

**MINUTES of the MEETING of LEAVENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL** held on Wednesday 6th October 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, N Taylor, D Hattrell (Clerk) J Finch (County Cllr) and R Cowell, Y Roder, L Parker (District Cllr) and 1 member of the public attended by Video link.

**PUBLIC FORUM:** A resident asked whether all comments to the draft Neighbourhood Plan get submitted to Babergh District Council. D Kingham confirmed that they do.

**APOLOGIES:** were received from S Whitelaw, R Cowell and Y Roder.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 1ST SEPTEMBER 2021:** These were accepted as a true record.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:** R Cowell thanked T Smith for all his hard work for the Village. J Finch then took the opportunity to thank R Cowell for many years of service to the Village.

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

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

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

T Smith reported that it has been another quiet month on the Tree Warden front with a couple of visits to look at trees that require pruning and another that had a TPO assigned to the tree. Pete Irving kindly undertook the work on the large cherry tree over hanging the High Road, reported by a resident. Work on the trees on the Village Green will be undertaken this month.

The big project looming next year is The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC). The QGC is a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 which invites people from across the United Kingdom to "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee." With a focus on planting sustainably, the QGC will encourage planting of trees to create a legacy in honour of The Queen's leadership of the nation, which will benefit future generations. As well as inviting the planting of new trees, The Queen's Green Canopy will dedicate 70 ancient woodlands across the United Kingdom and identify 70 ancient trees to celebrate Her Majesty's 70 years of service. Further details are to be shared over the coming months.

##### **Footpath Warden's Report**

T Smith confirmed he has now taken on the role of Footpath Warden for the village and had a hand over meeting with Peter Pratt (the previous Warden) last month, collecting all the relevant paperwork, marker posts and way mark discs. He also had a call with Sophia Farrington the SCC Highways Enforcement Officer regarding some footpaths in the village that are being overrun by hedgerows and brambles, a site visit was also planned for this month. It should be noted that a tree fell over FP13 at the northern end. It has now been cut and cleared away. On FP9 at the A134

end the access has been cleared. The northern end of FP5 from Plough Lane to the golf course fairway is badly blocked again. We now need to ask the landowner to clear their path.

### **Village Green Report**

The Chairman reported on the first Village Green meeting for some time and they now have various matters on-going which will be reported on at future Parish Council Meetings.

**BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT:** District Cllr L Parker joined the meeting via Video link. He let T Smith know not to hesitate to get in touch regarding District Council matters. He reported on a busy month at the District Council. At their meeting a Well Being Strategy to assist residents was discussed. They have Innovation support for business with a grant scheme aimed at small businesses. They are the first rural UK Council to switch their fleet to run on hydro-treated vegetable oil. Work is underway at the solar car ports at Kingfisher Leisure. The examination of the Joint Local Plan has taken place. The District Council is streamlining Neighbourhood Planning procedures. CCTV is being upgraded for Sudbury and Hadleigh via CIL funding. The new parking strategy consultation comments are being considered. It was resolved further evidence was needed to consider uplifting the pay of the senior leadership officers.

**SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT:** County Cllr J Finch attended the meeting in person and his report covered the continuation of the upturn of Covid infections, however, death figures are very low due to the vaccinations success. Booster covid and flu jabs are starting. He again urged regular rapid flow tests. Wide scale improvements are planned to the Suffolk's Special Educational Need and Disability services following the review by experts from Lincolnshire. The Hold, a new archive and heritage centre on Ipswich's Waterfront was officially opened by HRH The Duke of Gloucester. A new online booking system has been developed to book slots for recycling. He is giving high priority to flooding issues and an action required in Leavenheath is to get relevant landowners together. Virtual Fostering and Adoption Sessions continue.

**NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING UPDATE:** D Kingham reported that the Consultation is open. The event at the Village Hall took place and all responses from the Consultation will be considered prior to the next stage of submitting to Babergh District Council.

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

**URGENT HIGHWAYS SAFETY MATTERS:** An incident was reported of a lady being swept off her feet on the narrow pavement along the A134 by the draft caused from a lorry. This was reported to J Finch between meetings and he reported that the County Council officers are investigating the scraping of the pavement surface to widen the pavement surface for walkers. L Parker offered to assist J Finch where cross-over exists between both Councils.

