

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held in the Guildhall, Thursday 2nd May 2019 at 7.30 pm.

Present Mr C Reeve, Chairman.

Mrs J Baker, Mrs D Twitchett, Miss A Mortimer, Mr B Panton, Mr A Searle.

Mr W Shropshire, Babergh District Councillor

Public Forum – no members of the public present.

Police Matters – Sudbury SNT April Newsletter is available at www.suffolk.police.uk/your-area/Sudbury. It is expected that the Newsletter format will be changing next month to a ‘very professional and attractive looking publication’. This will still be distributed through the same channels and will provide information about other areas also.

The summary of crimes reported within the parish of Lavenham is listed on www.police.uk, search by postcode on Find your Neighbourhood. This has not been updated since the February figures were displayed.

District Councillor’s Report, Mr W Shropshire (circulated to Councillors, report follows these minutes)

The Minutes – Prop. by Mr Panton, sec. by Mr Searle, the minutes of the meeting held on 4th April 2019 were approved. Carried.

Declarations of Interest – none

Apologies for absence received from Mr O’Mahony and Mr Sheppard.

Matters arising and update of outstanding issues

Mr Reeve observed that although the Parish Council has paid Business Rates on 2 Lady Street when the CBS take over its charitable objectives will give scope for the 80% relief to be applied.

Finance and Strategy**Invoice paid between meetings:**

Excello Law, completion of 2 Lady Street purchase £10,054.00

Cheques for payment:

idverde, toilet works for April £1,800.00: JPB Landscapes £2,487.56 (April grounds maintenance £1,058.77, street cleaning £1,428.79): Kinex, telephone account April £23.94: Seago & Stopps, payroll services q/e 05/04/19 £90.00: British Gas, Church Street toilets electricity £16.01: Karzees Limited, hire of portable toilet First Meadow £132.00: Sudbury Town Council, warden services 01/01/19 to 31/03/19 £500.94: Payroll £754.26 : Drain Doctor, unblock drains at Church Street toilets 16/04/19 £275.28: Paugers Plants Limited, plants for 2 Lady Street garden £108.00: Lavenham Community Council, Village Hall meeting room hire on 17/04/19 £18.00: Anglian Security & Fire Ltd, 2 Lady Street intruder alarm installation 50% deposit £597.50: Anglian Security & Fire Ltd, 2 Lady Street intruder alarm installation balance payment £597.50: Direct Debit on 6th April 2019 to Total Gas & Power for Prentice Street toilets electricity £49.91.

Proposed by Mrs Baker, seconded by Mr Searle, that the transactions are approved. Carried.

Remittance Advice from Babergh District Council, BACS transfer of £37,500 for instalment 1 of 2019/20 Precept.

Kelly Cobbold, Lavenham Pre-school Manager, had emailed sincere thanks to the Parish Council for the generous contribution to their initial Holiday Club at the Pre-school. It was much appreciated and would be put to good use.

Finance Update

Clerk had updated the income/expenditure and bank reconciliation to year end 31st March 2019 and copies had been circulated to all Councillors. It was proposed by Mrs Baker, seconded by Miss Mortimer, that these documents are accepted by the Council. Carried.

The Chairman checked and signed the bank reconciliation against the balances shown on the statement.

The Finance Group will now meet and discuss the balances and earmarked expenditure and review and make recommendations in respect of the budget for 2019/20.

Following recent problems with blocked drains at the Church Street public toilets the Clerk had sought a quotation from Drain Doctor to carry out a thorough descale using high pressure water-jetting, they had also provided a costing for a six-monthly preventative maintenance programme. It was agreed that the quotation for the initial descale of £915 plus VAT should be accepted. As the works will require the facility to be closed for one day this would be arranged for a Monday or Tuesday which are seen as the least busy days of the week. Further enquiries would be made about the proposed maintenance programme as it was not thought necessary for works to be carried out on a six-monthly basis.

Planning

Planning Applications Received:

DC/19/01911 The Granary, Mill Hill, Bury Road, Lavenham
Householder Planning Application - Erection of single storey extension
Prop. Mrs Baker, sec, Mrs Twitchett, and agreed.

Recommend refusal on grounds as follows:

This application for an extension to The Granary is essentially the same as the previous application which was refused. The Appeal against the refusal was subsequently rejected by the Inspector. There appears nothing substantial within the current application which would lead us to reject the reasoning of the Inspector when considering the current application or to challenge the comments set out by Babergh District Council in their letter, following pre application consultation, that the application was unlikely to succeed for similar reasons.

The reasons include:-

- The scale of the extension relative to the existing Granary building i.e. the extension is considerable larger in area than the existing building. The original application for change to domestic use of the Granary must have considered the suitability of and size for the conversion.
- The impact on the existing group of buildings on Mill Hill.

DC/19/02013 The Grove, 5 Lady Street, Lavenham

Notification of Works to Trees Protected by Preservation Order WS41/T49 - T1 (Holm Oak) - Reduce crown by 40%

Prop. Mr Searle, sec. Mr Panton, recommend approval. Carried.

