

LAYHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held at 7.30pm on
Wednesday 17 January 2018 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:	John Ward, Babergh DC (JW) Parishioners (part)
Apologies:	Steve Laing - Vice Chairman (SL) Gordon Jones, Suffolk CC (GJ)

18.1.1 APOLOGIES

See above - apologies from SL were noted.

18.1.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

18.1.3 PUBLIC FORUM

Issues raised by parishioners were:

- **Litter**
A parishioner who regularly walked from Upper Layham to Hadleigh noted that the amount of litter had increased considerably along the main road from Hook Lane to Pipkin Lodge. She asked whether the PC would consider organising more than one litter pick during the year. MW said the PC would discuss this at a future meeting.
- **Speeding**
This remained an on-going concern for many parishioners. MW said the PC was liaising with Suffolk CC to try and obtain an ANPR (automatic number plate recognition) speed device.
- **Planning**
The parishioners present all expressed concern about the application for outline planning permission for the erection of a detached dwelling and garage on land adjacent to Stows Cottage, Upper Street (*agenda item 18.1.9.2*), particularly as the site was outside the village envelope. The main concern was flooding, which they said happened at least every other year. Access was another concern, especially as HGVs frequently turned into Water Lane in error and then had to back out onto the main road. In addition, Water Lane was used by pedestrians walking to Lower Layham and there would be an increase in traffic, particularly while building work was taking place. With regard to comments made in the consultants' planning statement, parishioners said there was no guarantee that local businesses or facilities would benefit from the development.

18.1.4 ADJOURNMENT TO RECEIVE WRITTEN REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

18.1.4.1 District Council report

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. MW commented that the video by the Offshoot Foundation showcasing the Arthur Ransome season on the Shotley Peninsula was excellent; JW said Babergh would look at how it might support future initiatives within its Communities Strategy.

18.1.4.2 County Council report

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. It was agreed that the Suffolk School Travel consultation would be an agenda item for the February meeting, when it was hoped GJ would be present.

18.1.5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was proposed by DS, seconded by DP and agreed unanimously that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 29 November 2017 should be accepted as an accurate record, and signed accordingly.

18.1.6 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

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

18.1.6.1 30mph speed limit in Stoke Road

JC had requested an update from GJ; this would be an agenda item for the February meeting.

18.1.6.2 Land in front of 7 & 8 Upper Street

JC had requested an update from GJ, who had agreed to discuss the issue with SCC's Highways and Rights of Way teams; this would be an agenda item for the February meeting.

18.1.6.3 Allotments

JC had chased a response from Flagship to her letter regarding parking and access issues; however, her contact had moved on and she was now following this up with his successor.

18.1.6.5 Emergency Plan

JC confirmed that she had spoken to Babergh; their advice was that a copy of the electoral register should **not** be included in the emergency boxes (*see minute 18.1.8.2*). She had re-sent SCC's guidance notes on gritting to all volunteers.

18.1.6.6 CAS funding website

JC confirmed that a password was required to access this site as it was 'members only'; she would circulate details to councillors.

18.1.6.7 Sign for Water Lane

JC had contacted SCC Highways and would follow up.

18.1.6.8 Sign for Popes Green Lane

JC had spoken to the person who had made the request; they had offered to pay for a sign if they decided it was necessary.

18.1.7 FINANCIAL MATTERS

18.1.7.1 RFO's report

It was proposed by JDC, seconded by RG and agreed unanimously that payments of £921.37 should be authorised.

18.1.8 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

18.1.8.1 Emergency Planning activation

Information from BDC on the procedure for activating the Emergency Plan and insurance cover had been circulated; JDC confirmed he was happy with the arrangements. It was agreed that he should now publish the Plan with BDC, on the understanding that it remained a 'work in progress'.

18.1.8.2 Emergency Plan - emergency box costings

JDC had prepared costings for an emergency box, which amounted to c. £100; it was agreed that there should be two boxes, one in Upper and one in Lower Layham. In response to a question from JDC, JW said he would look into the possibility of some funding from his Locality Budget.

18.1.9 PLANNING

18.1.9.1 DC/17/06317 - Mill House, Mill Lane, Upper Layham

Councillors had no objections to the application for internal and external structural and general repairs.

18.1.9.2 DC/18/00033 - Stows Cottage, Upper Street

(see also Public Forum, above)

Layham Parish Council had expressed concern about the previous application in November 2016; the application had subsequently been refused. After discussion, it was agreed that the issues raised at that time remained of concern:

- There may be an increased risk of flooding in the area due to the effect that a new-build may have on the water table. Despite the comment in the application that flooding only occurred every one hundred years, councillors were aware that some flooding occurred almost every year. They were concerned to hear the reports of cellars in the adjoining properties that take in water when there is flooding.
- Access would be a problem - lorries using satnav frequently had to back out of Water Lane. In addition, Water Lane was used by pedestrians walking to Lower Layham; the problem would be exacerbated while building work was taking place.
- There would be additional traffic at what was already a dangerous junction.
- Speeding was an issue on the main road and there had been many accidents on the B1070; councillors felt increased use of the junction would considerably raise the hazard level.

Councillors remained of the opinion that this site was not suitable for development.

18.1.9.3 DC/17/04187 - Popes Green Farm Barn, Popes Green Lane

It was noted that Discharge of Conditions regarding materials and fenestration had been approved.

18.1.9.4 DC/17/05239 - 76 Brett Green

It was noted that the application for the erection of a conservatory had been approved.

18.1.10 SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL - OUTSTANDING ISSUES

It was agreed to defer this item to the February meeting, when it was hoped GJ would be present.

18.1.11 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - WEDNESDAY 25 APRIL

Councillors were asked to give some thought to possible speakers; there would be a further discussion at the February meeting before finalising the agenda.

18.1.12 ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN

It was agreed to hold the Annual Spring Clean on Saturday 24 February, from 10am. The Green Team's recommendations on activities to be undertaken were agreed:

- Litter picking
- Tidying up alongside the river in Brett Green
- Clearing part of the pavements alongside the road into Hadleigh
- Cleaning village assets, eg bus shelter, telephone boxes, benches etc
- Tidying up of Brett Green path edges

The event would be publicised via the Hadleigh Community News and a community email, plus posters. With regard to the tidying of path edges on Brett Green, MW would produce a 'flyer' asking for volunteers.

18.1.13 CORRESPONDENCE

18.1.13.1 Recycling credits

It was noted that, with effect from February 2018, the rates per tonne would be reduced due to the reduction in income received by Babergh from recyclable material.

18.1.13.2 Defibrillator for Brett Green

JDC had received a quotation from UK Power Networks; this would be an agenda item for the February meeting.

18.1.13.3 Transparency Code funding

JC had been advised that there was still an opportunity during the current financial year to apply for some funding; it was agreed that she should submit an application.

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

None.

18.1.15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

7.30pm on Wednesday 28 February 2018, in the Village Hall.

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