

MINUTES of the MEETING of LEAVENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL held on Wednesday 5th January 2022 at 7.30 p.m. at Leavenheath Village Hall and by Video Conferencing.

PRESENT: C Morgan (Chaired the Meeting), D Kingham, T Smith, N Taylor, D Hattrell (Clerk) and 3 members of the public attended in person. Unfortunately due to a broadband fault, a hybrid meeting was not possible.

PUBLIC FORUM: A formal request was made for financial support towards the Platinum Jubilee potentially including insurance cover for the event and/or a legacy item to celebrate the occasion which could be a new gate or recycled plastic benches. The other members of the public had attended in relation to the proposed Green Spaces in the draft Neighbourhood Plan. They were concerned with the decisions taken by and lack of engagement from the Steering Group in relation to their land. It was noted that the next step with the Neighbourhood Plan following the Parish Councils consideration was to be submitted to Babergh District Council who would consult again and ultimately the plan will go before the Planning Inspector before coming into effect. Therefore, the residents would have further opportunity to dispute the aspect they were concerned about. D Kingham took the opportunity to explain how matters were considered by the Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group and the advice given by the Planning Consultant instructed. It was noted that due to feedback from the Consultation, the Defra classification error was noted leading to the eastern piece of land included under Local Green Space 6 (to the South of Hunters Lodge) being omitted from the final version. It was agreed to write to the residents confirming this - **Action D Kingham and Clerk.** In relation to consideration of the draft Neighbourhood Plan it was agreed to have a Zoom Working Party Meeting to consider in detail all the papers. The residents will send further documentation they would like the Parish Council to consider. Following the Zoom Working Party Meeting, the Parish Council will consider at their scheduled meeting or an Extraordinary Meeting held for this purpose.

APOLOGIES: R Cowell gave his on-going apologies which have been accepted by the Parish Council. Apologies were also given from the following members P Mortlock (Chairman), R Bellenie, Y Roder and S Whitelaw.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: Nothing was declared.

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

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: N Taylor asked for the Parish Council to consider whether it would be appropriate to delay the report to LSPN of Parish Council Meetings until a month later when the Meeting Minutes had been approved. This is a task the Parish Council has asked the Clerk to undertake upon their behalf. The Clerk explained that whilst there are benefits with this more cautious approach, the principles of transparency are served well by the current procedure in getting the information out to residents at the earliest opportunity. However, the Clerk is to continue as previously instructed until such time as the Parish Council votes to change our approach. On another matter, T Smith agreed to liaise with J Finch in relation to the flooding meeting to be arranged.

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 January meeting via Zoom. They thank all their regular hirers for support over the last year and they continue to follow government guidelines on numbers and cleaning going forwards. Thanks also go to all the volunteers who organise the Film Nights. They unfortunately decided to cancel the January film night as a precautionary measure. The initial survey to assess the suitability of the Village Hall and car park to install an Electric Vehicle charging point was being carried out. This is part of the Plug in Suffolk Community Grant Project.

Tree Warden's Report

T Smith reported on another quiet month on the Tree Warden front with the only concern being a tree on the public footpath which is overhanging some properties at the rear of Rowans Way. He has looked at the tree which requires a professional to undertake the work. It was agreed for T Smith to contact a local tree surgeon in this respect - **Action T Smith**.

Footpath Warden's Report

T Smith reported that the major issue this month has been our response to the recently received application to divert one of our footpaths. It concerns Footpath No 9. At present FP9 is a useful link to BR7 that moves into Cock Street. It appears that the landowner wants divert it to join FP8 which is going in the wrong direction. It would initially appear that the diversion would be more beneficial to the public, if it followed the existing red permissive path to point 7 at Cock Street. This would give walkers permanent easy access to Plough Lane.

He visited the proposed route with the previous Footpath Warden earlier in the month and can confirm they have no objections to the proposal, however we would like the following noted.

