

LAYHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 25 January 2017 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)
Doreen Sillett (DS)
Michael Woods - Chairman (MW)

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

Apologies: None

17.1.1 APOLOGIES

See above.

17.1.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

17.1.3 PRESENTATION

MW welcomed Mel Harvey, Communities Officer at Babergh DC. She explained that she had joined the team in August 2016 and her role was about engagement and building relationships with parishes, providing support and help and taking any issues back to Babergh. MW suggested that Mel should have a look at the Layham website for more information about the parish. Assistance with accessing external funding was offered by her colleague, Chris Knock; JDC said he would contact Chris to discuss defibrillators and CPR training. MW referred to the ongoing issue of the land outside 7 & 8 Upper Street; he and JC would follow this up with Mel.

17.1.4 ADJOURNMENT TO RECEIVE WRITTEN REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

17.1.4.1 District Council report

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. With regard to the Council's decision to move to a leader-cabinet model of governance, JW explained that instead of committees made up of councillors debating issues which were then managed by the committee, there would be a group of up to a maximum of ten cabinet members, each of whom would have a portfolio responsibility. The aim was to improve and streamline the decision-making process and increase accountability and transparency. JW said there would be open cabinet meetings and a scrutiny committee would oversee the process. In response to a question from SL, JW said there was due to be a review of councillors' allowances, but he did not anticipate any significant increases. Following a review, proposals for changes to the Sheltered Housing schemes across Babergh and Mid Suffolk had been approved. With regard to UK Power Network's 'Priority Services Register' for people who might need additional help in the event of a power cut, MW said he had called the phonenumber but had been unable to get through to anyone. However, he would publicise the phonenumber and the website address in the HCN. JW said he had followed up on MW's suggestion of a 'paint amnesty', but this was unlikely to happen as it would be too difficult to administer. SR noted that guidelines for the disposal of paint tins were on the Babergh website.

17.1.4.2 County Council report

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. It was noted that the Order for the revised speed limits on the B1070 had been issued and

the new arrangements would come into force on 26 January; GJ would chase Highways about the new signage. MW said a lorry had backed into a sign just outside the parish boundary into Raydon which now needed straightening; he asked GJ whether this could be done at the same time. JDC said there had been yet another accident on the road near Mill Lane; JC would send a log of accidents to GJ. GJ said he would find out when the number plate recognition pilot was due to start, and who would be analysing the data. Cabinet had met the previous day to agree the budget for 2017/18 and the recommendation to full council was to maintain a nil increase on the basic council tax, but to introduce an adult social care levy of 3% for 2017/18; this would be ring-fenced and would mainly be used to uplift salaries of those providing care in the home. MW congratulated SCC on various areas of success, particularly with regard to children's services.

17.1.5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was proposed by JDC, seconded by DP and agreed unanimously that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 30 November 2016 should be accepted as an accurate record, and signed accordingly.

17.1.6 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

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

17.1.6.1 30mph speed limit in Stoke Road

Now that the Upper Layham speed limits had been confirmed, JC would chase SCC for a response regarding Stoke Road.

17.1.6.2 Layham Road playing field lights

SL reported that the Rugby Club were aware of the problem and had identified the light which required adjustment. He would follow up with the club.

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

JC had spoken to Peter Garrett at BDC as there had been no response to her emails. He had confirmed that various tree works were on the list - JC would ask him to confirm in writing exactly what work would be carried out.

17.1.6.4 Road sweeping

GJ would follow up with James Finch. MW said it would also be helpful to have advance notice of hedge cutting, in view of the amount of debris generated.

17.1.6.5 CPR training

MW confirmed that Charlie Panting had agreed to deliver some training to parishioners.

17.1.6.6 Speed sign

MW and RG had looked at the best location for a mobile speed sign and felt this would be at the opposite end of the village to the Marquis, near Pipkin House and just **before** the existing 30mph sign; GJ said he would email the technicians to see if it was possible. In response to a suggestion from SL that there could be an additional post near Old Orchard, GJ said he would request two posts in the suggested locations; if there were any problems he would call a meeting.

