

LAYHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held at 7.30pm on
Wednesday 30 August 2017 in the Village Hall

Present: Jane Cryer - Clerk (JC)
Ron Gunn (RG)
Steve Laing - Vice Chairman (SL)
Sheila Roberts (SR)
Doreen Sillett (DS)
Michael Woods - Chairman (MW)

In attendance: Gordon Jones, Suffolk CC (GJ)
John Ward, Babergh DC (JW)

Apologies: John Curran (JDC)
David Pratt (DP)

17.8.1 APOLOGIES

Apologies from DP and JDC were accepted.

17.8.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

17.8.3 PUBLIC FORUM

There were no parishioners present.

17.8.4 ADJOURNMENT TO RECEIVE WRITTEN REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

17.8.4.1 District Council report

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. Babergh's end of year report had been published online; MW commented that there were several references to health and wellbeing, and helping communities to be more active, and he felt this was relevant to the PC's desire to see the pavement between Upper Layham and Hadleigh widened. With regard to the Joint Local Plan consultation, JW said Babergh would be pleased to receive as much feedback as possible. In response to a question from MW, he confirmed that 'the Layham built-up area boundary' was the village envelope; there were no sites identified in Layham for housing and economic development. Babergh had confirmed their continued support for Hadleigh Market - in response to a question from SL about the cost of pitches and the impact on High Street traders, JW said he would investigate.

17.8.4.2 County Council report

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. With regard to the proposed Sizewell C power station and the report published by SCC highlighting possible alternative locations for accommodation for workers, GJ confirmed that this was a national project and the final decision would be made at Westminster. In response to a question from SL, he said the law did not permit 'legacy' regarding accommodation. Commenting on recent exam results, GJ noted that Hadleigh High School pupils had performed well.

17.8.5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was proposed by RG, seconded by DS and agreed unanimously that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 26 July 2017 should be accepted as an accurate record, and signed accordingly.

17.8.6 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Most of the actions were either ongoing, or were on the agenda. There were updates on the following:

17.8.6.1 Sale of Babergh's offices / Members' expenses

JC confirmed that she had chased a response to her letter to Babergh to request clarification on the consultants' fees and also whether there had been an increase in Members' expenses.

17.8.6.2 30mph speed limit in Stoke Road

GJ would follow this up with James Finch, and would copy the correspondence to JC.

17.8.6.3 Road sweeping

JC had chased a response to her request for a timetable for future activity and was awaiting firm dates.

17.8.6.4 Upper Layham phonebox

SL had received a quote from Cowle's for installing PIR lighting: £100 plus VAT per light. It was agreed that he would obtain two further quotes and bring these to the next meeting.

17.8.6.5 Land in front of 7 & 8 Upper Street

GJ, MW and JC had met on 10 August to discuss a possible course of action; further information was awaited.

17.8.6.6 CPR training

MW confirmed that 7 PCC members had signed up for CPR training, which would be held in St Andrew's Church on Wednesday 13 September, from 6pm-7pm. The training would be delivered by Dr Simon Gant and Charlie Panting, an ex-ambulance driver.

17.8.6.8 Reserves

JC had asked BDO to confirm the acceptable level of reserves for a parish council.

17.8.6.9 Water bursts

JC had received a response from Anglian Water about the continuing water bursts/leaks near Dixie Cottage. Anglian Water had confirmed that they were fully aware of the issue and the water main in question had been put forward for replacement; however, this could apparently take several years to be completed.

17.8.6.10 Mobile speed signs

GJ said he would be raising this at a forthcoming meeting with the Police & Crime Commissioner; he would also be chasing progress on the proposed automatic number plate recognition cameras.

17.8.6.11 Monitoring of defibrillators

SL had drafted a check list, which MW would discuss with JDC.

17.8.6.12 Banks and hedges in Water Lane

MW had taken photos and reported the problem via SCC's website; he had received a response to say no cutting back could be carried out during the bird nesting season.

17.8.7 FINANCIAL MATTERS

17.8.7.1 RFO's report

It was proposed by DS, seconded by SL and agreed unanimously that payments of £484.17 should be authorised.

