

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held in the Guildhall, Thursday 1st August 2019 at 7.30 pm.

Present Mr J O'Mahony, Vice Chairman

Mrs J Baker, Mr B Panton, Mr A Searle, Dr C Posner, Mr I Lamont

Mr R Lindsay, Suffolk County Councillor. Mr C Arthey, District Councillor for Lavenham Ward.

1 member of the public

Public Forum - No requests to speak

Police Matters – Go to <https://www.suffolk.police.uk/your-area/snt-newsletters> for the June 2019 copy of the new-look newsletter, Constable's County.

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 June 2019: 1 x Burglary, 2 x Public Order offence, 1 x Theft other, 1 x Violence or sexual offence.

Mr O'Mahony reported that he had recently met with Councillor Maybury and the new member of the Sudbury SNT, Sergeant Luke Allard, for a walk around the village. Sgt Allard is a local man and very much wants to be part of the community.

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

Cllr. Lindsay said he will be hearing all the views submitted after the first six months of the Water Street weight restriction trial. It was emphasised that the Parish Council felt that the no parking restriction should be restored beside the Swan Hotel. Cllr Lindsay pointed out that any changes would have to be paid for by the Parish Council, especially if a Traffic Order was required to enable work to proceed.

District Councillor's Report, Mr C Arthey

Cllr Arthey reported that he had responded to various matters raised by Mr Reeve, a wasp nest at Tenter Piece and a breakdown of the figures for tenure in Lavenham. In respect of the Harwood Place play area and the overgrown hedge and boundaries, the job has gone out to a contractor.

It was thought that the total CIL for the Bears Lane site would be in the region of £235,000, this was less than Mr Reeve had anticipated and could be due to the affordable housing exemption element.

The Council was reminded of the Parish Briefing on the draft Joint Local Plan which is taking place in the Village Hall on 14th August. This will be followed later in the afternoon by an open public session. The Preferred Options document is open for consultation until the end of September, the Parish Council will have a meeting to consider its response. Cllr Arthey suggested areas of special interest: Page 32 Babergh Settlement Hierarchy; Page 40 Minimum housing requirement for NP Areas; Page 208 Joint Local Plan Allocation (single allocation at Melford Road). Also Local Policies, pages 58 – 108. Cllr Arthey offered to talk in more detail to the Parish Council, he thought the plan would be quite good for Lavenham and suggested that comments should cover the positives as well as the negatives.

Babergh and Mid Suffolk, in partnership with Abbeycroft Leisure and Everyone Active are offering free swims to under-16s at their leisure centres for the summer holiday. Details on how to sign up for membership are included in the August edition of Lavenham Life.

No problems had been reported with the switch from Thursday to Monday for the waste bin collection day.

Mr O'Mahony mentioned potential VE day events and FOLA's wish to avoid an overlap of any events planned within the three parishes which the airfield spans. Cllr Arthey

said that he was not aware at the moment of any events planned in Cockfield.

The Minutes – Prop. by Dr Posner, sec. by Mr Panton, the minutes of the meetings held on 26th June and 4th July 2019 were approved. Carried.

Declarations of Interest – none

Apologies for absence received from Mr Reeve, Mrs Twitchett, Miss Mortimer, Mrs Norman and Mr Sheppard. Also Councillor Maybury.

Matters arising and update of outstanding issues

Mrs Baker reported a Suffolk Libraries special day on 12th October when the focus will be on young readers. The Village Hall is sponsoring this event and individuals, businesses and organisations are being approached to sponsor or give a gift for the raffle. Mrs Baker wondered if the Parish Council would sponsor a small sum.

Finance and Strategy

Cheques for payment:

idverde, public toilet works July £1,860.00: JPB Landscapes, grounds maintenance/street cleaning July (grounds maintenance £1,058.77, street cleaning £1,428.79) £2,487.56: Kinex, phone account July £24.08: Paul Holland, works at 2 Lady Street/emergency repairs to Prentice Street toilet cistern (2 Lady St £785.00, Prentice St toilets £120.00) £905.00: Seago & Stopps, payroll services qe 05/07/19 £93.60: Payroll £746.26: Wealden Benches, 2 x 3-seater wooden benches £924.95: Cartridge Discount/Collins, inkjet cartridges & stationery £81.80: British Gas, electricity supply to Church Street toilets £18.35: Petty Cash £100.00: Paul Holland, 2 Lady Street wall protection works £70.00: Babergh District Council, parish election recharges £110.78: SALC, Financial Procedures and Risk Management course fee £42.00: Karzees, First Meadow toilet delivery & rental £72.00: S J Hurrell, plumbing works in respect of AW Improvement Notice & replacement cisterniser fill valve at Church Street toilets £350.45.

