

MINUTES of the MEETING of LEAVENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL held on Wednesday 7th April 2021 at 7.30 p.m. by Video Conferencing.

PRESENT: P Mortlock (Chairman), C Morgan, R Bellenie, R Cowell, D Kingham, Y Roder, T Smith, N Taylor, S Whitelaw, D Hattrell (Clerk), J Finch (County Cllr) and 5 members of the public.

PUBLIC FORUM: Residents had attended in relation to the pylons consultation. Information regarding where the cabling will come out of the ground was discussed. Members of the Parish Council had enquired about the cost difference involved if more of the cabling is put underground. The original questionnaire in relation to this project was criticised as being self serving. The realisation that a large proportion of the whole Countries electricity is to be distributed via Suffolk was surprising. Views were expressed that the supply should be distributed via an undersea route. It was noted J Finch was to include reference to the pylons in his report.

APOLOGIES: were received from L Parker - he was still hoping to make some of the meeting but in the end he was unable to.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: R Cowell declared an interest in the application at 67 High Road.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 3RD MARCH 2021: 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

The committee was to meet later than usual this month on Monday 12th April due to Easter weekend. Ladybirds were on holiday until the middle of April so the hall was being redecorated in readiness for reopening to regular hirers hopefully in the next couple of months when government guidelines permit. The committee are discussing various improvements/repairs to the hall using grants awarded by Babergh during the lockdown period while the hall has been closed. They always welcome help and support from willing residents of the village and from those who hire the hall regularly to ensure the hall is used to its maximum capacity for the benefit of those who live locally. The Village Hall is investigating the requests for facilities during the hire of the Committee Room. They had reminded that it is made clear to the hirers that no facilities are provided along with the hire of the Committee Room. They will investigate further.

Tree Warden's Report

T Smith (Cllr and Tree Warden) reported that the Leavenheath Tree Nursery continues to provide trees free of charge to local residents and businesses along with stakes and protectors. Trees still available are Oaks, Hornbeams, Field Maples, Wild Cherries, Crab Apples, and Silver Birches. The sole objective is providing more trees for the parish and surrounding villages, whether it be in woods or on public or private property. If anyone wishes to take one or more trees please contact

Trevor Smith on 01206 262760 or via email at smith.2.trevor@gmail.com. The first ever National Hedgerow Week is taking place 29 May - 6 June 2021 -The past year has highlighted too many of us just how essential our local green spaces are, and hedgerows are an oft-overlooked natural treasure. They are wonderful wildlife habitats, provide uplifting greenery and can even help tackle climate change. But to thrive, they need our care and attention. Join this nationwide celebration and get access to resources, inspiration and activities that we can all do to close the gaps in our urban and rural hedgerows. More information will be coming out soon to find out how to get involved. The "Close the Gap" hedgerow programme is funded by the government's Green Recovery Challenge Fund. There have been a couple of incidents this month involving trees in the Parish which have been highlighted to the council. It was noted a tree in Harrow Street was threatened with felling. The Babergh Tree Officer, our Tree Warden, Chairman and members were investigating.

Police Report

3 crimes of Violence and Sexual offences reported in February 2021 in the Honey Tye area.

Village Green Report

There was nothing to report.

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT: District Cllr L Parker could not attend, however, he had provided a report via email. Restart grants have replaced lockdown grants and are now available to apply for. They are aimed specifically at non-essential retail, hospitality, accommodation, leisure, personal care, gym & sport where the main service takes place in a fixed rate paying premises. Dependent upon the size of the venue and business sector, grants of up to £18K are available. In relation to The Lion – he has been chasing building control to chase the applicant for his plans ahead of commencement of works. His understanding is that a solution has been forwarded that allows the applicant the opportunity to secure the site without triggering CIL payments but there had been no response. He has asked Building Control (Mark Polley) to keep pursuing. Free trees and hedges are being made available.

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT: County Cllr J Finch attended and reported that National Grid are currently inviting views to their Consultation for more Bramford to Twinstead power cables. He stressed the seriousness of this issue. His message is to continue the development of the undersea route and if cabling is needed to seek the whole route to be put underground. The Consultation is open until 6th May. Covid infection rates have continued to reduce with the 7 day period at the end of March again recording no cases in our area. Suffolk is now vaccinating the over 50's and he urged everyone to continue to stick with the guidance. Some testing centres are closing as home testing is being widely introduced. Suffolk is included in the Government's UK Gigabit broadband programme. Automatic number plate recognition cameras are to be installed in Suffolk Villages as a 2 year pilot to educate motorists to reduce their speed. Access to the natural environment is to be improved by the Healing Woods project. Suggested sites would be welcomed. Further virtual fostering and adoption sessions for the Stour Valley are being arranged.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING UPDATE: D Kingham reported that a brief meeting had taken place recently. There is now a gap in funding until a new grant can be secured. In order to continue to make progress the Parish Council agreed to meet any shortfall in the region of £700 until the new grant is secured.

