

MINUTES of the MEETING of LEAVENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL held on Wednesday 1st September 2021 at 7.30 p.m. at Leavenheath Village Hall and by Video Conferencing.

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

PUBLIC FORUM: Luca Riccio attended from County Broadband to give a short presentation of what his Company were doing in the area. They are a private company with substantial investment into upgrading copper cables to fibre from cabinet to the home which they stated brings better and more reliable internet. Provided there is sufficient demand in the Village, they can provide fibre to certain parts of the village and they use the existing Open Reach network to save disruption. The existing copper cables will not be disturbed, so future options remain for home owners. Home owners can express an interest even if they are tied into an existing contract. Free connections will be offered to Community Buildings and Luca confirmed they are community minded and would like to support community events.

APOLOGIES: were received from C Morgan and N Taylor. Additionally R Cowell and Y Roder gave apologies, however, attended via video link.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 4TH AUGUST 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 Warden, Village Green, Community Woodland and from the Police Website.

Village Hall Report

S Whitelaw gave a report and confirmed it was lovely to welcome back more of their regular hirers this month and to make use of the fantastic Village Hall once again. The committee will meet for their AGM on Monday 6th September.

Their first Film Night is on Saturday 4th September and first Saturday of each month going forwards. Thanks went to all those who have given up their time to help organise this. Broadband is up and running for anyone who wishes to hold meetings/events using this facility.

Tree Warden's Report

T Smith, the Tree Warden, reported that it has been a quiet month on the Tree Warden front with a couple of visits to look at trees that require pruning. He can prune the trees on the Village Green, however, there is a large cherry tree over hanging the High Road, which will require a Tree Surgeon with a hoist to undertake the necessary pruning. It was agreed to obtain a quote in this respect. August is an ideal time to carry out any necessary pruning in our orchards/woods to soft fruit trees like cherries and plums. It's also a great time to be planning our tree planting projects for this year's National Tree Week (27 November to 5 December). To this end funds are available via the Branching Out Community Grants Fund via the Tree Council. The Branching Out Fund

for the 21/22 planting season is now open for applications! This fund aims to get communities and young people involved in tree and hedge planting and care, with grants between £300 and £1,500 available to support a range of tree, orchard and hedgerow planting projects. He has been contacted by a resident concerning the growth of ragwort around the village. Ragwort is poisonous to horses and cattle and damages their livers. Under the Weeds Act 1959, landowners/occupiers must control ragwort within risk areas for grazing or forage production. This means there is a legal obligation to remove ragwort where it's growing on this land or there is a high risk of spread to it. The landowner has a legal obligation to remove and treat their own land and must not allow ragwort to spread onto adjacent land since that landowner could take legal action against the individual for allowing the spread of the weed. In many cases, the landowner will be the local Council or Highways department. These can be contacted and they will always investigate any reports of ragwort and will take the necessary steps to destroy it. However, it is up to YOU to report it in the first place!

Police Report

Five crimes were reported in the Leavenheath area in July.

1 x Theft from the person on or near The Ridings

Investigation complete with no suspect identified.

1 x Violence and sexual offences on or near Oaklands

Under investigation

1 x Burglary near park/open space next to SBN Golf Club

Under investigation

2 x Violence and sexual offences on or near Honey Lane

Both under investigation

S Whitelaw is investigating further with the Community Policing Team as the categorisation is causing concern in the Village.

Village Green Report

There was nothing to report.

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT: District Cllr L Parker attended via video link and confirmed the parking charges in Sudbury were being introduced in the New Year. Wider permit schemes are being considered and he reminded that the revenue from parking charges has to be used for the benefit of the car parks. He outlined the Solar Carport Project at the Sudbury Leisure Centre with Electric Vehicle charging points. A further compost giveaway in Hadleigh was to take place. Further progress is being made in relation to the Chilton Woods development. The Planning Committee has rejected plans for a gas fired peaking plant in Sudbury. All Suffolk Councils have issued a statement regarding the Afghan Refugees. Residents contacted L Parker between meetings to ask for the hedge waste from the Maple way path to be removed by Babergh District Council. This path is the responsibility of the District Council and the residents stepped in after a period of inaction. D Kingham shared information with L Parker regarding High Court precedent considering the cumulative impact of projects in a vicinity.

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT: County Cllr J Finch attended and reported that Covid-19 cases are sadly on the increase again in Suffolk. In the 7 days up to 31st August there were 1782 new cases in Suffolk. He again urged regular Rapid Flow tests. All Councils in Suffolk are committed to the resettlement scheme for Afghan Refugees. In the coming days and weeks, the district, borough and County Council's will continue working with the Government to do what they can to provide assistance to vulnerable refugees. The Government wrote to Councils in July 2021 setting out its ambition to make available to County areas the kind of devolved decision making powers and public funding currently experienced by larger cities and urban areas. This is part of the Governments levelling up Agenda and a White Paper is to follow. Climate change events are planned to share ideas and inspire action. Suffolk's Climate Emergency Plan is to be at net zero by 2030. Virtual Fostering and Adoption sessions continue. J Finch confirmed he is now on the Adoption Panel. He was reminded about and noted the local issues with flooding which he is investigating. There will be a need to get residents together to help resolve the issues.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING UPDATE: D Kingham was pleased to confirm the draft Neighbourhood Plan was at the Consultation stage with sessions at the Village Hall on 24th and 25th September. The Steering Group will consider the responses after consultation. Leaflets were to be circulated and also a link available on the website.

