

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held in the Guildhall, Thursday 5th March 2020 at 7.30 pm.

Present Mr C Reeve, Chairman Mr J O'Mahony, Vice-Chairman.

Mrs D Twitchett, Mrs M Morrey, Mr T Sheppard, Mr B Panton, Dr C Posner, Mr I Lamont, Mr P Grindley.

Mrs M Maybury and Mr C Arthey, Babergh District Councillors.

1 member of the public.

Before the meeting commenced John Knight, Parish Tree Warden and Chair of Lavenham Woodland Project Ltd, took questions arising from the report he had already circulated which outlined LWP's proposal to initiate a tree planting programme across the village. In a long term project it is envisaged that Lavenham will plant some 1800-2000 trees within the parish as a gift from this generation to our children and grandchildren. In addition to sites such as the First Meadow and Common, other places will be sought such as edges of fields, verges, gardens etc. It is believed that this proposal goes with the grain of the Lavenham Neighbourhood Development Plan and Babergh's Core Strategy Policy for implementing sustainable development.

Parish Council Vacancies and Co option

Proposed by Dr Posner, and agreed by the full Council, that Mr Philip Grindley be co-opted to fill one of the vacancies, agreed. Mr Grindley completed the Declaration and joined the meeting.

Police Matters – Go to <https://www.suffolk.police.uk/your-area/snt-newsletters> for the February 2020 copy of the County newsletter, Constable's County. The newsletter provides an update on policing from the East, West and South policing areas of the County and an explanation of the Constabulary budget and the level of Council Tax to be charged for policing in Suffolk for the coming year.

The summary of crimes reported within the parish of Lavenham is listed on www.police.uk, search by postcode on Find your Neighbourhood. Crimes recorded within the parish of Lavenham in January 2020: 2 x Violence & sexual offences, 2 x Burglary, 1 x Criminal Damage & Arson, 1x Vehicle Crime.

It is understood that three break-ins have occurred in the last month

County Councillor's Report, Mr R Lindsay (*short report submitted and circulated to Councillors, follows these minutes*)

Mr Lindsay is still not well enough to attend meetings. The meeting with Mr Reid still has to be arranged. There has been no response to Dr Posner's second FoI application.

District Councillor's Report, Mrs M Maybury & Mr C Arthey

Mrs Maybury had forwarded the Babergh Councillors Briefing Notes for Town and Parish Councils, March 2020 and some extra notes.

From April all day parking charges are increasing to £3 and car parking enforcement is switching to Councils.

A CIL bid for £190,000 for the Gas Works Site has been recommended for approval. Mr Reeve questioned the outstanding CIL payments due to the Parish Council and was concerned that the District Council was approving deferred payments by developers as an incentive to bring forward housing developments. This meant that Parish Councils were unsure when staged payments would be made and this made planning projects more difficult.

The Minutes – Prop. by Dr Posner, sec. by Mrs Twitchett, the minutes of the meeting held on

6th February 2020 were approved. Carried.

Declarations of Interest – none

Apologies for absence received from Mr Lindsay and Mrs Norman.

Matters arising and update of outstanding issues

Mr Panton had contacted the Emergency Planning Dept regarding Corona Virus but had been advised to do nothing at the moment, we should only respond on their instructions. Lavenham's plan requires some updating in terms of reference, telephone numbers etc.

Finance and Strategy

Cheques for payment:

idverde Ltd, public toilet works for February £1,740.00: : JLP Landscapes, street cleaning Jan/winter maintenance/ additional early season grass cut £2,164.00: Anglian Water Business, water charges for Church Street public toilets £542.03, Prentice Street public toilets £1,158.44, Cemetery £14.90: British Gas, electricity charges at Church Street toilets £18.97: Payroll £735.07: Babergh District Council, litter and dog bin emptying 2019/20 £800.40: The Lavenham Press, printing public consultation invitations £100.80: Bryan Panton, Councillor's expenses (mileage) £19.55: Suffolk County Council, 2019/20 street lighting energy/maintenance £3,879.48: Mary Morrey, Councillor's expenses, course fee etc. £20.00: Cartridge Discount, black ink cartridges £29.32: Kinex, phone account Feb '20 £37.81.

A letter to the Bank requests the transfer of £20,000 between accounts.

Cheque for £100.00 received from Cycle Club Sudbury to acknowledge the extended opening of the public toilets on the Church Street site at the start of their Thursday evening meets. Email from Lavenham Pre-school acknowledging with thanks the cheque for £1,500.00, 2nd payment of 2019/20 subvention.

Mr O'Mahony proposed, Mr Sheppard seconded, that the financial transactions are approved. Carried.

