

MINUTES of the ANNUAL MEETING of LEAVENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL held on Wednesday 5th May 2021 at 7.30 p.m. by Video Conferencing.

PRESENT: P Mortlock, R Bellenie, R Cowell, D Kingham, 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: The applicant for the plans for Belynna Cottage, Nayland Road explained their application and offered to answer any questions. R Bellenie explained further time has been given to consider this application and the Planning Group were interested to hear what he had to say. She asked why they were proposing to move the access. He explained it was from a drainage perspective and to allow more south facing sunshine. Regarding the outbuildings the applicant wanted to keep the barn as a shed and the bungalow could potentially be converted to an annex. The overall intention is to create a family home.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN: Paul Mortlock was duly elected Chairman for a further term.

APOLOGIES: C Morgan had sent apologies.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: Nothing was declared.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 7TH APRIL 2021: These were accepted as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: Nothing was raised.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES: All members present agreed to continue with the same roles and responsibilities.

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 in April in the Village Hall observing social distancing rules. The newly painted hall looks fantastic and they thanked to all the committee members who helped remove and replace the soft furnishings. A lot of work has been done to complete all the necessary risk assessments in order to reopen safely. Local elections were to be held in the hall on Thursday 6th May. From 17th May they were to welcome back three regular hirers and Little Ladybirds will recommence at the start of June. Other one off booking enquiries have been made which is encouraging. They look forward to welcoming back some of their other regular hirers towards the end of June. Film night discussions are underway and they thank those who have come forward to offer their help. Quotes are being obtained to replace the front doors in the near future. Lee Parker and the Babergh team were thanked for their financial support in the way of grants to the Village Hall throughout the past year. They are sadly losing Jennie Jenkins from the committee, her valuable experience and support will be greatly missed.

Tree Warden's Report

The Leavenheath Tree Nursery continues to provide trees to local companies and residents. Many thanks to Churchill Brothers of Harrow Street, and the numerous local residents who have taken

trees. Trees still available are Oaks, Hornbeams, Field Maples, Wild Cherries and Crab Apples. 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 Trevor Smith on 01206 262760 or via email at smith.2.trevor@gmail.com. In addition to the above initiative, the Public Realm Team from Babergh District Council, are offering Free Trees and Hedgerows Plants. Details for submitting an application are as follows

- please submit it by **Sunday 20th June 2021**
- please include details about the area of land available, and any indications of the age and species of trees you would like to plant (for example, this could be new hedgerows, creating orchards, or planting to fill gaps in an existing tree or hedge row line)
- applications for more mature tree planting on the edge of developed areas, in towns or villages or as focal points in green open space are welcome
- reach out to [your local tree warden network](#), and/or our public realm team at biodiversity@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk, to ensure you're planting the right trees in the right place
- tree and hedge saplings are expected to be delivered to parishes for planting from mid-October 2021 onwards
- long term care and maintenance of trees and hedges planted under the scheme will be the responsibility of the parish or community group concerned
- we will, however, continue to be available for advice

Finally regarding the two incidents highlighted last month, a full report of the incident at Boxford Fruit Farm was sent to the Clerk to Council and a letter was sent to the company concerned. The second one involved a site visit taking place on the day the tree was due to be felled, and after consultation with Babergh District Council and the owners of the property, the tree remains in place and will not now be cut down

Police Report

There were no crimes reported in March for the Leavenheath area.

Village Green Report

No updates were given.

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT: District Cllr L Parker attended and agreed to send his Annual Report via email. It was a quiet month at Babergh leading up to the Elections. He was concerned the return to face to face meetings was a backward step. Re-start grants are now available up to £18k. The restrictions grants have now finished. It noted that the former Lion pub has now been demolished and removed. The National Grid proposals are being robustly challenged and he thanked D Kingham for his great assistance in this regard. R Bellenie took the opportunity to thank L Parker and J Finch for all their assistance in resolving issues at the former Lion pub.

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT: County Cllr J Finch attended and provided a summary of the past year at the County Council including their focus on Covid 19, road surfacing, installation of electric vehicle charging points and Fostering and Adoption. He noted over 98% of parents were offered one of their preferred school choices. An extensive program to make the County Council a net zero authority by 2030 is underway in response to the climate emergency. The County Council is investing in tree planting, restoring hedgerows and improving roadside verges. The Hold, new archive storage was opened last year. Investment continues to gain better broadband in the County. D Kingham raised with J Finch how the County Council are responding to the challenge of meeting face to face again. J Finch agreed to make enquiries.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING UPDATE: D Kingham advised that there was no meeting last month. Babergh District Council were asked for views on the draft policies and hopefully there will be an update for next meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE: On-going correspondence was discussed.

URGENT HIGHWAYS SAFETY MATTERS: Nothing was raised.

FINANCE: The Bank Balances as at 1st May 2021 are £46499.24 in the Community Account and £15508.50 in the Rate Reward Account making a total of £62007.74.

