

## LAYHAM PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the meeting of the Council held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 17 February 2016 in the Village Hall

**Present:** Jane Cryer - Clerk (JC)  
John Curran (JDC)  
Ron Gunn (RG)  
Steve Laing - Vice Chairman (SL)  
Sheila Roberts (SR)  
Doreen Sillett (DS)  
Michael Woods - Chairman (MW)

**In attendance:** Gordon Jones, Suffolk CC (GJ)  
John Ward, Babergh DC (JW)

**Apologies:** David Pratt (DP)  
PCSO Amanda Coleman (AC)

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#### 16.2.1 APOLOGIES

See above.

#### 16.2.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

#### 16.2.3 ADJOURNMENT TO RECEIVE WRITTEN REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

##### 16.2.3.1 Police report

No report received. However, JC was now receiving monthly reports from Suffolk Police, which she would circulate to councillors.

##### 16.2.3.2 District Council report

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. The implementation of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) had been approved and would take effect from 11 April 2016. It would apply to most new residential development and some retail sites, who would pay £115 per sq metre - small parishes such as Layham would receive 15% of this. The planning application for up to 475 new houses, plus infrastructure, either side of Poplar Lane in Sproughton had been approved - the first phase would be 145 dwellings. JW had included in his report a summary of proposed housing growth within Babergh.

##### 16.2.3.3 County Council report

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. GJ said a redesign of rural transport had been announced recently and a re-tendering process had been carried out. In future there would be one bus authority for Babergh, who would then sub-contract the service. This should provide better value for money and lead to a better, more integrated service. Children's services in Suffolk had undergone an Ofsted inspection before Christmas and the report had rated the county 'good' - of the 78 authorities inspected to date only 22% had been judged good, and none as 'outstanding'.

#### 16.2.4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was proposed by JDC, seconded by DS and agreed unanimously that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 13 January 2016 should be accepted as an accurate record, and signed accordingly.

## **16.2.5 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

### **16.2.5.1 7 & 8 Upper Street**

Some of the key people involved had now left Babergh and there would be no further action before the new financial year.

### **16.2.5.2 Village Keeper**

This item was postponed until the March meeting.

### **16.2.5.3 Ash dieback**

MW had contacted John English about planting trees to replace those lost to this disease. However, land use was now determined by Government policy and was being dealt with by a Land Agent.

### **16.2.5.4 Leaf removal**

Despite more than one request to Babergh, nothing had been done to remove the leaf mulch on the footpath in Upper Layham; it was agreed to take no further action.

### **16.2.5.5 Section 106**

The Playing Field Committee was due to meet on 2 March and MW hoped to be able to bring a firm proposal to the March PC meeting.

### **16.2.5.6 New village sign**

MW confirmed that the landowner was happy with the proposed location of the new sign in Upper Layham (*see also minute 16.2.10.1*).

### **16.2.5.7 Old Orchard**

All the residents had received a letter confirming the course of action; MW confirmed that the trees - a pear and an apple - had now been planted.

### **16.2.5.8 AGM**

The new date of Wednesday 18 May had been confirmed.

### **16.2.5.9 Possibility of charging for car parking in Hadleigh**

JC confirmed that she had written to Babergh about the PC's concerns.

## **16.2.6 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

### **16.2.6.1 RFO's report**

It was proposed by RG, seconded by DS and agreed unanimously that payments of £519.52 should be authorised. JC confirmed that the Village Hall Committee would no longer be charging the PC for hire of the Village Hall with effect from 1 April 2016, in the light of the PC's increased annual donation.

### **16.2.6.2 Clerk's annual review**

This would be carried out by MW, SL and SR - date in March to be agreed.

### **16.2.6.3 Transparency Code funding**

It was proposed by MW, seconded by JDC and agreed unanimously to approve the application for funding of £1,050 for the current financial year. This would enable the PC to purchase a dedicated laptop and scanner for use of the Clerk, and included a contribution towards training costs. JC explained that a further application for funding could be made during the next financial year, towards website improvement in order to comply with the Transparency Code.

