

LAYHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held at 7.30pm on
Wednesday 28 June 2023 in the Village Hall

Present: Jane Cryer - Clerk (JC)
John Curran - Vice Chairman (JDC)
Will Dunn (WD)
Sue Keeble (SK)
Steve Laing - Chairman (SL)
Sheila Roberts (SR)

In attendance: Georgia Hall, Suffolk CC (GC)
John Ward, Babergh DC (JW)

Apologies: None

23.6.1 APOLOGIES

No apologies were received.

23.6.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

23.6.3 PUBLIC FORUM

JDC read out a statement from Mike Woods, who was unable to attend but wished to comment on item 23.6.9.3, Village Signs. He said that, should the project go ahead, there should be two signs, one each side of the river, both displaying the word 'Layham' (rather than Upper and Lower). He confirmed that the Layham Local History Group would be pleased to be involved.

23.6.4 CO-OPTION

Councillors considered the application received for one of the vacant two seats. It was proposed by SR, seconded by WD and agreed unanimously to co-opt Gillie Cranfield. JC had asked SALC about bespoke training for the whole council, following the recent elections.

23.6.5 ADJOURNMENT TO RECEIVE WRITTEN REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

23.6.5.1 District Council report

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. The £12,000 raised for the Ipswich Blossom Appeal, the chosen charity of the former Babergh Chairman Cllr Kathryn Grandon, was a record amount. The new coalition administration at Babergh was settling in well; Cllr David Busby was the elected leader for the first year. In response to a question from SL concerning the restructuring of the Babergh offices in Endeavour House, JW confirmed that this had cost in the region of £100,000, offset by a reduction in rent and business rates; the office space was now more flexible and facilitated more efficient working. Councillors were pleased that the bin lorry naming competition had engaged the community. In response to a question from WD about penalties for littering, JW said fly tipping should be reported to Babergh as offenders could be prosecuted.

23.6.5.2 County Council report

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. SCC had announced a one-off support grant of £2,000 for Ukrainian refugees moving from a host into their own accommodation. New funding had been announced to repair residential roads, mainly targeted at smaller streets. The new contractor was due to take over responsibility for highways in October. GH confirmed that concerns about water leaks should be referred to Anglian Water. With regard to improving services for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), SK stressed the importance of one-to-one teaching; however, this was not

always possible due to the lack of trained teachers. She suggested that funding should be ring-fenced for recruitment and training. She was pleased to note the council's commitment to library services in Suffolk.

23.6.6 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was proposed by JDC, seconded by SK and agreed unanimously that the minutes of the AGM held on Wednesday 24 May 2023 should be accepted as an accurate record, and signed accordingly.

23.6.7 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

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

23.6.7.1 Planning comments

JC had written to Babergh to express disappointment that decisions often seemed to ignore the PC's comments; JW would follow up.

23.6.8 FINANCIAL MATTERS

23.6.8.1 RFO's report

It was proposed by SL, seconded by SK and agreed unanimously that the finance report for 28 June 2023 should be approved and payments of £1066.56 were authorised.

23.6.8.2 2022-23 Annual Return Section 1 - Governance Statement

It was proposed by JDC, seconded by SK and agreed unanimously to approve the Governance Statement.

23.6.8.3 2022-23 Annual Return Section 2 - Accounting Statements

It was proposed by SL, seconded by WD and agreed unanimously to approve the Accounting Statements.

It was agreed to review the practice of holding funds for other bodies at the July meeting.

23.6.9 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

23.6.9.1 Speeding

JDC's update was noted. The SID was moved regularly; however, JDC said that signs in some other villages did not appear to move, despite SCC's recommendation that they should. GH asked him to forward a list of villages to her. The ANPR equipment would be deployed in Layham from 11-18 September 2023. SK said the full report had concluded that neither SIDs nor ANPR made a significant difference. GH also suggested that it might be worth considering Community Speedwatch again.

23.6.9.2 Traffic calming

SL's paper was noted. GH said it would be useful to have the SID data so that SCC could look at building a case for traffic calming measures. In response to a comment from SL that there should be a rationale for NOT introducing such measures, GH suggested an onsite meeting might be useful.

23.6.9.3 Village signs

SK and WD had compiled a draft survey and also circulated some background information. The project had been started by Bob Barbiaux some time ago and it was noted that this was not a Parish Council initiative, although the PC supported the idea in principle. It was agreed that Bpb should be asked to form a working party, with a representative from the PC who would keep a 'watching brief' and report back to councillors.

23.6.10 PLANNING

23.6.10.1 DC/22/06309 - Bury St Edmunds to Colchester pipeline

Councillors raised no objections to the cross-boundary hybrid application from Anglian Water.

23.6.10.2 DC/22/06347 - Uplands House, Upper Street
It was noted that the discharge of conditions had been approved.

23.6.11 SIGN FOR STOKE ROAD DEFIBRILLATOR

It was decided that it was not necessary to erect a sign at Cobblers Corner as the defibrillator was clearly visible and the location was on the national database. However, it was agreed that it might be useful to have a map showing the locations of all the defibrillators in the village, which could be displayed on the noticeboards and the website.

23.6.12 ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE

The draft community email was approved.

23.6.13 CORRESPONDENCE

23.6.13.1 River Brett

Concern had been expressed by a parishioner about the quality of the river and the lack of fish. SL had contacted the Environment Agency, which was regularly testing the water and said the river was in much the same condition as any other similar rivers throughout the country. The next fish survey was scheduled for April 2024.

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

None.

23.6.15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

7.30pm on Wednesday 26 July 2023, in the Village Hall.

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