

**MINUTES of the MEETING of LEAVENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL** held on Wednesday 2nd February 2022 at 7.30 p.m. at Leavenheath Village Hall and by Video Conferencing.

**PRESENT:** P Mortlock (Chairman), C Morgan, R Bellenie, D Kingham, Y Roder, N Taylor, S Whitelaw, D Hattrell (Clerk) and 3 members of the public attended in person.

**PUBLIC FORUM:** The residents attending again urged the Parish Council not to approve the Neighbourhood Plan with their land designated as Green Space. They were also concerned that 2 Members of the Parish Council had a conflict of interest. They asked for confirmation that inaccuracies in the Neighbourhood Plan had been removed. D Kingham confirmed that was his understanding, however, he would follow up to make sure.

**APOLOGIES:** R Cowell gave his on-going apologies which have been accepted by the Parish Council. T Smith had apologised for running late, however, was unable to make the meeting. District Cllr L Parker also had sent his apologies.

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST:** Nothing was declared.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 5th JANUARY 2022:** 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, Tree Warden, Village Green, Community Woodland and from the Police Website.

**Village Hall Report**

S Whitelaw reported that the committee were to hold their next monthly meeting on Monday 7th February. Film Night is due to restart with Dream Horse on Saturday 5th March after a temporary halt to allow the virus to subside. Platinum Jubilee celebrations are gathering pace and they thank all those involved for giving up their time. Discussions to improve the hall include additional ventilation, heating upgrade and possible electric vehicle car charging points in the car park. Temporary broadband issues now resolved and they offer this service as part of hiring conditions if required. S Whitelaw asked for views on electric charging points at the Village Hall. The demand isn't anticipated to be great initially, however, grants are available now. Members were supportive of the Village Hall Management Committee proceeding.

**Tree Warden's Report**

T Smith, the Tree Warden, confirmed he has received a few trees this month from people in the village, as well as giving out approximately one hundred to residents, along with stakes and protectors. The tree nursery still has several trees to be given away free at the forthcoming Platinum Jubilee Event. The tree causing a problem in Rowans Way has now been cut back by Pete Irving, who again did this at no cost to the Parish Council. Many thanks go to Pete Irving for his continued support and generosity.

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

There were no significant issues or concerns to report this month. R Cowell questioned about the re-routing of Footpath 9 which was decided at a previous meeting.

### **Police Report**

The following crimes were reported in the Leavenheath area in December 2021

#### On or near Rowans Way

2 x Violence and sexual offences - Both crimes still under investigation

#### On or near The Ridings

2 x Anti-social behaviour - No timeline details

1 x Violence and sexual offences - Under investigation

#### On or near park/open space (SBN Golf Club)

2 x Violence and sexual offences - Both unable to prosecute suspect

1 x Criminal damage and arson - Unable to prosecute suspect

### **Village Green Report**

No report was given.

**BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT:** District Cllr L Parker had sent his apologies and offered to follow up anything brought to his attention between meetings.

**SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT:** County Cllr J Finch reported in advance of an important update received via James Cartlidge MP that a proposed 400 kV pylon line from Norwich to Tilbury is not expected to be an additional 3rd line along the Bramford to Twinstead power line. Regrettably the planned public meeting on the subject was postponed. National Grid have now agreed to 6 face to face events, the first of which was to be at Nayland Village Hall on 25th February. The consultation is due to finish on 21st March. J Finch confirmed he would be attending a video meeting on 11th February with Local Councils. Suffolk County Council are waiving street party road closure fees for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The Suffolk Learning Disability Partnership has co-produced a refresh of the Suffolk Joint Learning Disability Strategy. Covid 19 rates are on the increase again in Suffolk mainly in the younger age groups. Virtual Fostering and Adoption sessions continue. J Finch alerted the meeting of forthcoming road closures in Nayland due to planned drainage works.

**NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING UPDATE:** Consideration was given to the draft Neighbourhood Plan ahead of submission to the District Council. The Chairman out-lined the options this Council has in this respect. These were to approve the draft plan in its entirety, to reject it or to approve with recommendations for changes. Members debated the merits of the plan and how they were individually approaching the issues involved. N Taylor expressed in strong terms that he would not be prepared to support something that could impact on individuals rights with their land. C Morgan felt that the Neighbourhood Plan contained recommendations of how residents want to see the village as a whole and as a marker of how the Village should be developed in the future. Y Roder explained that planning does restrict how property is developed and gave an example of Grade II listed properties. This is in order to ensure development is in keeping with heritage credentials. There was a consensus that the Neighbourhood Plan Group had done a fantastic job to get to this stage. Following discussion a resolution was passed for this Parish Council to support the Neighbourhood Plan in its entirety.

