

MINUTES of the MEETING of LEAVENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL held on Wednesday 1st July 2026 at 7.00 p.m. at Leavenheath Village Hall.

PRESENT: Cllr C Morgan (Chair), Cllr J Evans (Vice Chair), Cllrs C Davy, P King and S Whitelaw. District Cllr L Parker, County Cllr P Faircloth-Mutton, D Hattrell (Clerk) and 4 members of the public attended in person. There were no requests for a video link.

PUBLIC FORUM: Nothing was raised.

APOLOGIES: There were no apologies. The Parish Council PC received a resignation from Cllr Tina Taylor at the last meeting, and she has been thanked for all her support to the Village as Cllr. The official notice of vacancy was posted and now the PC is free to co-opt four new Cllrs in total.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: Nothing was declared.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PC MEETING ON 26th MAY 2026: These were accepted as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: Nothing was raised.

UPDATES FROM COMMUNITY, ORGANSISATIONS AND WARDENS ON URGENT MATTERS:

Reports were provided for the Village Hall, Footpaths, Village Trees, Village Green, Community Woodland and from the Police Website.

Village Hall Report

Since the Village Hall report at the Annual Parish Meeting **APM**, they have a new committee member, they hope to be able to run a quiz in September to help boost finances. They are also planning another Christmas Fayre; last year's was very well received by the community. They welcome support for these events to help make them a success as otherwise the hall will struggle financially. They experienced considerable trouble with the Inpost lockers when first installed but after many complaints these problems have now been resolved and the lockers are working as they should. With the extreme heat on Wednesday 14 June, they decided not to penalise their regular hirers if they wished to cancel. Wednesday is their busiest day full of exercise classes, and most did decide to cancel. This obviously has left them out of pocket, and they must consider all other solutions if, as predicted, we have more days like this. The new waste collection service has now begun, with glass being placed in household bins. However, they were still awaiting confirmation of when the bottle banks will be removed. As mentioned at the Annual Parish Meeting, they are exploring the possibility of installing a substantial noticeboard in place of the bottle banks. With the loss of the village magazine, this would provide a central place for residents to find information about local events, activities, and community updates. It would also support local groups by improving publicity for their events. The total cost of the noticeboard, including VAT and installation, is estimated at slightly over £2,000. They are seeking support from the PC to consider contributing towards this cost as a community initiative. See finance item.

Tree Warden's Report

Nothing had been received in relation to trees.

Footpath Warden's Report

A detailed report was provided to the APM and Cllr C Davy continues to be vigilant and report any issues with Parish paths including recently FP20 being overgrown – this path starts at the Village Green and continues past Oaklands Farm and behind various houses towards the A134.

Police Report - We have a new community police officer PC Charles Amos-Brown - he had confirmed he was planning to attend the Fete.

Crime reports for last three months: -

February

1 x Violence or sexual offence - on or near Oaklands - unable to prosecute

2 x Violence or sexual offences - on or near Wrights Way - one suspect going through Magistrates or Crown Court, the second they were unable to prosecute.

March

1 x Violence or sexual offence - on or near Rowans Way - unable to prosecute

1 x Violence or sexual offence - on or near Plough Lane - unable to prosecute

2 x Public Order offences - on or near SBN Golf Club - both still under investigation

April

1 x Other theft offence - on or near Wrights Way - investigation complete, no suspect identified

1 x Violence and sexual offence - on or near SBN golf club - under investigation

Village Green Report

The Annual Safety Inspection of the Playground was carried out at the beginning of June. The cost of this has been settled by the PC and is one of the listed payments. The Playground installer has been contacted regarding the points raised and the Village Green Committee is investigating points relating to older equipment. The PC have been approached about noise coming from the MUGA/basketball area which was shared with the Village Green Committee. It is being investigated by a Chief Environmental Officer at the District Council. The PC has asked for site of a plan evidencing the issue which was awaited at the time of the meeting.

