

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

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

Present Mr C Reeve, Chairman. Mr P Gibson, Vice Chairman
Mrs J Baker, Mrs D Twitchett, Mrs G Banks, Mr T Sheppard, Mr A Searle, Mr J O'Mahony.
Mr W Shropshire, Babergh District Councillor
5 members of the public

Public Forum

Two residents of Brent Eleigh Road voiced concerns about the proposed development off Bears Lane, this is a development of 24 dwellings on part of a large field, what safeguards are in place to stop a planning application for a further 24, and then a 24 more? Access to the site is very restricted along Bears Lane, might an alternative access be proposed on Brent Eleigh Road?

The Chairman commented that an alternative access has not been discussed. The Parish Council will keep as firm stance as possible to resist further applications for development, luckily our Neighbourhood Plan is in place and must be taken into account. Mr Gibson commented that if application is made to Babergh, a representative of a group of objectors can speak for three minutes at the meeting when the planning application comes before committee.

Dr Charles Posner introduced himself to the meeting, putting himself forward for co option to the vacancy on the Council. He worked on the Neighbourhood Plan and is now involved in analysing statistics in respect of housing and drafting a parking questionnaire for the Parish Council. He has provided outside support for the Parish Council and would now like to continue to work as a member of the Council.

Police Matters – Sudbury SNT Newsletters are available on their website (www.suffolk.police.uk/your-area/Sudbury) and give details of recent policing issues and responses. The October Newsletter is available online. The latest summary of crimes reported within the parish of Lavenham is listed on www.police.uk, search by postcode on Find your Neighbourhood. Explore the crime map. (no update since August figures)

County Councillor's Report (*circulated after meeting, report follows these minutes*)

District Councillor's Report, Mr W Shropshire (*report follows these minutes*).

The Minutes – Prop. by Mr Gibson, sec. by Mrs Twitchett, the minutes of the meeting held on 5th October are approved. Carried.

Declarations of Interest – none

Apologies for absence received from Ms Smith and Mr Panton. Mr Lindsay (after meeting)

Matters arising and update of outstanding issues

Mrs Baker gave a short report on the Library: The Summer Reading Challenge presentation was a very well received occasion. The Lego Club has been launched. Top Time is proving very interesting and positive and is all adult-age inclusive.

The Order for the rolling road closure for the Remembrance Parade has been forwarded

by Suffolk County Council and the allocation of marshals has been confirmed.

Co option to Casual Vacancy

Having had the opportunity to read a short CV which had been circulated, and having heard him speak at this meeting, it was resolved to co opt Charles Posner to the vacancy on the Council.

Finance and Strategy

Financial Update – a financial update of income and expenditure to 30th September 2017, and the bank reconciliation at that date had been circulated and were agreed.

Precept Timetable – the Finance Working Group will meet on Tuesday 14th November to discuss the budget and precept requirement for 2018/19 and make recommendations to the December meeting. Staff wages would also be reviewed and recommendations made to the December meeting. Councillor's suggestions were invited for items to be included in the budget.

Annual Review of Burial Fees – it was proposed by Mr Gibson, seconded by Mr Searle, that the fees should not be increased this year but remain at the 2017/18 level. Agreed.

Invoices received, for payment

Friends of Lavenham Library, (ref 10(i)/17 p49/50) donation to promote links with primary school £200.00: idverde, public toilet works Sept £1,103.76: The CGM Group, grounds maintenance Oct £874.00: Kinex, phone a/c Oct £20.68: Xmas Direct, 100m. string LED Christmas lights £251.34: Payroll £664.00: The Poppy Appeal, poppy wreath £17.00: British Gas, electricity supply to Church St public toilets £52.01: Avangate Support, PS PDF to Word £27.54: Cherry Lane Garden Centre, identification stickers for grit bins £14.85.
Paid by Direct Debit to BT for Broadband service to old phone box for October £65.88.
Approval of the payment schedule was proposed by Mrs Baker, seconded by Mr Sheppard, and agreed.

Letter of thanks received from Suffolk Accident Rescue Service for the Parish Council's donation.

