

LAYHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held at 7.30pm on
Wednesday 31 July 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)

In attendance: Member of the public
Georgia Hall, Suffolk CC (GH)
John Ward, Babergh DC (JW)

Apologies: Julie Thickpenny (JT)

24.7.1 APOLOGIES

See above - apologies were accepted from JT.

24.7.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

24.7.3 PUBLIC FORUM

The parishioner present expressed an interest in agenda item 24.7.10.

24.7.4 ADJOURNMENT TO RECEIVE WRITTEN REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

24.7.4.1 District Council

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. JW confirmed that Babergh had submitted its response to the Norwich - Tilbury consultation; he thought it would take National Grid some time to process all the submissions received. Changes in planning policy by the new government meant that Babergh's target for new homes was now 763, as opposed to 416 previously. In response to a question from SL, JW said that any new proposed sites would still need to meet the requirements in part one of the existing planning regulations; most sites within Babergh were designated as greenfield. In response to a reminder from WD that he was still awaiting a breakdown of CIFCO admin costs, JW said the company was reluctant to provide a full, detailed breakdown and confirmed that CIFCO continued to provide a net income for Babergh & Mid Suffolk. However, SL said that, as chairman of the PC, he would like to have more detailed information for the September meeting.

24.7.4.2 County Council

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. JDC reported that the new pole for the additional SID was finally in place after waiting three months; however, no one from SCC had actually informed the PC that this work had been carried out. JDC said the PC had been promised that the ANPR camera would return to Upper Street and that there would be regular police checks. SL said there had been an accident earlier in the day in Upper Street, when a car travelling from the Hadleigh direction had overturned, possibly due to excess speed. JDC would download data from the SID; however, he stressed that it was not in the right location to accurately record the speed of vehicles travelling from Hadleigh. GH said there were only ten ANPR devices across the county and a priority system was in place; however, she would speak to Highways to see if Layham could be moved higher up the waiting list. WD wondered whether it would be worth asking Highways again about possible deterrents, eg dragons' teeth, pinch points etc.

24.7.5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was proposed by SK, seconded by SR and agreed unanimously that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 26 June 2024 should be accepted as an accurate record, and signed accordingly.

24.7.6 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

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

24.7.6.1 Village Signs

SK, a member of the working party, gave an update. Bob Barbiaux had obtained a proposed design, which was circulated; however, SK said the design was not exactly as agreed by the working party last autumn. The update was noted and councillors thanked Bob for his ongoing work.

24.7.7 FINANCIAL MATTERS

24.7.7.1 RFO's report

It was proposed by SL, seconded by JDC and agreed unanimously that the finance report for 31.7.24 should be approved and payments of £2083.22 authorised; the bank statement was noted.

24.7.7.2 Internal Audit report

Comments and recommendations arising from the internal audit report were noted and the action being taken was approved.

24.7.7.3 Financial Regulations

JC had circulated the updated Financial Regulations following NALC's guidelines. It was proposed by JDC, seconded by WD and agreed unanimously to adopt these. JC would circulate a final, clean copy to councillors and ensure the updated regulations were on the website.

24.7.7.4 Laptop and printer

It was agreed that JC should proceed with the purchase of a new laptop at a total cost of £550, to include set-up, one year's warranty, and a secure data wipe and disposal of the old laptop. It was noted that the printer, which was now six years old, would also shortly need replacing.

24.7.8 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

24.7.8.1 Emergency Plan

The desktop exercise had taken place on 17 June. The Emergency Plan had been written by JDC in 2014 and was due to be updated; his report was noted and the recommendations accepted. It was agreed to set up a working party comprising JDC, SK and SR. JDC asked that thanks be passed on to Freddie Gulliver, Suffolk County Council's Emergency Planning Officer, who had led the exercise.

24.7.8.2 Speeding - SID update

See 24.7.4.2, above. JDC would arrange to install the new SID with help from WD and Rob Keeble. WD noted that the ongoing work at the Marquis would continue to affect the speed of vehicles along Upper Street.

24.7.9 PLANNING

24.7.9.1 DC/24/02268 - Barn at Hill Farm

It was noted that prior approval had been granted for change of use of barn to dwelling house.

24.7.10 NORWICH TO TILBURY PROJECT (NATIONAL GRID)

As agreed at the last meeting, JDC had amended the draft response to incorporate reference to the Hiorns review which called for a delay of five years, to 2035; the PC's response had been submitted by the deadline of 26 July. It was agreed that the response should be put on the website (and also Babergh's website if possible) and sent to the EADT, EDP, Radio Suffolk, Adrian Ramsay (Green Party, MP for Waveney Valley) and Anglia TV, as well as the Hadleigh Community News.

24.7.11 WATER LANE / FLOODING

The report produced following the site visit by Melanie Hall, Community Liaison Engineer for Suffolk Highways, was noted. She had said that Babergh DC was actually responsible for cleaning the lane, but the council did not currently have a suitable vehicle. It was agreed to look again at Suffolk CC's Community Self-Help Scheme; this would be an item for the September agenda. With regard to the flooding in Overbury Hall Road, this did not come under Highways' remit but Melanie had asked the SCC Floods Team if they could provide any assistance.

24.7.12 PEOPLE & PLACE PLAN

JC had circulated information and a copy of the Plan, which was an alternative to a Neighbourhood Plan for those parishes that did not feel they needed a detailed NP; however, it did not have quite the same status in planning policy. It was agreed to consider again whether Layham needed a plan and, if so, which one would be the most appropriate. JC would invite Jo Wood, Community Engagement Planning Officer at Babergh / Mid Suffolk, to the September or October PC meeting. In the meantime, she would circulate a list of those parishes in Suffolk that already had, or were working towards, a Neighbourhood Plan.

24.7.13 AUTUMN TIDY UP

It was agreed that this should take place on Saturday 12 October. In response to a request from SR, JW confirmed that Babergh would cut Brett Green before then.

24.7.14 CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE

JC had received an email from a parishioner complaining about noise from a wedding held at the Marquis on Friday 19 July. JW would check to see whether any conditions had been breached and, if so, whether any penalties applied.

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

None.

24.7.16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

7.30pm on Wednesday 25 September 2024, in the Village Hall.

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