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT: District Cllr L Parker attended and reported: -
General matters as follows: -

Have your say: Residents invited to help shape future of Babergh and Mid Suffolk

Residents, businesses, community groups and stakeholders are being invited to help shape the future of Babergh and Mid Suffolk as the councils launch the first stage of consultation on their new Joint Local Plan.

Sudbury bus station set for improvements after council secures £250k funding

Improvements will be made to Sudbury's bus station after Babergh District Council BDC secured £250k to enhance the travel experience for both passengers and operators.

New weekly wellbeing walk launches in Sudbury

Sudbury's new guided wellbeing walk brings a much needed, friendly walking option to a town that previously had no wellbeing walks.

Families in Babergh urged to claim Healthy Start support

Families across Babergh are being encouraged to check if they are eligible for the Healthy Start Scheme – with a recent increase in payment levels putting even more money into the hands of those who need it most.

New campaign launched to showcase Suffolk vineyards

A new Suffolk Wine Trail has been launched to help showcase Suffolk's growing collection of local vineyards.

Residents urged not to miss out on heating oil help

BDC and Mid Suffolk District Councils have joined forces with local Citizens Advice services to reach residents who may be missing out on financial help with heating oil – having already helped households unlock £100k in unclaimed benefits over the last year.

New Babergh Chair pledges support for charity close to his heart

The new Chair of BDC will be supporting a cause 'close to his heart'.

Following the report Cllr Parker advised the Scoping Consultation is open to 31st July 2026. He would encourage all to engage by answering the consultation questions.

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT: County Cllr P Faircloth-Mutton attended and his report covered: -

The improvements planned to Sudbury Bus Station, the legal challenge to the Local Government Review and the assessment of Adult Social Care. He confirmed that the details of the legal challenge are confidential at this stage and Adult Social Care was rated as Good, and although among the best, there are areas to improve.

On local matters he is assessing and potentially funding the replacement 30 mph speed limit sign on the High Road. In relation to the Vehicle Activated Signage posts along the A134 at Honey Tye, they are to be installed this summer. The Footpath digital map was provided following our APM. He will organise a site meeting with the Suffolk County Council SCC Engineer to review safety measures along the High Road and give notice of that meeting, if possible, to enable representation from the PC – **Action County Cllr Faircloth-Mutton**. He was looking forward to attending the Village Fete.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES, GROUPS AND OF REPRESENTATIVES:

The new representation was agreed as follows: -

Finance Sub Committee – Cllr J Evans (Vice Chair), Cllr P King and Cllr S Whitelaw will continue with Debbie Hattrell, the Responsible Finance Officer - RFO.

Planning Subgroup & Strategy – Cllr C Morgan (Chair) – All members will continue to discuss Planning, with the Chair being the main representative between meetings.

Neighbourhood Planning – Cllr C Morgan and Cllr J Evans will continue to monitor developments with the previous Neighbourhood Planning Group.

Footpaths – Cllr C Davy - **Footpath Warden**

VH rep – Cllr S Whitelaw.

VG rep – Cllr J Evans (Vice Chair) will continue to represent the PC at the Village Green meetings.

Risk Assessment – The Policy is reviewed by the full PC annually. Cllr S Whitelaw will carry out inspections of assets and equipment and report any findings to the full PC.

Other – Attention needs to be put to recruitment of Parish Councillors – see “Ideas to Improve the Village” Agenda item.

URGENT HIGHWAYS SAFETY MATTERS: The weeds on the road edges were raised again on the High Road and elsewhere in the Village. Cllr Faircloth- Mutton agreed to investigate.

FINANCE: The Bank Balances as of 30th June 2026 were £9,269.29 in the Community Account and £30,386.70 in the Rate Reward Account making a total of £39,655.99.

