

LAYHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held at 7.30pm on
Wednesday 28 September 2022 in the Village Hall

Present: Charlotte Britton (CB)
Jane Cryer - Clerk (JC)
John Curran (JDC)
Sue Keeble (SK)
Steve Laing (SL)
Sheila Roberts (SR)
Michael Woods - (MW)

In attendance: John Ward, Babergh DC (JW)

Apologies: David Pratt (DP)
Georgia Hall, Suffolk CC (GC)

22.9.1 APOLOGIES

Apologies were accepted from DP.

22.9.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

22.9.3 PUBLIC FORUM

There were no parishioners present.

22.9.4 ADJOURNMENT TO RECEIVE WRITTEN REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

22.9.4.1 District Council report

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. JW confirmed that work had started on the Corks Lane development; in response to a question from SL, he said the cost of security over the last four years was approximately £100,000 per year. He confirmed that agreement had been reached with the cricket club and all outstanding issues had now been resolved. Babergh would liaise with SCC about the footpath from Upper Layham to Hadleigh, following MW and JC's site visit with Melanie Hall from SCC. In response to a question from SR about the cost of living crisis, JW confirmed there was a limited amount of funding available; in response to SR's comment about the difficulty of communicating the availability of Council support to those people that needed it, JW said Parish Councils could perhaps help with this. SL commented that the parking strategy showed there were some advantages to introducing a charge for short-term parking, but there were more disadvantages. JW said that the strategy was more about the future requirements for both off and on-street parking and ensuring enough capacity for people's needs; however, SL said there was a risk that people might go somewhere else, which would impact on local businesses and the hospitality industry. In response to a question from SK, JW said the Infrastructure Delivery Plan was on Babergh's website.

22.9.4.2 County Council report

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. JDC was pleased that residents could register with the Solar Together Suffolk scheme.

22.9.5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was proposed by MW, seconded by SK and agreed unanimously that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 24 August 2022 should be accepted as an accurate record, and signed accordingly.

22.9.6 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

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

22.9.6.1 Water Lane

Following a report from a parishioner that there was increased traffic along Water Lane, the PC would continue to monitor the situation.

22.9.6.2 New noticeboard

JC confirmed she had ordered a new, larger noticeboard to replace the old one at the recycling centre; the working party had identified a possible location - as this was just outside the playing field, permission would be sought from the landowner if necessary.

22.9.7 FINANCIAL MATTERS

22.9.7.1 RFO's report

It was proposed by JDC, seconded by SK and agreed unanimously that the finance report for 28 September 2022 should be approved and payments of £2,523.93 authorised; this amount included grants made by the Layham Events Group following the Jubilee Fete (see below), as the funds were held by the PC. The second tranche of the precept for the current year had been received.

22.9.8 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

22.9.8.1 SALC Area Meeting

SK had attended the Zoom meeting held on 6 September; her report was noted, together with the draft minutes. Richard Baldwin was Babergh's new Locality Officer covering Layham; it was agreed to consider inviting him to a future meeting.

22.9.8.2 Layham Events Group

The update from the Events Group was noted.

22.9.9 PLANNING

22.9.9.1 DC/22/03305 - Lots Farm, Rands Road

Councillors had no objections to the amended proposals.

22.9.9.2 DC/22/02865 - Bridge Barn, Cherry Orchard Farm, Stoke Road

Councillors had no objections to the amended proposals.

22.9.9.2 DC/22/02937 - Land north of The Street

It was noted that the application for outline planning permission had been refused.

22.9.9.3 DC/22/03456 - Uplands House, Upper Street

The decisions regarding discharge of conditions were noted.

22.9.10 INSURANCE RENEWAL

JC's paper was noted; the current insurers had withdrawn from the market and she had obtained three alternative quotes. It was proposed by CB, seconded by SL and agreed unanimously to accept the quotation from Zurich Municipal for twelve months commencing 1 October 2022.

22.9.11 DEFIBRILLATOR WORKING PARTY

It was agreed to reconvene a working party to look at the possible installation of a defibrillator on Stoke Road; this would comprise JDC, SR and SL. The working party would canvass the views of Stoke Road residents and bring recommendations and costs to the October meeting.

22.9.12 AUTUMN TIDY-UP

SR circulated a list of possible tasks to be carried out on Saturday 22 October; members were asked to let her know if they identified any gaps. A community email would be sent out nearer the time. It was agreed to ask the Playing Field Committee if they would like assistance to deal with the damage caused by the fire.

22.9.13 REMEMBRANCE DAY

It was proposed by CB, seconded by JDC and agreed unanimously to purchase a wreath as usual; this would be laid by SK. SR would organise any necessary cleaning of the War Memorial.

22.9.14 CORRESPONDENCE

None.

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

None.

22.9.16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

7.30pm on Wednesday 26 October, in the Village Hall.

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