

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held in the Guildhall, Thursday 2nd February 2017 at 7.30 pm.

Present Mr P Gibson, Acting Chairman

Ms E Paris, Mr T Sheppard, Mr A Searle, Mr B Panton, Mr J O'Mahony

Public Forum – no members of the public present

Police Matters – November 2016 - Incidents received: 609, Investigations recorded 265.

A total of 72 crimes were recorded in the Sudbury SNT area during October 2016, categorised as: Burglary Dwelling 9; Robbery 1; Violence with injury 23; Serious sexual offences 5; Drug Trafficking 2; Anti Social Behaviour 32.

Clerk had met with PCSO Laura Mansell on 11th January for an update of police matters relevant to Lavenham. Laura is going to pursue with Sudbury Town Council whether the Community Wardens will be able to leaflet badly parked vehicles when they patrol Lavenham. Meanwhile residents can still report vehicles parked in dangerous positions to the police on 101.

Depending on whether Sudbury Town Council continues to part-fund Laura's post she may or may not remain in her present role.

It was agreed that Councillors would like to make representations to the police and a formal daytime meeting with our PCSO will be requested.

County Councillor's Report – Mrs J Antill – emailed report circulated to Councillors (*report follows*)

District Councillor's Report – Mr W Shropshire – emailed report circulated to Councillors (*report follows*)

The Minutes – Proposed by Mr Sheppard, seconded by Mr Searle, the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 5th January 2017 were approved. Carried.

Declarations of Interest – none

Apologies for absence received from Mr Reeve, Mr Whitworth, Mrs Twitchett, Mrs Baker, Mrs Banks. Mrs Antill (Suffolk County Councillor), Mr Shropshire (Babergh District Councillor)

Matters arising and update of outstanding issues

Installation of the Church gates was completed last Thursday, 26th January.

An officer at Babergh had said he would use their contact with the Land Registry to see if ownership of the pond at the corner of the Halt site could be established. Nothing further had been heard to date and a reminder had been sent. Mr Shropshire is pursuing this matter, and the release of the play equipment on the site.

CLT/Melford Road site, planning permission has been granted for the site and validation is subject to conditions being agreed

A letter expressing interest in the Gas Works site has been sent to BNP Paribas Real Estate.

Suffolk Highways have yet to advise on the final experimental scheme for Water Street and other works in the village. A date for another meeting with John Simpson is to be fixed.

LED installation is progressing, work yet to be carried out by UK Power Networks appears to be causing outages along Church Street.

Rob Norman has started to replace four open topped bins with the enclosed type. An extra bin is to be installed near the school bus waiting area on the junction of Melford Road and Sudbury Road, opposite Howlett's Garage.

Mr Searle is seeking to inform adjacent residents of the intended trimming works to be carried out to overgrown Leylandii encroaching on the footway at the bottom of Trinity Gild.

Finance and Strategy

Invoices received, cheques for payment

Kinex, phone a/c January £24.85: Idverde Limited, toilet works December £1,103.76: The CGM Group, grounds maintenance for January £874.00: Seago & Stopps, q/e 05/01/17 payroll services £84.00: Keith Purvis, supply/install hand dryer Church St. toilets £195.00:

Payroll £618.80: Cartridge Discount, black ink cartridges £41.08: Monarch Gates, balance payment for new Church gates £5,546.00.

Paid by Direct Debit to BT for Broadband service to old phone box for January £61.92.

A letter to the Bank requested the transfer of £8,000.00 between accounts.

Approval of the above transactions proposed by Mr Searle, seconded by Ms Paris. Carried.

Planning

Planning Applications:

B/17/00026 Application Type: LBC

Tottington House, 39 Water Street, Lavenham CO10 9RN

Application for Listed Building Consent: Replacement front entrance door and surround Prop. Mr O'Mahony, sec. Mr Sheppard, recommend approval. Carried.

Planning Decisions Received:

B/16/01556/AGDW The Old Piggery, Slough Farm, Bridge Street Road, Lavenham - Notification for Prior Approval of proposed change of use of agricultural building to a dwellinghouse (Use Class C3), and for associated operational development.

The District Council considers the development to be acceptable and accordingly no objection is raised.

B/16/01527/FHA 5 Barn Street, Lavenham – permission for erection of two-storey side extension (following demolition of garage) and erection of a summerhouse.

B/16/01622/FHA Pegtile Court, 3 Church Street, Lavenham – permission for erection of single-storey side extension to provide workshop.

B/16/01713/FHA 6 Brent Eleigh Road, Lavenham – permission for erection of two-storey & single-storey rear extensions (alternative scheme to that approved under P.P.

B/16/00343/FHA).

Notification that applications have been withdrawn from the system and will not now be determined by the District Council, as follow:

B/16/01229 Application Type: FHA & B/16/01230 Application Type: LBC The Hall, Hall Road, Lavenham - Erection of single storey front and rear extensions.