**FINANCE:** The Bank Balances as at 1st October 2021 are £48665.37 in the Community Account and £15509.29 in the Rate Reward Account making a total of £64174.66.

The following pre-agreed payments were made: -

<b>Cheque No.</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b><u>As at 1st October</u></b>			
Funds Transfer	495.00	Stoke by Nayland Club	V Green cuts
Funds Transfer	737.14	Clerk/HMRC/SCC	Staffing costs
Funds Transfer	542.40	Spingold Design	N/Plan Printing
Funds Transfer	277.20	Tree & Lawn Co	V Green maintenance
Funds Transfer	68.00	Leavenheath V Hall	N/Plan Hall Hire
Funds Transfer	26.00	Leavenheath V Hall	Hall Hire

The External Audit Report was received with all matters approved.

R Bellenie presented details of potential uses of CIL monies which need to be spent within 5 years. If not, Babergh Council takes back the funds and works with the Parish to allocate the funding. Various links were provided to help increase the understanding of how the funds can be used. Members took the opportunity to thank R Bellenie for a very informative talk.

### **Annual Review of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations**

The proposed amendments to the wording of both the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations circulated ahead of the meeting were approved and members agreed the amended documents reflect our current needs.

**MAINTENANCE OF VILLAGE ASSETS:** T Smith reported that despite a spell of self isolating due to Covid 19 and the weather, several outstanding tasks have been undertaken this month:-

- All the ivy, covering the fence on the Village Green, has now been cleared and wood preserver will be applied in dry weather.
- The Notice Board on the High Road has had a coat of Weathershield paint.
- The Sylvia Attwood Bench on the Village Green has had a coat of oil, and the small sign on the village green has a flip top and has been re-painted.
- The hedgerow encroaching on the footpath along the High Road was kindly trimmed back by Pete Irving at no cost the Parish Council

The other 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 reported that the application forms for Community Speed Watch have now been sent out to all the volunteers and once returned, these were to be forwarded to the Suffolk Constabulary to enable those volunteers to commence the relevant training. N Taylor repeated his previous request to have the Village Hall put on the Asset Register and asked for this request to be recorded in the Minutes. He stressed in strong terms that any matter relating to the Village Hall land and structures should be referred to the Parish Council as landlords. The Chairman and others were not clear that this had been established and the Village Hall Management Committee, who are a registered Charity, have been managing matters very effectively over the years. N Taylor stated that he was supportive of the work of the Village Hall Management Committee, however, was concerned to retain the Village Hall as an asset for the Village. This matter will form a future Agenda item following

some further investigation - **Action Clerk and Chairman.** \*\*Since the meeting the Clerk has re-  
sent a summary of legal documents we hold and N Taylor has provided an account from his  
recollection after he joined the Parish Council in 1989. It was noted the Risk Management Policy  
and Asset Register will be on the Agenda for review at the November Meeting. T Smith agreed to  
start the Annual Inspection of Village Assets. R Cowell raised points in relation to the Village Hall  
Ventilation Strategy and potential improvements to the cycling network in the Village.

The meeting closed at **9.38 p.m.**

## **Planning Meeting on 6th October 2021**

**The following Decisions were confirmed by the Planning Authority: -**

Planning Permission was granted for single storey front extension at 45 High Road - **DC/21/04131**.

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

1) Application for boundary wall and fence at 4 The Green - **DC/21/04102**.

The Parish Council had **No Objections** between meetings.

2) Application for carport/outbuilding at Plough House, Plough Lane - **DC/21/04975**.

The Parish Council had **No Objections** between meetings.

3) Protected Tree application at 5 Blackthorn Way - **DC/21/05231**.

The Parish Council had **No Objections**.

4) Application for annex and cart lodge at Holly Cottage, 5 Cock Street - **DC/21/05160**.

This application was being considered by the Planning Group.

5) **Consider the Any other Urgent Planning items:** J Finch reported that the pylons continue to be challenged by the County Council, MP's and local councils in relation to their cumulative impact and it being unreasonable to deal with this route in isolation from other proposals in the general area. They are also arguing for undergrounding not only in the AONB but within sight of the AONB. So far the Consultation has been deferred until next year.