

MINUTES of the MEETING of LEAVENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL held on Wednesday 2nd June 2021 at 7.30 p.m. at the Stevenson Centre, Great Cornard and by Video Conferencing.

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

PUBLIC FORUM: Nothing was raised.

APOLOGIES: were received from R Cowell and Y Roder, however, they joined virtually without voting rights. Apologies were also received from District Cllr L Parker as he was attending the Newton PC Meeting in person.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: Nothing was declared.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 5TH MAY 2021: These were accepted as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: It was noted that CIL enquiries were continuing. R Cowell confirmed he already had some responses to his enquiries in LSPN regarding Community transport needs. S Whitelaw confirmed she has spoken with the co-ordinator of the community response to COVID in relation to Community Transport. A number of volunteers may be happy to help as the impact of COVID is reducing locally. D Kingham confirmed he is waiting for some information collected by the Neighbourhood Planning Group in relation to Playgrounds. T Smith reported that all the parties will get together including relevant landowners in relation to the flooding issues reported.

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

S Whitelaw reported that the Village Hall were delighted to welcome some of their regular clubs back in May. They are rigorously maintaining cleaning and fogging routines to ensure everyone is as safe as possible and have accepted a kind offer of extra cleaning help from someone in the village to assist over the next few months. Their Test and Trace QR Code is displayed on the front door of the hall.

Investigations are underway to get broadband connection for the Village Hall.

They are starting discussions about the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations in June 2022.

They welcomed Yvonne Roder to the committee at the last meeting. The AGM 2021 is to be held on Monday 6th September 2021.

Tree Warden's Report

The Leavenheath Tree Nursery continues to provide trees to local companies and residents, and all but thirty of the 500 have now found new homes in the village.

Trees still available are Oaks, Hornbeams, Field Maples, Wild Cherries and Crab Apples. The sole objective is to provide 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 Trevor Smith on 01206 262760 or via email at smith.2.trevor@gmail.com
There has been a major change to Babergh District Councils, offer of Free Trees and Hedgerows Plants as discussed last month. The major change to the programme is that it is now a rolling programme of tree and hedge planting with no deadline for application submission, or dates by which trees or hedgerow plants need to be in the ground. They are not expecting all trees to be planted this year and there will be funding for subsequent years to come.

Finally our Tree Warden received a call from a resident a couple of weeks ago concerned with the felling of some trees in the village, resulting in disruption to birds nesting in the said trees. It should be noted that between March and August, it is a criminal offence to fell a tree containing an active nest with the punishment being up to six months in prison or an unlimited fine depending on the birds affected.

Police Report

In April the following crimes were reported in Leavenheath.

2 x Violence and sexual offences near the Village Hall

1 x Public Order, 1 x Other Theft and 2 x Violence and sexual offences off Harrow Street

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 in person and reported that the Covid infections in his division are still at zero. However, there is a general slight increase in the area (colchester and sudbury), so people were urged to stick with the guidance and have regular rapid flow tests especially in view of the new variant. He reminded people what they were able to do now further lockdown restrictions have eased. The Bramford to Twinstead pre-application scoping consultation deadline was 8th June and our MP raised at Prime Ministers Questions. Virtual fostering and adoption sessions continue as sadly the demand for these roles has increased significantly. The County Council has drafted a new guide to support major developments. This is subject to consultation. New vehicles with the latest technology have joined the Suffolk Fire and Rescue Fleet. During a more detailed discussion on the Pylons Project, J Finch advised that Boxford Suffolk Farms were working on plans of future fruit tree planting to properly inform the route of the undergrounded cables. D Kingham asked for that information to be shared with him as quickly as possible as our representation to the consultation will need to go in soon. The County Council is concerned that not only the route within the AONB should be placed underground if undersea technology is not far enough advanced, but the part of the route within sight of the AONB and to take into consideration potential expansion of the AONB in the near future. D Kingham explained the cumulative impact of the pylons is of significant relevance following a recent legal ruling. R Cowell agreed to discuss rural transport with J Finch between meetings.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING UPDATE: D Kingham reported that the Neighbourhood Plan Group met last week and they had received informal comments from Babergh District Council. Preparations will soon be made for a public consultation exhibition in the Village Hall. The Neighbourhood Planning Group is working on the non designated heritage assets and green spaces and will report to Parish Council in due course. It was agreed for the Clerk to check the bank statement to see if the grant monies have been received - **Action Clerk.**

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

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

FINANCE: The Bank Balances as at 2nd June 2021 are £48088.05 in the Community Account and £15508.76 in the Rate Reward Account making a total of £63596.81.

The following pre-agreed payments were made: -

Cheque No.	Amount	Payee	Details
<u>As at 1st April</u>			
Funds Transfer	1800.00	SWT Trading Ltd	NP - Landscape & Biodiversity Audit
Funds Transfer	764.69	Clerk/HMRC/SCC	Staffing costs
Funds Transfer	277.20	Tree & Lawn Co Ltd	V Green maintenance
Funds Transfer	500.00	Suffolk Accident Resc	Donation - S137
Funds Transfer	350.00	Sudbury CAB	Donation
Funds Transfer	174.40	N J Taylor	Community Litter Equipment
Funds Transfer	531.73	BHIB Ltd	V Green insurance
Funds Transfer	330.00	Stoke by Nayland Club	V Green maintenance
Funds Transfer	551.17	Babergh DC	Bin Empty Charges

Bank details were awaited on 2 of the payments at the time of the meeting.

