

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

PRESENT: P Mortlock (Chairman), R Bellenie, R Cowell, D Kingham, Y Roder, T Smith, N Taylor, S Whitelaw, D Hattrell (Clerk), J Finch (County Cllr), L Parker (District Cllr) and 2 members of the public.

PUBLIC FORUM: Nothing was raised.

APOLOGIES: were received from C Morgan.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: Nothing was declared.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 3RD FEBRUARY 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 met via Zoom on Monday 1st March. Ladybirds are still the only hirer for children of key workers but from 8th March were to return to near normal numbers as a result of new government guidelines for reopening schools/nurseries. The committee are working hard to establish what date we can reopen to other clubs and organisations to ensure their safety and to follow the strict regulations of how many people can meet inside and the necessary cleaning requirements in between hirers.

When Ladybirds break for the Easter holidays they have organised for the main hall to be painted while it is empty. They also intend to paint the other rooms over the next few months.

Tree Warden's Report

T Smith (Cllr and Tree Warden) reported that the Leavenheath Tree Nursery continues to develop, with over five hundred trees available for local residents. The calls have started to come in and the trees are beginning to move out to start their new lives. Trees available are Oaks, Hornbeams, Field Maples, Wild Cherries, Crab Apples, and Silver Birches. 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. As many of us continue to go on our daily outdoor exercise we are beginning to see the early signs of spring, bringing a sense of hope for warmer weather and longer sunny days ahead. Trees are beginning to wake from their winter slumber as the warmer temperatures trigger the mobilisation of tree roots to start taking up water and nutrients from the soil, buds resting dormant since autumn, get ready to burst into life in what is known as 'budbreak'. Hazel takes the lead in this with its long hanging golden male catkins, also named lambs tails releasing pollen in the air, with the aim of fertilising the female catkins on neighbouring trees. You can also keep an eye out of early blossom of cherry plum, wild plum and blackthorn and for budburst on alder, rowan, wild cherry and hawthorn as they too get

ready to play their part in the magnificent display of colour and vitality we enjoy each spring and early summer.

Police Report

There were no new reported crimes in the Leavenheath area in January 2021.

Village Green Report

There was nothing to report as there has been no recent meetings.

Footpaths

The Footpath Warden is looking for assistance. There is an offer of chippings to help improve the surface of a path due to an issue raised by a resident.

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT: District Cllr Lee Parker attended and confirmed the garden waste collections were to restart from the following week. The budget at the District Council has been set. Council Leader Cllr John Ward recently survived a motion of no confidence calling for his resignation. This arose from unrest from the handling of controversial issues such as the abandoned council name change, parking charges and change to the Sudbury access point. £21M of funds have been distributed by the District Council due to Covid-19.

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT: County Cllr J Finch attended and reported on the continued focus on Covid 19 with the good news that there was no new infections in the 7 day period from 18th - 25th February in our immediate area. He reminded everyone to stick with the guidance and was pleased to report that Suffolk is now vaccinating the over 60's. More rapid testing centres are open including The Stevenson Centre, Gt Cornard and The Fire Station, Nayland. Substantial funds have been allocated to the County Council to handle the pandemic, however, they have still needed to spend more. Despite the costs of the pandemic, the County Council will meet the shortfall by reserves and only increase their element of general council tax by 1.99% and an additional 2.00% for Social Care as usual. Further budget has been allocated to highways including drainage, surfacing and rights of way bridges and paths. Suffolk County Council's cabinet had confirmed its support for Freeport East which covers the ports of Felixstowe and Harwich and offer global and regional connectivity. This was to support reduced administrative burden and taxation and drive job creation, investment and international trade post Brexit. The final decision about Freeport designation rested with the UK central government and Freeport East has now been agreed. Further virtual Fostering and Adoption sessions were scheduled. J Finch was pleased to report the SCC Right of Way Manager, Claire Dickson had organised temporary barriers at Kingsland Lane and was investigating a more permanent solution. J Finch was questioned about the flooding issues in the area and whether surveys have been revealing the causes. J Finch confirmed surveys have identified issues, however, resolution is sometimes complex.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING UPDATE: D Kingham confirmed the draft policies are out for Consultation. Two meetings of the Neighbourhood Planning Group are planned before the next Parish Council Meeting. The second of which will review the consultation responses. Work continues in relation to the non designated heritage assets and responses are being considered by the Neighbourhood Planning Group.

