

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

PRESENT: P Mortlock (Chairman), C Morgan, R Bellenie, R Cowell, D Kingham, T Smith, S Whitelaw, D Hattrell (Clerk), L Parker (District Cllr) and 4 members of the public attended in person.

PUBLIC FORUM: Some questions had been submitted in advance in relation to the Neighbourhood Plan. D Kingham answered the questions regarding the submission of the draft Neighbourhood Plan and the Community Consultation to date. He confirmed all objections will be passed to the examiner in their entirety. A resident then discussed the application for 2 dwellings on land adjacent to Plough Lane. She outlined issues, observations and queries and confirmed she will be responding directly to Babergh District Council Planning. R Bellenie noted the points made and thanked her for sharing this information.

APOLOGIES: Y Roder had given her apologies and County Cllr J Finch had sent his apologies.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: Nothing was declared.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 2ND FEBRUARY 2022: These were accepted as a true record with a minor amendment in the reporting of the name change of the now Leavenheath Parish Council Platinum Jubilee Sub-Committee formerly The Leavenheath Platinum Jubilee Working Group. A new draft of the Minutes was sent to members ahead of the meeting.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: N Taylor did not re-consider his decision to resign from the Parish Council, so his resignation was reluctantly accepted. The procedures regarding the Vacancy will now be followed after reporting to Babergh District Council - **Action Clerk.** R Cowell clarified his point about a Footpath diversion to Footpath 9, which was not the one previously mentioned. He will follow up with T Smith, the Footpath Warden.

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 remains pretty much fully booked with regular hirers and the Committee are unfortunately unable to accommodate all new requests especially for evening bookings. Strict cleaning routines are still being maintained to keep everyone as safe as possible. Half Term has been time well used to update kitchen lighting and very importantly a new external light has been installed over the defibrillator unit on the external wall of the hall. Replacement extractor fans are being investigated to improve air quality in the hall, particularly for larger gatherings such as Film Nights. Quotes are being obtained to update the heating system and Babergh have given guidance in this matter. The hall unfortunately lost the electricity supply during Storm Eunice along with many other residents of Leavenheath. Thankfully it was restored faster than other local areas. The committee were to meet on Monday 7th March.

Tree Warden's Report A number of trees have been damaged and fallen, in and around the village, as a result of Storm Eunice. However, the chairman and T Smith, Tree Warden, spent a day clearing trees and dead branches from Kingsland Lane and Harrow Street. There is a large tree leaning over in Kingsland Lane, this will need a professional to remove and T Smith offered to speak to Pete Irving, Tree Surgeon, following approval from the council. Approval was given accordingly. The tree nursery still has several trees which are to be given away free at the forthcoming Platinum Jubilee Event.

Footpath Warden's Report Some major damage occurred to several of the footpaths, in the village, as a result of Storm Eunice. FP18 had two marker post blown over, these have now been repaired and replaced. FP3 had a fence blown down and a tree blocking the route, this too has now been cleared and repaired. FP12 is constantly under water and Pete Irving has kindly agreed to drop a load of wood chipping to soak up the water. A large cherry tree also fell blocking FP12/13, however, this was kindly cleared by Peter Pratt.

Police Report

The Police website has not been updated for crimes reported in January 2022. The Latest reports were from December 2021 which were reported at last meeting.

Village Green Report

No report was given.

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT: District Cllr L Parker attended and confirmed the good news that Assington and Newton have just had their Neighbourhood Plans passed by Referendum. There will be an increase of 2% for the District Council proportion of the Council Tax. They were able to deliver a healthy balanced budget helped by the new homes bonus. The Suffolk Devolution deal is evolving which could be good news in the long run. Digital skills assistance is being offered to businesses and empty homes loans are available to bring long term empty homes back into use. After 7 years, L Parker, has come off the Planning Committee and will join Licensing.

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT: J Finch (County Cllr) had sent apologies, however, his report was circulated ahead. The report gave the dates of the remaining public exhibitions on Bramford to Twinstead National Grid Reinforcement. He recommended the following headings were addressed: -

- * proposed route of the new 400kV electricity line
- * extent of undergrounding and overgrounding of the new 400kV electricity line
- * location and form of cable sealing end compounds
- * removal of the existing 132kV overhead electricity line
- * location and form of a new Grid Supply Point Substation at Butlers Wood
- * construction methodology

- * likely environmental effects arising from the project
- * potential environmental mitigation identified to reduce likely significant effects
- * preliminary locations for biodiversity net gain and/or wider environmental gains

He was to circulate the draft response from Suffolk County Council and reminded the deadline for submissions was 21st March.

Suffolk County Council and East Suffolk Council have welcomed renewed effort announced by the Department of Business Energy and Industrial Strategy to try to ensure Suffolk Communities benefit from coordinated connections of Offshore wind before 2030. Suffolk was successfully chosen as one of nine areas across the Country to have the opportunity to negotiate a new County Deal. Thankfully Covid rates were falling and all were encouraged to take personal responsibility in deciding which measures to follow. Fostering and Adoption sessions continue and a public art event "The Big Hoot" 2022 will represent the care that foster carers and adopters provide.

T Smith is still waiting to hear from J Finch regarding the flooding issues. It was agreed for him to telephone J Finch to try to progress matters.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING UPDATE: It was confirmed that the draft Neighbourhood Plan was submitted. Babergh District Council have confirmed receipt and our Neighbourhood Planning Group have asked for a time-line which is awaited.

