hedge along the High Road. The Tree Warden understood the Village Green Committee removed trees from a similar position, in order to allow mechanical cutting of the hedge on its north east side, so this idea may not be supported.

On a separate note Chris Jackson also stated he has taken a walk around the village to note and record trees blown down or losing branches. The Tree Warden will speak to Chris Jackson to identify the trees concerned and take the appropriate action. During the month, contact was made from a resident in Cock Street, raising a concern regarding trees on their property, although they do not have Tree Preservation Order's assigned to them, they are in excess of two hundred years old.

Finally the Tree Warden is aware of an issue where the Parish Council is again not being informed of work on trees with Tree Preservation Order's in the village. The particular case this month was in Edies Lane. Details were to be sent to L Parker to investigate.

Village Green Report

The Play park Covid safety notices were put up and have been ripped down. L Parker reported similar occurrences at other villages. Replacement signage and notices on the website and in LSPN will be tried together with regular Risk Assessments as things change.

Police Report

5 crimes reported in July with approximate locations.

1 x Other Crime - Locks Lane

1 x Burglary - Near Village Hall

1 x Anti Social Behaviour - Edies Lane

2 x Vehicle Crimes - Near intersection of A134/Plough Lane

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT: District Councillor Lee Parker attended and reported that Babergh Council are building 45 new homes to help low income home seekers. These will be located off Waldingfield Road as part of the Chilton Place Development and will add to their social housing stock. Other potential development is being investigated. Kingfisher Leisure has completed its refit. Solar car ports are being provided nearby. The District Council is encouraging people to shop locally. Compost was being provided free of charge at Hadleigh on 19th September. Cllr L Parker was questioned on the Lion being open and exposed following the fire showing the contents and perhaps in danger of collapse. L Parker agreed to report the safety issues to their Environmental Team. R Bellenie has contact details for the Agent for the Owner and she agreed to draw this to their attention also.

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT: County Cllr J Finch arrived late following another meeting and had circulated his report in advance. This included finalised preparations for SCC School travel in accordance with covid guidelines. Planning in this regard has been complex and spare seating capacity will take further time to review. Chambers Buses are re-introducing close to their full timetable from this month. This has been made possible by the rate per mile payment from the Department for Transport. Preparation is now in place for a safe return to School this month. Suffolk Highways commitment made in 2017 to surface 1000 miles of roads was completed last month. Further investment locally and from central government is encouraging Apprenticeships for those aged 16-24 at small to medium sized Suffolk businesses. Further Fostering and Adoption virtual sessions are available. J Finch urged individuals to get in touch with him in relation to specific school travel difficulties. The County Council intend to continue with virtual meetings. L Parker noted there have been savings from the travel budget at the District Council and there were no immediate plans to return to Endeavour House.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING UPDATE: Following the leaflet survey, the Neighbourhood Planning Group have reviewed the results. They received a total of 240 votes, with 44 'Yes' votes (18%) and 196 'No' votes (82%). They have received a clear majority vote for 'No', and therefore the Neighbourhood Plan will not be undertaking a 'Call for Sites', and will not look to allocate more land than is currently identified within Babergh's emerging Joint Local Plan. It is not clear how the national planning consultation will impact upon Neighbourhood plans. It is the intention to proceed and review when the Government finalizes the changes to the planning system. Leavenheath Parish Council will be responding to the Government consultation on planning.

The next Neighbourhood plan group meeting will take place at the end of September and the focus will now be looking at design. A grant will be applied for to cover this area of work. There will be a further consultation event towards the end of the year (pandemic dependent). www.leavenheathnp.co.uk domain name is to renewed. DK will renew.

It was agreed to consider the Lady Anne Windsor Trust proposals and a potential Housing Needs Survey at the October Meeting in light of the developments with Neighbourhood Planning - **Action Clerk Agenda item.**

CORRESPONDENCE: On-going correspondence were discussed. It was agreed for the Chairman to investigate costs of potential improvements at Kingsland Lane and circulate to members between meetings - **Action Chairman.**

URGENT HIGHWAYS SAFETY MATTERS: S Whitelaw reported that the white lining is still outstanding along the middle of Stoke Road. T Smith has reported broken highways signage. J Finch took the opportunity to explain that 10 houses in Nayland were flooded recently during the exceptionally heavy rainfall.