Planning

Planning Applications Received:

Re-consultation: Revised Site Layout Plan and additional information received 5th October 2017

DC/17/04024 Land Adjacent To Bears Lane, Lavenham

Planning Application - Erection of 24 dwellings with associated parking, landscaping and open space

The following response, already forwarded to the District Council due to time constraints, was endorsed by the meeting:

The developer has taken cognizance some of the issues raised but a more natural approach to tree and shrub planting is necessary. The trees along the main access should have a more irregular pattern with tree groups and stand alone trees. However, we have yet to hear anything constructive from either the County or District councils regarding emergency access to the whole area, albeit that the developer is willing to work with them to find a solution.

Re-consultation: Revised drawing received 17th October 2017

DC/17/04803 & DC/17/04804 - 9-10 Church Street, Lavenham

Householder Planning Application & Application for Listed Building Consent- Demolition of existing modern lean-to extension and erection of single storey rear extension

The following response, already forwarded to the District Council due to time constraints, was endorsed by the meeting:

This is not a substantive amendment to the original application and we wonder why it has been necessary to advertise it as a re-consultation. It does not in any possible way address the concerns raised in our original response; our recommendation of refusal is reiterated.

DC/17/04915 3 Ropers Court, Lavenham

Householder Planning Application - Erection of single storey rear extension

Prop. Mrs Twitchett, sec. Mrs Banks, recommend approval. Carried.

DC/17/05210 The Granary, Mill Hill, Bury Road, Lavenham

Planning Application - Conversion of former granary to 1 No. dwelling.

Prop. Mr Sheppard, sec. Mr O'Mahony, recommend refusal, the Parish Council maintains the objections put forward in respect of previous applications for this site, in that the dwelling proposed is not consistent with policy in that it is not adjacent to the Built Up Boundary. It is not a sustainable dwelling and is inappropriate in scale and design. Carried.

DC/17/05335 6 Bolton Street, Lavenham

Trees in a Conservation Area Notification - Fell 1 No. T1 Cherry Tree.

Prop. Mrs Baker, sec. Mr O'Mahony, recommend approval. Carried.

(8.30 pm. with previous agreement, Mr Philip Gibson left the meeting at this point)

Planning Decisions Received:

DC/17/04715 Linden, Bears Lane, Lavenham – Consent for Tree Preservation Order- Works Related: Reduce crown by 25-30% on 1 no. Ash (T1) WS41/T127 covered by Tree Preservation Order and Reduce limb by 6ft on 1 no. Horse Chestnut (T2) covered by Tree Preservation Order WS41/T124.

DC/17/04146 9-10 Church Street, Lavenham – No objection to Notification of Works to Trees in a Conservation Area: Reduce height by 2m, raise crown by 2- 3m and reduce by 1m 1 no. Sycamore (T1), Raise crown by 2m and balance lower laterals on 1 no. Walnut (T2), Fell to ground level 1 no. Apple tree (T3), Reduce and shape 1 no. Damson (T4), Fell to ground level 1 no. Holly (T5), raise crown by 2m and reduce by 1-1.5m 1 no. Mulberry.

DC/17/04457 3 Priory Farm Court, Water Street, Lavenham – No objection to Notification of Works to Trees in a Conservation Area: Fell to ground level 1 no. multi stemmed Conifer (T1), reduce height by 4m 1 no. multi-stemmed Conifer (T2) and fell to ground level 3 no. single-stemmed Conifers (T3, T4, T5)

DC/17/03718 Barn At Clayhill Farm, Clay Hill Farm, Lavenham – Prior Approval has been given, Notification for Prior Approval for a Proposed Change of Use of Agricultural Building to a Dwellinghouse (Class C3), and for Associated Operational Development - Change of use of barn to dwelling. As amended by receipt of amended layout plan 1596/17/01C showing associated domestic curtilage and parking area

Operations

Traffic and Road Management - it was intended to move the SID equipment from the Melford Road to the Sudbury Road but the recent works by Anglian Water had prevented this.

There had been no further response to requests to carry out repairs to the hole in the pavement above the culvert near the Lavenham Press works. Following advice received it was decided to pursue an application to list the culvert. This could be fast-tracked upon payment of a fee but it was decided to pursue a free application. Significant information would be required,

such as date of construction, date of any repairs and which areas they were carried out on. It was believed that there is a record of a survey on the culvert carried out by Anglian Water and enquiries would be made to locate this.

