

LAYHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 30 November 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:	Gordon Jones, Suffolk CC (GJ) John Ward, Babergh DC (JW) Parishioners
Apologies:	Steve Laing - Vice Chairman (SL)

PUBLIC FORUM

The three parishioners present explained that they wished to give their views on the planning applications (agenda item 16.11.8). They confirmed that they fully supported the application for the erection of a single-storey rear and side extension at Antrim House.

However, they all objected strongly to the application for outline planning permission to erect a detached dwelling and garage at The Cottage (west of Pear Tree Cottage) in Upper Street and had registered their objections with Babergh, stating the following reasons:

- Risk of additional flooding in Water Lane - the applicants appeared to have quoted from a flood assessment report (not the Babergh DC report) which stated flooding happened roughly every hundred years. However, residents were aware that flooding happened frequently and photographs were available showing flooding eighteen months ago; neighbours' cellars also flooded from time to time. The BDC report said the area was a flood zone 3b, and should be protected against future development. The application also stated that the new dwelling would be more than 20 metres away from a water course; however, the parishioners said there was a brook less than 20 metres away.
- There would be additional traffic at what was already a dangerous junction. Speeding was already an issue.
- Additional noise and disturbance.

MW explained that the Parish Council had no power to decide whether or not a planning application should be approved, but would submit its observations and comments which would be taken into consideration by Babergh.

16.11.1 APOLOGIES

See above.

16.11.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

16.11.3 ADJOURNMENT TO RECEIVE WRITTEN REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

16.11.3.1 District Council report

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. Babergh and Mid Suffolk would be launching a new, more user-friendly website in the new year and the draft site could be accessed via a link from the current one so that people could comment before it was finalised. The Suffolk Waste Partnership had launched a campaign to

highlight the importance of recycling and a leaflet had been sent to every household containing guidance on what could and could not be recycled. JW said that more than half of Suffolk's household waste was now being recycled. RG commented that there was always a significant amount of rubbish left behind after refuse collections, possibly blowing out of the lorries as they drove away. MW said that, following receipt of the recycling leaflet, he had contacted the Resource Management department at Suffolk CC to ask whether it might be possible to have a waste skip on a nominated weekend so that parishioners could dispose of their old paint tins. However, it appeared that this would be quite complicated and difficult to organise; JW said he would look into it.

16.11.3.2 County Council report

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. GJ said the process of budget planning had now begun; SCC would need to make savings of £46 million in 2017-18. With regard to the 'Be Safe and Be Seen' campaign, JDC suggested that this could be extended to bicycles, eg reflectors. At a recent meeting with the Police & Crime Commissioner, GJ had said he was keen to trial automatic number plate recognition cameras to combat speeding; he had suggested Holton St Mary might be an appropriate place to do this. If it proved cost effective, the initiative could be rolled out to other villages. In response to a question from JDC about mobile speed signs, GJ said Layham could be added to the list for signs and asked the PC to give some thought to the most appropriate location(s). In response to a comment from RG that white lines had not been renewed in Upper Layham, GJ said he would investigate.

16.11.4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was proposed by RG, seconded by JDC and agreed unanimously that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 26 October 2016 should be accepted as an accurate record, and signed accordingly.

16.11.5 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

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

16.11.5.1 30mph speed limit in Stoke Road

As agreed at the last meeting, JC would chase SCC for a response once the Upper Layham speed limits had been confirmed; GJ would request confirmation.

16.11.5.2 Layham Road playing field lights

JC had received a response from Hadleigh Town Council informing her that the lights in question were the responsibility of the Rugby Club; she would contact the club direct.

16.11.5.3 Outstanding grounds management issues/land in front of 7 & 8 Upper Street

JC had written to Peter Garrett at BDC but had not received a response; JW had also requested an update from Mr Garrett.

16.11.5.4 Netball posts

MW said the person who had made the request had not responded to his suggestion that she should circulate a questionnaire to illustrate support for the idea.

16.11.5.5 Road sweeping

JC reminded GJ that it had been agreed at the last meeting that she would not contact SCC Highways about this until he had spoken to James Finch.

16.11.5.6 Waterhouse Farm dogs

JC said there had been no further incidents and the dogs now appeared to be controlled.

16.11.6 FINANCIAL MATTERS

16.11.6.1 RFO's report

It was proposed by SR, seconded by DS and agreed unanimously that payments of £497.64 should be authorised.