Financial update – the latest income/expenditure summary together with Mr Reeve's schedule in respect of earmarked expenditure and estimated reserves at year end had been circulated. The earmarked expenditure included contributions towards traffic management, the gas works site scheme, possible improved access to First Meadow and play equipment. The £17,500 housing capital grant relates to the CLT S106 affordable housing bid with Babergh for local needs. Proposed by Mr O'Mahony, seconded by Dr Posner, agreement in principle to release this sum to Lavenham CLT to acquire the freehold. Carried.

Request for donation to Children's Book Festival 2020 – following a request from Susan Burton, Chair Lavenham Literary Festival Board, it was prop. by Dr Posner, sec. by Mr O'Mahony and agreed that a £200 donation be made to the Children's Book Festival 2020.

A second request for a donation would be deferred until the April meeting.

Planning

Planning Applications Received:

DC/20/00688 - Louise Cottage, 29 Church Street, Lavenham

Application for works to tree in Conservation Area - Fell to ground level 1 No Conifer Tree in rear garden.

DC/20/00687 - Pippins, Bridge Street Road, Lavenham

Application for works to trees protected by Tree Preservation Order WS240/G1 - To reduce Maple Trees to the previous pruning points, removing 2-3 foot of re-growth.

The above tree works applications recommended for approval. Prop. Dr Posner, sec.

Mrs Twitchett, agreed.

DC/20/00802 2 The Maltings, Barn Street, Lavenham

Application for Listed Building Consent - Replacement french doors in widened opening to rear elevation

Prop. Mrs Twitchett, sec. Mr Lamont, recommend approval. Carried.

DC/20/00603 Copingers, 66 Water Street, Lavenham

Application for Listed Building Consent - External lime render repairs to North Elevation & brick/mortar repairs to internal fireplaces

Prop. Mr Lamont, sec. Mrs Twitchett, recommend approval. Carried.

DC/20/00976 17 Bolton Street, Lavenham

Application for Listed Building Consent - Re-roofing work including associated timber repairs and insulation works

Prop. Dr Posner, sec. Mrs Morrey, recommend approval. Carried.

Planning Decisions Received:

DC/17/03100 Land South Of Howlett Of Lavenham, Melford Road, Lavenham - Discharge of Conditions for Condition 22 (Parking Provision)

DC/17/04024 Land Adjacent To Bears Lane, Lavenham - : Discharge of Conditions for Condition 9 (Fire Hydrants) and Condition 22 (Archaeological Works)

DC/19/04445 Lavenham Priory, Water Street, Lavenham – refusal of Planning Permission for Erection of 1no. dwelling and detached garage

DC/19/03688 & DC/19/13988 The Hall, Hall Road, Lavenham – Discharge of Conditions: Conditions 3 (Eaves and Verges), Condition 4 (Replacement Roof Coverings) and Condition 5 (Rainwater Goods)

& Condition 3 (Details of Lime Mortar) and 4 (Wall Elevation Drawings)

DC/20/00083, DC/20/00082 & DC/20/00082 Land South Of Howlett Of Lavenham, Melford Road, Lavenham,

Discharge of Conditions for DC/17/03100 - Condition 18 (Estate Road Layout), Condition 25 (Foul Water Strategy) and Condition 4 (Measures to Improve Sustainability)

DC/20/00251 2 The Maltings, Barn Street, Lavenham – Listed Building Consent for Installation of external pipework and balanced flue for new boiler installation

DC/19/03185 Land South Of Howlett Of Lavenham, Melford Road, Lavenham – Discharge of Conditions, Condition 2 (Noise Attenuation)

DC/19/04873 & DC/19/04872 91 Church Street, Lavenham – Planning Permission & Listed Building Consent for erection of a single storey rear extension and creation of access (following demolition of existing extension and wall)

DC/20/00246 25 Green Willows, Lavenham – Consent for Works to Trees protected by a Preservation Order, Fell T1 Field Maple (Acer Campestre)

DC/17/03100 Land South Of Howlett Of Lavenham, Melford Road, Lavenham - Discharge of Conditions, Condition 11 (Lighting Design Scheme), Condition 16 (Agreement of Materials), Condition 21 (Bins) and Condition 23 (Details of Screen Walls and Fences)

DC/19/05381 Box Cottage, 21 Prentice Street, Lavenham - REFUSAL OF DISCHARGE OF CONDITION

Condition 4 (Fenestration)

Operations

SCC and BDC lists update – the District and County Council joint initiatives lists have been brought up to date with the outstanding issues and circulated to Councillors.