Paid by Direct Debit: 20/07/19 Total Gas & Power, electricity supply to Prentice Street toilets £51.58.

Babergh District Council has fully refunded the business rates on 2 Lady Street initially paid by the Parish Council, the amount is £2,647.70. The CBS will be responsible for business rates and will receive 80% charitable relief plus an extra 10% discretionary relief.

The Internal Audit Report was signed off on 26th July. The AGAR Part 3, and other requested documentation, was submitted to PKF Littlejohn LLP on 26th July, ahead of the extended deadline date of 29th July. The period for the exercise of public rights continues until Friday 9th August.

The PWLB loan of £100,000 (minus £35 fee) was advanced on 26th July 2019. The annual rate of interest is 1.59%, period for repayment 15 years, amount of half-yearly annuity £3,759.79 (payable 16th January & 16th July).

Letter to the Bank requests the transfer of £100,000 between accounts.

Mrs Baker proposed, Dr Posner seconded, that the financial transactions are approved. Carried.

The finance update and bank reconciliation was checked and signed by Mr Panton.

Planning**Planning Applications Received:****APPLICATION FOR RESERVED MATTERS**

DC/19/03185 Land South Of Howlett Of Lavenham, Melford Road, Lavenham

Submission of Reserved Matters details for outline planning permission DC/17/03100 (Appearance, Scale, Layout and Landscaping) and details for Conditions 5, 6, 9, 10, 13 and 14 for 25 dwellings

The members agreed the following observations:

The concentration of Affordable and Social Housing in cul-de-sac configurations does not assist an inclusive or coherent approach. Elsewhere in Babergh, the “pepper-pot” approach to spreading these dwellings around the site is more common and is designed to be more successful in bringing about social inclusion. The Royal Town Planning Institute and the Chartered Institute of Housing support the aims and are working together to ensure that cross-professional co-operations are at the heart of such successful planning for housing and the delivery of more and better housing in the right location and configuration. The Parish Council is disappointed these much respected organisations’ ideas on good practice are not being implemented on this development.

The building elevations are not sympathetic to either the Lavenham variety or vernacular, which suggests that the NPPF 2019, and particularly Chapter 12, have not made the intended impact on the design, nor has reference been made to the relevant pages on ‘style’ in the Lavenham Neighbourhood Plan.

The environmental impact of the adjacent Howlett’s site and works on the new housing development area has been avoided once more. We feel that full environmental evaluation could have an impact on the site layout and the number of dwellings.

Rider: The Parish Council cannot completely approve the Application until all Conditions have been submitted, and possibly the opportunity taken to revisit earlier parts of the Application. We ask that Babergh District Council Planning considers this matter also.

The Parish Council is in agreement with the views expressed in the Environmental Protection Team’s Memorandum submitted by Joanna Hart.

Prop. Mts Baker, sec. Dr Posner, recommend refusal, as incomplete. Carried.

DC/19/03038 & DC/19/03041 - Caustons, Bolton Street, Lavenham

Planning Application & Application for Listed Building Consent - Alterations to wall to enlarge access and erection of timber gates

Prop. Dr Posner, sec. Mr Lamont, recommend approval. Carried.

Planning Reference: SCC/0054/19B (to be determined by Suffolk County Council)

Proposal: Adaptation of existing outbuilding for use as a covered play area. Works to include new windows and doors. Taking down of a non-load bearing internal wall, new sink, consumer unit, suspended ceiling and flooring.

Location: Lavenham Primary School, Barn Street, Lavenham

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

Planning Decisions Received:

Notification of Withdrawn Planning Application

DC/19/01609 - Lavenham Priory, Water Street, Lavenham - Planning Application for erection 1no. dwelling and attached garage

DC/18/05619 1 Butfield, Lavenham - Non-Material Amendment to application reference

DC/18/05619 seeking to install a glazed apex window on the first floor of the two-storey rear extension. Amendment Details Approved:

DC/19/02822 Patch Cottage, 84 High Street, Lavenham - Notification of Works to Trees in a Conservation Area - T1 - (Beech) - reduce by 1.5 metres in height and 1m in width.

