

LAYHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held at 7.30pm on
Wednesday 23 January 2019 in the Village Hall

Present: Charlotte Britton (CB)
Jane Cryer - Clerk (JC)
John Curran (JDC)
Ron Gunn (RG)
Steve Laing - Vice Chairman (SL)
David Pratt (DP)
Michael Woods - Chairman (MW)

In attendance: John Ward, Babergh DC (JW)

Apologies: Sheila Roberts (SR)
Gordon Jones, Suffolk CC (GJ)

19.1.1 APOLOGIES

See above - apologies were accepted from SR.

19.1.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

19.1.3 PUBLIC FORUM

There were no parishioners present.

19.1.4 ADJOURNMENT TO RECEIVE WRITTEN REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

19.1.4.1 District Council report

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. A planning application had been submitted for 78 new homes in Hadleigh, with proposals to develop the former council offices in Corks Lane, and the former care home at Angel Court. The Angel Court application had now been approved. However, JW said the Sudbury Society had made an application for the entire Corks Lane site to be listed, including the 1980's infill buildings; this had resulted in a delay in that application going to committee. A decision was expected at the end of January on the appeal against the Judicial Review's decision to uphold Babergh's Panning Committee's decision to approve an application for 144 homes in East Bergholt. MW commented that the Exacom Public Facing Module, which provided access to information about CIL and developer contributions, was extremely useful. It was noted that parish councils were able to bid for further funding under Regulation 123.

19.1.4.2 County Council report

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. MW said the 'Most Active County' initiative referred to 'collaboration' in the same way as the Suffolk Walking Strategy two years ago; this was relevant to the parish council's ongoing attempts to have overgrown vegetation cut back along the pavement from Upper Layham to Hadleigh in order to make it safer for pedestrians. He proposed that a note be sent to Councillor Gordon Jones asking him to pass it on to relevant officers and councillors; this was seconded by JDC and agreed unanimously. With regard to the proposed cut in funding for the Citizen's Advice Bureau, SL proposed that the parish council should respond to the consultation to say it was unhappy with this proposal and the lack of ongoing support for the CAB. This was seconded by CB and agreed unanimously.

19.1.5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was proposed by JDC, seconded by SL and agreed unanimously that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 28 November 2018 should be accepted as an accurate record, and signed accordingly.

19.1.6 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

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

19.1.6.1 ANPR / Community Speedwatch

The ANPR report was not yet available. It was agreed that there should be an item on the February agenda whether or not the report was available then, to discuss the way forward. In the meantime, JC would find out whether CIL funding (Regulation 123) could be used for the purchase of speeding devices etc.

19.1.6.2 Sign for top of Water Lane

Following feedback from both Highways and the owners of Water Lane Cottage, JC had requested a site visit; this was in the process of being arranged for week comm 28 January.

19.1.7 FINANCIAL MATTERS

19.1.7.1 RFO's report

It was proposed by RG, seconded by JDC and agreed unanimously that the finance report for 23 January 2019 should be approved and payments of £518.60 authorised. It was noted that S106 funding of £474.67 had been received from Babergh DC for the gates to the conservation area of the playing field. JC had received a letter from SCC confirming that a payment of £1000 from GJ's Locality Budget towards the Brett Green defibrillator would be made during January.

19.1.7.2 New NJC salary scales

The new NJC salary scales included the introduction of a new pay spine; JC was currently on SCP27, which fell between the new SCPs 20 and 21. It was proposed by JDC, seconded by RG and agreed unanimously that she should be on SCP21 with effect from 1 April 2019.

19.1.8 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

19.1.8.1 Defibrillator on Brett Green

JDC gave a verbal update. He and MW had met the contractor on site earlier in the day; a revised quotation for the electrical installation work, including groundworks to install the feeder pillar and ducts, was circulated. It was proposed by JDC that the quotation should be accepted; this was seconded by DP and agreed unanimously. However, before proceeding JC would check the PC's Financial Regulations to ensure alternative quotes were not required.

19.1.9 PLANNING

19.1.9.1 DC/18/05390 - Mill House, Mill Lane

There were no objections to the application for removal of a dilapidated summer room.

19.1.10 PARISH PLAN

Several responses to the questionnaire had been received and passed to CB. It was agreed to hold two 'drop-in' sessions on Saturday 6 April in the Village Hall as part of the consultation process. The working party would meet again to review the questionnaire responses and discuss this event; this would be an agenda item for the February meeting.

19.1.11 EVENT FOR PARISHIONERS

It was agreed not to hold an event after all, given the Parish Plan sessions (above) and the Annual Parish Meeting. However, before the present council stepped down, thank-you cards would be sent to all those parishioners who had helped with community tasks over the past four years.

19.1.12 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

This would be held on Wednesday 24 April. The meeting would be followed by refreshments, as usual.

19.1.13 SPRING CLEAN

It was agreed to hold the annual Spring Clean on Saturday 23 February. MW asked everyone to think about possible activities and liaise with SR. The event would be advertised via the community email, the HCN, and posters. SR would discuss with the Green Team the possibility of re-seeding the wild flower meadow in line with B-Line guidance.

19.1.14 MOBILE POST OFFICE SERVICE

JC had been contacted by the Area Network Change Manager, who said there was an opportunity to introduce a mobile Post Office service in Layham; she had asked for suggestions on a possible location. It was agreed that the most sensible option would be where the mobile library currently stopped, on Brett Green. Should there also be an option for a stop in Lower Layham, this could be outside the Queen's Head.

19.1.15 2019 ELECTIONS

The elections would be held on Thursday 2 May. Election notices would be issued between 12 and 26 March and nomination papers would be available from JC, or Babergh DC. The deadline for submission of applications was 4pm on 3 April. All current councillors would retire and the new councillors would take office on 7 May 2019. Text for the HCN was agreed, encouraging parishioners to put themselves forward for election.

19.1.16 CORRESPONDENCE

19.1.16.1 Layham Playgroup

Layham Playgroup, a registered charity, had approached the PC to see whether there were any opportunities to collaborate to try and save this community asset and raise awareness. It was agreed that this should form part of the Parish Plan discussions.

19.1.16.2 Redundant telegraph poles

A parishioner had noted that the new telegraph poles at the bottom of Church Lane had still not been connected, despite having been installed some years ago; the old poles were still in use. She had been in touch with UK Power Networks who were looking into the issue.

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

None.

19.1.18 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

7.30pm on Wednesday 27 February 2019, in the Village Hall.

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