Operations

Traffic and Road Management – Mr O'Mahony had tried to set up the next meeting with

John Simpson but as yet had not received a response. It was agreed to write to James Finch, Suffolk County Council Cabinet Member for Highways & Transport, asking for his assistance in progressing the experimental scheme for Water Street and implementation of other highways related plans throughout the village. To be copied to John Simpson and our County and District Councillors.

Nicola Smith, Clerk to Monks Eleigh Parish Council, has offered advice and practical assistance based on her experience of researching VAS equipment.

Housing and Social

Good Neighbours Scheme – coming up to four years of the Scheme and over 400 missions successfully completed. In this time there have only been about 6 requests which could not be fulfilled. There was another tea at Tenter Piece this week, and there are plans to invite the volunteers and anyone interested in the Scheme to join us there on 2nd of March for tea and cake to celebrate the 4th Birthday of the Scheme. As the last meeting to advise Monks Eleigh about a scheme was cancelled Mrs Twitchett is now going on 24th of February.

Mr Whitworth has been asked if he could help Brettenham with advice for start up. If their schemes can be as successful as Lavenham's, then we wish them well.

Correspondence had been received from:

Mr & Mrs Heald of River Cottage, Lower Road bringing the consequences of the increasing traffic along Lower Road to the Parish Council's attention.

A driver of the school bus, regarding parking in Water Street.

Nicola Smith, Clerk to Preston St Mary PC, re parking along Preston Road where there appears to be a need for double yellow lines to prevent.

As these three letters are concerned with matters which have been discussed in relation to future plans for traffic management in the village copies will be attached to the letter sent to Councillor James Finch.

James Cartlidge MP, information and posters for his Constituency Surgery at Lavenham Village Hall on Friday 3rd March, 2pm to 4pm. by appointment only.

UK Power Networks, Help vulnerable people in your community access free extra support during a power cut. Vulnerable people can sign up to a Priority Services Register, a supply of the registration forms has been sent to the Parish Council.

Babergh District Council, consultation on Long Melford Neighbourhood Plan Area Designation. Views on this designation to be returned to Babergh by Friday 10th February. This consultation had been circulated to all Councillors and there were no adverse comments.

Temporary Traffic Orders, road closure notices in respect of Prentice Street and Spring Street due to emergency work to repair burst water mains.

Sue Herne, notice of the Community Emergency Planning Steering Group AGM and workshop, 17th February, 10am to 1pm, at the Council Chamber, Mid Suffolk District Council offices in Needham Market.

SPS via SALC, Heritage Training for Town and Parish Councils, Tuesday 14th March, 9.45am to 1pm, Haughley Park Barn, £40 per council (maximum 2 delegates)

SALC, asking people to register their interest in Visual Routine Play Inspection training with a view to providing a training course. Ms Parish showed interest as she is carrying out the monthly First Meadow play equipment inspections.

Proposals for new Housing Needs Survey

Following a meeting between representatives of the Parish Council, Babergh officers and the Portfolio Holder for Housing Delivery, regarding the recent decision made in respect of Sheltered Housing provision, Mr Whitworth had offered to draft a discussion paper 'Housing Needs in Lavenham' with emphasis on the ageing population. The paper had been forwarded to Babergh on 24th January and a response was awaited.

Newsletter for Spring 2017

The first draft of the Newsletter had been circulated to Councillors, additional photos and copy were invited. The Newsletter will record the Council's activities in 2016. More 'fine tuning' is needed but it should be available shortly.

Other Matters brought to the attention of the Parish Council

Consideration is being given to the provision of outdoor, adult fitness equipment. Ms Paris had drafted a consultation questionnaire and invited comments. Local groups, clubs and societies will be asked for their views on whether there would be support for this project and, if so, what kind of equipment would be appropriate.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 2nd March 2017

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

Date of Annual Parish Meeting: Thursday 13th April 2017, in the Guildhall at 7.30 pm.

Lavenham Parish Council website: lavenham.onesuffolk.net

County Councillor's Report to Lavenham Parish Council, Thursday 2nd February 2017

I am sorry not to be with you this evening but I am travelling up to London for meetings with SCC Pension Fund Managers early on Friday morning.

There has been little news from the County Council over the Christmas period, and in any event things are quiet as we move towards the moratorium period which starts on 23rd March, six weeks before the election of a new Council on 4th May.

The Budget

A first attempt at setting the budget for 2017/18 was made before Christmas, and, following further announcements from the Government with regard to funding, has been recently finalised.

The gross budget has fallen from £1,104m to £934m, a reduction of £170m. This is largely due to the conversion of maintained schools to academies and the impact of the reduction in government grant that has been ongoing since 2011/12.