FINANCE: The Bank Balances as at 2nd September are £43241.23 in the Community Account and £15504.64 in the Rate Reward Account making a total of £58745.87.

The following pre-agreed payments were made: -

Cheque No.	Amount	Payee	Details
<u>As at 2nd September</u>			
Funds Transfer	507.25	D K Hattrell	Clerk's Salary
Funds Transfer	114.00	Inland Revenue Only	Clerk's Deductions
Funds Transfer	186.22	SCC Pension ACC	Clerk's Pension
Funds Transfer	500.00	East of Eng Ambulance	Donation
Funds Transfer	378.19	Melba Products Ltd	Litter bins - existing assets
Funds Transfer	148.00	Spingold Design	Neighbourhood Plan - Leaflets

Bank details were awaited for the donation to East of England Ambulance. The Internal Audit Report has been received with all matters approved and the document is available on our website. Recommendations included a reminder to publish the relevant documents on the website including under the transparency code. We need to ensure the explanation of variances and asset register is included. The Auditor referred to the payment towards the insurance costs of the Church and it can be noted that this did in fact follow advice from SALC and the appropriate power does exist for this payment. A formal minute of budget is made every December/January and we need to ensure when we work on budget, the allocated CIL monies are earmarked as advised. The Clerk reminded the Meeting that we will still need to carry out the annual reviews of policies and regulations over the coming months, these were not reminded by the auditors as all are up to date currently.

MAINTENANCE OF VILLAGE ASSETS: D Kingham and R Bellenie agreed to tidy the Old Road Bus Stop area. It was agreed for T Smith to go ahead with the bench oiling costs and recover from the Parish Council. A discussion commenced about the merits of volunteering or employing general maintenance contractors.

REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS : As part of the Neighbourhood Planning process, R Bellenie has undertaken to engage with the Parish Council as a stakeholder. She will email some questions to members to take this forward - **Action R Bellenie**. It was noted that some residents of Cock Street were uncomfortable with the lack of positive communication from their neighbours, Boxford Suffolk Farms in relation to boundary maintenance. It was agreed for the Clerk to make contact with Boxford Suffolk Farms on this subject - **Action Clerk**.

The meeting closed at **9.14 p.m.**

Planning Meeting on 2nd September 2020

The following decisions were advised from the Planning Authority:-

A) DC/20/03228 - It was concluded that formal **approval** for agricultural proposal at Nayland Hall Farm, Cock Street was **not required**. The Parish Council had communicated a similar conclusion.

B) DC/20/02986 - Consent was **granted** to reduce 2 protected oak trees to previous pruning cuts at 6 Blackthorn Way, Leavenheath. The Parish Council had **No Objections**.

C) DC/20/02965 - Consent was **granted** to crown lift protected oak tree at 4 Edies Lane, Leavenheath.

The following applications/matters were discussed: -

1) DC/20/03347 - Application for two storey side and single storey rear extensions; erection of extension to converted garage for additional storage areas and fencing at **Vine Cottage**, Harrow Street, Leavenheath. The Parish Council had **No Objections**.

2) Planning Policy White Paper Consultation sent via SALC - It was agreed for members to review and send comments to D Kingham and R Bellenie who will draft a response to be issued - **Action All**.

3) Any other Urgent Planning items: Stoke by Nayland Club application update - R Bellenie reported that the application has been withdrawn, however, formal confirmation is awaited. There has been an email from the Agent for the owner of the Lion consulting about highways details. This was being followed up and it was noted the Planning Authority is Babergh District Council, so the role of the Parish Council beyond expressing views is limited. D Kingham enquired with L Parker whether there was any progress with the Joint Local Plan. L Parker stressed the frustration with the delay and confirmed that Babergh District Council were pressing to get it delivered.