

LAYHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 21 September 2016 in the Village Hall

Present: Jane Cryer - Clerk (JC)
John Curran (JDC)
Ron Gunn (RG)
Steve Laing - Vice Chairman (SL)
David Pratt (DP)
Sheila Roberts (SR)
Michael Woods - Chairman (MW)

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

Apologies: Doreen Sillett (DS)

16.9.1 APOLOGIES

See above.

16.9.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

16.9.3 ADJOURNMENT TO RECEIVE WRITTEN REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

16.9.3.1 District Council report

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. JW confirmed that East Bergholt and Lavenham's Neighbourhood Plans had both been formally adopted by Babergh; JW confirmed that the proposed development in East Bergholt had been approved prior to this. The construction of 12 one-bedroom flats in Lavenham had started, part of a joint project by Babergh and Mid Suffolk to build 65 new council homes. The local needs housing project in Boxford was nearing completion. In response to a question from JDC, JW said both NPs were available via the Babergh website. MW asked whether some parishes might consider joining together to produce a NP; JW said this had not been the case so far. In response to a further question from JDC, JW said he would report back on the current policy on council housing.

It had been reported in the local press that Babergh had voted to relocate to Endeavour House; Mid Suffolk would be voting later in the week. In response to a comment from SL about the consultants' report in 2014, JW said the costings had been revised since then and it was now felt to be the best solution. GJ confirmed that there was spare accommodation available, partly due to staff cuts and partly because SCC staff were now able to be more mobile and work from home sometimes. JW said Babergh would continue to maintain a presence in Hadleigh and Sudbury. Babergh would be looking to sell their offices in Hadleigh.

16.9.3.2 County Council report

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. With regard to exam results, 83% of schools in Suffolk had been rated 'good' or 'outstanding'.

GJ had met John Simpson (Steve Merry's successor) to discuss the position regarding speed limits in Layham; he had made it clear that he was not happy about the time it was taking to resolve the various issues. The extension of the 40mph limit in Upper Layham was confirmed but still needed to go to publication. However, with regard to the extension of the 30mph limit near the Marquis, John Simpson had suggested an alternative location further back towards Raydon; this would remove the need for any hedge cutting and would afford better visibility for motorists. It was agreed by all that location D would be the best solution; GJ would confirm this. MW thanked him

for all his help. In response to a question from DP about white lines and cats' eyes being reinstated on the B1070, GJ said this was in hand and would be in line with the new speed limit restrictions.

With regard to the Raising the Bar community grant fund, GJ said he was due to have a meeting with the Suffolk Foundation and would seek clarification on who would be providing what kind of support. He would also find out whether the grant was available to home schooling groups.

Palace House in Newmarket had now opened as the new National Centre for Horseracing; GJ encouraged people to visit.

16.9.4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was proposed by JDC, seconded by RG and agreed unanimously that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 24 August 2016 should be accepted as an accurate record, and signed accordingly.

16.9.5 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

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

16.9.5.1 Layham Road Playing Field lights

JC would ask Hadleigh Town Council for an update, as they had promised to look into the matter.

16.9.5.2 Priorities for 2016/17

This would be an agenda item for the October meeting.

16.9.5.3 Marquis of Cornwallis garden

JC had written to the owner to ask about planting near the water's edge; a response was awaited.

16.9.5.4 Gardeners Close

JC had written to Flagship about the shrub beds and had received a response to say the request had been forwarded to their Contracts Manager.

16.9.5.5 Bench on Brett Green

RG had made a start and would be giving the bench another coat shortly.

16.9.5.6 Litter collection

Mrs Goldby, who had attended the August PC meeting, continued to collect litter each time she walked from Layham to Hadleigh. It was agreed that JC should write to thank her on behalf of the Parish Council.

16.9.6 FINANCIAL MATTERS

16.9.6.1 RFO's report

It was proposed by SL, seconded by DP and agreed unanimously that payments of £1415.76 should be authorised. It was noted that the second tranche of the precept had been received from Babergh.

16.9.6.2 External Audit

The Annual Return had been approved by BDO and the appropriate notice posted on the noticeboard. Sections 1, 2 and 3 would be put on the website. The only issue highlighted in BDO's report was a reminder that the risk assessment should be reviewed and updated every year. However, they were happy that the Internal Controls policy had been reviewed and updated during the year.

16.9.6.3 Insurance renewal

JC had obtained quotes from the current provider, CAS (Zurich) and also from Came & Company (Hiscox). It was proposed by MW, seconded by RG and agreed unanimously to remain with CAS and to opt for the 5 year Long Term Undertaking Premium.

16.9.7 WRITTEN REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

16.9.7.1 Green Team

The report was noted. Part of the conservation area of the playing field had been cut, following which volunteers had raked away cuttings and cleared piles of old wood on 15 September. It was agreed to carry out further work on Thursday 6 October at 2.30pm - SR would take this forward, and would also prepare a risk assessment.

16.9.8 PLANNING

No planning applications had been received since the last meeting. However, confirmation had been received from the Planning Inspectorate that the appeal in respect of land adjacent to Dorian, Stoke Road, had been dismissed. JC would circulate the report to all members.

16.9.9 EMERGENCY PLAN

The Emergency Plan would be finalised and circulated before the October meeting, when it would be formally adopted.

16.9.10 DEFIBRILLATORS

It had been confirmed earlier in the year that the owner of the Marquis would be happy for a defibrillator to be installed there when it re-opened. It was proposed by RG, seconded by DP and agreed unanimously that a third defibrillator should be purchased for this site, up to a maximum cost of £1500; JDC was authorised to research the best model and place the order. In the meantime, SL would ask the members of the Queen's Head Social Club if they would be prepared to assist with the cost, and it was also agreed to review the level of Recycling Credits held at the next meeting.

It was noted that the defibrillator destined for the phone box in Upper Layham was due to be installed within the next week or so.

16.9.11 WILD FLOWER MEADOW

SR proposed that the PC should fund the cutting of the wild flower meadow, which would be in the region of £80. Her proposal was seconded by SL and agreed unanimously.

16.9.12 WAR MEMORIAL / REMEMBRANCE DAY

The War Memorial required cleaning before Remembrance Day - RG proposed asking Neil Luxton to quote for the work; this proposal was seconded by DP and agreed unanimously. It was proposed by JDC, seconded by SL and agreed unanimously to purchase a wreath, which would be laid by DP.

16.9.13 CLERK'S REPORT ON URGENT DECISIONS

None.

16.9.14 CORRESPONDENCE

MW had reported the overgrown pavement between Upper Layham and Hadleigh, but had received a response from Suffolk CC that 'no action was necessary', although they would continue to monitor the situation. MW said he thought this was unacceptable; GJ offered to follow this up. SL would also report it and both he and MW would let GJ have the report reference numbers.

16.9.15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

7.30pm on Wednesday 26 October 2016, in the Village Hall.

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