For 2017/18 There is a forecast budget gap of some £40m and savings of around £31 m have been identified. In accordance with the pledge made by the administration of the council ahead of the last election, core council tax will not increase for 2017/18. However, recently, the Government has announced that it is to allow Councils to raise a specific levy in 2017/18 of 3% to help to fund social care. This is 1% more than previously announced. If we decide to apply this additional 1% it will reduce the deficit by a further £2m. but the shortfall could still amount to as much as £7m. It has not been possible ahead of the elections in May to identify further places to save money and as a result it is likely that any shortfall will be made up by transferring money from the contingency reserve.

The savings that are currently anticipated for 2017/18 can be found in the Cabinet Papers for 24th January. These mainly represent a continuation of the transformation programmes that have been in place for 2 years now and other smaller reductions elsewhere. The problem of course with taking money from reserves is that the money can only be spent once and prudence dictates that the reserves be rebuilt. I think it is therefore very likely that further cuts in services will be announced after May's election and that council tax will be increased this time next year.

The finalised budget for 2017/18 will be debated by full Council on Thursday February 9th.

Lavenham

All has been quiet from Lavenham from my perspective over the Christmas period.

I was pleased to be able to award some locality money towards start-up costs for the Wool Towns' initiative. I am happy to say that I have almost spent all of the locality funding available to me over the past four years.

Jenny Antill
February 2017

***DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT TO THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY 2ND FEBRUARY 2017***

DISTRICT COUNCIL MEETING

No meetings since the last Parish Council meeting as the 21st January meeting was cancelled. However as mentioned before the council is moving to a new Cabinet Lead Model in 2017. The main features of the change will be to move to a system involving most day to day decision-making powers being vested in up to a maximum of ten Councillors who form a Cabinet. They are appointed by a Leader. Cabinet may take decisions collectively, or individual members of cabinet may be empowered to make decisions themselves. All decisions of cabinet (including decisions made by cabinet members individually) are subject to the usual local government requirements of being published five clear days before the decision is made.

POST OFFICE

The post is currently in talks with a business in Lavenham, looking at the potential of re-opening in a shop in the village. I will update further when I know more.

CLT (OLD GRITTING SITE)

I was delighted to see that the Old Gritting site on Melford Road has had a successful planning application involving affordable homes and in a design that adheres to the Neighbourhood Plan. Congratulations to the Parish Council and wider team involved in this.

PLANNING DEPT AT BABERGH

In anticipation of the expected office move to Endeavour House Babergh are taking the opportunity to bring the Development Management planning team into one location at Needham Market. From 9th January the planning officer and technical support team will be principally working from Needham Market servicing both Babergh and Mid Suffolk areas. They will continue to provide a Duty Planning Officer service and planning reception facility with technical support staff at Hadleigh.

SHELTERED HOUSING

If you are at all worried about the proposal please contact Heather Sparrow on 01449 72476 or email heather.sparrow@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

COMMUNITIES BUILDINGS ADVICE SERVICE

The Community Buildings and Advice Service is provided by Suffolk Climate Change Partnership. This is a free impartial service, if you are interested in taking advantage of this; please contact John Taylor on 01473 264595 or email john.taylor3@suffolk.gov.uk

CITIZENS ADVISE BUREAU

Sudbury & District Citizen's Advice Bureau is will be offering a drop-in session in Lavenham village hall, 9.30am-12.30pm on the second Wednesday of every month.
<http://www.sudburycab.org.uk/home.html>

SAT NAV

As many of you know I have been fighting hard against lorries using Lavenham as a cut through and much of the impact is caused by lorry drivers using standard Sat Navs. It was interesting to see an article in the Independent stating that the Local Govt. Association (LGA) has called for new legislation that makes it compulsory for all lorry drivers who use Sat Navs to have commercial devices and not systems designed for cars. The plea is in response to a spate of heavy goods vehicles causing problems on routes where they exceeded the weight or

height limit. Sat Nav technology designed specifically for lorries allows drivers to input data about their vehicle which helps the guidance system find appropriate roads.

THE HALT PLAY AREA

I am aware that the play area remains fenced off and I am in discussion with Babergh of the reasons for this and will look to open this area up as soon as possible.

SCHOOLS

Although this is strictly a county issue I was asked about reports that a school place in the village went to a child from outside the immediate area. I investigated and found that there had been a vacant place since October and no one at all expressed any interest in it until recently. When an expression of interest was finally made it came from out of catchment and the child was accepted. If parents want to take advantage of a vacancy of this type they must contact SCC or the school, and if there are two competing applications they will follow the normal rules and give preference to the child from within catchment.

On a positive point regarding schools, you may have seen that Suffolk County Council will receive a capital funding contribution from the Department for Education (DfE) toward the cost of building a new pre school in Lavenham.

The new pre school will provide vital childcare places in these communities and particularly benefit working parents. All parents can get up to 15 hours free childcare per week from the term after their child turns three right up until they start school. This will increase for eligible working parents to a maximum of 30 hours per week from September 2017 during school term time or fewer hours per week spread over the whole year.

W Shropshire
February 2017