CORRESPONDENCE: On-going correspondence was discussed. Members had considered the potential obstruction of a walkway by a private hedge. They concluded that whilst the hedge was

well maintained it was obstructing the walk way for people with mobility aids and parents with buggies. It was agreed to report the issue or find some way to seek the cooperation from the homeowner - **Action Clerk.**

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

FINANCE: The Bank Balances as at 1st March 2021 are £42963.07 in the Community Account and £15508.37 in the Rate Reward Account making a total of £58471.44.

The following pre-agreed payments were made: -

Cheque No.	Amount	Payee	Details
<u>As at 1st March</u>			
Funds Transfer	734.41	Clerk/HMRC/SCC	Staffing costs
Funds Transfer	180.00	Compass Point Planning	Neighbourhood Plan Fees

Further consideration of the use of CIL funds was made. R Cowell agreed to investigate his idea of better community transport. Some potential issues were identified and R Bellenie agreed to check the criteria of the CIL funds in this respect. It was noted that new Noticeboards could be provided as opposed to maintenance or replacement of existing ones. D Kingham agreed to collate research from Neighbourhood Planning in respect of Playpark provision and equipment. It was noted new items of play equipment were an appropriate use of the funds. An idea was raised about improving access to facilities for users of the Village Hall Committee Room. It was noted that improvements to the Village Hall and its equipment was an appropriate use of the funds. S. Whitelaw agreed to raise at the next Village Hall Meeting.

MAINTENANCE OF VILLAGE ASSETS: The new notice board for Old Road is now on order and the Chairman will drive to collect it when ready. T Smith is to clean and oil/varnish the High Road notice board. T Smith is working through the list of Parish Council Village Assets and checking the condition of each item.

REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS : T Smith confirmed he is still seeking volunteers for Community Speed Watch. We need a minimum of six to begin the training, provided by Suffolk Police. He has been contacted by the Police who are pleased to confirm that following the announcements by the Prime Minister last week, and assuming nothing changes in the interim, they will be re-starting Community Speed Watch in Suffolk from Monday 29th March. They are currently working on an online training video which we will be able to send out to new teams. 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. This should hopefully speed up their ability to get new teams running without needing to find spaces to show presentations. However, further volunteers are needed and it was agreed for T Smith to publicise more widely. Contact details for Assington Parish Council were to be passed to D Kingham who was researching the legal challenge to the Nursery Plans. The Golf Club were to take some of the trees on offer to the Parish.

The meeting closed at **8.57 p.m.**

Planning Meeting on 3rd March 2021

The following was discussed: -

1) **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.

2) **Vincents Farm, Harrow Street** - Application for a single storey rear extension and garden room (following demolition of existing single storey extension), loft conversion, insertion of dormer to rear and 2 dormers to front, replace porch on north elevation (front), reinstatement of chimney and new vehicular access - **DC/21/00926**. R Bellenie was making some more enquiries and noted the changes since the previously withdrawn application of removing the balcony and that the new proposal is only single storey. The Heritage officer made some comments to the first application, which R Bellenie is investigating whether these were resolved. As soon as the research is completed and the Planning Group concludes, then a response will be issued on behalf of the Parish Council.

3) **Barn at Oaklands Farm, Heathlands** - Change of use and conversion of existing barn into single residential dwelling with garden area, driveway and new double cartlodge (re-submission of DC/20/02400) - **DC/21/01110**. Members of the Planning Group were considering this application currently and so far had No Objections. As soon as a conclusion is made then a response will be issued on behalf of the Parish Council.

4) **Any other Urgent Planning items:** In relation to the Bramford to Twinstead pylons proposals, J Finch explained the reasons for the extra power line along the existing route. He had had a meeting that day with his Essex counterparts. They feel strongly the use of old technology would be a mistake and investment now will lead to savings in the long term. They will be pressing for undersea provision and failing that for the whole length to be placed underground. It was agreed to invite representatives from National Grid to a meeting 30 minutes ahead of the next Parish Council Meeting to answer questions and to let residents know via our website and LSPN in case they have any comments or questions to contribute - **Action Clerk**. Members can put the notice on notice boards if possible too. L Parker was asked whether he has made progress regarding the Lion plans. He had nothing further to report at this stage, however, he was attempting to make progress. It was agreed for members to forward their views on the Design Code Consultation by 10th March to R Bellenie and she will issue a response on behalf of the Parish Council ahead of the deadline - **Action All and R Bellenie**.