

LAYHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 27 July 2016 in the Village Hall

Present:	Jane Cryer - Clerk (JC) John Curran (JDC) Ron Gunn (RG) David Pratt (DP) Sheila Roberts (SR) Doreen Sillett (DS) Michael Woods - Chairman (MW)
In attendance:	Colin Britton - Parishioner Gordon Jones, Suffolk CC (GJ) John Ward (JW)
Apologies:	Steve Laing - Vice Chairman (SL)

PUBLIC FORUM

Colin Britton said he had lived on Upper Street for the past six years and continued to be concerned about motorists exceeding the speed limit - and, in particular, the recent spate of accidents. He asked about the possibility of VAS signs at both ends of the village. MW said the PC was aware of speeding issues and was taking steps to try and address them. It had finally been agreed that a 40mph speed limit would be introduced between Layham and Hadleigh; the speed limit near the Marquis would also be extended. GJ confirmed that, once the new speed limit in Upper Layham had been introduced, the white lines removed during the recent resurfacing work would be replaced - the spacing was different for the various speed limits. GJ also said that a new average speed camera was currently being tested in Suffolk. MW said there was an article in the latest HCN asking for ideas for a future projects, which could include ways of trying to address speeding.

16.7.1 APOLOGIES

See above.

16.7.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

16.7.3 ADJOURNMENT TO RECEIVE WRITTEN REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

16.7.3.1 District Council report

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. The main topic was the public consultation on the East Anglia Devolution Deal, which would run until 23 August; Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils were both keen to make as much information available as possible. A booklet had been produced and copies were available from the council offices, or could be downloaded from the local government websites. In response to a question from MW, JW said devolution would not lead to another tier of government as the current council Leaders would form the executive of the devolved authority. GJ commented that districts and boroughs in Suffolk had a good track record of working together. The main emphasis would be on economic development, and it would be better for decisions to be made locally, rather than at Westminster. Any district councils who decided not to sign up to the deal would still be included, but would not have a say in how the new funding was spent. In response to another question from MW, JW confirmed that the government would prefer to have an elected mayor, although most districts were not in favour of this. In view of the tight deadline for responses, it was agreed that councillors would view the consultation online and respond to JC with any comments as soon as possible. However, it was noted that individuals could also respond.

16.7.3.2 County Council report

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. Again, the key topic was Devolution (see above).

With regard to fly tipping, JDC said the new charges imposed at waste disposal sites could lead to more instances of fly tipping, and questioned whether the new system would be cost effective. GJ said the situation would continue to be monitored. In response to a question from DS, JW said anyone fined for fly tipping would not be expected to remove the rubbish themselves.

JC had received an email from a resident who had reported a pothole some time ago using SCC's online reporting tool, but this had not yet been dealt with. However, he had now received an apology for the delay saying an update had been requested from Highways. It was noted that most problems reported online had either been repaired now, or work was in progress.

16.7.4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was proposed by DS, seconded by JDC and agreed unanimously that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 29 June 2016 should be accepted as an accurate record, and signed accordingly.

16.7.5 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

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

16.7.5.1 30mph speed limit in Lower Layham

GJ and JC had both followed up on the possibility of extending the 30mph speed limit in Stoke Road to the parish boundary; GJ said there was a backlog at the moment but this had not been forgotten (*see also minute 16.7.8.1*).

16.7.5.2 Emergency Plan

As agreed at the last meeting, the Plan would be brought to the August meeting for adoption. JDC asked for all comments/additions to be sent to him as soon as possible.

16.7.5.3 Upper Layham phone box / defibrillator

JDC said the internal fittings had now been removed from the phone box, and SL had contacted the electrician. MW confirmed that Colin Brown had agreed to make the wooden back panel. Painting the phone box would be organised by the working party.

16.7.5.4 Site of Raworth Bungalow

JC had received a response from Jack Wilkinson at Babergh stating that *"the land will be used as agricultural land as per the approved plans, unless otherwise stated in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The works are being monitored."* The file was now closed.

16.7.5.5 Priorities for 2016/17

MW had drafted an article which would appear in the August HCN; JC would also send out a community email. As agreed, this would be an agenda item for the August meeting.

16.7.5.6 Layham Road Playing Field lights

DP would draft a note and send it to JC before the end of July; she would then contact Hadleigh Town Council.

16.7.5.7 Waterhouse Farm dogs

JC had written to the owners following the recent incident and had received a response saying that action would be taken.

16.7.5.8.1.1 SCC's Countryside Access consultation

As agreed at the last meeting, MW and SL had met to discuss this and had drafted a response which JC had submitted online. In response to the request to highlight specific issues, the PC's response had included the narrow footpath in Benton Street, the possibility of a route for a new footpath between Layham and Hadleigh, and several footpaths where the path suddenly stopped.

It was noted that the footpath from Church Lane to Waterhouse Farm was overgrown; JC would raise this with the landowner.

16.7.6 FINANCIAL MATTERS

16.7.6.1 RFO's report

It was proposed by JDC, seconded by RG and agreed unanimously that payments of £406.08 should be authorised. MW noted that the total bank balance included Playing Field and Village Hall funds; JC would provide a breakdown for the next meeting.

16.7.7 WRITTEN REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

No reports had been received.

16.7.8 PLANNING

16.7.8.1 B/16/01569 - Land south of Dorian, Stoke Road

Following the refusal of planning permission by Babergh, an appeal had been made. The PC had not objected to the original application, but had expressed its concern about the speed of vehicles along what was a derestricted part of the road, and asked that consideration be given to making it a 30mph zone. It was proposed by MW, seconded by JDC and agreed unanimously that no further comments were necessary.

16.7.9 GREEN TEAM ACTION PLAN

One suggestion arising from the previous meeting had been the installation of gates from the playing field into the conservation area; however, the Playing Field Committee would need to be consulted about this and issues such as vehicle access taken into account. The cost would probably be around £500, but if contractors were required to carry out the installation, that could rise to nearer £1000. MW commented that the previous Green Team had included other, non-parish council members; it was agreed that SR and DS would have a more detailed discussion and try to recruit some more people. They would also talk to JW, who was Babergh DC's Member with Special Responsibility for the Environment Portfolio. The action plan would be an agenda item for the August meeting.

16.7.10 MERCHANT NAVY DAY

It had been proposed by SL that the 'Red Duster' should be flown from the church tower on Merchant Navy Day (3 September). Seafarers UK (formerly King George's Fund for Sailors) was keen to encourage as many organisations as possible to recognise the sacrifices made by seafarers and their families; flags were available free of charge. His proposal was seconded by MW and agreed unanimously.

16.7.11 CORRESPONDENCE

None received.

16.7.12 MEETING DATES

16.7.12.1 Date of next meeting

7.30pm on Wednesday 24 August 2016, in the Village Hall.

16.7.12.2 September meeting

It was agreed to change the date of the September meeting to Wednesday 21 September.

* * * * *