The following pre-agreed payments were made: -

Cheque No.	Amount	Payee	Details
<u>As at 1st May</u>			
Funds Transfer	549.20	SALC	Subscription
Funds Transfer	277.20	Tree & Lawn Co Ltd	V Green
Funds Transfer	737.79	Clerk/HMRC/SCC	Staffing costs
Funds Transfer	2722.00	Groundwork UK	NP - surplus grant
Funds Transfer	1000.00	Groundwork UK	NP - surplus grant

The End of Year Accounts were approved, so the next stage of the Audit preparation would be carried out. N Taylor queried some of the wording on the document. It was resolved to donate £500 to Suffolk Accident Rescue and £350 to Sudbury Citizens Advice Bureau - **Action Clerk to make payments with the next payment run.** Litter picking equipment was agreed up to a £200 limit. This was delegated between meetings to N Taylor and the Chairman. It was noted the invoices should be made out to the Parish Council to enable them to recover the VAT. Members were considering a small donation towards the Kingsland Lane private resurfacing as it forms part of a major footpath network. It was agreed to include as an Agenda item for the June Meeting and in the meantime enquire about the overall costs and specification - **Action Clerk.** In relation to the CIL monies, R Bellenie is making further enquiries and will circulate information when received - **Action R Bellenie.** It was agreed for R Cowell to produce a questionnaire to consider the size of the problem in relation to a Community Transport provision - **Action R Cowell.** The Neighbourhood Planning Group has information regarding the need for further playground equipment and will collate this ready for further consideration - **Action D Kingham.**

MAINTENANCE OF VILLAGE ASSETS: Discussions took place regarding the hidden bench, a decision relating to the cover that is required was still to be determined. Work is to be undertaken next month on the following:

Notice Board - High Road (to be painted)

The Leavenheath Village Sign (Re varnish required)

Notice Board on the Village Green (to be rebuilt)

The Sylvia Attwood Bench on the Village Green will be removed from the Green to T Smith's workshop, where it can be sanded down and re varnished.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING & FACE TO FACE MEETINGS: The return to face to face meetings was discussed and that we are partially through the vaccination program with Councillors having received either no jabs, 1 jab or both jabs. It wasn't considered possible to hold an Annual Parish Meeting safely face to face and as video meetings were no longer permitted, sadly it was agreed to postpone the Annual Parish Meeting until early March next year. In the meantime, residents would be encouraged to share their issues with the Parish Council - **Action Clerk**. It was agreed to write to the MP sharing concern of the decision not to extend the legislation for video conference Council Meetings to be discriminatory. D Kingham agreed to draft the letter for the Clerk to send - **Action D Kingham and Clerk**.

REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS : Sadly, despite further requests, and more publicity, T Smith still has not had any interest in the Speedwatch programme. Therefore he is making one final appeal this month to all residents of the village who may be interested in participating in a Community Speed Watch Group. If he still doesn't receive any support, there may be little option but to shelve the project. An online training video for Speed Watch will soon be available and a visit to the new team on their first deployment would be made to guide them through the practical stages and get them up and running. Finally T Smith has been made aware of an issue with flooding in Honey Tye, and the residents have been advised to raise this with the Parish Council, the details have been provided to the council via a separate email. T Smith agreed to take this further between meetings with J Finch and the officers at the County Council - **Action T Smith**.

The meeting closed at **9.39 p.m.**

Planning Meeting on 5th May 2021 by Video Conferencing

The following Decisions were confirmed by the Planning Authority: -

A) The Lion, Honey Tye, Leavenheath - Conditions were approved in relation to Highways, proposed access, HGV Construction management and Highway Speed Mitigation - **DC/21/00561**.

B) Barn At, Heathlands, Leavenheath - Planning Permission was granted for change of use and conversion of existing barn into single residential dwelling with garden area, driveway and new double cartlodge - **DC/21/01110**.

C) 67 High Road - Planning Permission was granted for two roof lights to existing flat-roofed extension - **DC/21/01829**.

The following applications and planning matters were discussed: -

1) Belynna Cottage, Nayland Road - Application for detached dwelling, garage and formation of new vehicular access (existing dwelling to be demolished and existing access to be stopped up) - **DC/21/02146**. An extension of time had been agreed for the planning group to consider and also listen to the points to be made by the applicant at this meeting. R Bellenie explained this is a large development with a balcony replacing a smaller property. They are currently checking compliance with planning policies. L Parker added that pre-application advice was sought and the application is smaller than allowable in that advice.

2) Poplars, High Road - Erection of single storey rear extensions; conversion of and extension to garage to provide additional living accommodation - **DC/21/02543**. This is being considered by the Planning Group and a response will be issued ahead of the deadline.

3) Any other Urgent Planning items: An extended deadline has been agreed for the application at Beachams Farm. The heritage team were being chased for their response and in the history of this site it can be noted that the heritage team had changed their stance, however, the reasons are unclear. A resident from Cock Street is concerned about the extent of wooden poles being erected on rural fields.