

LAYHAM PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the meeting of the Council held at 7.30pm on
Wednesday 15 January 2025 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: Georgia Hall, Suffolk CC (GH)
John Ward, Babergh DC (JW)

Apologies: None

25.1.1 APOLOGIES

See above.

25.1.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

25.1.3 PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public were present. On behalf of parishioners, JDC expressed concern about the frequent Benton Street closures and lack of coordination - eg the recent Benton Street closure had coincided with that of Shelley Road. GH said this issue had also been raised by other parish councils and she would raise it with Highways.

25.1.4 ADJOURNMENT TO RECEIVE WRITTEN REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

25.1.4.1 District Council

Written reports for December and January had been circulated prior to the meeting, copies of which are filed with these minutes. Referring to the new planning guidance for developers, SL asked whether this would mean an uplift in building requirements; JW said there had been a recent meeting about this and he would update the next meeting. The revised NPPF had been published in December and a new Planning and Infrastructure bill was expected later in 2025. As a result of the revised NPPF, Babergh's Local Plan would have to be revisited. It was anticipated that, following the call for sites, more sites would now make it into the final cut. Approximately 4000 planning permissions had been granted, but no work had yet started, partly due to issues with availability of labour and materials. In response to a question from SL, JW said if targets were not reached, the Local Plan would become invalid. In response to a question from SK, JW said it was not yet clear whether CIL would be replaced by a new levy on new build. In response to a question from WD, JW said there had been little take-up for the CIL funding held by Babergh. He confirmed that this was not Babergh's money and was held in a separate account. WD suggested that the Playing Field Committee could be interested in applying for CIL funding; JC would approach the chairman of the committee. With regard to the parking fees introduced in Hadleigh on 13 January, WD felt that parking fees should be the same for both long and short stay parking. JW said Magdalen Road car park was now long stay, and the car park next to the old Barclays building was short stay. However, JT pointed out that the old signage in Magdalen Road was still in place, directing motorists to different areas for long and short stay parking; JW would follow up. Parking was free for people visiting the health centre and leisure centre, or schools.

Babergh's Cabinet was due to consider a 2.99% increase in its share of council tax bills, in the light of a potential £0.9m budget gap over the next five years. The increase in NI contributions announced by the Chancellor would have a significant impact; the compensation had been cut, and did not cover contractors. Government funding for 2005-6 would be reduced by £175,000. WD confirmed that he was liaising with CIFCO to find a mutually convenient date for a meeting, probably in February/March.

25.1.4.2 County Council

Written reports for December and January had been circulated prior to the meeting, copies of which are filed with these minutes. In response to a comment from SK concerning the decision by SCC to put the county forward for the government's devolution and reorganisation programme, it was felt that devolution was a given; local government reorganisation was in the Chancellor's report last autumn. Referring to the cancellation of the May elections, GH said it could be mostly retired people who stood for election as it would be almost a full time job - on the other hand, it might be preferable to retain experienced people to see the changes through. She confirmed that the government would run the consultation process and there would be no referenda re the creation of mayors. WD asked about SEND; GH said it would take time for improvements to be made and the reorganisation process could make it worse. With reference to renewable energy, WD was concerned that money was being invested in an area which would not benefit the county. It was noted that the Norwich to Tilbury project was to link sub-stations not increasing capacity.

25.1.5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

25.1.6 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

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

25.1.6.1 Road repairs

Following JC's enquiry, GH said she was awaiting a response on how SCC liaised with their contractor to monitor road repairs.

25.1.6.2 Data from SIDs

JDC confirmed that the process of downloading data now appeared to be working properly; he would continue to monitor this. The SID at the Marquis end of the village had been lowered to make it easier to access.

25.1.7 FINANCIAL MATTERS

25.1.7.1 RFO's report

It was proposed by SL, seconded by SK and agreed unanimously that the finance report for 15.1.25 should be approved and payments of £690.92 authorised; the bank statements were noted.

25.1.8 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

25.1.8.1 Emergency Plan

The report from the working party was noted and the action being taken was endorsed.

25.1.9 PLANNING

25.1.9.1 DC/24/05386 - Barn north of Hill Farm

There were no objections to the proposed new self-build dwelling and associated landscaping.

25.1.9.2 DC/24/05194 - Cherry Orchard Farm, Stoke Road

The discharge of conditions was noted.

25.1.10 PARISH & NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS

Following a preliminary discussion, JC would gather more information on Neighbourhood Plans to bring to the February meeting. Revisiting the existing Parish Plan remained an option.

25.1.11 ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Following a discussion, JC would update the Roles & Responsibilities document and circulate to councillors.

25.1.12 CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE

25.1.12.1 Mill Lane

Following complaints about vehicles parking opposite the entrance to Brett Green, two parishioners had asked the Parish Council to look into the possibility of double yellow lines along Mill Lane. JC would follow up with Highways.

25.1.12.2 Suffolk Cloud

Suffolk Cloud, the PC's website provider, was planning to merge with a national company later in the year; there should not be any changes to the service provided.

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

None.

25.1.14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

7.30pm on Wednesday 26 February 2025, in the Village Hall.

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