Lavenham Walks leaflet – Lee Morris would distribute these to people enquiring about walks in the village at 2 Lady Street and they would be free of charge. The cost of re-prints will be investigated. Lee and Mary Morrey are working on other guides and leaflets.

Civil Enforcement – operating from 1st April, includes car parks. Data is being collected on usage.

Gas Works site – CIL money signed off.

Concerns had been raised as potential contractors on site had drawn attention to a ventilator over a below ground interceptor tank which had not been noticed previously. National Grid had been contacted but had responded that they had no knowledge of the size, position or capacity of this tank. Further information would be sought. During a routine visit by Cadent Mr O'Mahony had taken the opportunity to take photographs of the ventilator.

Lavenham Walk – Dr Posner had circulated a brief addendum to his report but discussion would be deferred until after the meeting with Cabinet Members. Figures for the annual expenditure, putting value on free labour, have to be updated. The final report will then be circulated.

Contractors have been working on the trees, unfortunately on a very wet day, and the surface has suffered damage.

Sudbury Wardens – it was proposed by Mrs Twitchett, seconded by Mr Sheppard, that the contract should not be renewed from 1st April 2020. Carried. One of the main reasons for engaging the services of the Wardens had been to help deter inconsiderate on-pavement parking by ticketing in conjunction with the local Police, as they had been doing in Sudbury. However, despite raising the matter with the Sudbury Town Clerk, this part of the service had never been established. Although dispensing with their services would mean that consideration will have to be given to covering Lavenham Walk, it was felt that the expense of continuing with the contract could not be justified.

Housing and Social

Good Neighbours Scheme – today a party had visited Rede Plough for lunch.

New cards are being printed combining Good Neighbours and Dementia Alliance contact numbers.

Dementia Alliance – Sue Calver is coming out to the group next Wednesday and will bring new ideas from the Sudbury Dementia Alliance. A trip to Assington Barns for coffee and cake has been organized for April.

Correspondence had been received from:

copy of email sent to Kevin Verlander by the developer at Highfields, Bury Road, with details of works to be carried out to Footpath 13, which runs beside the site, in order to elevate and enhance. An temporary alternative route will be provided across the site.

Suffolk County Council, giving notice of their proposals to make Orders prohibiting stopping on school entrance markings across Suffolk.

NDP review update

One grant has been applied for, but until the Joint Local Plan is finalised we cannot progress too far with the NDP review. Babergh has received 4,000 comments and these are being built into the next version of the JLP.

Protocols

It was agreed to postpone the notice boards protocol until the next meeting. It was agreed however that the rules for use should be printed in Lavenham Life and copies sent to all organisations using the notice boards so that everybody was clear about who could use the boards, and how, also how they would be regulated.

Dr Posner's reports were accepted by the meeting.

Village events – VE day anniversary; VW weekend, Christmas Fair

The VE75 events will be distinct from the FOLA weekend. Plans are in hand for a commemorative meet in the Market Place on Friday 8th May, 12 noon to 3.39 pm. with two overflights. Details will be published shortly.

Permission for use of the First Meadow for parking has been granted to FOLA and to the organisers of the Hidden Gardens event on 7th June. It was hoped that repair work to be grass will have been carried out but close attention will have to be given to weather conditions in order to ensure that the damage caused during the Christmas Fair is not repeated.

At the Christmas Fair Business meeting on 27th February the general consensus was that everybody was keen to see the Fair continue in

Wool Towns Association

All Councillors had read Dr Posner's report. He thought that our aims are different to the other member's in that we would like to see some diversion of visitors to the other towns by way of tours with Lavenham being more the location for overnight stays.

Dr Posner and Sarah Rands (Lavenham Forum) would be attending the next meeting which would be held in Sudbury, to see what comes out of it. Hadleigh is producing a Wool Towns pamphlet listing all information centres. They will print this and let us have a supply.

Village Tree initiative

It was agreed that the Parish Council fully supports this excellent scheme and it was hoped that this support might encourage landowners, the District and County Councils, to consider land where trees could be planted.

Matters to be brought to the attention of the Parish Council

Mrs Twitchett had been approached by a resident of Tenter Piece who wondered if it would be possible for him to make a small allotment at the rear of the flats, land which is owned by Babergh District Council.

Clerk raised the matter of the wheelie bins on First Meadow being used for the disposal of household/garden and heavy DIY/builder's rubble. This made the bins very heavy and almost impossible to lift off the secure fixings when putting them out for collection. Mrs Maybury mentioned that it is a criminal offence to use these bins in such a way. Clerk will put a notice on the bins pointing this out and requesting that this abuse of the facility stops.

Date of next meeting: The next meeting will be held on Thursday 2nd April 2020.

The meeting closed at 10.10 pm.