DC/19/02395 89 High Street, Lavenham – Listed Building Consent for removal of roof tiles, carry out roof and timber repairs including lead flashing, barge and verge boards replace to match existing. Roofing repairs to garage (rear of 13 High Street)

DISCHARGE OF CONDITION(S) TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 19
Prentice Street, Lavenham

Discharge of Conditions for DC/18/04601- Condition 5 (Roof light details)

DISCHARGE OF CONDITION(S) TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 The
Great House Hotel, Market Place, Lavenham

Discharge of Conditions for B/15/00860 - Condition 4 (Archaeological Works), Condition 11 (Parking Area Surface Treatment) and Condition 12 (Highways - Surface Water Discharge Prevention)

DISCHARGE OF CONDITION(S) TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 4
Church Street, Lavenham

Discharge of conditions for DC/19/00463 - Condition 4 (Fenestration), Condition 5 (Heritage - Eaves Verge)

Operations

It was reported that the White Horse in Water Street had been hit by a lorry, despite the bollards, although damage was not great.

Gas Works site – a representative of National Grid is coming from Manchester next Thursday to meet Mr O’Mahony and learn more about the village and the Parish Council’s ideas on future use of the site.

Lavenham Walk – as numbers attending were reduced this month it is proposed to discuss this fully at the September meeting. Meanwhile Dr Posner asked that all Councillors read through and comment on the notes which had been circulated, any decisions made must be unanimous.

It was noted that Suffolk County Council has undertaken another tree survey, it was hoped that this would be made available to the Parish Council.

There is considerable Ash Dieback in the Wood and it was wondered how much there will be on Lavenham Walk and how much this might cost to put right. Another matter for discussion in September.

A short article about ticks and Lyme Disease has been submitted for the August edition of Lavenham Life. Dr Posner had been disappointed in the response from Babergh when he had enquired about public information notices.

Housing and Social

CLT - service roads are now being completed. The CLT AGM will take place on 21st August and will be preceded by a 4 pm. visit to the Peek Close site for those attending. Allocations are continuing, there are still two properties available for joint ownership.

LED lighting – there has been some progress with conversions. There is a problem with the brickwork behind an existing bracket lamp on the corner of Water Street and Barn Street. An alternative position is being sought for the replacement. The owner of the building has been alerted to the problem.

Good Neighbours Scheme – Mr O’Mahony had given a talk to the people attending the Tenter Piece tea this afternoon.

Tenter Piece – the Parish Council’s proposed scheme for Common Room improvements had been circulated.

Correspondence had been received from:

The Chairman of Lavenham Bird Club, bringing to the Council's attention how work on older houses may prevent swifts accessing their normal nesting sites. Could the Parish Council bear this in mind when considering planning applications which might involve such areas.

A resident of Bears Lane drawing attention to three bags of earth/hardcore/shingle which appear to have been fly-tipped near the recycling bins in the Church Street car park. The offer has been made to remove and re-use this within the parish, or ensure that it is recycled/re-used elsewhere in a proper way.

Copy of an email from resident of High Street to SCC Customer Services complaining about roadworks set up outside a holiday cottage at 9.45 pm. on 26th July. Concern was expressed about the timing of this work, although in this case it was aborted, in a village largely dependent on the tourist trade. Some warning should have least been given.

From Suffolk Highways, warning of Emergency Works – Gully Jetting, scheduled to take place on Tuesday 6th August between 12 noon and 3 pm., High Street opposite nos. 54 and 55. Advance notification signs and no parking cones will be placed out on site prior to works starting in order that the area can be accessed.

2 Lady Street

The report and balance sheet to date produced by Lee Morris, Chair of Trust, would be circulated in due course.

There is a core of 10 volunteers and a further 3 or 4 are sought to fill in. A decision is to be made as to whether or not to replace the Manager, need to look at the long-term and whether there would be associated staff costs if extending the Post Office were possible.

VE Day 75 – 8th May 2020

Mr O'Mahony and Mr Panton had attended a special FOLA meeting on 19th July. Their 1940s Weekend will coincide with the VE Day commemorations and a request had been put out for ideas for events, some responses had been received. A working party is need to draw together the ideas, if anyone knows of people willing to volunteer please tell Mr O'Mahony. It is thought that the Community Council and Village Hall would like to be involved, also Little Hall is interested. Caroline Eves has generously said that she would like to be involved from the start. Lavenham School headteacher is keen for the pupils to be involved, also contact to be made with the Sudbury/Cornard Upper Schools in respect of involvement of students from the village. Sarah Rands has spoken for the Lavenham Forum.

Dr Posner very generously said that he will sponsor some flags towards the commemorations.

Suffolk County Council Highways Self-Help Scheme

Comments are to be sent to the administrators of the Scheme at Suffolk County Council.

Matters to be brought to the attention of the Parish Council

Mr Panton will be attending a preliminary meeting regarding the possible production of a free village newsletter, to be delivered to every household in the village with a view to reaching more people and improving communication within the community.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 5th September 2019.

The meeting closed at 9.50 pm.