- a) The new footpath should be a minimum of three metres in width in similar vein to one being replaced.
- b) There is a concern where the new footpath passes through a vale that some form of flood prevention should be considered. Although there was no sign that this was a problem as we surveyed the site following some very wet days, and there was no sign of any excess water on the proposed route.

The box of Discover Suffolk – Leavenheath Walks leaflets received last month were placed in the January edition of the LSPN and have been delivered. It was agreed for the Clerk to respond to Suffolk County Council regarding the Footpath Diversion - **Action Clerk**.

Police Report

Crimes reported in Leavenheath in November 2021:-

Criminal damage and arson - On or near Honey Lane - Unable to prosecute suspect.

Criminal damage and arson + Public Order - On or near Rowans Way - Both cases under investigation.

3 x Public Order - On or near The Ridings - Two cases under investigation, the other no suspect identified.

2 x Anti-Social behaviour - On or near The Ridings - no further details

2 x Violence and sexual offences - On or near The Ridings - One under investigation, the other unable to prosecute suspect.

Village Green Report

No report was given.

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT: District Cllr L Parker was unable to attend and no report was provided.

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT: County Cllr J Finch reported in advance that in relation to Covid 19, in Suffolk the number of cases have trebled since mid December. He reminded about taking lateral flow tests as there is significant transmission locally with 200 cases in Sudbury in the 7 days ending on 29th December. He thanked the volunteers who continue to help with vaccinations and urged everyone to get their Booster Vaccination. The Statutory Consultation for Bramford to Twinstead pylon reinforcement will run from 25th January 2022 to 7th March 2022. He was planning a public meeting for mid February on the subject. The County Council has out-lined how it plans to spend money on public services in 2022/23. Children's and Adult Care Services is at the heart of the County Council new budget. The County Council has launched its first ever dedicated campaign about social care. The aim is to increase understanding and to promote this sector. Virtual Fostering and Adoption Sessions continue.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING UPDATE: This matter was discussed during the Public Forum and it was agreed to have a Parish Council Working Party Zoom Meeting following the documentation the residents would like the Parish Council to consider. The final version of the Neighbourhood Plan will again be on the Agenda for an Ordinary or Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held in public. The comments made by the same residents at the December Parish Council Meeting had been investigated between meetings.

CORRESPONDENCE: On-going correspondence was noted by the meeting. N Taylor reminded about correspondence from a resident in Rowans Way. It was agreed for N Taylor to investigate the parking issues between meetings to establish whether polite notices on cars would be the best approach as with a previous location - **Action N Taylor.**

URGENT HIGHWAYS SAFETY MATTERS: There was nothing to report.

FINANCE: The Bank Balances as at 5th January 2021 are £49714.99 in the Community Account and £15509.69 in the Rate Reward Account making a total of £65224.68

The following pre-agreed payments were made: -

Cheque No.	Amount	Payee	Details
As at 5th January			
Funds Transfer	728.89	Clerk/HMRC/SCC	Staffing costs
Funds Transfer	319.20	Bowman & Son	Village Green hedge
Funds Transfer	39.00	Leavenheath Village H	Hall hire

Attention then turned to the recommendations from Finance Committee to members regarding budget and precept for 2022/23. The recommendations were approved and a Precept for **2022/23 of £19461** which is a **standstill** amount for residents was agreed. This was proposed by D Kingham, seconded by T Smith and unanimously carried. The form was duly completed and signed.