Additional street cleaning requirements – Mr Searle would liaise with our Village Warden in respect of a schedule for cleaning the streets. Enquiries would be made into the possibility of engaging idverde to carry out additional works. It was reported that the mechanical street sweeper will be in the village on 17th November and again in December.

Cemetery Chapel proposed refurbishment – Mr Searle is preparing a list of contractors.

Public Toilets – the surveyors have not yet contacted Mr Searle in respect of inspecting the premises.

Housing and Social

CLT – a further survey has been carried out and revealed a small amount of contamination but nothing of much concern. Contractors should be on site in January.

LED lighting update – no further progress to report.

Good Neighbours Scheme – the AGM on 20th October was well attended. John O’Mahony had given a talk at the Common Room tea earlier today.

Christmas tea party tickets are available for collection by those wishing to attend on Thursday 6th December.

Some of the Good Neighbours volunteers had met with a representative from Hadleigh Dementia Alliance and learned more about setting up a dementia support scheme in Lavenham.

Correspondence had been received from:

Jo Churchill MP, who is hosting an Older Persons’ Information Fair in the Apex Bury St Edmunds on Friday 1st December. The organisations attending cover a range of issues: support networks, older persons’ fitness, health, transport, befriending schemes etc., open to all. Mark Pryke, Network Service Manager for Anglian Water, offering a goodwill payment for the Parish Council to use as a contribution to a relevant project in the village, as acknowledgement of the inconvenience caused over the last week with emergency water main repairs. The members agreed that the village would be pleased to receive this community payment.

SALC, forwarding for distribution: LAIS Councillor Disqualifications; LAIS1403 Data Protection Bill; LAIS1404 Right Homes Consultation; SALC response to Precept Consultation Babergh DC, information regarding the Planning Committee meeting on 8th November when the application for Land South of Howlett’s is listed.

Information re ‘No mandate, no merger’ circulated, campaign to give Babergh and Mid Suffolk residents a vote on whether the councils should merge

Lavenham Gardening Club asking for permission to hold their usual two plant sales in the Market Place, on Saturday 5th May and 26th May 2017, 9.30 am to 12.30 pm.

Parish Council Newsletter

It was agreed in principle that the Parish Council should publish and distribute a short quarterly newsletter with continuing updates of news and projects.

The Parish Council will pay for extra copies of Lavenham Life December issue to be produced and will hand deliver copies to households within the village in order to ensure all residents are aware of Parish Council information articles in the magazine.

Babergh District Council emerging Local Plan

Draft responses to the questions posed in the consultation document had been

circulated, comments considered and drafts amended until all Councillors were satisfied that the final document produced reflected fully the view of the Council. It was proposed by Mrs Baker, seconded by Mr Sheppard, and agreed that the Parish Council's official response should be returned to Babergh.

Christmas Lights and Christmas Fair

Mrs Banks confirmed that the three Christmas trees have been ordered. An additional 100m of string lights have also been ordered to replace broken ones, there may be a need for more as the old lighting is checked further.

Heritage Action Zone for Lavenham

Invitations have been sent out to various groups and organisations asking if they would be interested in attending a seminar in respect of the above and whether they would support the concept of a Heritage Action Zone for Lavenham. Responses are awaited.

'Battles Over' Beacon of Light in 2018

Mrs Baker is awaiting more information and will report back at the December meeting. The suggestion that the Parish Council should purchase a gas beacon was supported. This could also be used for other local events in the future. Location not yet decided.

Other Matters brought to the attention of the Parish Council

Following a request by Mr Sheppard on behalf of the Lavenham Society, their use of the Coat of Arms is agreed.

Mrs Banks thought that an additional dog waste bin at the top end of Park Road, where the field path emerges onto the land, would help to reduce dog fouling. Enquiries to be made as to precise location, land ownership and to ensure that it could be included in the emptying schedule.

Mrs Twitchett reported that the Hadleigh transport scheme will be charging individuals for transport from home to the Monday lunch and Wednesday session at the Salvation Army. Previously it had been possible to travel free with a bus pass. Journeys will be £1.80 single, £2.90 return. Enquiries to be made to see if there is any way this can be negotiated or if there is a cheaper, alternative method of transport.

A new, updated Local Housing Needs Survey will be commencing in February 2018. This will be advertised in Lavenham Life with an explanation for the reasons another survey is necessary.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 7th December 2017

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm