

MINUTES of the MEETING of LEAVENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL held on Wednesday 4th August 2021 at 7.30 p.m. at Leavenheath Village Hall and by Video Conferencing.

PRESENT: P Mortlock (Chairman), C Morgan, T Smith N Taylor, S Whitelaw, Y Roder, D Hattrell (Clerk) and J Finch (County Cllr) attended in person. R Cowell, L Parker (District Cllr) and 2 members of the public attended by Video link.

PUBLIC FORUM: A member of the public confirmed she was attending to listen to any updates regarding the pylons.

APOLOGIES: were received from R Bellenie and D Kingham

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: Nothing was declared by those at the meeting in person.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 7TH JULY 2021: These were accepted as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: N Taylor was pleased to report that the parking situation at Sweet Briar Close is much improved by the polite notices. 10 notices were placed on cars and there are now far fewer breaches of the Highway Code as a result. Members took the opportunity to thank N Taylor for his pro-activity. J Finch also praised the results of local action. The Clerk had received one call from someone in receipt of a notice who was clearly unhappy, however, the Clerk took the time to explain the reasons behind this action.

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 Warden, Village Green, Community Woodland and from the Police Website. We are currently advertising for a new volunteer Footpath Warden.

Village Hall Report

S Whitelaw reported that the Committee were delighted to welcome back more of their regular hirers in July in line with the relaxation of government guidelines. Ladybirds have finished for the summer but have three additional sessions for those missed over the past year. They continue to maintain meticulous cleaning routines.

Film night will resume on Saturday 4th September.

Broadband is now available to hirers at the hall with a minimal charge.

Suggestions have been made for further improvements to the hall and they are obtaining quotes in order to make decisions. Reminder - AGM Monday 6th September 7pm followed by Platinum Jubilee planning meeting straight after at 7.45pm.

Tree Warden's Report

T Smith, the Tree Warden, was pleased to announce that this year's Suffolk Tree Warden Tree & Hedgerow packs are now ready to order and he has already placed an order.

Tree/Hedgerow Pack Offers - These are made possible through the partnership working of STWN, Woodland Trust and Suffolk County Council, now in its fourth consecutive year. The fully subsidised tree & hedgerow packs are UK sourced and grown, most are cell grown apart from

Hazel (bare root). This year, increased demand for trees and crop failures of some tree species means that the tree & hedgerow pack offers have been changed compared to previous years.

Tree Warden Tree & Hedgerow Packs - A maximum of 3 packs of 50 trees (150 trees) and 100m of hedgerow can be ordered by each Tree Warden. Please note: tree & hedgerow packs can be ordered by a parish/town councillor if the parish/town council does not currently have a Tree Warden. You are all especially encouraged to order tree & hedgerow packs to be planted and dedicated to the Queens Green Canopy in Suffolk, in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. He still has about thirty trees available. If you require any, please contact Trevor Smith on 01206 262760.

Police Report

4 crimes were reported in the Leavenheath area in June.

1 x Violence and Sexual Offence - Stoke Road

1 x Violence and Sexual Offence - Mayfield

1 x Public Order Offence - Honey Tye

1 x Vehicle Crime - Stoke by Nayland Golf Club/Keepers Lane

S Whitelaw agreed to investigate whether any further information is publicly available regarding these reported crimes. N Taylor has also been making telephone enquiries.

Village Green Report

There was nothing to report.

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT: District Cllr L Parker attended via video link and apologised for not making the meeting in person. He spoke of a Welcome Back fund and information had been sent directly to the Parish Councils in this respect. The District Council is working on a Parking Strategy. The Women's Tour Cycle route has been announced which comes through Suffolk. The Planning dispute at Cuckoo Hill, Bures has now been resolved. Assington and Newton are now proceeding to Referendum on their Neighbourhood Plans. He was pleased to note we now have a group taking forward Community Speed Watch. He will make further enquiries about the Welcome Back Fund in relation to the application process.

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT: County Cllr J Finch attended and reported the start of a downturn of Covid Infection rates in South Suffolk. However, figures are still higher in Sudbury, Hadleigh and East Bergholt. He continues to urge people to take rapid flow tests twice a week. Health Chiefs in Suffolk have thanked the public for continuing with Covid precautions by choice. He urged people to get their second jab as there seems to be a degree of reluctance. Restrictions are easing a Suffolk's Recycling Centres and further virtual fostering and adoption sessions are planned. J Finch then updated the meeting on the pylons/cables and confirmed the informal consultation is now finished. He spoke of liaison taking place involving our MP and that the proposed route from Bramford to Rayleigh may impact on future need. He confirmed that undersea routing was still on the Agenda and it was thought unrealistic to have the formal consultation until further information is gained. The proposal is for cables in the AONB to be put underground, however, they are pressing for any necessary cables within sight of the AONB to be put underground. T Smith then asked about how the flooding issue in Honey Tye will be taken

forward. J Finch agreed to progress after the holiday period. Finally J Finch was asked to investigate whether buses could occasionally pick up from the High Road as some residents are unable to get to the temporary bus stops. J Finch urged local volunteer action to assist those residents. R Cowell confirmed he is in discussion with the community volunteers who helped during the Covid period.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING UPDATE: D Kingham had sent apologies, however, had reported in advance that the final draft of the Neighbourhood Plan will be ready for the formal consultation that will run for 6 weeks commencing Monday 6th September. This will be available on the Neighbourhood Plan website and on Friday 24th and Saturday 25th September at the Village Hall. Once the consultation is complete, the Neighbourhood Planning Group will consider views received and then the next step is to submit to Babergh planning for formal consultation.