## **16.2.7 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS**

### **16.2.7.1 Defibrillators**

JDC's update was noted. Following the initial CPR training session, it was agreed to organise the first session for parishioners during March. DS suggested a future session might be held during a meeting of the Layham Social Club. JDC confirmed he had now received the new defibrillator and case. SL confirmed that his electrician was willing to carry out the necessary wiring in the telephone box in Upper Layham, and MW confirmed that Colin Brown was willing to help with the

fitting out of the phone box. As agreed at the last meeting, JC had contacted Babergh but had been told that this initiative did not fit the criteria for Section 106 funding.

#### **16.2.7.2 Playing Field Management Committee**

The report was noted. With regard to the ash tree in the Mill Lane hedge line, MW was in the process of obtaining three quotes for either cutting-back or complete removal and would report back to the March meeting. In response to a suggestion from JDC, he would also find out whether it would make any difference to the cost if the felled wood did not have to be taken away by the contractor.

#### **16.2.7.3 Layham Local History Recorder**

MW's report was noted

### **16.2.8 PLANNING**

#### **16.2.8.1 B/15/01569 - Land south of Dorian, Stoke Road**

It was noted that the application for outline planning permission had been refused. The PC had not objected to the application in principle, subject to the eventual development fulfilling the criteria within Babergh's Core Strategy. In response to a question from MW, JW said he would try to obtain further information and would report back.

### **16.2.9 EMERGENCY PLAN**

JDC proposed that a working party should be established to finalise the draft Plan, which would then be brought to the full council for adoption at the May meeting. It was agreed that the working party would comprise JDC, RG and SL.

### **16.2.10 SPEED LIMITS**

#### **16.2.10.1 30mph speed limit on B1070, Upper Layham**

Steve Merry, Assistant Area Manager of SCC's Highways department, had produced a draft report which had been circulated prior to the meeting; this would go to the Speed Committee on 13 March. MW had made some suggested amendments / additions to this and proposed that JC should forward these to Steve and ask that they be incorporated into the final report. This proposal was seconded by JDC and agreed unanimously. With regard to the new location of the 30mph sign, GJ said he would ask Steve to make another site visit; SL agreed to be present.

#### **16.2.10.2 30mph speed limit in Stoke Road, Lower Layham**

SL said he had studied the guidelines from SCC and felt that this stretch of road met the criteria for having the 30mph speed limit extended. His proposal that the PC should lobby for the 30mph speed limit in Stoke Road to be extended to the parish boundary was seconded by SR and agreed unanimously. He would raise this matter when he met Steve Merry for a site visit in Upper Layham (see above), and the request would then be followed up formally by the Clerk.

A suggestion from RG that everyone should keep a record of any incidents and accidents was agreed.

### **16.2.11 ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN - SATURDAY 27 FEBRUARY**

SR and DS had met Lesley Garnett, who had organised these events in the past, to discuss the arrangements. Posters had been put up around the village and JC would send out a community email. SR confirmed that a risk assessment had been prepared. She would brief participants at the Playing Field, and John Cryer would do the same in Lower Layham. DS suggested that some participants could be driven to the village limits and then walk back, thus avoiding them having to walk the same ground twice.

### **16.2.12 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - WEDNESDAY 27 APRIL**

It was agreed to follow the same format as in previous years, but following the reports MW said members of the Layham Local History Group would give a presentation: "*Layham in the newspapers 1760 - 1914*". JC would invite other parish organisations to speak.

**16.2.13            GROUNDS MANAGEMENT**

The update from MW and RG was noted and JC would write to Babergh to follow up on outstanding matters. She would also contact SCC and/Anglian Water to report the problem with the drain cover at the top of Mill Lane.

**16.2.14            CORRESPONDENCE**

JC had received information about the Quiet Lanes Suffolk initiative which she would circulate to councillors.

JDC had forwarded information to MW and JC about a new environmental grants programme being launched by the Greggs Foundation, funded by the levy on carrier bag sales in Greggs shops. MW would look into this.

**16.2.15            DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

7.30pm on Wednesday 30 March 2016, in the Village Hall.

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