The following pre-agreed payments were made: -

Cheque No.	Amount	Payee	Details
<u>At 1st July 2026</u>			
Funds Transfer	1085.87	Clerk/HMRC/SCC	Staffing costs
Funds Transfer	502.80	SALC	Internal Audit Fee
Funds Transfer	96.00	Geosphere Ltd	Online mapping
<u>At 2nd June & 24th June 2026</u>			
Funds Transfer	1115.82	Clerk/HMRC/SCC	Staffing costs
Funds Transfer	760.80	Moser Groundcare	VG Maintenance
Funds Transfer	717.87	Clear Ins Mgmt Ltd	VG Insurance
Funds Transfer	255.00	S J Williams	VG Playgd Annual Inspection

The above payments were resolved.

Progress with Audit 2026

The Internal Audit is complete, and the full report is on the website. The External Audit is in progress. Any recommendations are to be discussed at the September PC Meeting.

First quarter budget Review

This was circulated the day before the meeting and no questions were raised.

Village Hall Noticeboard potential contribution

The meeting was closed briefly to discuss with the Village Hall representative, and it was clear further work was required regarding development of the area left when the bottle banks are removed. The PC agreed they support the principle of contributing when further information is available.

Leavenheath Link Newsletter potential contribution

Good feedback was given regarding the Leavenheath Link Newsletter, and a 6-month trial was agreed. The printing costs will be funded by County Cllr Faircloth-Mutton during the trial. This will be paid to the PC, and it was resolved for the PC to be invoiced directly by the printer.

Any Other Urgent financial matters

The PC pledged again their support towards the project to enhance the facilities at St Matthew's Church and agreed to issue a letter of support – **Action Clerk.**

LEAVENHEATH EVENTS: A brief update was given that all preparations for the Fete had been made and programs publicising the Fete had been posted through doors.

CORRESPONDENCE: On-going correspondence was noted by the meeting.

IDEAS TO IMPROVE THE VILLAGE: The need to publicise to recruit more Councillors was raised and the chair agreed to update the poster – **Action Chair.**

MAINTENANCE OF VILLAGE ASSETS: The installation of the posts for the Vehicle activated signage at Honey Tye had been chased and the work was on order by SCC. The replacement street lantern authorised in January this year has been chased. There is still a list of maintenance jobs including repair and installation of bins and noticeboards. A volunteer has come forward to quote for the work and will liaise with the Clerk accordingly.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING: Community Newsletter & Walks Leaflets. Both have been subject to correspondence between meetings. Footpath Warden, Cllr C Davy, updated that he is liaising with SCC regarding updating our walk leaflets.

REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS: Cllr S Whitelaw is updating the website and will add Leavenheath Link Newsletter – **Action Cllr S Whitelaw.**

The meeting closed at **8.40 p.m.**

The next PC Meeting is scheduled for 2nd September 2026 starting at 7pm.

Planning Meeting on 1st July 2026

The following Planning Applications were discussed: -

- A) **Hynards, Harrow Street** - Full Planning Application to convert and extend outbuilding to form dwelling – **DC/26/02215.**
The PC had **No Objections** between meetings.
- B) **Idano, Stoke Road** – Full Planning Application for change of use – **DC/26/02262.**
The PC had **No Objections** between meetings.
- C) **30 Edies Lane** – Householder application for conversion and extension to existing dwelling together with new front entrance gates and wall – **DC/26/02377.**
The PC raised **No Objections** in principle subject to consideration of points in relation to wall/gate, public footpath, neighbouring amenities and construction management.
- D) **18 Edies Lane** – Householder application – erection of side extension – **DC/26/02366.**
This application was being reviewed between meetings, and a response will be issued ahead of the deadline – **Action Clerk.**
- E) **National Grid Community Fund** had been discussed during the meeting and assistance was offered from our County and District Cllrs in gaining further information.
- F) **Any other urgent Planning Matters:** - Residents had shared concerns about a recording being triggered when walking on Public Footpath near 30 Edies Lane. The Chair agreed to investigate the position between meetings – **Action Chair and Clerk.**