

## LAYHAM PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the meeting of the Council held at 1.30pm on Wednesday 24 June 2020 via ZOOM

**Present:** Jane Cryer - Clerk (JC)  
John Curran (JDC)  
Bill Paton (BP)  
David Pratt (DP)  
Sheila Roberts (SR)  
Michael Woods - Vice Chairman (MW) - *in the Chair*

**In attendance:** John Ward - Babergh DC (JW)  
4 parishioners

**Apologies:** Charlotte Britton - Chairman (CB)  
Gordon Jones - Suffolk CC (GJ)

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#### 20.6.1 APOLOGIES

See above - apologies were accepted from CB.

#### 20.6.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

SR declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 20.6.10.3, as a next door neighbour.

#### 20.6.3 PUBLIC FORUM

The following issues were raised:

- An update was requested on the action the PC planned to take concerning speeding. If the Marquis planning application was approved, a speed camera would be even more essential;
- There was a problem with overgrown vegetation along the pathway from Upper Layham to Hadleigh - SR would report this online.

Noel Herring wished to express his thanks for everything the PC had done during the lockdown, with especial thanks to BP for regular shopping trips.

#### 20.6.4 ADJOURNMENT TO RECEIVE WRITTEN REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

##### 20.6.4.1 District Council report

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. JW said the second round of the discretionary grant to help businesses was now under way; Babergh and Mid Suffolk had each contributed £150,000. He said all councils had been severely affected by the crisis, and there was no government recompense for loss of income. He also said that the current situation was not seen as a reason to change the planning process. In response to a question from JDC, JW confirmed that the decision on the Marquis planning application would be delegated - he had spoken to the delegation panel, which felt that there was no material planning consideration that would warrant it going to committee. The applicant planned to submit some amendments to the original application; once these were received, there would be a further 21-day consultation period. In response to a question from BP, JW said comments from parishioners were obviously more relevant than those from people outside the village, but all comments were taken into consideration. JW confirmed that there had been no separate application for change of use of the land from agricultural; however, this did not preclude the planting of trees etc.

##### 20.6.4.2 Suffolk CC

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. The report was noted; there were no questions.

## **20.6.5 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS**

### **20.6.5.1 SCC speeding working group**

CB had attended the second meeting of this group, held shortly before lockdown; the possibility of some funding from the Suffolk2020 fund had been discussed. JDC said the PC working group felt that a speed indication device was required rather than ANPR (automatic number plate recognition), because of the work required behind the scenes to manage the data etc. It was agreed that speeding would be on the next agenda; JDC would bring costings to the meeting.

### **20.6.5.2 Spring Clean**

SR's report on the spring clean held on 7 March was noted; MW thanked her for organising it.

## **20.6.6 MINUTES**

### **20.6.6.1 Meeting held on Wednesday 26 February 2020**

It was proposed by DP, seconded by JDC and agreed unanimously that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 26 February 2020 should be accepted as an accurate record, and signed accordingly.

### **20.6.6.2 Planning meeting held on Tuesday 19 May 2020**

It was proposed by JDC, seconded by BP and agreed unanimously that the minutes of the planning meeting held on Tuesday 19 May 2020 should be accepted as an accurate record, and signed accordingly.

## **20.6.7 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 26 FEBRUARY 2020**

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

### **20.6.7.1 SCC self-help scheme**

This would be an item for the next agenda.

### **20.6.7.2 Missing/damaged hydrant markers**

JC had requested a location plan; she would follow up on this.

### **20.6.7.3 Faded road markings**

The faded road markings at the junction of Brett Green and Mill Lane, and where Mill Lane joined the main road, had been renewed.

### **20.6.7.4 Clerk's annual review**

This had been delayed due to lockdown; it was agreed that it should take place via ZOOM - JC would circulate potential dates.

### **20.6.7.5 Housing Needs Survey**

JC had been in contact with Community Action Suffolk, whose Community Development Officer had offered to attend a PC meeting in order to explain the process and discuss the matter further; it was agreed to invite her to a meeting once things were back to normal.

## **20.6.8 COVID 19 PANDEMIC**

The decisions taken during lockdown were noted. Councillors noted JDC's report on the actions taken by the working party to identify how those parishioners self-isolating, shielding or in the vulnerable category could be helped to carry on their day to day lives. MW thanked the working party - JDC said a huge thank-you was also due to the ELVs.

## **20.6.9 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

### **20.6.9.1 RFO's report as at 31 March 20**

It was proposed by DP, seconded by JDC and agreed unanimously that the finance report for 31 March 2020 should be approved and payments of £199.71 were authorised.

#### **20.6.9.2 RFO's report as at 24 June 2020**

It was proposed by DP, seconded by JDC and agreed unanimously that the finance report for 24 June 2020 should be approved and payments of £2,022.44 were authorised. It was noted that the first tranche of the precept (£5,500) had been received.

#### **20.6.10 PLANNING**

##### **20.6.10.1 DC/20/02159 - Antrim House, Upper Street**

There were no objections to the application for a single storey side / rear extension.

##### **20.6.10.2 DC/20/02078 - Acer View, Potts Lane**

There were no objections to the application for change of use, extension and conversion of barn to create one dwelling, and erection of a 3-bay garage with office over.

##### **20.6.10.3 DC/20/01290 - Beck Cottage, Overbury Hall Road**

There were no objections to the application for the erection of a replacement dwelling following demolition of the existing dwelling and outbuildings. It was noted that the applicant planned to re-use existing bricks where possible.

##### **20.6.10.4 DC/20/02291 - Land rear of The Leys, Rands Road**

There were no objections to the application for change of use from agricultural land to residential.

##### **20.6.10.5 DC/20/01928 - Linden Lodge, Layham Road, Shelley**

There were no objections to the application for change of use of land for keeping horses, the construction of stables and a manege, and extension to the driveway. MW said there was an ancient hedge running alongside the field which he hoped would be maintained and encouraged; it was agreed to note this in the PC's response to the application.

##### **20.6.10.6 DC/20/00423 - 1 Upper Street**

It was noted that the application for a new dwelling had been withdrawn.

#### **20.6.11 CASUAL VACANCY**

Tony Stenning had resigned from the Parish Council with effect from 1 June 2020, thus creating a casual vacancy. JC had contacted Babergh and was awaiting a Notice of Vacancy which would be required to be displayed for fourteen days. Following this period, if no request for an election had been made by ten electors, the vacancy could be filled by co-option.

#### **20.6.12 VILLAGE SEAT**

A picnic table had been installed at Blacksmith's Corner in Lower Layham. It was proposed by MW, seconded by DP and agreed unanimously that it should be adopted by the Parish Council; JC would ensure it was added to the asset register and insurance policy.

#### **20.6.13 CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE**

##### **20.6.13.1 Village sign**

A competition had been launched by Bob Barbiaux to find a suitable design for a proposed village sign; no funding was being sought from the Parish Council. However, JC was in the process of taking guidance from Babergh and SALC on the rules governing village signs - eg ownership, planning permission, permission from Highways etc. This would be an agenda item for the next meeting; in the meantime, JC would thank Bob for his kind offer.

#### **20.6.14 CLERK'S REPORT ON URGENT DECISIONS SINCE THE LAST MEETING**

None.

#### **20.6.15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To be agreed when internal audit completed.

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