Planning Decisions Received:

DC/18/05466 70 High Street; DC/18/05497 21-22 Water Street; DC/18/05470 28 High Street; DC/18/05444 Lavenham Press, 47 Water Street; DC/18/05443 5 Church Street; DC/18/05478 16A High Street; DC/18/05493 The Angel, Market Place; DC/18/05423 74 Church Street; DC/18/05448 61 Water Street; DC/18/05474 22 High Street; DC/18/05483 10 High Street;

DC/18/05468 77 High Street - Listed Building Consent granted on all for replacement of luminaire, existing bracket to be retained (Retention of)

DC/19/00067 & DC/19/00234 Mole Cottage, 32 Prentice Street, Lavenham – planning permission and listed building consent granted for erection of rear conservatory (following demolition of existing); Insertion of window to ground floor wet room. (car parking area element of application withdrawn)

DC/19/00874 89 High Street, Lavenham - Listed Building Consent for demolition of conservatory

DC/19/00677 Second Meadow Stables, Brent Eleigh Road, Lavenham – permission granted for change of use of land for the grazing of horses associated with the commercial livery

DC/19/01191 Woodlands, Sudbury Road, Lavenham – permission granted for erection of a Single Storey Rear Extension

DISCHARGE OF CONDITION(S) TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

Proposal: Discharge of Conditions Application for B/16/01556 - Condition 3 (Provision of Parking and Turning) Location: Slough Farm Barn, Bridge Street Road, Lavenham

Operations

Traffic and Road Management –. The Civil Enforcement Parking Review document made clear the need for community engagement particularly with Parish Councils.

It is hoped that the Water Street overall scheme could be agreed mid-July, however it is important that people submit comments to be taken into account when any decision is made and information on how this can be done will be advertised in Lavenham Life and Suffolk Free Press.

Mr Reeve and Mr Panton had attended the Nayland & Wissington Annual Parish Meeting and had learnt that there is a 20 mph speed limit through Stoke by Nayland. Being aware of other measures that Suffolk County Council is taking elsewhere a list of traffic issues, and possible solutions, in respect of Lavenham is being drafted, this will be circulated and discussed at another meeting.

Where the Parish Council has schemes proposed to prevent parking on pavements nearby residents will need to be informed of intentions at the earliest.

Mr Panton and Mr O'Mahony commented on the records extracted from SID. In 2018 879,410 traffic movements had been recorded, an average of about 2,500 per day. Of these 25-27% had been speeding at a level which would have resulted in a fine and points if caught by the Police. The speed of a vehicle is recorded at a distance and close to and this shows that the presence of SID does slow the traffic. Mr Reeve thanked them both for the work they do in moving the apparatus and setting it up.

Gas Works site – conversations continue, a CIL bid will be made in May.

Lavenham Walk – Suffolk Tree Services will be producing a report on the present state of the trees, with suggestions for works to be carried out on an annual cycle to five year and beyond. The report will be circulated. The lease document and tree report are being reviewed. It is important that this amenity is kept open and accessible to the community.

Housing and Social

CLT - a date will soon be fixed for the AGM. The Board meets next Thursday and two new Trustees have come forward to bring the total back to six.

LED lighting – still slow progress.

Good Neighbours Scheme - Mrs Twitchett reported another successful monthly tea with 15 attending while David Deacon talked about his boyhood living in the village. Sally Connick from CAS had attended and was impressed with the gathering. Next month they will be hearing about the work of the Salvation Army.

The sum of £153 has been paid to the GNS from the Co-op Community Fund.

A short video was made to support the idea of refurbishment of the Tenter Piece Common Room, which has been raised with the District Council, to improve the facilities for vulnerable groups using the area.

Lavenham Dementia Alliance - the next Drop In Coffee Morning is Wednesday 8th May at 10.30 am in the Common Room.

At a presentation in the Village Hall last week, Carole and Goff Holland, on behalf of the Christmas Fair committee, had given a cheque for £250 to each group.

Correspondence had been received from:

Suffolk County Council via SALC, details of the Highways Grass Cutting Programme 2019/20, in respect of highway verges. This will be circulated.

Update on news of Lavenham Literary Festival, 15-17 November

DSP Ltd, factual television company making enquiries about using part of the Lavenham Walk for scenes in a film about World War Two. Enquiry passed to Screen Suffolk.

Highways Community Self Help launch, Wednesday 15 May, 9am to 12pm, Stonham Barns
Kevin Verlander, re public footpath number 13 beside the development at Windwards, Bury Road. The developers would like to level the path and there is an opportunity to restore the path to a natural surface or to do some improvements and lay a path hoggin surface or similar. The Parish Council's views and preferences are sought. It was agreed that it should be a proper hoggin built path, although it might deteriorate over time, and it should be level at the outset making maintenance easier.

Donna Bridges, Electoral Services Officer, information regarding uncontested Parishes and vacancies.

The Wool Towns Association with an update of progress. With the benefit of professional help from grant funded Stour Valley AONB posts, work is underway to develop a programme of work to utilise this input. For the WTA this will include promotional and marketing activities, support and development of the website, revision of 'The Threads' booklet and some administrative support. The Wool Towns Association would welcome a further contribution from each of the participating authorities of £150 to cover day to day costs. The long term aim is to make the Association self sufficient through marketing the website and other promotions. Prop. by Mr Searle, sec. by Mrs Baker, grant of £150 to be made. Agreed, although the Parish Council expects to see productive action result from this funding.

2 Lady Street – potential acquisition and lease to CBS

Post Office footfall has increased and it is hoped that it may be possible to get extended hours after six months if this continues.

Lee Morris is updating the business plan budget numbers.

It was noted that the Babergh website and Facebook page indicate that No 2 is closed as a TIC with no mention of the new Visitor Information Point.

Matters to be brought to the attention of the Parish Council

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 6th June, 2019.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday 8th May 2019, commencing 8 pm. in the Guildhall. This will follow the Annual Parish Council Meeting, the first meeting of the 'new' Council, which will be held on the same evening commencing 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9 pm.