

MINUTES of the MEETING of LEAVENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL held on Wednesday 3rd November 2021 at 7.30 p.m. at Leavenheath Village Hall and by Video Conferencing.

PRESENT: P Mortlock (Chairman), C Morgan, R Bellenie, D Kingham, T Smith, D Hattrell (Clerk) J Finch (County Cllr) and L Parker (District Cllr) attended in person and R Cowell, Y Roder and 2 members of the public attended by Video link.

PUBLIC FORUM: A resident asked for R Bellenie to explain her comments about the Hare and Hounds application at the last meeting. R Bellenie explained that the Planning Policies have a wide interpretation and in some instances the policies this Parish Council has used to support an application, have been interpreted differently by the Planning Authority to refuse an application. The resident thanked R Bellenie for explaining.

APOLOGIES: were received from N Taylor and S Whitelaw. R Cowell gave apologies for medical reasons for his on-going inability to attend Parish Council meetings in person. Members all accepted this explanation. Y Roder sent apologies, however, attended the meeting via video link *Y Roder requested after the meeting for her on-going apologies on medical grounds to be considered at a future meeting.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: Nothing was declared by those at the meeting in person.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 6TH OCTOBER 2021: These were accepted as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: R Cowell had raised at the previous meeting whether the Village Hall has a suitable ventilation strategy where the risk of infection from Covid-19 is high. This was being followed up. The Clerk reminded that the hirers may be required to have their own Covid Risk Minimisation Strategy as the Parish Council has. Members discussed how we could improve even further the safety at our meetings. It was agreed for all to take lateral flow tests on the day of the meeting and not to attend with a positive result. Masks are to be worn in the absence of an exemption and even when seated if a suitable distance cannot be maintained from others not from your household. The opening of doors and windows will maintain ventilation and members should dress warmly.

UPDATES FROM COMMUNITY, ORGANISATIONS AND WARDENS ON URGENT MATTERS DURING THE RESTRICTIONS BY COVID 19:

Reports were provided from the Village Hall, Footpath Warden, Tree Warden, Village Green, Community Woodland and from the Police Website.

Village Hall Report

The hall is back to full capacity including monthly First Sunday, Evening Praise, Saturday Coffee Morning and Village Tea. They continue to maintain their cleaning schedules and all hirers are asked to follow our strict guidelines for safety.

They welcome two new committee members John Garrett and Greg Deeks and look forward to working with them. The Digital Cinema has been well supported and thanks go to the volunteers who have come forward to help with this. Congratulations to Nicky Weston Plumb (Ladybirds) and her family on the safe arrival of their daughter. Emma Appleby is kindly representing Nicky on the committee on behalf of Ladybirds.

Tree Warden's Report

T Smith, the Tree Warden reported that it had been another quiet month on the Tree Warden front with a couple of visits to look at trees that require pruning, as well as reassuring a resident that trees affected by a recent planning application were not be cut down. With the seed collecting season now upon us, the Tree Warden provided some statements about trees:-

10 Things You Didn't Know About Trees

1. There are more than 3 trillion trees on earth – that's 422 times as many trees as people! But at the beginning of human civilisation there were 6 trillion. We've destroyed around half the planet's trees by clearing land for agriculture, urban development and more.
2. Trees have only been growing for 10% of our earth's history. The earth is 4.5 billion years old, but larger plants didn't appear until 420 million years ago and it took even longer for trees more than 3 feet tall to evolve.
3. Trees can 'talk' to each other and even share nutrients through the wood wide web, using special fungi on their roots called mycorrhiza. Trees in forests are connected in giants webs that allow them to communicate and share vital resources like water and even carbon.
4. There are around 60,000 species of trees in the world – and about 300 are critically endangered. More than half of all tree species only exist in a single country too, so it's vital that we protect them from threats like deforestation and disease.
5. A tree's leaves aren't naturally always green. A chemical called chlorophyll makes them green and during the autumn, less sunlight means less chlorophyll is produced. That's why leaves turn red, yellow, orange and even purple during the colder months.
6. Trees release chemicals called phytoncides and research has shown that when we breathe them in it can reduce blood pressure, lower anxiety and even increase our pain threshold. Trees can make us happier, more relaxed and more creative.
7. As many as 5 billion trees are cut down every year for agriculture and some estimates put this figure as high as 15 billion. We need every tree we have for the sake of ours and our planet's future.
8. A recent survey found that only 1% of families in Britain could identify our most common trees. Time to brush up on your identification skills?
9. 2% of the UK's land is covered by 'ancient woodland,' meaning woodland that has existed since the 1600s in England and Wales (and since the 1750s in Scotland).
10. The UK's oldest tree is thought to be a yew in Scotland, which is estimated to be an incredible 3,000 years old.