CORRESPONDENCE: On-going correspondence was noted by the meeting. T Smith thanked the Clerk and S Whitelaw for assistance given between meeting towards the Jubilee arrangements.

URGENT HIGHWAYS SAFETY MATTERS: R Cowell reminded the meeting that he has sent round details of potential cycle path provision. It was agreed to form a working group of Parish Councillors to investigate between meetings and report to Council. D Kingham and T Smith agreed to join R Cowell on the working group.

FINANCE: The Bank Balances as at 1st March 2022 are £48140.15 in the Community Account and £15509.93 in the Rate Reward Account making a total of £63650.08.

The following pre-agreed payments were made: -

Cheque No.	Amount	Payee	Details
<u>As at 1st March</u>			
Funds Transfer	749.52	Clerk/HMRC/SCC	Staffing costs
Funds Transfer	520.00	Compass Point	NP Fees
Funds Transfer	168.75	Fragers	Jubilee deposit

IDEAS TO IMPROVE THE VILLAGE: Ideas were raised including further cycle paths, organised litter picking which could potentially involve the Scouts. A date during April could be considered. T Smith agreed to discuss with the parents and the young resident who has volunteered to assist the Parish Council during his work for the Duke of Edinburgh award.

MAINTENANCE OF VILLAGE ASSETS: As previously stated the Chairman and T Smith spent time following the storm winds driving around the village, not only clearing the fallen trees but also checking the village assets and cutting back overgrown brambles around benches and grit

bins. The two bus shelters were inspected and it was planned to give them a tidy and hose down later that week. Finally a further inspection of the Leavenheath Village sign, was undertaken and 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. We therefore need quotes from a professional to undertake the work. The Chairman confirmed he is researching the Village Sign Repairs currently and he'll keep the Parish Council updated - **Action Chairman**.

REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS : In relation to the Platinum Jubilee, the sub-committee met twice last month, and things are moving along at a good pace, with lots of items and facilities booked. T Smith has also submitted an application for a grant from the Arts Council, confirmation of approval is due in early April. In relation to Community Speed Watch the good news is that all the volunteers have now been approved by the Norfolk and Suffolk Police, to commence the first two parts of the training. It was agreed to consider a financial donation of around £1000 from the Parish Council to the Platinum Jubilee arrangements as an Agenda item for the April Meeting - **Action Clerk**. The Clerk will research powers between meetings and check our Section 137 limit - **Action Clerk**. The Village Hall are not charging for hall hire for the event. It was noted the books in the bus shelter are in a poor state. S Whitelaw asked for a regular report on the Footpaths that she can add to our website. T Smith agreed for his Parish Council Report on Footpaths to be used. C Morgan confirmed the Quiet Lanes project is progressing.

The meeting closed at **8.41 p.m.**

Planning Meeting on 2nd March 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**.
- C) An Appeal was allowed for rear extension/ garden room, loft conversion with roof lights and dormers, reinstatement of chimney and new access at Vincents Farm, Harrow Street - **DC/21/02511 - APP/D3505/D/21/3281098**
- D) Planning Permission was granted for rear extensions, render and replacement porch window at 14 Heathlands - **DC/21/06772**

The following applications and planning matters were discussed: -

- 1) Plough House, Plough Lane - application to convert and extend barn including recent re-consultation - **DC/22/00037**.

This is being considered by the Planning Group between meetings. Some further details relating to highways were awaited and a response will be issued ahead of the deadline.

- 2) Norton Villa, 14 Nayland Road - re-consultation for use of annex outbuilding as a separate dwellinghouse including 2 new dedicated car parking spaces - **DC/21/06178**.

R Bellenie confirmed that this application has just been refused by the Planning Authority as it is outside the settlement boundary.

- 3) Hillside, Honey Tye - front porch extension - **DC/22/00363**.

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

- 4) 8 Stoke Road - work associated with protected oak - **DC/22/00470**.

Both our Tree Warden and Pete Irving, Tree Surgeon, visited the property and concluded that as long as the tree is a minimum of seven meters away from the proposed trench (as per the Arboricultural Method Statement) this should not cause an issue for the protected oak tree. If the excavated trench is any closer, this could result in the death of the tree. Therefore, in principle based on the seven meter proposal, the Parish Council has **No Objections**. However, we confirmed we would listen to and take on board any recommendations from the Babergh Arboricultural Officer should he identify any issues.

5) 42 Wrights Way - Erection of rear conservatory - **DC/22/00834**.

The Parish Council had No Objections to this application.

6) Oak Cottage, Kingsland Lane - erection of 2 holiday lodges and erection of detached garage - **DC/21/06742**.

This application was being considered between meetings and the Planning Group were considering a site visit. T Smith offered to assist from a tree perspective.

7) Land Adjacent to Plough Lane, Leavenheath - erection of 2 detached dwellings - **DC/22/00821**.

This application is being considered between meetings and R Bellenie confirmed the residents comments in the public forum were most helpful.

8) Any other Urgent Planning items: The pylons were discussed and the meeting the Parish Council were arranging to ensure information is shared with the Parish. It was confirmed that even with undergrounding of cables, the trench will be open for years during the construction stage and also the impact on the road network would be considerable. D Kingham confirmed we have been approached by other Councils for a joint response to the Consultation which is being coordinated. It was agreed to meet on Zoom on Tuesday 8th March at 7.30 p.m. to make the final arrangements for the public meeting in the Village Hall on the subject - **Action Clerk to organise the Zoom link etc.** Handouts were to be produced for the meeting.