

LAYHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Council held at 7.30pm on
Wednesday 15 May 2024 in the Village Hall

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

In attendance: 2 members of the public

Apologies: Georgia Hall, Suffolk CC (GH)
John Ward, Babergh DC (JW)

24.5.1 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by SR, seconded by JDC and agreed unanimously that SL should be re-elected Chairman for 2024-25. It was further proposed by WD, seconded by SK and agreed unanimously that JDC should be re-elected Vice-Chairman. Acceptance of Office forms were duly signed.

24.5.2 APOLOGIES

See above.

24.5.3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

SL and WD declared an interest in agenda item 24.5.11.1 (Marquis of Cornwallis); it was noted that some members of the PC had received invitations to the Gala Opening on 4 July. WD declared an interest in agenda item 24.5.8.3 (Suffolk Preservation Society).

24.5.4 PUBLIC FORUM

Both members of the public present expressed concern about the recent licensing application by the Marquis in respect of the playing of music, and the serving of alcohol until 11.59pm. SL said that, until the original conditions had been met, nothing could be confirmed, although 11.59pm was normal for events such as weddings. It was hoped that good management would prevail.

Parishioners were reminded that they could always contact parish council members with concerns or queries about any issues.

24.5.5 ADJOURNMENT TO RECEIVE WRITTEN REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

24.5.5.1 District Council

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. As JW was not present, Councillors would let the Clerk know if they had any queries to be put to him before the next meeting.

24.5.5.2 County Council

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. As GH was not present, Councillors would let the Clerk know if they had any queries to be put to her before the next meeting.

24.5.6 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was proposed by SK, seconded by JDC and agreed unanimously that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 27 March 2024 should be accepted as an accurate record, and signed accordingly.

24.5.7 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

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

24.5.7.1 SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL - SEND

As requested at the last meeting, JC had asked GH for more information. GH had confirmed that the new posts were additional and an extension to the current staff establishment. There was a nationally agreed position on cost-of-living rises for local government staff and all SCC staff pay increments were managed through the Council's Performance Development Review. If a member of staff's performance was judged to be unsatisfactory, they would not be eligible for a pay increment. The SEND Priority Action Plan could be accessed at www.Suffolklocaloffer.org.uk.

24.5.7.2 Gigaclear

Gigaclear had confirmed that they were not proceeding with the rural leg of the Hadleigh project, and the cabinet would be removed and grass reinstated.

24.5.7.3 SID

As reported, a second SID had been ordered and would also operate on solar power. It was not possible to apply for additional locality funding towards the cost, but JW had confirmed that CIL funds could be used for this purpose.

24.5.8 FINANCIAL MATTERS

24.5.8.1 RFO's report 31.3.24

It was proposed by SL, seconded by WD and agreed unanimously that the finance report for 31.3.24 should be approved and payments of £2059.72 authorised. The bank statement was noted.

24.5.8.2 RFO's report for 15.5.24

It was proposed by SL, seconded by SK and agreed unanimously that the finance report for 15.5.24 should be approved and payments of £5671.77 authorised. The bank statement was noted.

24.5.8.3 Suffolk Preservation Society

It was proposed by SL, seconded by GC and agreed unanimously that the PC should re-join the SPS; the annual membership fee was £30.

24.5.9 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

24.5.9.1 Emergency Plan

JDC confirmed that the desktop exercise to test the Emergency Plan would take place on Monday 17 June from 6-8pm in the Village Hall. He had circulated an updated communication tree and asked council members to let him know if they had any queries; he would also circulate the latest version of the EP which would form the basis of the responses to the exercise scenarios; the plan would be reviewed after the session and updated as necessary.

24.5.9.2 SID

JDC reported that the converted SID had now been been reinstalled, thanks to a small team of volunteers. However, more volunteers would be needed to install the second SID, although this could not be done until SCC had replaced the pole at the Marquis end of Upper Street. JDC said it should be possible to download data remotely.

24.5.10 ASSET REGISTER

JC had circulated the updated asset register, which was noted.

24.5.11 PLANNING

24.5.11.1 DC/24/00501 & 00557 - The Marquis

JDC took the chair for this item. The application proposed that an area previously designated as outdoor space with decking would become an Orangery. Councillors had no objections, but expressed concern about noise and light pollution. No music should be played after 9pm and noise should be deadened when the door was opened. It was noted that the application was subject to a Heritage report.

24.5.11.2 APP/D3505/W/24/3338589 - Cherry Orchard Farm

Councillors had not objected to the original planning application; JC would reiterate this.

24.5.11.3 DC/24/00848 - 1 Old Orchard

It was noted that permission had been granted for a rear extension.

24.5.11.4 DC/24/01074 - Layham House

It was noted that permission had been granted for replacement / new windows and new doorway.

24.5.11.5 APP/D3505/W/23/3326529 - Land north of The Street

It was noted that the appeal had been dismissed.

24.5.12 NORWICH TO TILBURY PROJECT (NATIONAL GRID)

It was agreed that the Parish Council should make a formal response to the consultation; it was proposed by GC, seconded by SL and agreed unanimously that JDC should lead a working party to draft a response for circulation to council members before the closing date of 18 June.

24.5.13 WATER LANE

A parishioner had suggested that Water Lane might be re-designated in order to stop it being used by vehicles. It was agreed that JC would contact Suffolk County Council's Community Liaison Officer to request a site meeting. It was also noted that, despite the working party's best efforts, the lane still needed attention.

24.5.14 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The draft minutes of the APM held on 24 April were noted.

24.5.15 CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE

A request had been made for Tom Bartleet, a Lib Dem councillor at Babergh, to attend the next meeting as an observer; this was agreed.

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

None.

24.5.17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

7.30pm on Wednesday 26 June 2024, in the Village Hall.

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