

**MINUTES of the MEETING of LEAVENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL** held on Wednesday 1st December 2021 at 7.30 p.m. at Leavenheath Village Hall and by Video Conferencing.

**PRESENT:** P Mortlock (Chairman), C Morgan, T Smith, N Taylor, Y Roder, D Hattrell (Clerk) and J Finch (County Cllr) and 2 members of the public attended in person and R Cowell, S Whitelaw and 1 member of the public attended by Video link.

**PUBLIC FORUM:** Two residents had attended in person to share their concerns with the Neighbourhood Plan. They were concerned that the Neighbourhood Planning Group were not engaging with them regarding their concerns. They explained that the first they knew that land in their ownership was designated as green space was when they attended the exhibition at the Village Hall. They advised that they have sent in their objections and received no engagement. They will re-send their concerns to the Parish Council, so this can be taken up with the Neighbourhood Planning Group.

**APOLOGIES:** R Bellenie, D Kingham and S Whitelaw had sent their apologies. S Whitelaw attended via video link. R Cowell gave his on-going apologies which have been accepted by the Parish Council, however, attended via video link. District Cllr L Parker had sent his apologies.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 3RD NOVEMBER 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, Tree Warden, Village Green, Community Woodland and from the Police Website.

**Village Hall Report** S Whitelaw reported on another full month of regular and external hirers in November. The committee were to meet on 6th December where they were to discuss possible additional ventilation/air quality for the committee room. Replacement of front doors were to be decided based on the final quotes they have now received.

External lighting was due to be installed over the Defibrillator on the side of the hall to make it more visible.

There was a Film Night (Peter Rabbit) - Saturday 4th December at 7pm with free mulled wine, mince pies and a raffle. Christmas Carols with Boxted Methodist Silver Band was scheduled for Friday 10th December at 7pm in the Village Hall car park.

**Tree Warden's Report** T Smith reported on another quiet month on the Tree Warden front with a couple of visits to look at trees that require pruning, as well as reassuring a resident that trees leaning over their property were to be pruned and tidied as required. He also received a call from a concerned resident who was aware of a large oak tree being cut down, however, when T Smith visited the site and it was confirmed that it was only being pruned.

**Footpath Warden's Report** T Smith, the Footpath Warden, confirmed that the two major issues raised last month have been passed to with Sophia Farrington the SCC Highways Enforcement Officer for comment and both are under investigation, one concerning damage caused by push bikes and another concerning flooding in Harrow Street.

T Smith has this week received a box of Discover Suffolk – Leavenheath Walks leaflets and these will be placed in January's LSPN's

He also recently received an application to divert one of our footpaths. It concerns Footpath No 9. At present FP9 is a useful link to BR7 that moves into Cock Street. It appears that the landowner wants divert it to join FP8 which is going in the wrong direction. It would initially appear that the diversion would be more beneficial to the public, if it followed the existing red permissive path to point 7 at Cock Street. This would give walkers permanent easy access to Plough Lane. However, he has agreed with the previous Warden to walk the route next week to ascertain what our response will be.

**Police Report** The following crimes were reported in the Leavenheath area in October 2021

1 x Public Order crime on or near The Ridings  
(Includes offences which cause fear, alarm or distress)

Under investigation, status updated in November.

1 x Drugs crime on or near Honey Lane  
(Includes offences related to possession, supply and production)

Under investigation, status updated in November.

2 x Violence and Sexual Offences crimes on or near Mayfield  
(Includes offences against the person such as common assaults, GBH and sexual offences)

Both under investigation, status updated in November.

**Village Green Report**

There was nothing to report.

**BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT:** District Cllr L Parker had sent his apologies.

**SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT:** County Cllr J Finch attended and reported of the extra Covid-19 support heading to Suffolk with the arrival of Omicron variant in the UK. Further precautions have come into effect nationally to be reviewed in 3 weeks time. The Statutory Consultation for the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement will run from 25th January to 7th March 2022. Two Suffolk Schemes will receive investment from the Government levelling up pot to support self employment and investing in business developing low carbon technology. The County Council is investing to decarbonise its buildings. The County's Tree Warden Network is among the recipients of Greenest County Awards. Virtual Fostering and Adoption sessions continue. J Finch agreed to work with T Smith to set up a meeting with all relevant parties to resolve flooding issues. He asked again for volunteers to help with the Covid boosters.

**NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING UPDATE:** Cllr Kingham had sent his apologies, however, had reported in advance that there had been a slight delay with the draft plan which was now due to come before the January Parish Council Meeting.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** On-going correspondence was noted by the meeting. Street lighting over the festive period was agreed to be re-programmed along with the Suffolk County Council to stay on for the nights of Christmas Eve and New Years Eve.

**URGENT HIGHWAYS SAFETY MATTERS:** Nothing was raised.

**FINANCE:** The Bank Balances as at 1st December 2021 are £52986.73 in the Community Account and £15509.55 in the Rate Reward Account making a total of £68496.28.

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 December</u></b>			
Funds Transfer	1773.10	Mrs R H Leggett	NP Fees
Funds Transfer	735.64	Clerk/HMRC/SCC	Staffing costs
Funds Transfer	385.00	Stoke by Nayland Club	V/Green cuts
Funds Transfer	240.00	PKF Littlejohn LLP	External Audit Fee
Funds Transfer	138.00	AIS	VG Playgd Inspection

**Further donation to Sudbury Citizens Advice** - The Clerk had checked the spreadsheets and the last donation was made in June this year, however, after an unprecedented period which would have undoubtedly increased demand for Citizens Advice, members were minded to provide further support. It was resolved to make a further donation of £150 to Sudbury Citizens Advice - **Action Clerk to arrange on the next payment run.**

**Any priority areas for budget considerations** - New playground equipment, the village sign, Village Hall legal costs and the Platinum Jubilee were all raised of areas to include in the budget.