This was carried with 4 votes for the resolution, 1 against and 2 abstentions. D Kingham and R Bellenie didn't feel they had a conflict of interests, however, abstained from voting in case others may interpret their positions differently.

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

**URGENT HIGHWAYS SAFETY MATTERS:** In relation to gateway signs into the Village, it was agreed further investigation was needed. Combining the signs with speed reduction signs had merit. The meeting was closed briefly to allow J Finch to contribute. He stated they would need to be 1 meter from the highway, however, he would need to look up further criteria. Advantages are the look of the signs, however, the need for maintenance should be factored in. Members agreed to the principle of considering these signs subject to cost and practicalities. N Taylor would continue to investigate. On another matter vegetation is encroaching from some properties obstructing walkways, so it was agreed to issue a general reminder to residents - **Action Clerk**.

**FINANCE:** The Bank Balances as at 2nd February 2022 are £48627.90 in the Community Account and £15509.81 in the Rate Reward Account making a total of £64137.71.

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 February</u></b>			
Funds Transfer	757.31	Clerk/HMRC/SCC	Staffing costs
Funds Transfer	150.00	Sudbury & District CAB	Donation/Grant

**MAINTENANCE OF VILLAGE ASSETS:** No work undertaken this month. The two bus shelters are in need of a good spring clean, and it is hoped these will be completed during February. As per last month, one area of concern is the Leavenheath Village sign, although only twenty years old it is showing considerable signs of wear and tear, the majority of tiles at the base, is either rotten, broken or crumbling away. The paint on the actual sign is also in a poor state of repair and needs a jet wash and re-paint, this would need a professional to undertake the work. The wooden post has also split and requires treatment.

**REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS :** The Leavenheath Platinum Jubilee Working Group met twice last month, and it was agreed that any profits from the day be used towards playground refurbishment. It was also confirmed that the Leavenheath Platinum Working Group would be renamed after the invitation given to Parish Councillor Trevor Smith to join the group, a change of name was agreed to **The Leavenheath Parish Council Platinum Jubilee Sub-Committee**. This sub-committee of the Parish Council would be the committee running the event. It was agreed for on-going safety to encourage residents at the public forum to carry out a lateral flow test ahead of attendance. N Taylor advised the Meeting he would like to resign from the Parish Council. The Chairman and Members did not want to accept his resignation and expressed that to him. Discussion was to continue between meetings to try to encourage N Taylor to remain. R Bellenie advised of whether the Parish Council can support voluntary work from a young person doing the Duke of Edinburgh award. R Bellenie will gain more information between meetings. It was agreed to include Cycle paths as an Agenda item for March - **Action Clerk**. It was agreed to trial an earlier start time for Parish Council Meetings at 7.00 p.m and go on until 9.00 p.m - **Action Clerk**.

The meeting closed at **9.30 p.m.**

## **Planning Meeting on 2nd February 2022**

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

A) Planning Permission had been granted for extensions at Elmslea House, Edies Lane - **DC/21/06347**.

B) Planning Permission had been granted for front screen wall to existing vehicular access at Old Well House, Locks Lane - **DC/21/06356**.

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

1) Plough House, Plough Lane - application for carport and outdoor kitchen - **DC/22/00062**

The Parish Council had **No Objections**

2) 18 Oaklands, Leavenheath - two storey side extension including balcony and alterations - **DC/22/00218**

The Parish Council **objected** to the balcony due to the impact on neighbour amenity

3) Plough House, Plough Lane - re-consultation on application to convert stable block and barn into dwellings - **DC/22/00037**. R Bellenie confirmed she is still chasing the Planning Officer for information in respect of this application.

4) Norton Villa, 14 Nayland Road - use of annex outbuilding to form separate dwelling - **DC/21/06178**. R Bellenie confirmed the Planning Group are still investigating this application and will confirm the conclusion to the March Meeting.

5) Hillside, Honey Tye - front porch extension - **DC/22/00363** - This application had recently been received and was being investigated.

6) Any other Urgent Planning items: Nothing was raised.