

LAYHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held at 7.30pm on
Wednesday 23 February 2022 in the Village Hall

Present: Charlotte Britton - Chairman (CB)
Graham Coleman (GC)
Jane Cryer - Clerk (JC)
John Curran (JDC)
Sue Keeble (SK)
David Pratt (DP)
Sheila Roberts (SR)
Michael Woods - Vice Chairman (MW)

In attendance: Georgia Hall, Suffolk CC (GC)

Apologies: John Ward, Babergh DC (JW)

22.2.1 APOLOGIES

See above.

22.2.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

22.2.3 PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public were present.

22.2.4 ADJOURNMENT TO RECEIVE WRITTEN REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

22.2.4.1 District Council report

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. MW said he would be interested to have more information about the tree canopy survey and biodiversity mapping exercise; JC would contact JW.

22.2.4.2 County Council report

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. GH said the deadline for road closure requests for Jubilee events was 11pm on Sunday 27 March; the Events Group would be discussing this.

22.2.5 FINANCIAL MATTERS

22.2.5.1 RFO's report

It was proposed by JDC, seconded by DP and agreed unanimously that the finance report for 23 February 2022 should be approved and payments of £1,155.05 were authorised.

22.2.5.2 Internal audit recommendations

JC's update was noted.

22.2.6 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was proposed by SK, seconded by JDC and agreed unanimously that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 26 January 2022 should be accepted as an accurate record, and signed accordingly.

22.2.7 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

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

22.2.7.1 Flooding on Layham Road near Rugby Club

JC had copied the correspondence to GH, who had pursued the matter with Highways and also Councillor Mick Fraser; JC had also contacted Councillor Fraser. An update had since been received from the Highways Assessment Officer, who advised that a cyclic cleanse of all the drainage in that area would be carried out in the next few months.

22.2.7.2 Spring Clean

This would take place at 10am on Saturday 12 March. SR said fly tipping had been reported at the top of Rands Road, which would be dealt with. Other activity would include the hedge on Brett Green, tidying up the playing field and Mill Lane, including debris caused by the recent storm. SR had requested additional brown bins from BDC and arranged for rubbish to be collected afterwards. Another community email would be sent out nearer the time.

22.2.8 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

22.2.8.1 Defibrillator on Stoke Road

JDC gave a verbal update. The drawing from UK Power Networks was thought to be incorrect with the main cable being on the other side of the road to that shown (there was evidence of road crossings to support this). Therefore the proposed location of the defibrillator had changed; JDC would send the plan showing the new position to GH. UKPN had quoted £421 for another site visit; however, JDC had asked for a budget price for putting the equipment adjacent to the cable (as that would be the cheapest option, and as it did not matter which side of the road it was on). The suggestion now was that the defibrillator was positioned in front of The Farmhouse near Warwick Cottage. However, it would be important to ensure there were no objections from householders. The course of action being taken was approved.

22.2.8.2 Speeding through Upper Layham

The report from the working party was noted. There were now enough volunteers to make up two teams to move the SID device on a regular basis; team B would be responsible for this during March. In response to a request from SK, JDC would circulate the data gathered. He confirmed that Suffolk Highways would not allow the pole at the Mill Lane end of Upper Street to be moved. In response to a question from MW, he said that no particular pattern of speeding had emerged; he commented that the 30mph wheelie bin signs were helping. GH said the ANPR trial had started in Capel St Mary.

MW proposed a vote of thanks to JDC for his hard work on moving these issues forward, as well as leading on the response to the National Grid proposals.

22.2.9 PLANNING

22.2.9.1 DC/21/00684 - Valley Farm, Rands Road

There were no objections to the application for a sewage treatment plant & removal of septic tank.

22.2.10 QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

The report from the Events Group was noted. With regard to the Group's request for match funding, JDC proposed that the Parish Council should instead make a donation towards the costs of organising the event; this was seconded by GC and agreed unanimously. GH said there might be a possibility of some funding from her Locality Budget. With regard to The Queen's Green Canopy initiative, MW said there was little space on the Playing Field for any more trees; however, there was a possible location for one new tree to be planted. JC would check the deadline for submitting applications to the Woodland Trust for a tree to be planted in November 2022.

22.2.11 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The draft agenda was agreed; JC would contact the other village organisations to invite them to give reports. It was decided not to invite a guest speaker; refreshments would be offered after the meeting.

22.2.12 CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE

None.

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

None.

22.2.14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

7.30pm on Wednesday 30 March 2022, in the Village Hall.

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