It was noted that the expenditure under Section 106 had been refunded, and recycling credits of £179.49 had been received. MW reminded councillors that the current account balance included monies held for the village hall, playing field etc.

16.11.6.2 Budget working group

It was agreed that the budget working group would comprise MW, JC, JDC and DS; JC would circulate dates for a meeting before Christmas.

16.11.6.3 Internal audit

It was proposed by RG, seconded by JDC and agreed unanimously to appoint SALC as internal auditor for 2016-17.

16.11.7 WRITTEN REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

16.11.7.1 Defibrillators

JDC's report giving anticipated running costs was noted; MW said the budget working group should consider earmarking a sum of money to cover these. He said the British Heart Foundation was working with the Department of Health to offer grants for public access defibrillators on a first-come, first-served basis; when applying, it was necessary to specify a location. With regard to training, MW said there was an ambulance driver living in Upper Layham who might be prepared to lead some sessions; he and JDC would follow up on this and report to the next meeting.

16.11.8 PLANNING

16.11.8.1 B/16/01439 - Antrim House, Upper Street

There were no objections to the application for the erection of a single-storey rear and side extension.

16.11.8.2 B/16/01541

Referring to the Public Forum (see above), RG and JDC confirmed that Water Lane flooded every year. Councillors were aware that access was already a problem; MW said lorries using satnav frequently had to back out again. JDC noted that the application said the site could not be seen, but in fact it was clearly visible from Water Lane. In response to a comment from JDC that there was insufficient information about the size of the house and garage, MW noted that this was an outline planning application only, and the drawing was not to scale. JW said he would discuss the issues with the Planning Officer and request a site visit.

16.11.8.3 B/16/01256 - The Barn, Upper Street

It was noted that the application for the erection of a two-storey extension had been withdrawn.

16.11.8.4 Other planning applications

No other planning applications had been received since the last meeting. It was noted that the two cottages in Upper Street mentioned at the last meeting were not, in fact, being knocked into one.

16.11.9 PRIORITIES FOR 2016/17

At the August PC meeting it had been agreed that a key priority for the coming year should be an additional defibrillator for Brett Green, as it had the greatest concentration of parishioners. JDC and RG would think about the most appropriate location and consider how it might be powered. JDC said the maximum cost of an additional defibrillator, including all associated connection costs, would be £5000, although this could be reduced to £3000 if a grant application was successful. Consideration would be given in the future to a further defibrillator for Lower Layham. It was proposed by MW, seconded by DS and agreed unanimously that expenditure of a maximum of £5000 should be included in the budget.

Another key priority was accident prevention. GJ confirmed that he would meet the cost of a mobile speed sign from his budget (see also minute 16.11.3.2). It was agreed that MW and DS would make a site visit to try and identify the best location. MW said the owner of the Marquis was also concerned about speeding on that stretch of road and he might be prepared to help.

The third priority identified at the August meeting was the appointment of a 'Village Keeper'. MW proposed that one or two jobs should be identified in the new year and the PC should pay a

contractor to carry them out. If successful, the PC could then ask parishioners if they would support the initiative on an on-going basis, which could mean a small increase in council tax. MW's proposal was seconded by RG and agreed unanimously; this would be an agenda item for the next meeting.

It was proposed by RG, seconded by JDC and agreed unanimously that Dog Watch and Layham Economy (a list on the website of local contractors etc) should also be priorities for the coming months.

16.11.10 NEWSLETTER

MW proposed that an A4 newsletter should be produced to highlight key messages:

- Reminder about recycling
- Value of the community email scheme
- Information on defibrillators, including training
- Rabbits damaging the playing field - proposed cull

JC would obtain a quote for printing 240 copies and would bring this to the next meeting.

16.11.11 COMMEMORATING THE END OF WW1

MW suggested that a small working group should be created, not necessarily councillors, to consider planning an event for November 2018. It was proposed by DS, seconded by JDC and agreed unanimously that MW should take this forward.

16.11.12 CORRESPONDENCE

Mel Harvey had been appointed as Babergh's new Communities Officer for the Lower Brett area and had emailed to say she was keen to visit parishes to establish communication and build relationships; it was agreed that JC would invite her to the January meeting.

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

None.

16.11.14 2017 MEETING DATES

The draft schedule of meetings for 2017 was agreed. The next meeting would be at 7.30pm on Wednesday 25 January 2017.

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