

LAYHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the AGM of the Council held at 7.30pm on
Wednesday 18 May 2022 in the Village Hall

Present:	Charlotte Britton (CB) Jane Cryer - Clerk (JC) John Curran (JDC) David Pratt (DP) Michael Woods - (MW)
In attendance:	Georgia Hall, Suffolk CC (GC) John Ward, Babergh DC (JW) 1 Parishioner
Apologies:	Sue Keeble (SK) Sheila Roberts (SR)

22.5.1 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

It was proposed by JDC, seconded by DP and agreed unanimously that Charlotte Britton be re-elected Chairman for 2022/23; she confirmed she was happy to accept the nomination. It was further proposed by JDC, seconded by DP and agreed unanimously that Michael Woods be re-elected Vice Chairman; he accepted the nomination. Declaration of Acceptance of Offer forms were duly signed.

22.5.2 APOLOGIES

Apologies were accepted from SK and SR.

22.5.3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

22.5.4 PUBLIC FORUM

The parishioner present did not wish to speak.

22.5.5 ADJOURNMENT TO RECEIVE WRITTEN REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

22.5.5.1 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 Women's Cycle Tour would be passing through Upper Layham on Monday 6 June at around 1pm, en route to Hadleigh; JC would send a community email nearer the time. In response to a question from CB, JW said all council tax account holders who paid by direct debit had received their £150 energy rebate by the end of April. Everyone else had received a letter directing them to an online application form; an automatic credit would be made to anyone who had not responded within three weeks. Further help and guidance was available from libraries.

22.5.5.2 County Council report

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. JC confirmed that she was aware of the forthcoming roadworks in Lower Layham and had sent out a community email. GH said she was continuing to follow up on the footpath to Hadleigh from Upper Layham; she was still awaiting a response re the flooding near the Rugby Club.

22.5.6 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was proposed by JDC, seconded by CB and agreed unanimously that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 30 March 2022 should be accepted as an accurate record, and signed accordingly.

22.5.7 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

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

22.5.7.1 Defibrillator for Stoke Road

Following the departure of Graham Coleman, it was agreed to defer this item until the casual vacancy had been filled and a new working group could be convened.

22.5.8 FINANCIAL MATTERS

22.5.8.1 RFO's report for 31.3.22

It was proposed by CB, seconded by JDC and agreed unanimously that the finance report for 31 March 2022 should be approved and a payment of £39 authorised.

22.5.8.2 RFO's report for 18.5.2

It was proposed by JDC, seconded by MW and agreed unanimously that the finance report for 18 May 2022 should be approved and payments of £6759.27 authorised; it was noted that the first tranche of the precept for 2022-23 had been received. It was further noted that the funds held by the PC on behalf of the Village Hall had been repaid, as requested by the VH Committee.

22.5.8.3 2021/22 external audit

It was agreed unanimously to certify Layham Parish Council as exempt; the Certificate of Exemption was duly signed by the Chairman and the Clerk/RFO.

22.5.9 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

22.5.9.1 Quiet Lanes Suffolk

The report from the working group was noted. It was agreed that, if volunteers were not available to fix the signs to the posts installed by SCC, JC would approach Steven Stiff.

22.5.9.2 Local History Recorder's annual report

This had been circulated prior to the meeting and was duly noted. A copy would be sent to the Archives, and would also be posted on the Layham website.

22.5.10 PLANNING

22.5.10.1 DC/22/02008 & 02087 - Valley Farm

Councillors had no objections to the application for a rear entrance canopy; sash windows and Listed Building Consent.

22.5.10.2 DC/22/02233 - Land north of Partridge Cottage

Councillors had no objections to the application for the erection of an agricultural building.

22.5.10.3 DC/22/01930 - The Builders Yard

Councillors had no objections to the application for the erection of a dwelling and cartlodge. In response to a question from JDC concerning car parking, the applicant said the access would be changed to meet Highways' requirements.

22.5.10.4 DC/22/00684 - Valley Farm

It was noted that permission had been granted for a sewage treatment plant.

22.5.10.5 DC/22/00690 - Mill House

It was noted that permission had been granted for replacement of garage doors.

In response to a request from MW for clarification on the Planning department's policy concerning new development in Lower Layham where there had been no previous footprint, JW said he would report back. In response to a question from JDC about the proposed new pipeline running from Bury to Colchester, JC said Raydon PC had responded to the application from Anglian Water for an Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Opinion; she would forward details to JDC.

22.5.11 CASUAL VACANCY

Following the resignation of Graham Coleman, the Notice of Vacancy was currently being displayed for the requisite 14 days, which would expire on 25 May. If ten electors had not called for an election by that date it was agreed to invite Steve Laing to be co-opted, as he had polled the second highest number of votes when the last casual vacancy was filled.

22.5.12 NOTICEBOARDS

It was agreed to accept the quote from Steven Stiff to refurbish the noticeboard at the junction of Mill Lane and Upper Street; Bob Barbiaux had kindly offered to refurbish the board in Lower Layham. The noticeboard at the Recycling Centre was beyond repair; however, rather than accept the quote for a like-for-like replacement, it was agreed to look at purchasing a larger, more durable noticeboard; JC would bring some information to the June meeting.

22.5.13 GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE

The General Power of Competence gave local councils in England ‘the power to do anything that individuals generally may do’ and removed the need for councils to ask whether they had a specific power to act. Layham met the criteria, having a qualified Clerk and two-thirds elected members, and had adopted it in July 2019. It was proposed by CB, seconded by JDC and agreed unanimously to renew the General Power of Competence for 2022/23.

22.5.14 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Babergh DC was carrying out this review of the whole principal council area, rather than dealing with review requests piecemeal. After consideration, councillors felt that there were no real issues with maintaining the status quo.

22.5.15 CORRESPONDENCE

22.5.15.1 Broken marker post

A parishioner was concerned about a broken marker post at the junction of Mill Lane and Watermill Close; JC would ask Anglian Water to either repair it, or if no longer required, remove it.

22.5.15.2 Noticeboards

A parishioner had asked whether more noticeboards could be installed on Upper Street. However, councillors felt that three noticeboards in the village were sufficient, especially as a considerable amount of money was about to be spent on refurbishing / replacing the existing ones (*see 22.5.12*).

22.5.16 CLERK’S REPORT ON URGENT DECISIONS SINCE THE LAST MEETING

None.

22.5.17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed to change the date of the next meeting from Wednesday 29 June to **Wednesday 22 June 2022**, at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

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