

LAYHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held at 7.30pm on
Wednesday 29 March 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) Parishioner
Apologies:	David Pratt (DP) Georgia Hall, Suffolk CC (GH)

23.3.1 APOLOGIES

Apologies were accepted from DP.

23.3.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

23.3.3 PUBLIC FORUM

The parishioner present wished to comment on item 23.3.9.2, as the applicant. He explained a barn had been converted to temporary housing, following a previous successful planning application some years ago. He was now applying for change of use to a permanent dwelling for family members separate from the main house.
(see also 23.3.9.2)

23.3.4 ADJOURNMENT TO RECEIVE WRITTEN REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

23.3.4.1 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 the budget for 2023-24 had been agreed by both Cabinet and Council. Babergh and Mid Suffolk were exploring plans to consolidate three aging operational sites into a shared £12m depot; the existing depots would be sold. Photo ID would be required in order to vote in the elections on 4 May; JW said anyone who had a problem with this should contact Babergh. Two initiatives had been developed aimed at helping young people to build their skills and experience: the Youth Enterprise Scheme, aimed at secondary school children and run in conjunction with West Suffolk, and MTG Local, a programme for young people not currently in education, employment or training. In response to the government's proposal to introduce kerbside glass collections, SL wondered how this would affect pubs, who currently paid for glass collection. It was also unclear what would happen to bottle banks if this came into effect, as councils currently received an income from glass recycling.

23.3.4.2 County Council report

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. It was noted that SCC had awarded a new highways services contract to Milestone Infrastructure with effect from 1 October 2023.

23.3.5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was proposed by JDC, seconded by SK and agreed unanimously that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 22 February 2023 should be accepted as an accurate record, and signed accordingly.

23.3.6 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

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

23.3.6.1 Footpath along B1070 from Upper Layham to Hadleigh

JC had received an email from SCC saying the work scheduled to start in March had been postponed to the summer; however, it appeared that some work had already been carried out. JC would chase a response to her request for a meeting with the contractors.

23.3.6.2 Defibrillator for Stoke Road

JC had placed the order and was awaiting a delivery date. She confirmed that a grant of £500 had been received from GH's Locality Budget.

23.3.6.3 Flooding in Church Lane

It was noted that the drain had been cleared; JC would thank Highways.

23.3.7 FINANCIAL MATTERS

23.3.7.1 RFO's report

It was proposed by SK, seconded by JDC and agreed unanimously that the finance report for 29 March 2023 should be approved; payments of £1,478.11 were authorised.

23.3.7.2 External audit - exemption

This item was deferred to the May meeting, by which time year-end would be completed.

23.3.8 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

23.3.8.1 Local History Recorder's report for 2022

The report from MW was noted; councillors were impressed by how comprehensive it was.

23.3.9 PLANNING

23.3.9.1 DC/23/00961 - Mill House, Mill Lane

Councillors had no objections to the application for Listed Building Consent for replacement of kitchen ceiling, new flooring and heating.

23.3.9.2 DC/23/01042 - Raworth Park, Upper Street

Councillors had no objections to the change of use of the annexe. However, they expressed concern about the visual splay which, particularly with more vehicles pulling out onto the busy B1070, could be dangerous; JC would ask BDC to make it a condition that the splay be widened.

(see also 23.3.3)

23.3.9.3 DC/23/01057 - 2 Upper Street

Councillors felt a dropped kerb, creating a new entrance, would be dangerous as the B1070 was a busy road where speeding was already a problem. There was also concern about the ownership of the land and ongoing maintenance; JW confirmed that Babergh would be liaising with SCC over this issue. It was agreed that the Parish Council would object to this application.

23.3.9.4 DC/23/01265 - Rectory Cottage, Overbury Hall Road

Councillors had no objections to the application for a first floor rear extension, creation of two car parking spaces, rear terrace and pergola.

23.3.9.5 DC/22/06374 - Cherry Orchard Farm, Stoke Road

It was noted that permission had been granted for the erection of a dwelling and double garage, following demolition of existing agricultural building.

23.3.9.6 DC/22/06359 - Uplands House, Upper Street

It was noted that permission had been granted for the discharge of conditions.

23.3.9.7 DC/22/05427 & DC/23/00096 - The Barn, Popes Green Lane

It was noted that permission had been granted for the installation of PV panels; also Listed Building Consent.

23.3.9.8 DC/22/06363 - Kennels House, Overbury Hall Road

It was noted that permission had been granted for the erection of a barn, following demolition of existing barn.

23.3.9.9 DC/22/06149 & DC/22/06224 - Marquis of Cornwallis

It was noted that permission had been granted for variation of conditions; also Listed Building Consent.

23.3.10 SIGN FOR COBBLERS CORNER

It was proposed by SK, seconded by CB and agreed unanimously to apply for a road sign saying 'Cobblers Corner', which would help to identify the location of the new defibrillator on Stoke Road. It was noted that the Parish Council would be responsible for the cost, which would be between £150 and £350, including installation.

23.3.11 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - WEDNESDAY 26 APRIL 2023

The agenda was finalised and would be circulated nearer the time. Refreshments would be offered after the meeting.

23.3.12 CLERK'S REVIEW

It was agreed that DB, MW, SK and JC would meet in April; JC would circulate some possible dates.

23.3.13 CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE

None.

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

The Clerk had arranged for a new wooden post to be installed to support the dog refuse bin outside The Queen's Head.

23.3.15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Annual Parish Meeting - Wednesday 26 April 2023 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

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