QUIET LANES SCHEME: C Morgan reported we are currently in Wave 3 of the scheme and as no queries or concerns were raised by residents she will send the form back. Plough Lane and part of Harrow Street will be included in the scheme and a further donation of £50 was agreed towards the scheme - **Action C Morgan.**

CORRESPONDENCE: On-going correspondence was noted by the meeting. County Broadband representatives have offered to give a brief presentation at the start of our September Meeting to keep the Parish Council aware of their project in the area. It was agreed to allow them 10 -15 minutes at the start of the September Meeting via a Zoom Video link - **Action Clerk.**

URGENT HIGHWAYS SAFETY MATTERS: Nothing was raised.

FINANCE: The Bank Balances as at 2nd August 2021 are £42684.20 in the Community Account and £15509.03 in the Rate Reward Account making a total of £58193.23.

The following pre-agreed payments were made: -

| Cheque No. | Amount | Payee | Details |
|--------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| <u>As at 1st August</u> | | | |
| Funds Transfer | 728.89 | Clerk/HMRC/SCC | Staffing costs |
| Funds Transfer | 440.00 | Stoke by Nayland Club | V Green maintenance |
| Funds Transfer | 292.80 | SALC | Internal Audit Fee |
| Funds Transfer | 277.20 | Tree & Lawn Co Ltd | V Green maintenance |
| Funds Transfer | 72.73 | P Mortlock | Mileage Expenses |
| Funds Transfer | 20.00 | The Stevenson Centre | Hall hire |

The Internal Audit was completed and the official report is on the website with all matters approved. The papers were submitted ahead of the deadline to the External Auditors. Recommendations from Internal Audit will be on the Agenda to consider in September - **Action Clerk.** The Clerk investigated with SALC/NALC whether the Parish Council could contribute towards the Dog Show to raise money for the Church Roof. It was noted we are prohibited, however, individual donations can be made.

The CIL explanation/consideration was deferred to enable R Bellenie to be present.

MAINTENANCE OF VILLAGE ASSETS: T Smith reported that the one major task undertaken this month was the clean up and removal of the ivy, covering the fence on the Village Green.

Further work is required and then a coat of wood preserver to finish off. The other outstanding tasks are listed below:

The Notice Board on the High Road requires a coat of Weathershield paint.

The Hidden bench needs taking apart and re-building.

The Leavenheath Village Sign (Re-varnish required)

The Sylvia Attwood Bench on the Village Green needs a coat of oil.

The Chairman confirmed he has collected the new noticeboard and approval was given to purchase plastic posts if required.

It was agreed to add T Smith as a user to Parish On-line and to check the renewal went ahead -

Action Clerk.

N Taylor asked for the Village Hall to be added to the Parish Councils Asset Register.

REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS : There has been some excellent news on the Community Speed Watch front, with confirmation we now have six people signed up as volunteers. As a result T Smith has made contact with Sgt Steve Wright the Suffolk Constabulary Sergeant for Community Engagement (including Community Speed Watch) regarding training, equipment and the next steps to begin the program. T Smith attended two conferences in his position as a board member of SALC and Vice Chairman of the Babergh Forum. The first was an insight to Parish Online, an excellent facility which he recommended the Parish Council made use of. The second was the quarterly meeting of the Babergh Alliance of Parish and Town Councils, where local issues are discussed. He also attended the SALC AGM. The feedback from the Village Questionnaire during Neighbourhood Planning relating to the playground had been circulated to Councillors. N Taylor volunteered to assist towards enhancing the Playground and it was agreed for N Taylor to summarise the feedback in the first instance - **Action N Taylor.** R Cowell has received responses to the notice about Community Travel and he is now talking with the Community Volunteers from Covid-19. The possibility of volunteers collecting prescriptions is being considered.

The meeting closed at **9.15 p.m.**

Planning Meeting on 4th August 2021

The following Decisions were confirmed by the Planning Authority: -

A) Planning Permission was refused for rear extension and garden room at Vincents Farm, Harrow Street - **DC/21/02511**.

B) Permission was refused to fell protected oak tree at 8 Stoke Road - **DC/21/03387**.

C) Permission was granted to extend and incorporate 2 dormer windows and balconies to Plough House, Plough Lane - **DC/21/02996**. **The Parish Council had No Objections**.

D) Permission was granted to vary condition 2 for 4 dwellings and vehicular access at The Lion, Honey Tye - **DC/21/02622**.

The following applications and planning matters were discussed: -

1) 45 High Road - single storey front extension - **DC/21/04131**.

This application is being considered by our Planning Group and a response will be issued ahead of the deadline.

2) **Consider the Any other Urgent Planning items:** Nothing was raised.