MAINTENANCE OF VILLAGE ASSETS: T Smith reported that no work was undertaken over the past month. The two bus shelters are in need of a good spring clean, and it is hoped these will be completed soon. As per last month, one area of concern is the Leavenheath Village sign, although only 20 years old it 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. N Taylor raised again the Village Hall as a Village Asset. This was duly noted and following investigation will form an Agenda item at a future Parish Council Meeting as previously agreed. It was agreed to include "Welcome to the Village Highways Signs" as gateways into the Village as an Agenda item for the February Parish Council Meeting - **Action Clerk.**

REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS : T Smith reported that following last month's Parish Council Meeting, he met the group planning the Platinum Jubilee event. He has also joined the WhatsApp group, the following is a brief of what has been completed to date for your information and the next steps :-

- Magician for 2 hours during the day 2:00pm to 4:00pm £245
- DJ called "Chocks Away" playing 40's 50's 60's music throughout the day as required from about 11:00am £100 Special rate agreed
- A number of craft stalls have agreed (around 5 so far)
- Sponsorship - local companies are being approached and those who sponsored the last Jubilee in 2012.
- The Choir from Assington "Happy Sounds" will have a slot during the afternoon
- Nettie Osman from Assington is the organiser we will have to agree a time slot. All she needs is power from the cricket pavilion.
- The Cricket pavilion (Cricket Club) have agreed we can use it as a base for power
- The village hall will be open all day for toilets.
- Karate are being contacted to do a demonstration
- Races for young children are being organised

- Panther Security have agreed to sponsor the Jubilee medals to the value of £100
- The Hare & Hounds Pub has agreed to supply a Keg of beer and plastic glasses for the day.
- A Football Game is being organised
- A Jubilee Quiz has been organised for the 12th February, recently advertised in the LSPN to raise funds for the June event, as well as the Photographic Completion from now till May 22nd in conjunction with "2 Old Blokes with Cameras" there is £100 in prizes.

The next meeting of the planning group is 10th Feb 2022 in the Village Hall Committee Room at 7:30 pm.

It was noted a new dog bin and litter picking equipment has been received from Babergh District Council. D Kingham explained the setbacks with the District Council Local Plan and whilst it doesn't directly relate to Leavenheath, certain principles that the District Council proposed as 3 hamlets at Harrow Street, the High Road and Honey Tye as opposed to the current hinterland village. The delay may mean our Village Neighbourhood Plan goes ahead first. D Kingham also confirmed we have no response to the remote voting question to our Local MP. It was agreed for D Kingham to draft a further challenge - **Action D Kingham**.

The meeting closed at **9.00 p.m.**

Planning Meeting on 5th January 2022

The following Decisions were confirmed by the Planning Authority: -

- A) Planning Permission had been granted for extensions following demolition of garage at Spring View, Cock Street, Leavenheath - **DC/21/05949**.
- B) Non material amendment to roof colour had been approved at the Site of The Lion, Honey Tye - **DC/21/06366**.
- C) Non material amendment to rear window aperture size to plot 4 has been approved at the Site of The Lion, Honey Tye - **DC/21/06184**.
- D) Planning Permission and Listed Building Consent has been granted for two storey detached dwelling and community village shop at Hare and Hounds, Harrow Street - **DC/21/05720/21**.
- E) Planning Permission was granted to convert stables into events facility at Leaven Hall, Nayland Road - **DC/21/05758**.

The following applications and planning matters were discussed: -

- 1) Norton Villa, 14 Nayland Road - **DC/21/06178**. An extension of time to consider this was agreed to 10th January, however, the further information was still awaited. R Bellenie had agreed to enquire again with the Planning Officer.
- 2) Elmslea House, Edies Lane - **DC/21/06347**. Householder Application - Erection of single storey side and rear extensions. The Parish Council had **No Objections**.
- 3) Old Well House, Locks Lane - **DC/21/06356**. Erection of new front screen wall to existing vehicular access. The Parish Council had **No Objections**.
- 4) 14 Heathlands - **DC/21/06772**. Householder Application for rear extensions, render and replacement porch. The Parish Council had **No Objections**.
- 5) Belynna Cottage Appeal - this was mentioned at a previous meeting and it can be noted the Parish Council had nothing to add to previous comments.
- 6) Any other Urgent Planning items: It was noted J Finch was arranging a Pylons Meeting for mid February (date to be confirmed).