

LAYHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held at 7.30pm on
Wednesday 25 July 2018 in the Village Hall

Present: Jane Cryer - Clerk (JC)
Ron Gunn (RG)
Steve Laing - Vice Chairman (SL)
David Pratt (DP)
Sheila Roberts (SR)
Michael Woods - Chairman (MW)

In attendance: Parishioner

Apologies: John Curran (JDC)
Gordon Jones, Suffolk CC (GJ)
John Ward, Babergh DC (JW)

18.7.1 APOLOGIES

See above - apologies were accepted from JDC.

18.7.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

18.7.3 PUBLIC FORUM

(see also minute 18.7.11, below)

The parishioner present referred to agenda item 18.7.11; together with RG he took responsibility for emptying the litter bins on the playing field. There were currently two wheelie bins at the Recycling Site, one green one and a blue one for recycling; he felt that the green bin was confusing as parishioners were used to black bins. He suggested that the green bin should be relocated to nearer the football pitch, and a new black bin acquired for the Recycling Centre - these were available from Amazon for less than £50. MW thanked him for his interest and said the PC would consider his suggestion.

18.7.4 ADJOURNMENT TO RECEIVE WRITTEN REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

18.7.4.1 District Council report

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. SL had some questions relating to the New Homes Bonus and also Babergh & Mid Suffolk's investments.

18.7.4.2 County Council report

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. SL said the plans for the new swimming pool in Hadleigh did not appear to incorporate solar panels, despite the fact that SCC was supporting the 'Solar Together Suffolk' campaign. With regard to the review of highways maintenance, MW said he would like clarification on the statement that one area to be reviewed was 'how town and parish councils can work closer with Suffolk Highways to make the best use of their local knowledge, skills, money and time'. SL said he would also like clarification on road closures, including penalties for over-running and failure to clear away cones, signs etc.

It was agreed that SL and DP would produce a note of items to be discussed with both JW and GJ at the next meeting, to be sent to them in advance.

18.7.5 CO-OPTION

The working party had met all five candidates (the sixth candidate had withdrawn his application since the last meeting) and had circulated a paper to councillors before the meeting. Any one of the five candidates would have been an asset to the council, but the working party's recommendation was that Charlotte Britton should be co-opted; her role as a member of Essex County Council's team supporting parish councils, and as lead officer for 'Strengthening Communities', would equip her to make an immediate contribution to the work of the PC. It was proposed by DP, seconded by RG and agreed unanimously to accept the working party's recommendation. JC would write to all candidates to advise them of the decision and would prepare an information folder for Charlotte.

18.7.6 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was proposed by DP, seconded by SR and agreed unanimously that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 27 June 2018 should be accepted as an accurate record, and signed accordingly.

18.7.7 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

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

18.7.7.1 Sign at the top of Water Lane

GJ confirmed that he had given approval for a sign at the top of Water Lane advising that it was not suitable for HGVs. JC would follow up with him.

18.7.7.2 Sign to Village Hall

JC had emailed SCC Highways to request an update from the Operations Team.

18.7.7.3 No Access sign for Mill Lane

JC had chased SCC for a response, especially in the light of the forthcoming closure of Benton Street for 3 days from 31 July.

18.7.7.4 Gates for conservation area

MW had completed the application form for S106 funding and JC had submitted it to Babergh.

18.7.8 FINANCIAL MATTERS

18.7.8.1 RFO's report

It was proposed by SL, seconded by RG and agreed unanimously that the finance report for 25 July 2018 should be approved and payments of £1,399.79 should be authorised.

18.7.9 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

18.7.9.1 Defibrillator for Brett Green

JDC's report was noted. He and SL had met Alan Fosker of Hadleigh Masons and explained the need for additional funding. Mr Fosker would approach the Chairman of the Masonic Lodge to see if any funding was available, but also suggested applying to the national fund in August, when the next bidding cycle would start. Any funding from the Masons would be for projected projects rather than completed ones; it was therefore agreed not to make a decision on the feeder pillar until the August meeting.

18.7.9.2 Green Team

SR's report was noted. A working party had cleared the Himalayan Balsam from alongside the ditch near the playing field; SR thanked the volunteers for their help. As Babergh had not removed the debris accumulated during the edging work on Brett Green, as promised, this had also been done by volunteers.

18.7.10 PLANNING

18.7.10.1 DC/18/01992 - Frogg Hall Farm, Potts Lane

It was noted that prior approval for change of use was not required.

18.7.10.2 DC/18/01028 - Partridge Cottage, Stoke Road

It was noted that permission had been refused for the erection of a retaining wall adjacent to the highway.

18.7.10.3 DC/17/06317 - Mill House, Mill Lane

Discharge of Condition 3 (repair works to historic fabric) was noted.

18.7.11 PLAYING FIELD

(see also minute 18.7.3, above)

It was proposed by MW, seconded by RG and agreed unanimously that a black wheelie bin should be acquired for the Recycling Centre; JC would contact Babergh to request one.

18.7.12 CORRESPONDENCE

18.7.12.1 Proposals to reduce PCSO workforce

JC had received a letter from the Branch Secretary, Suffolk Police UNISON, who had written to all town and parish councils requesting them to write to the Chief Constable and the Police & Crime Commissioner urging them to reconsider the proposals. It was agreed in principle to do so; JC would circulate the letter for comment before responding.

18.7.12.2 First aid training

JC had received an email from a parishioner with details of a first aid trainer offering training on the use of defibrillators for a small cost. Currently two volunteers in the village were providing CPR training, but it was agreed to keep the trainer's contact details on file and possibly invite him to the 2019 Annual Parish Meeting. JC would thank the parishioner for the information.

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

None.

18.7.14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

7.30pm on Wednesday 22 August 2018, in the Village Hall.

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