Footpath Warden's Report

T Smith, the Footpath Warden, reported that two major issues were raised this month and both are under investigation, one concerning damage caused by push bikes and another concerning flooding in Harrow Street, both these issues have just been received and further details and solutions to the problems are to be provided next month. He also had a call with Sophia Farrington the SCC Highways regarding the builder's materials and container being situated in front gardens in the village, unfortunately this does not come under her remit and he reported that there is little we can actually do. It was agreed for District Cllr L Parker to consider from a planning point of view and report back.

Police Report

Two crimes were reported in September in the Leavenheath area.

1 x Vehicle crime (Includes theft from or of a vehicle or interference with a vehicle)

On or near the A134 close to Plough Lane

Investigation complete, no suspect identified.

1 x Violence and sexual offences (Includes offences against the person such as common assaults, Grievous Bodily Harm and sexual offences)

On or near Rowans Way

Under investigation

Village Green Report

The Chairman, P Mortlock, reported that a fence at the Village Green is in need of maintenance. It was agreed for options including hedging to be considered between meetings.

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT: District Cllr L Parker attended in person. He reported that the land supply figures for the District have come in at 6.8 years, this enables the Local Plan Policies to be effective and doesn't leave us vulnerable to speculative development. The Joint Local Plan (JLP) has been delayed as further evidence is required. D Kingham asked whether this was an opportunity to make any amendments. D Kingham has previously reported on the lack of an Infrastructure Policy which may assist with the consideration of the Pylons. L Parker agreed to investigate. L Parker explained about the CIL funds. Trees for Life are being provided for new parents. There is an i-pad lending scheme at local libraries. L Parker was asked about the Good Neighbourhood Scheme funding and whether community transport could be considered. L Parker agreed to investigate.

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT: County Cllr J Finch attended later into the meeting in person and his report covered that extra Covid 19 support is being provided to Suffolk including: -
- extra opening hours for Vaccinations and a pop up clinic
- help to coordinate door knocking campaigns
- help to reduce transmission in schools

It comes as pressure on our hospitals is reaching critical levels and we have some of the highest rates of infection in the Country.

Suffolk is asking for further financial support from central government to improve bus services. A review of the Lorry Route Plan in Suffolk is being undertaken. Following the review a new interactive Lorry Route Map will be published. MP's from Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex unite to protect the countryside and communities from the worst impacts of new pylons and cables.

Virtual Fostering and Adoption Sessions continue. The bus stop potential safety issue was discussed with J Finch. J Finch confirmed the temporary stop on the A134 had been assessed as safe ahead of it being used. He has also observed people making use of the stop. The Parish Council felt they have reported it to the County Council and also the Bus Company, so apart from supporting the resident to take it further, the solution was not within the power of the Parish Council. Locally some volunteers from the community response to Covid-19 are happy to assist vulnerable residents where required.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING UPDATE: D Kingham reported that the Consultation has now closed and the responses are being discussed ahead of submission to Babergh District Council.

CORRESPONDENCE: On-going correspondence was noted by the meeting. A resident had enquired with the Parish Council of views if he replaced his wall in disrepair with a fence on

Eglantine Way. Babergh District Council planning already have No Objections. The Parish Council agreed they also have No Objections - **Action Clerk to advise resident.**

URGENT HIGHWAYS SAFETY MATTERS: The issue raised about the temporary bus stop location had been taken up with J Finch and the Bus Company between meetings. The Parish Council was supportive of assisting the resident as much as they can, however, did not have the power to solve the issue. The temporary bus stop arose from the safety policy at Chambers Buses not allowing double decker buses to be reversed at a junction with passengers aboard, otherwise the much more suitable location of the High Road could be used. In the report from J Finch, further investment is being sought to assist the rural bus provision. Concerned residents could also lobby their MP for further action or take steps to raise awareness. The Parish Council will give their full support to residents wanting to take this matter further.

FINANCE: The Bank Balances as at 1st November 2021 are £54033.07 in the Community Account and £15509.42 in the Rate Reward Account making a total of £69542.49.

