

**MINUTES of the MEETING of LEAVENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL** held on Wednesday 7th July 2021 at 7.30 p.m. at the Stevenson Centre, Great Cornard and by Video Conferencing.

**PRESENT:** P Mortlock (Chairman), C Morgan, N Taylor and D Hattrell (Clerk) attended in person. R Cowell, Y Roder and J Finch (County Cllr) attended by Video link.

Due to an internet problem at the start of the meeting, there was a delay in admitting virtual attendees.

**PUBLIC FORUM:** Nothing was raised as no public were in attendance.

**APOLOGIES:** were received from Rachel Bellenie, Richard Cowell, Dean Kingham, Trevor Smith, Sally Whitelaw and Lee Parker.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 2ND JUNE 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. It was agreed to check the Footpath Reports are sent to S Whitelaw for uploading to the website. We are currently advertising for a new volunteer Footpath Warden.

##### **Village Hall Report**

S Whitelaw had issued a report ahead of the meeting. The Village Hall is partially open to hirers and Ladybirds and Little Ladybirds are operating as normal until they break for the summer holidays. They look forward to welcoming more regular hirers from 19th July in conjunction with government guidelines. Continued extensive cleaning is being done to keep everyone as safe as possible and they thanked those who have stepped in to cover the extra hours.

Broadband has now been installed and they are completing the final checks before being able to offer it to hirers. They aim to resume the Digital Cinema by September and are discussing estimates to replace the front doors of the hall over the summer. Their AGM 2021 has been set for 6th September 2021.

##### **Tree Warden's Report**

T Smith, the Tree Warden, had issued a report of site visits that have taken place in the village this month. Trees that had suffered storm damage were viewed and some work was carried out. A tree subject to a Tree Preservation Order application for felling was considered and the findings appear later in the Minutes. He also attended a conference presented by Kew Gardens concentrating on tree propagation. A key message was the importance of Tree Wardens to the local community. Tree Wardens have been caring for the trees of Suffolk, since the Tree Warden scheme's inception over thirty years ago. The Suffolk Tree Warden Network was formed five years ago to help Tree Wardens carry out the very important role of caring for and looking after trees, woods and hedgerows in the local community. Changes over the last few years have affected us all in different ways - from changes in our climate and increased frequency of storms to how trees are valued in society. One positive change is increased interest in trees and tree planting. Tree

Nurseries are an excellent way to help and assist this project, and he still has about thirty trees available. If you require any, please contact Trevor Smith on 01206 262760.

### **Police Report**

The following crimes were reported in Leavenheath in May 2021

1 x Violence and Sexual Offence near the Village Hall

1 x Violence and Sexual Offence in Kingsland Lane

1 x Anti Social Behaviour in Kingsland Lane

### **Village Green Report**

There was nothing to report.

**BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT:** District Cllr L Parker had sent his apologies and reported that both Assington and Newton are progressing to referendum (around September) on their Neighbourhood Plans. Although not formally adopted they now carry significant weight towards planning decisions. L Parker has been investigating contentious plans via the District Council Enforcement Team. One involves commercial vehicles parked in a driveway and the other is the impact on neighbouring residences of the Lion development. Hearing sessions of the District Council's Joint Local Plan are set to continue in September to ensure the process is properly inclusive. Finally he confirmed applications are now open for Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils' Locality Awards funding - enabling communities to improve facilities, learn new skills and work towards becoming environmentally sustainable.

**SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT:** County Cllr J Finch had circulated a report ahead of the meeting that 433 new Covid-19 cases in Suffolk in the 7 days up to 29th June which has trebled in the last 3 weeks. He urged all those who travel locally and mix with other people to get regular Rapid Flow Tests. There will be an independent review into Special Educational Needs and Disability Provision and the recommendations shared on the County Council website. Three new vehicles with latest technology have joined the Suffolk Fire & Rescue Fleet. Virtual Fostering and Adoption Sessions continue.

**NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING UPDATE:** D Kingham had reported ahead of the meeting that the Neighbourhood Planning Group have continued to meet and are finalising the draft plan. They are still discussing local green spaces and non-designated heritage assets. They will shortly be holding an event at the Village Hall, date to be confirmed, for parishioners to see the draft plan.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** On-going correspondence was noted by the meeting.

**URGENT HIGHWAYS SAFETY MATTERS:** On-line complaints were noted about the state of pot hole repair on Plough Lane. This was to be investigated. The On-line Reporting Tool was discussed and it was agreed to forward a link to N Taylor - **Action Clerk**. It was also agreed to put a notice in LSPN giving a guide to making these on-line reports of Highways issues around the Village - **Action Clerk**.