**MAINTENANCE OF VILLAGE ASSETS:** T Smith reported on the further work undertaken this month on various assets around the village removing the ivy, and brambles covering the yellow grit bins and the hidden bench. He completed a survey this month on all the village assets, the two bus shelters are in need of a good spring clean, however are structurally sound. One area of concern is the Leavenheath Village sign, although only 20 years old it showing considerable signs of wear and tear, the majority of tiles at the base, are either rotten, broken or crumbling away. The paint on the actual sign is also in a poor state of repair and needs a jet wash and re-paint, this would need a professional to undertake the work. The wooden post has also split and requires treatment.

N Taylor took the opportunity to thank the Village Hall Committee for the fantastic job they are doing. He would like to see more financial help being offered from the Parish Council to the Village Hall and also more priority given to potential hirers from the Village. He also wants to see the Village Hall protected in the future as a Village Asset. He also suggested a Village Shop as a future Agenda item.

**REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS :** T Smith has finally sent off nine completed application forms to the Suffolk Constabulary to enable those volunteers to commence the relevant training and begin the Leavenheath Community Speedwatch Program. It was noted that dog bins and litter pickers were on order following the Babergh Scheme.

The meeting closed at **9.09 p.m.**

## **Planning Meeting on 1st December 2021**

### **The following Decisions were confirmed by the Planning Authority: -**

- A) Planning Permission was granted for annex and cartlodge at Holly Cottage, 5 Cock Street, Leavenheath - **DC/21/05160**.
- B) Permission has been refused to fell protected oak at Sunnydale, 10 Stoke Road - **DC/21/05962**
- C) Approval of Conditions relating to fenestration, fascia/soffits and refuse bins/collection area at The Lion, Honey Tye were confirmed - **DC/21/02960**.

### **The following applications and planning matters were discussed: -**

1) **DC/21/05720** - Hare And Hounds, Harrow Street, Leavenheath, Suffolk, CO6 4PW - Erection of detached self-contained annex with community village shop following demolition of curtilage listed outbuilding - Further to the summary provided at the last meeting, we have submitted our support for this application. The annex is well designed, in keeping and we did not consider it harmful to the listed property. The community village shop is a sought-after asset as identified in the research carried out as part of the Neighbourhood Plan. It has been supported by many parishioners. The Parish Council had no objections.

**DC/21/05721** - Hare And Hounds, Harrow Street, Leavenheath, Suffolk, CO6 4PW - Application for Listed Building Consent. Erection of detached self-contained annex with community village shop following demolition of curtilage listed outbuilding - No objections as above comments.

2) Sunnydale, 10 Stoke Road - **DC/21/05962** - the following response was sent: -

"During June this year we were consulted on the same tree under application DC/21/03387. We have examined this application and the views of this Parish Council and our Tree Warden remain the same. Please note Leavenheath Parish Council objects to the felling of this protected tree. Our Tree Warden previously investigated this matter both by a site meeting and also by seeking advice from Pete Irving, Tree Surgeon. We believe the tree is in excess of 300 years old, and if the tree was felled, this may cause far more problems to houses in the vicinity as the ground recovers. We understand a similar application was rejected around ten years ago where the soil was identified as boulder clay on top of London clay, hence ground heave is a risk to nearby houses.

We therefore recommend following your own investigation, of course, that this application is again refused".

3) Spring View, Cock Street - Erection of a single storey front and side extensions (following demolition of garage) - The garage is on the east side elevation, this will become a new bedroom, hallway and relocated existing bedroom. The front is a small extension to an existing area to add a WC with a hallway and utility - **DC/21/05949** .

The Parish Council had **No Objections** to this proposal.

4) Leaven Hall, Nayland Road - conversion of and extension to stables into events facility to host small craft classes/sessions - **DC/21/05258**.

The Parish Council had **No Objections** between meetings.

5) Norton Villa, 14 Nayland Road - **DC/21/06178** - Use of annex outbuilding as 1no. separate dwelling house including 2no. new dedicated car parking spaces

This application is still being reviewed by our planning group.

6) Elmslea House, Edies Lane - **DC/21/06347** - Erection of single storey side and rear extensions - Extension to the west side and rear elevation to create a new kitchen, dining area and utility area.

This application is still being reviewed by our planning group.

7) Old Well House, Locks Lane - **DC/21/06356** - Erection of new front screen wall to existing vehicular access.

This application is still being reviewed by our planning group.

8) Appeal against refusal of detached dwelling, garage and access at Belynna Cottage, Nayland Road - **AP/21/00069** - This Appeal is being reviewed by our planning group, however, we do not need to take any action further to our original comments unless we wish to make any amendments.

9) Any other Urgent Planning items:

Housing Land Supply Consultation

The Babergh Draft Housing Land Supply Position Statement Consultation has been reviewed by D Kingham and R Bellenie. It sets out in detail how the council have calculated the 5-year land supply and all seems perfectly reasonable. There are a lot of technical calculations that have been completed by a professional company. They have nothing specific to raise in response to the consultation and would be happy to respond simply to say that the statements appear well considered and reasonable. Possibly also make reference to the fact that the land supply is above the required 5 years, which of course tips the planning balance in favour of discretion - **Parish Council considered and agreed this suggestion.**