The following pre-agreed payments were made: -

Cheque No.	Amount	Payee	Details
<u>As at 1st November</u>			
Funds Transfer	737.14	Clerk/HMRC/SCC	Staffing costs
Funds Transfer	277.20	Tree & Lawn Co Ltd	V/Green
Funds Transfer	12.00	Leavenheath V/Hall	Hall hire
Funds Transfer	20.00	The Stevenson Centre	Hall hire

The Risk Assessment Policy updated and circulated by R Cowell was reviewed and duly approved. The Asset Register again updated and circulated by R Cowell was also reviewed and approved. The Village Green Risk Assessment should be provided to R Cowell in accordance with that item on the Parish Council Policy. T Smith is inspecting all the Parish Council Assets and will report his findings. This can also feed into the budget considerations.

MAINTENANCE OF VILLAGE ASSETS: T Smith reported that further work has been undertaken this month by both the Chairman and himself removing ivy from the fence on the Village Green. They are now waiting for some dry weather to apply the wood preserver. R Cowell has kindly sent a list of assets requiring some work and these are to be addressed this month. T Smith now has a list of all the village assets, again provided by R Cowell and these are to be inspected and maintained on a quarterly basis. Outstanding tasks are listed below:
The Hidden bench needs taking apart and re-building.
The Leavenheath Village Sign (Re-varnish required)

REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS : T Smith chaired the SALC Babergh Area Forum on the 2nd November, and the main actions to be undertaken were:-
- to contact Suffolk Constabulary about speeding topic based forum for 2022 – and to ask Suffolk Highways to be included and to provide an update on ANPR pilot as a number of parishes have signed up to this.
- to circulate the results so far of the feedback survey on accessibility issues for the Babergh/Mid Suffolk website. With a request for volunteers in the New Year to work with SALC to look at the detail and drill into some of the trends – noting that the majority think the site works well. It is hoped this work will come up with some suggestions that can be passed onto Babergh/Mid

Suffolk. SALC to find out whom to liaise with regarding this work and feedback to come in the New Year.

- to invite Babergh/Mid Suffolk to attend the forum to provide an explanation on what happens next following issues at the examination stage of the joint local plan.

T Smith reported that Community Speed Watch in the Village is being delayed as some volunteers have withdrawn. R Bellenie still has to establish from Babergh Planning the situation regarding speed activated signs brought about due to the Lion Plans. It was agreed to include - **Cycle Path Provision as an Agenda item for next February - Action Clerk.**

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

Planning Meeting on 3rd November 2021

The following Decisions were confirmed by the Planning Authority: -

- A) Planning Permission was granted for replacing boundary wall with composite fence at 4 The Green, Leavenheath - **DC/21/04102**.
- B) An amendment to the roof design at 27 Bramble Way was approved - **DC/21/04907**.
- C) Conditions in relation to Construction Management Plan were approved at Plough House, Plough Lane - **DC/21/05151**.
- D) The Tree Preservation Order application to cut back 3 oaks to previous pruning points was approved at 5 Blackthorn Way - **DC/21/05231**.
- F) Planning Permission was granted for 4 bay carport outbuildings and outdoor kitchen at Plough House, Plough Lane - **DC/21/04975**.

The following applications and planning matters were discussed: -

- 1) Application for protected oak trees at 5 Blackthorn Way - **DC/21/05231**. This was considered between meetings to comply with the deadline.

The Parish Council had **No Objections** to prune back **to previous pruning points**.

- 2) Application for an annex and cart lodge at Holly Cottage, 5 Cock Street - **DC/21/05160**. This was considered between meetings to comply with the deadline.

The Parish Council had **No Objections**.

- 3) Hare and Hounds - detached self contained annex with community village shop following demolition of listed outbuilding - **DC/21/05720**.

This application is being considered by our Planning Group between meetings. The last application was withdrawn and this one incorporates a community shop as a benefit to the Village. A further report will be issued at next meeting.

- 4) Appeal for extension, garden room, loft conversion, reinstatement of chimney and new vehicular access at Vincents Farm, Harrow Street - **DC/21/02511**.

No action in this respect is proposed by the Planning Group as the Parish Council maintains its previous position.

- 5) **Any other Urgent Planning items:** The proposed community shop at the Hare and Hounds application was referred to as an area identified in the draft Neighbourhood Plan. Due to a

declared interest, the recently received tree application will be passed to the remainder of the Planning Group and our Tree Warden. D Kingham and R Bellenie will not be commenting.