CORRESPONDENCE: On-going correspondence was noted by the meeting. It was agreed for D Kingham to draft a response to our MP in relation to remote meetings as our main points were not addressed in the response.

URGENT HIGHWAYS SAFETY MATTERS: Nothing was raised.

FINANCE: The Bank Balances as at 1st September 2021 are £40852.58 in the Community Account and £15509.16 in the Rate Reward Account making a total of £56361.74.

The following pre-agreed payments were made: -

Cheque No.	Amount	Payee	Details
<u>As at 1st August</u>			
Funds Transfer	728.89	Clerk/HMRC/SCC	Staffing costs
Funds Transfer	408.70	BHIB Ltd	PC Insurance
Funds Transfer	277.20	Tree & Lawn Co Ltd	V Green Maintenance
Funds Transfer	60.90	P Mortlock	Expenses - travel and bolts

The CIL return for year ending 31st March 2021 was approved and signed.

Members took the opportunity to thank the Clerk regarding her preparations for audit and were pleased very few recommendations came out of the very detailed Internal Audit Report. It has been suggested that the quarterly budget reviews should be replaced by a more achievable half yearly frequency in both our Standing Orders and Financial Regulations. It was agreed for S Whitelaw and the Clerk to recommend relevant updates to these documents at our October Meeting - **Action S Whitelaw and Clerk.**

R Bellenie agreed to give a presentation at the October Meeting regarding the potential uses of CIL monies - **Action - R Bellenie.**

MAINTENANCE OF VILLAGE ASSETS:

The one major task undertaken this month was the erection of the new Notice Board in Old Road. The other outstanding tasks are listed below:

- Clean up and removal of the ivy, covering the fence on the Village Green, followed by a coat of wood preserver to finish off.
- The Notice Board on the High Road requires a coat of Weathershield paint.
- The Hidden bench needs taking apart and re-building.
- The Leavenheath Village Sign (Re-varnish required)
- The Sylvia Attwood Bench on the Village Green needs a coat of oil.

Attention turned to the offer of investment from the "Welcome Back Fund Options" that S Whitelaw has been researching. Details have been circulated and members agreed for S Whitelaw to investigate the potential for 2 new dog bins. We have one with a rotten post in the corner of the Village Green and another idea was on Locks Lane - **Action S Whitelaw.**

REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS : T Smith reported about the next steps for our Community Speed Watch (CSW) volunteers including the role of their Co-ordinator, once appointed.

Step 1 • The applications forms should be completed by the co-ordinator and all the volunteers. Once completed these are sent back to CSW electronically or by post. • One volunteer will take on the role of coordinator. The Coordinator is CSW's point of contact when the group is up and running. The Coordinator is expected to have computer access and knowledge of how to attach a word and excel format attachment. Other Coordinator responsibilities include storing the equipment safely, rotas for the team and sending in the speed monitoring session returns. • The application forms will be processed through the vetting checks and once the results are known CSW will contact the coordinator to inform them and move on to the next stage.

Step 2 • The local Community Engagement Officer will, in liaison with the Co-ordinator, carry out risk assessments for the sites the team wish to monitor. • Once we have agreed on the sites, CSW will notify the co-ordinator of the site details and numbers. • The team can monitor 20mph limit (not zones) or 30mph roads only.

Step 3 • CSW will send the coordinator a link for the online training presentation which everyone is expected to watch. • Our volunteer trainers will then ask the coordinator to speak with the other members of the team and come up with dates on which the members could attend the practical training. The training can be held anytime convenient to all if it is in daylight. Training takes place on the roadside and volunteers should be mindful of this with the weather conditions. • The training takes about 1 hour and all the members should stay for the duration so that they are trained fully. • Once the training has been completed the equipment is handed over to the coordinator and the team is free to set its own schedule of monitoring. CSW will then keep in contact with the coordinator from time to time.

T Smith confirmed he has taken on the role of Footpath Officer for the village, and had a hand over meeting with Peter Pratt on the day of our meeting. 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.

T Smith confirmed the SALC Babergh Area Forum was to take place on 9th September and asked for any issues for him to raise as a participating council. He was also to attend the conference on the 13th September regarding the Queens Green Canopy for Suffolk. D Kingham confirmed we

still need an update from the planning officer regarding the Lion application and Speed Activated Signage. R Cowell referred to his email regarding Community Transport and he confirmed he would welcome any feedback. Y Roder shared a residents report of dogs getting ill after drinking from a puddle in Harrow Street.

The meeting closed at **9.15 p.m.**

Planning Meeting on 1st September 2021

The following Decision was confirmed by the Planning Authority: -

Planning Permission was granted for single storey rear extension at Heath Barn, Stoke Road - **DC/21/03764**.

The following applications and planning matters were discussed: -

1) 45 High Road - single storey front extension - **DC/21/04131**.

This application was considered by our Planning Group and a response was issued ahead of the deadline. The Parish Council had **No Objections**.

2) **Consider the Any other Urgent Planning items:** The pylons were discussed and our feedback is up to date on the pre-consultation. The formal application is expected next year. The cumulative impact is being considered as part of our challenge. There was nothing to add from the Alliance Meeting. D Kingham noted there was not a policy in the Joint Local Plan on the subject.