CORRESPONDENCE: On-going correspondence was discussed. Agenda items were agreed of "Consider a donation for Suffolk Accident Rescue" and "Consider a contribution towards the Kingsland Lane private resurfacing" for the May Meeting - **Action Clerk**. Members were to read the circulated information on these matters between meetings.

URGENT HIGHWAYS SAFETY MATTERS: There was nothing new to report.

FINANCE: The Bank Balances as at 1st April 2021 are £41548.15 in the Community Account and £15508.50 in the Rate Reward Account making a total of £57056.65.

The following pre-agreed payments were made: -

Cheque No.	Amount	Payee	Details
<u>As at 1st April</u>			
Funds Transfer	2320.00	R H Leggett	Neighbourhood Plan Fees
Funds Transfer	1938.00	Fitzpatrick Woolmer	Assets - 1 x noticeboard
Funds Transfer	734.41	Clerk/HMRC/SCC	Staffing costs
Funds Transfer	100.00	Suffolk Cloud	Web hosting

Further consideration of the use of CIL funds was deferred until the May Meeting - Agenda item - **Action Clerk**.

A 10 Minute extension was agreed to complete the meeting.

MAINTENANCE OF VILLAGE ASSETS: This month T Smith visited every asset we currently own to determine their condition and worthiness. All the assets on the current list are confirmed and some maintenance is required on the following:-

- Notice Board - High Road
- The Leavenheath Village Sign
- Notice Board on the Village Green
- Sylvia Attwood Bench on the Village Green

A further bench that has been discovered hidden in foliage will require some work to restore it. It was agreed to delegate this item to T Smith to investigate and email between meetings - **Action T Smith**. The Kingsland Lane former barrier looks unsightly, so it was agreed for the Chairman to consider options between meetings - **Action Chairman**.

REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS : Sadly T Smith has not had any interest in Community Speed Watch this month. Therefore he is making an appeal to residents who may be interested in participating. A training video will soon be available and this will then be accompanied by a visit to the new team on their first deployment to guide them through the practical stages and get them up and running. It was agreed to consider purchasing equipment for use in the Parish by volunteers when litter picking. This will form an Agenda item for the May Meeting - **Action Clerk**. C Morgan updated the meeting on Quiet Lanes and the schedule chosen is by the end of July. She will therefore consult with residents via LSPN - **Action C Morgan**. An incident was reported of burning of excavated apple trees at Boxford Suffolk Farms. This concerned neighbouring residents and it was agreed to write to Boxford Suffolk Farms accordingly - **Action T Smith and Clerk**. The new pond dipping platform was praised.

The meeting closed at **9.06 p.m.**

Planning Meeting on 7th April 2021

The following Decision was confirmed by the Planning Authority: -

Oak Cottage, Breach Grove, Kingsland Lane - Planning Permission was Granted on the Application for retention of access gates and wall to existing vehicular access for private use - **DC/21/00358**.

The following applications and planning matters were discussed: -

1) **Vincents Farm, Harrow Street** - Application for a single storey rear extension and garden room (following demolition of existing single storey extension), loft conversion, insertion of dormer to rear and 2 dormers to front, replace porch on north elevation (front), reinstatement of chimney and new vehicular access - **DC/21/00926**.

There were No Objections and the comments from the Heritage Team were repeated.

3) **Barn at Oaklands Farm, Heathlands** - Change of use and conversion of existing barn into single residential dwelling with garden area, driveway and new double cartlodge (re-submission of DC/20/02400) - **DC/21/01110**.

The Parish Council had **No Objections**. A response was sent between meetings to comply with the deadline.

4) **Pecks, Locks Lane** - Application for Lawful Development Certificate - **DC/21/01347**.
The Parish Council had **No Objections**.

5) Consider the application at **Beachams Farm, Beachams Lane** to subdivide to make annexed accommodation a separate residence - **DC/21/01480**.

The Planning Group continue to investigate this application and comments were to be submitted ahead of the new deadline agreed.

6) Consider the application for two roof lights at **67 High Road** - **DC/21/01829**. R Cowell left the meeting whilst this item was discussed. **There were No Objections**.

7) R Bellenie had co-ordinated a response to the model design code Consultation between meetings as agreed.

8) **Any other Urgent Planning items:** There was nothing further to add. The pylons had already been discussed during the meeting.