**FINANCE:** The Bank Balances as at 1st July 2021 are £43726.64 in the Community Account and £15508.89 in the Rate Reward Account making a total of £59235.53.

The following pre-agreed payments were made: -

<b>Cheque No.</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Details</b>
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### As at 1st July

Funds Transfer	730.24	Clerk/HMRC/SCC	Staffing costs
Funds Transfer	277.20	Tree & Lawn Co Ltd	V Green maintenance

The Clerk had circulated the CIL returns to members as agreed for information on the year of receipt of various funds. R Bellenie had reported in advance of the meeting that she attended the CIL meeting, which she found useful and she has information to share with Council. She plans to set up a call with the team at Babergh to run through some of the contents and run our ideas by them. She also wants to confirm with them that if we can show we are saving the CIL monies for a particular project such as the playground or gathering evidence (NP Group) for what is required/wanted within the village, whether we need to need to pay the monies back to them if not spent. She will put together a short CIL presentation on all her findings. They also have some "projects" coming out of the draft NP that may give some ideas for future use of the CIL funds, that we could consider.

**MAINTENANCE OF VILLAGE ASSETS:** T Smith reported that a number of tasks have been undertaken during the month and the details are set out below:-

The Notice Board on the High Road has been sanded down and varnished and he will be applying a coating of Weathershield paint next week.

The Hidden bench needs taking apart and re-building, when dry enough

The Leavenheath Village Sign (Re-varnish required)

The Notice Board on the Village Green has been fully rebuilt.

The Sylvia Attwood Bench on the Village Green has been jet washed and now requires a coating of oil to protect from fungus and mould spots when fully dried out.

Members took the opportunity to note their thanks to T Smith for all his hard work.

**REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS :** T Smith reported that unfortunately we still only have four people signed up as volunteers for Community Speed Watch, however before training can commence we need a team of six, therefore if anyone could assist or knows someone who may be interested please contact Trevor Smith on 01206 262760 or email [smith.2.trevor@gmail.com](mailto:smith.2.trevor@gmail.com) for further details. An online training video will soon be available and this will then be accompanied by a visit to new team on their first deployment to guide them through the practical stages and get them up and running. Regarding the ongoing flooding issues in Honey Tye, further site meetings have taken place, along with a set of reports and issues sent to Jason Skilton the Flood and Water Engineer and Benjamin Locksmith the Flood and Water Technician at Suffolk County Council. A meeting of all interested parties is currently being arranged. C Morgan noted the books and magazines in the Bus Shelter are damp and in a poor state. It was agreed for her to clear on behalf of the Parish Council - **Action C Morgan**. N Taylor reported residents concerns of cars parked on the junction at Sweet Briar Close causing obstruction including to an ambulance and against the highway code. He has worded a polite notice to be put on cars to ask those concerned to be neighbourly ahead of any enforcement action that may be required. It was resolved that these notices can be used on this occasion - **Action N Taylor**. R Cowell has received limited responses to the Travel Isolation enquiry in LSPN. He encouraged others to share their views.

The meeting closed at **8.41 p.m.**

## **Planning Meeting on 7th July 2021**

**The following Decision was confirmed by the Planning Authority: -**

**A) Planning Permission was refused for detached dwelling, garage and formation of new vehicular access at Belynna Cottage, Nayland Road, Leavenheath - DC/21/02146.**

**B) The Discharge of Conditions Application for materials and brickwork panel were approved at The Lion, Honey Tye - DC/21/03479**

**C) Planning Permission was Granted for conversion of and extension to garage to provide additional living accommodation at Poplars, High Road - DC/21/02543.**

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

**1) Vincents Farm, Harrow Street - Single storey rear extension and garden room - DC/21/02511. The Parish Council had No Objections.**

**2) Planning and listed building applications at the Hare and Hounds - DC/21/02701/2. The Parish Council had No Objections.**

**3) Application for planning permission without compliance of Conditions at The Lion, Honey Tye - DC/21/02622. The Parish Council had No Objections.**

**4) Application to fell an oak subject to a tree preservation order at 8 Stoke Road - DC/21/03387. Between meetings R Bellenie and D Kingham had declared an interest in this application in view of its proximity to their home.**

**The Tree Warden had investigated and proposed objecting to this application. This was approved - Action Clerk to respond to the Planning Authority.**

**5) Any other Urgent Planning items:** In relation to the Pylons, D Kingham had reported ahead of the meeting that the local alliance group has secured a meeting at the end of the month with the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy. D Kingham has offered, work permitting, to attend the remote meeting along with a number of other local representatives.