It was noted this Council will be subject to an External Audit this year in view of the additional income being received for Neighbourhood Planning. It was resolved to approve the Audit Submission Accounting figures and Statements for year ending 31st March 2021. The Clerk will now prepare for Internal Audit. Attention then turned to the Kingsland Lane resurfacing. Members had had the opportunity between meetings to consider the principle further and following debate it was resolved not to contribute on this occasion. It was felt the footpath network is satisfactory even without this resurfacing and members didn't feel a contribution would be a good use of public monies - **Action Clerk to reply to the enquirer.** In relation to CIL, R Bellenie continues to investigate the various uses of this fund. It was agreed for the Clerk to remind the meeting in July the deadlines for spending the current CIL monies we are holding - **Action R Bellenie and Clerk.**

MAINTENANCE OF VILLAGE ASSETS: T Smith and the Chairman made site visits to both the hidden bench and the Sylvia Attwood bench to determine the work to be undertaken. Decisions was made in relation to both benches. Unfortunately due to the weather and other commitments, T Smith has been unable to progress the maintenance work last month but is hoping to complete the following tasks soon: -

Notice Board - High Road (to be painted)

The Leavenheath Village Sign (Re-varnish required)

Notice Board on the Village Green (to be rebuilt)

Sylvia Attwood Bench on the Village Green (Sanded down and re-varnished)

REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS : R Cowell reported that some trees on the west side of the Village Green have low hanging branches and T Smith agreed to review - **Action T Smith.** T Smith reported some positive news about Community Speedwatch - four people have signed up as volunteers, 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 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. T Smith enquired about Parish On-line and the Clerk confirmed we have already subscribed (prompted by the Neighbourhood Planning Group), however, other uses may be of benefit to the Parish Council. N Taylor confirmed that he circulated a quotation for fencing the playground to his fellow Councillors and he asked what everyone felt. N Taylor was pressing to spend money to improve things for the Village. Following discussion, members were supportive of considering evidence led projects in relation to the Playground and the first stage would be to review the feedback gathered by the Neighbourhood Planning Group. There may be an opportunity to gather more evidence at the Neighbourhood Planning Event. N Taylor also suggested Facebook could be used. The Clerk explained that the original successful project to construct a new playground around a decade ago attracted various grants and the main grant provider was insistent that fencing was restrictive to play and was unnecessary at our location. The Clerk agreed to search for the original project binder to enable D Kingham to review for ideas towards gathering new up to date evidence - **Action Clerk**. N Taylor was also informed that this Council had allocated CIL funds towards the Playground project before the Group pursuing this disbanded during the Covid period. S Whitelaw had been approached regarding the way to get some highways signs cleaned which are on major roadways so would be dangerous for volunteers to get involved. It was agreed for S Whitelaw to put a list together with clear location details and the signage concerned in order for the Clerk to obtain a quote from the Sudbury Community Wardens - **Action S Whitelaw and Clerk**. S Whitelaw raised a question from a resident of potentially putting a mirror outside Field Lane for traffic visibility. It was agreed for S Whitelaw to contact J Finch in this regard and at the same time chase the on-going concern of speeding in that vicinity - **Action S Whitelaw**.

The meeting closed at **9.20 p.m.**

Planning Meeting on 2nd June 2021

The following Decision was confirmed by the Planning Authority: -

No Decisions had been reported from the Planning Authority during the month.

The following applications and planning matters were discussed: -

1) **Beachams Farm, Beachams Lane, Stoke by Nayland** - Subdivision of the site to allow annexed accommodation to form a separate residential dwelling - **DC/21/01480**.

Objections had been issued between meetings to comply with the deadline despite all the information requested not being available.

2) **Poplars, High Road** - Single storey rear extensions, conversion of and extension from garage to provide additional living accommodation - **DC/21/02543**.

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

3) **Belynna Cottage, Nayland Road** - Application for detached dwelling, garage and access - **DC/21/02143**.

The Parish Council had **No Objections subject to the removal of the balcony and inclusion of a planning condition**.

4) **Assington Autos, cotton Wood, Barracks Rd, Assington** - Change of use of land to extend an Authorised Treatment Facility (salvage yard) and construction of 5 storage buildings and other associated operational works - **DC/21/02579**.

The Parish Council had **No Objections to this application from a neighbouring Parish**. A response was sent between meetings to comply with the deadline.

5) **Vincents Farm, Harrow Street** - Single storey rear extension and garden room - **DC/21/02511**.

The Planning Group were considering and were to respond ahead of the deadline.

6) **Consider the planning and listed building applications at the Hare and Hounds** - **DC/21/02701/2**.

The Planning Group were considering and were to respond ahead of the deadline.

7) Consider the re-consultation at Vincents Farm, Harrow Street

As above under item 5.

8) Consider the application for planning permission without compliance of Conditions at The Lion, Honey Tye - DC/21/02622.

The Planning Group were investigating and will respond ahead of the deadline. However, the changes on the first review appear to have less impact than the original plans.

9) Consider the Any other Urgent Planning items: It was noted an application had just been received for rear extensions, dormer windows and balconies at Plough House, Plough Lane - DC/21/02996.

Updates were provided in respect of the Bramford to Twinstead pylons project. D Kingham explained the work between meetings in this respect and that a letter is being drafted with a view to local Parish Councils challenging on similar grounds.