17.1.6.7 WWI Planning Group

MW would take this forward.

17.1.7 FINANCIAL MATTERS

17.1.7.1 RFO's report

It was proposed by JDC, seconded by SL and agreed unanimously that payments of £956.41 should be authorised.

17.1.7.2 Budget and Precept 2017/18

The budget working group had met in December and recommendations circulated prior to the meeting. In response to a comment from MW that £250 for the Village Keeper trial would not be enough to have much impact it was agreed that, if the trial was successful, it could be extended

using reserves. Parishioners would then be asked if they wanted the scheme to continue and whether they would be happy for the precept for 2018/19 to be increased accordingly. It was proposed by SL, seconded by RG and agreed to accept the budget, and to increase the precept from £10,000 to £10,500 for 2017/18. The form was duly signed; JC would ensure it was submitted to Babergh before 31 January.

17.1.8 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

17.1.8.1 Defibrillators

JDC gave a verbal update. Since the last meeting he had contacted UK Power Networks, who had sent him plans showing the location of the electricity cabling in Brett Green, Mill Lane and Watermill Close. It was agreed that JDC, RG and DS would take this forward and try to identify the best location for minimal cost; they would bring a proposal to the next meeting. There had been no further progress on the Upper Layham phone box; SL would contact the electrician.

17.1.9 PLANNING

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

It was noted that the application for the erection of a single-storey rear and side extension had been approved.

17.1.9.2 B/16/01541 - Land west of Water Lane Cottage, Water Lane

It was noted that the application for outline permission for the erection of a detached dwelling and garage had been refused.

17.1.9.3 B/16/01371 & 2 - Popes Green Farm, Popes Green Lane

It was noted that the application for change of use and associated development had been approved.

17.1.10 ACCIDENTS

(see also minute 17.1.4.2, above).

RG felt a contributory cause of accidents on the B1070 through Upper Street was the fact that the cats' eyes and white lines suddenly stopped; GJ would look into this. In response to a suggestion from JDC that there should be a sign saying 'unsuitable for heavy vehicles' on Upper Street at the top of Water Lane, GJ said he would follow this up.

17.1.11 VILLAGE KEEPER

(see also minute 17.1.7.2, above).

MW suggested some jobs that might be undertaken could be:

- Remove ivy from some trees
- Remove sucker growth from some of the trees on Brett Green
- Clearing up where hedges had been cut
- Edging on the Green where growth was over the pathways
- Clearing shingle from driveways where it had spilt onto roads
- Cutting verges
- Clearing growth from around grit bins

MW asked everyone to bring ideas to the next meeting. He would also draft a piece for the February and March issues of the HCN and for the noticeboards.

17.1.12 NEWSLETTER

MW's draft wording for the one-off newsletter was approved. JC would organise printing by the Hadleigh Business Centre; RG volunteered to deliver them.

17.1.13 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - THURSDAY 27 APRIL

It was agreed that the meeting should follow the same format as 2016. With regard to a speaker/presentation, members were asked to give some thought to this and bring ideas to the next meeting.

17.1.14 ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN

It was agreed that this should take place on Saturday 25 February between 10am and 12 noon. SR and DS would organise it and JC would publicise it via the community email; DS would produce some posters for the noticeboards.

17.1.15 CORRESPONDENCE

17.1.15.1 Dogs

JC had received another complaint about the dogs at Waterhouse Farm - the parishioner involved had reported the incident to the police. JC would follow up with the police, and would also respond to the parishioner.

17.1.15.2 Benton Street

SL said the PC was likely to be invited by Hadleigh Town Council to a meeting to discuss Benton Street; JC would follow up.

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

None.

17.1.17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

7.30pm on Wednesday 22 February 2017, in the Village Hall.

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