

**MINUTES of the MEETING of LEAVENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL** held on Wednesday 3rd February 2021 at 7.30 p.m. by Video Conferencing.

**PRESENT:** P Mortlock (Chairman), C Morgan, R Cowell, D Kingham, R Bellenie, T Smith, Y Roder, N Taylor, D Hattrell (Clerk), J Finch (County Cllr), and L Parker (District Cllr).

**PUBLIC FORUM:** No members of the public attended.

**APOLOGIES:** S Whitelaw had sent apologies.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 20TH JANUARY 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 continue to meet at least once a month via Zoom. There were no updates since the 20th January Parish Council Meeting.

**Tree Warden's Report**

The tree nursery continues to develop as discussed last month, with over five hundred trees now available for local use. Trees available are Oaks, Hornbeams, Field Maples, Wild Cherries, Crab Apples, and Silver Birches. With the sole objective of providing more trees for the parish and surrounding villages, whether it be in woods or on public or private property. These trees, along with protectors and stakes are provided free of charge to both residents and businesses in the parish, if anyone wishes to take one or more trees, please contact the Tree Warden. The Tree Warden had a meeting earlier in the month with Gary Battell, the Woodland Advisor for Suffolk County Council, re Royston Wood. Gary has agreed a site visit when current restrictions allow to discuss the management of the wood in terms of thinning out and replanting. The Tree Warden did inform Gary that the PC does not have funds available for any major works. Further meetings have taken place with Melanie Boyce, the STWN and SCC regarding the "Plant a Tree for 2020" initiative and an article appeared in this month's LSPN.

**Police Report**

The police report from December 2020 was updated in Jan 2021 for Leavenheath and shows: -  
3 Violence and sexual offence - on/near The Ridings. Action to be taken by another organisation  
1 Violence and sexual offence - on/near Edies Lane. Still under investigation  
1 Crime other - on/near Plough Lane. Unable to prosecute suspect.

**Village Green Report**

Progress is being made towards the Village Green Risk Assessment.

**BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT:** District Cllr Lee Parker attended and confirmed what the District Council are doing to distribute grants. He urged businesses to get in touch if

they are needing support as further grants are available. They continue to invest and derive income through CIFCO for the time being. They are still adding to their Council House stock. Garden Waste collection was still suspended. To further support their green credentials, they are converting their fleet to use HVO - carbon friendly fuel. He confirmed the question of parking charges was due before cabinet the following day. The access point was re-locating to the library in Sudbury starting from the first week in April. It was agreed for L Parker to work with J Finch between meetings to help to try to resolve the situation regarding progress with the former Lion plans.

**SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT:** County Cllr J Finch attended and reported on the continued focus on Covid 19 with the good news that the rapid increase of cases at the beginning of January was reversed and the vaccination program proceeding well. The message is to stick rigidly to the guidance to protect our hospitals. Locally he was thankful for volunteers who helped with the Vaccination program at West Bergholt. The newest nearby centre is at Colchester football stadium. A rapid testing centre is open at the University of Suffolk in Ipswich. Suffok Fire and Rescue Service was praised for its work throughout the pandemic. The County Council is concerned by recommendations for new pylon lines in Suffolk. These include offshore undersea cable between Suffolk and Kent and a new pylon line (with sections of underground cable in the AONB and Stour Valley) between the Bramford substation and Twinstead in Essex. A Consultation on the post 16 travel policy proposals was open until 15th February. The 2021 Census will go ahead in digital form this March. Further Fostering and Adoption Sessions were scheduled. Members questioned J Finch about the Census and L Parker agreed to look into this also. L Parker confirmed information is available on the Babergh website.

**NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING UPDATE:** D Kingham confirmed the Neighbourhood Planning Group are undertaking a consultation currently on Non Designated Heritage Assets and Local Green Spaces. The Parish Council were supportive of Village Assets being in the Neighbourhood Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan continues to be progressed. It was noted the Lady Anne Windsor Trust had reported in LSPN.

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

**URGENT HIGHWAYS SAFETY MATTERS:** T Smith reminded the meeting and County Cllr J Finch that some highways signs have rotten posts. J Finch explained that Advisory signs are not legally required. The County Council are aware some tidying is necessary and are prioritising.

**FINANCE:** The Bank Balances as at 1st February 2021 are £44945.28 in the Community Account and £15508.25 in the Rate Reward Account making a total of £60453.53.

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 February</u></b>			
Funds Transfer	742.21	Clerk/HMRC/SCC	Staffing costs
Funds Transfer	2240.00	R H Leggett	Neighbourhood Plan Fees

It was resolved to replace the Old Road noticeboard which is in a poor state for a new metal one. Members noted the previous 2 replaced in the village followed a process which established good quality at a competitive price. It was agreed to approach the same contractor for a quote and this was delegated to the Chairman to follow up between meetings - **Action Chairman.**

It was agreed to keep the CIL funds on the Agenda. The returns had been circulated between meetings together with the criteria. These funds need to be spent within 5 years of receipt. Initial ideas included new play equipment or leisure equipment for use in the Village Hall. Concern was expressed about taking account of all parts of the Village. D Kingham reminded the meeting of the 3 hamlets in the emerging Local Plan.

**MAINTENANCE OF VILLAGE ASSETS:** T Smith reported that he, supported by his wife, cleared the brambles at the entrance to the bridleway in Kingsland Lane to make way for work to proposed barriers. T Smith has the Asset Register and is working through the list checking each item.

**REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS :** In relation to Community Speed Watch, T Smith is now seeking volunteers. We need a minimum of six to begin the training, provided by Suffolk Police. C Morgan will follow up any further action needed in relation to Quiet Lanes. The Chairman reported further work is needed in relation to Kingsland Lane as it is unlikely an early solution will come about from the County Council Right of Way. Residents who take it upon themselves collect litter around the village during their limited daily exercise were praised. It was agreed for R Bellenie to investigate further with Highways the requirements they are suggesting in relation to the former Lion plans. Clearly the Parish Council is happy to have some limited involvement with donated speed devices as these may benefit the village, however, conditions would need to be reasonable in relation to these plans. It was noted the Parish Council did not support the plans for the former Lion which were eventually approved with conditions by the Planning Authority.

The meeting closed at **9.08 p.m.**

## **Planning Meeting on 3rd February 2021**

### **The following was discussed: -**

Oak Cottage, Breach Grove, Kingsland Lane - Application for construction of access gates and wall to existing vehicular access for private use - **DC/21/00358**.

The Parish Council had **No Objections** to this retrospective application.

**Any other Urgent Planning items:** There was nothing to report.