

LAYHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held at 7.30pm on
Wednesday 26 June 2024 in the Village Hall

Present:	Jane Cryer - Clerk (JC) Will Dunn (WD) Sue Keeble (SK) Steve Laing - Chairman (SL) Sheila Roberts (SR) Julie Thickpenny (JT)
In attendance:	3 members of the public
Apologies:	Gillie Cranfield (GC) John Curran - Vice Chairman (JDC) Georgia Hall, Suffolk CC (GH)

24.6.1 APOLOGIES

See above - apologies were accepted from GC and JDC.

24.6.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

24.6.3 PUBLIC FORUM

A parishioner commented on the increasing number of road closures, and the fact that there appeared to be little coordination. Signage was also often misleading, with 'road closed' signs where no work was taking place. The Parish Council was aware of the issues and had already raised them with Highways.

There was also concern from some parishioners about the recent Live Talk Sport event held at the Marquis. Around 120 people had attended, impacting on traffic through the village. It was noted that this was not a wedding or 'similar event'. JW confirmed that planning conditions stated no more than 30 events could be held during one year; he would also check whether the conditions had been met.

A property in Overbury Hall Road had been flooded twice during the year and the householder had reported both occurrences to SCC, but no action had been taken despite a Level 1 response requiring a site visit. There was evidence of significant run-off coming from the quarry and more sand in the stream, which was classed as pollution; he felt the Environment Agency should be investigating. Some engineering works had taken place during the last two years and it appeared that the stream was now narrower than before. The PC was due to have a meeting with SCC's Community Liaison Officer re Water Lane (see 24.6.8) and would also raise this issue. WD commented that there was a possibility working might start again at the quarry.

24.6.4 ADJOURNMENT TO RECEIVE WRITTEN REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

24.6.4.1 District Council

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. As the election had been called for 4 July, all committee meetings etc had been postponed until after that. Cllr Deborah Saw was now Leader of the Council. Babergh was in the process of reviewing its new Planning Enforcement Plan, which had been in operation for the past twelve months. In response to a question from WD concerning capital grants, JW said any money not spent by the deadline would go into reserves.

With regard to CIFCO, WD questioned whether the fall in the value of assets was an issue even if they were not going to be sold. He referred to Babergh's budget deficit and said surely it was possible that some assets might need to be sold. CIFCO was a separate company set up by BDC and MSDC; any surplus was paid back to the councils; JW said that if a CIFCO asset was sold, the initial capital would first have to be repaid. He said the best yield was not the same as an asset going up in value. WD also questioned why admin costs had risen by 33% in one year; he had requested a breakdown of these costs in August 2023.

24.6.4.2 County Council

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. JC would follow up with GH on current issues such as road closures, potholes etc.

24.6.5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was proposed by SR, seconded by WD and agreed unanimously that the minutes of the AGM held on Wednesday 15 May 2024 should be accepted as an accurate record, and signed accordingly.

24.6.6 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

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

24.6.6.1 Emergency Plan desktop exercise

This had taken place on Monday 17 June; JDC would produce a report for the July meeting.

24.6.6.2 SID

The existing SID had been converted to solar power and was now up and running. The second SID had been delivered and would be installed as soon as SCC had put the new pole in place; JC had chased this and been assured that this would be done before the end of June.

24.6.7 FINANCIAL MATTERS

24.6.7.1 RFO's report 31.3.24

It was proposed by SL, seconded by SK and agreed unanimously that the finance report for 26.6.24 should be approved and payments of £3,607.81 authorised; the bank statement was noted. JC had transferred £3000 from the savings account to the current account; this would be reflected in the next finance report.

24.6.7.2 2023-24 Annual Return Section 1 - Governance Statement

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

24.6.7.3 2023-24 Annual Return Section 2 - Accounting Statements

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

24.6.8 WATER LANE

SCC's Community Liaison Officer had agreed to attend a site meeting with SL, JC and SK; JC would circulate some possible dates. Items for discussion would include:

- Could the lane be re-designated as a bridleway? If so, could SCC 'gift' it to the PC?
- If the lane was to remain open to vehicles, could access for certain categories be restricted?
- Access would still be required for householders and the
- Could the lane be made one-way only?

The issue of flooding in Overbury Hall Road would also be raised with the CLO (see Public Forum and 24.6.9 below).

24.6.9 FLOODING IN OVERBURY HALL ROAD

A report had been received immediately prior to the meeting and this would be discussed at the next meeting. SR commented that the stream seemed to be more full than in previous years and was flowing faster since work at the quarry had ceased.

24.6.10 PLANNING

24.6.10.1 DC/24/02268 - Barn at Hill Farm

Councillors had no objections to the application for prior approval for change of use of barn to dwelling house.

24.6.10.2 APP/D3505/W/23/3326749 - Raworth Park

It was noted that the appeal had been dismissed.

24.6.10.3 DC/24/02726 - 73 Brett Green

Councillors had no objections to the application for replacement fascia boards with insulation and rendering on upper storey front and rear elevations.

24.6.11 NORWICH TO TILBURY PROJECT (NATIONAL GRID)

It was proposed by SL, seconded by SK and agreed unanimously to approve the draft submission prepared by the working party, with the proviso that the submission should include a statement that the Parish Council would support a delay of 5 years to 2035, in line with the Hiorns review published in September 2023. It was noted that the deadline for submissions had been extended to 26 July. Wider circulation of the submission would be discussed at the next meeting.

24.6.12 DRAFT HADLEIGH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Councillors were pleased to see the emphasis on green spaces, but felt there should be more facilities for teenagers and young adults, following the closure of East House. JC would submit these comments by the deadline of 5 July. In response to a question from WD, JW said that if the NP was adopted, Part 2 of the Joint Local Plan would reflect this.

24.6.13 CLERK'S ANNUAL REVIEW (CONFIDENTIAL)

The report from the working party was accepted; councillors thanked JC for her hard work. It was noted that the PC's laptop would soon need to be replaced; JC would bring costings to the next meeting.

24.6.14 CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE

24.6.14.1 SALC AGM

JC reminded councillors that the SALC AGM would take place via Zoom on Monday 1 July, at 7pm.

24.6.14.2 Sudbury & South Suffolk CAB

A request for support had been received and would be considered at a future meeting.

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

None.

24.6.16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

7.30pm on Wednesday 31 July 2024, in the Village Hall.

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