17.8.8 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

17.8.8.1 Highways / footpaths

SL's report was noted. The PC had requested a police presence at a meeting earlier in the year with regard to dog attacks on a public footpath, but no one had been able to attend. SL had raised this with the Police & Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable, but it seemed unlikely that the police would be able to attend any meetings in future, due in part to lack of funding and personnel.

SL had said that, nevertheless, the parish council would have appreciated being kept informed of the outcome; Inspector Kevin Houghton had promised to contact the Clerk. SL also raised the idea of installing a bench seat along the B1071 between Upper Layham and Hadleigh; however, this would be for discussion at a future meeting.

17.8.8.2 Green Team

The report from SR and DS was noted. A meeting would be organised in the near future with various parishioners who were interested in working with the Green Team on various projects, including a wild flower meadow in the conservation area, a bug hotel and restoring the otter holt. Discussions had also been held with the Stour Valley & Dedham Vale Project, who were keen to reinvigorate the banks of the River Brett by planting shrubs and trees.

17.8.9 PLANNING

17.8.9.1 DC/17/04186 - Pope's Green Farm Barn

There were no objections to the application for change of use of the barn and cattle shed to residential use, the erection of a link extension and a single-storey front extension.

17.8.9.2 DC/17/04187 - Pope's Green Farm Barn

There were no objections to the application for Listed Building Consent in respect of the above works.

17.8.9.3 DC/17/04334 - Hillside, Upper Street

There were no objections in principle to the application; however, councillors expressed concern about the proposal to increase the height of the front garden wall and felt, should the application be approved, the owner should be encouraged to plant shrubs to soften its appearance.

17.8.10 EMERGENCY PLAN

17.8.10.1 Training session for ELVs

This would be held at 7.30pm on Monday 11 September, in the Village Hall. JDC had prepared notes and JC would produce handouts, which would also be given to any ELVs unable to attend. She would send councillors a list of ELVs who had replied to date so that they could contact those who had not yet replied. She had also amended the questionnaire and would produce copies for the meeting. JDC had been in touch with Sue Herne at Babergh about insurance implications, and would be meeting her to discuss this in more detail.

17.8.11 DEFIBRILLATOR FOR BRETT GREEN

The Clerk had received confirmation from Babergh's Planning team that a planning application would have to be made in respect of the housing for the defibrillator, at a cost of around £100, as the land was not owned or maintained by the Parish Council. As the land was, in fact, owned by Babergh and as the defibrillator would be for the benefit of the community, JW said he would speak to the appropriate Cabinet Member and report back.

With regard to funding the purchase of the defibrillator, MW had approached the Hadleigh Thrift Shop and would follow up in writing. SL said the Suffolk Masonic Lodge had also confirmed that they would be prepared to part-fund the cost, subject to approval of the scheme; he had also enquired about the Centenary Fund, to which applications could be made in April 2018 via the PCC.

17.8.12 PROPOSED BENTON STREET DEVELOPMENT

MW referred to the planning application for the erection of 11 houses on land at 120 Benton Street (formerly Hadleigh Building Supplies). JC had written to Councillor Fraser at SCC to ask whether this might provide an opportunity for the pavement to be widened at the same time. Councillor Fraser had responded to say he thought this unlikely, but had forwarded the correspondence to GJ, who had discussed it with James Finch. GJ suggested that he and MW should have a site meeting as soon as possible, when they would also discuss the growth along the route that pushed pedestrians into the road.

17.8.13 BABERGH & MID SUFFOLK JOINT LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION

Babergh and Mid Suffolk DCs had produced a draft Joint Local Plan and the consultation period had started on 21 August; it would run until 10 November. A series of meetings were being set up and Layham PC had been invited to one on Thursday 7 September, in the Guildhall, Hadleigh. There would also be a series of public drop-in sessions during October and November.

17.8.14 CORRESPONDENCE

None.

17.8.15 CLERK'S REPORT ON URGENT DECISIONS SINCE THE LAST MEETING

None.

17.8.16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

7.30pm on Wednesday 27 September 2017, in the Village Hall.

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