

LAYHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held at 7.30pm on
Wednesday 11 January 2023 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)
Georgia Hall, Suffolk CC (GC)
5 Parishioners

Apologies: David Pratt (DP)

23.1.1 APOLOGIES

Apologies were accepted from DP.

23.1.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

SL declared an interest in items 23.1.8.3 & 4 and would not take part in the discussion.

23.1.3 PUBLIC FORUM

The parishioners present wished to comment on agenda item 23.1.8.1, an application for five houses on land north of The Street. The applicant said Upper Layham was not a typical hinterland village as a pavement connected it to Hadleigh, allowing teenagers to walk to school. He said the B1070 was a busy road and there were already houses there; people wanted to live in villages and he felt new family homes would be welcomed.

A parishioner said he had attended a PC meeting some 6 months ago, when the previous application for seven dwellings had been discussed. He felt the latest proposal did not address any of the previous objections, including possible privacy issues and also light and noise pollution. The proposed development was outside the settlement boundary, and he was aware that Babergh currently had an adequate housing supply. Another parishioner agreed that none of the objections tabled last time had been addressed. The proposed development would now comprise two-storey houses and screening remained an issue. The footpath was on the other side of the road with limited access; crossing the busy B1070 was difficult. Speeding through the village remained a problem.

23.1.4 ADJOURNMENT TO RECEIVE WRITTEN REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

23.1.4.1 District Council report

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. With regard to the question raised by SL at the last meeting concerning the bird of prey used by the local hunt during the bird flu outbreak, JW reported that the bird had not been out since restrictions had been introduced. In response to a question from SK concerning the measures being taken to protect local rivers and waterways, JW said Babergh did not have any powers of enforcement, but would be talking to Anglian Water to make sure they engaged with the planning process. With regard to the new Tenant Engagement Strategy, JW said there was currently a backlog, but a programme of repairs was under way. Babergh had agreed to take a 25-year lease on premises to enable the Sudbury Medical Centre to continue; the Medical Centre would take a sub-lease for 15 years. In response to a comment from JDC concerning the solar panels being installed in car parks, JW would check on the arrangements for batteries. The Town and Parish liaison meetings had been reinstated; JC would attend the one on 1 February.

23.1.4.2 County Council report

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. Discussions on the plans for devolution for Suffolk were in the final stage before going out to public consultation. The proposed council tax increase of 3.99% would be finalised on 9 February; this would mean an increase of £57 for a Band D property. GH confirmed that funding was available for remedial work on the footpath from Upper Layham to Hadleigh, which was due to start in March. She had forwarded the PC's concerns about the ANPR initiative to the police.

23.1.5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

23.1.6 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

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

23.1.6.1 Community orchard

SL had applied for a grant from the Woodland Trust. Further information would be brought to a future PC meeting, and a working party convened.

23.1.6.2 Litter bin for Blacksmith's Corner

JC had requested clarification from SCC on the ownership of the land. She would now order the bin and arrange for it to be installed.

23.1.7 FINANCIAL MATTERS

23.1.7.1 RFO's report

It was proposed by SK, seconded by JDC and agreed unanimously that the finance report for 11 January 2023 should be approved and payments of £854.93 authorised. It was noted that the grant awarded to the Playgroup had been repaid to the Events Group.

23.1.8 PLANNING

23.1.8.1 DC/22/06245 - Land north of The Street

Councillors said the application was very similar to the previous one, for seven dwellings, which had been refused in 2022 by Babergh; none of the objections put forward then had been addressed satisfactorily. There was concern that an increase in the number of vehicles pulling out onto the busy B1070, as well as service and delivery vehicles, would be dangerous. SL noted that there had been a requirement for the splay to be addressed before Raworth had been built; a parishioner had been injured by a car due to lack of visibility. SR and CB both felt it would benefit the community to have more family homes, but agreed that the location was not appropriate as the proposed development was outside the settlement boundary and there was inadequate infrastructure. JW confirmed that Babergh currently had an adequate housing supply. Councillors would object to the application as there were no fundamental changes from the previous proposal.

23.1.8.2 DC/22/06374 - Cherry Orchard Farm

There were no objections to the application for a detached dwelling and double garage, following demolition of existing barn.

23.1.8.3 DC/22/06149 - Marquis of Cornwallis

There were no objections to the application for planning permission without compliance of conditions. However, with regard to the false ceiling that had been included in the original design response "in order to provide acoustic control and manage space heating", JC would request clarification on the possible increase in noise pollution if the false ceiling was no longer installed.

23.1.8.4 DC/22/06224 - Marquis of Cornwallis

There were no objections to the application for Listed Building Consent (but see 23.1.8.3, above).

23.1.8.5 DC/22/05951 - The Farmhouse, Cherry Orchard Farm
There were no objections to the application for an extension and demolition of outbuildings.

23.1.8.6 DC/22/06363 - Kennels House, Overbury Hall Road
There were no objections to the application for the erection of a barn.

23.1.8.7 DC/23/00040 - Maple Barn, Popes Green Lane
There were no objections to the application for the erection of a dwelling.

The following were noted:

DC/22/04964 - Treetops, Upper Street: permission granted for single story rear extension

DC/22/03306 - Lots Farm, Rands Road: discharge of conditions

DC/22/05585 - Lots Farm, Rands Road: discharge of conditions

DC/22/05635 - Uplands House, Upper Street: discharge of conditions

23.1.9 PROPOSED DIVERSION OF PART OF FOOTPATH 10

Councillors raised no objections to the proposed diversion of part of Layham public footpath no 10.

23.1.10 DEFIBRILLATOR FOR STOKE ROAD

The owner of Warwick Cottage had confirmed they were willing for a defibrillator to be located on the wall; however, it was noted that there should be some agreement in place that if the property was sold, the defibrillator remained the property of the PC. The working party would bring a paper to the February meeting with recommendations and costings.

23.1.11 SPRING CLEAN

It was agreed to hold the Spring Clean on Saturday 18 March 2023.

23.1.12 DISTRIBUTION OF HADLEIGH COMMUNITY NEWS - STOKE ROAD

MW explained that the person who had delivered the HCN to 18 properties along Stoke Road for many years was unable to continue. SR volunteered to find a replacement.

23.1.13 CORRESPONDENCE

None.

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

None.

23.1.15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 22 February 2023 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

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