

LAYHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held at 7.30pm on
Wednesday 31 October 2018 in the Village Hall

Present: Charlotte Britton (CB)
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)

Apologies: John Ward, Babergh DC (JW)

18.10.1 APOLOGIES

See above

18.10.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

18.10.3 PUBLIC FORUM

There were no parishioners present.

18.10.4 ADJOURNMENT TO RECEIVE WRITTEN REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

18.10.4.1 District Council report

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. JDC commented that bin collections were still a problem, which it seemed was mostly due to a shortage of lorry drivers.

18.10.4.2 County Council reports

Written reports for September and October had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. It was noted that GJ's reports were issued at the beginning of each month as some parish councils met then; as the reports were almost out of date by the time Layham PC met, JC would circulate them in advance of the other agenda papers in future. With regard to the Design Guide for building and development in Suffolk, MW said he had tried to complete the online questionnaire, but this was quite complicated. There was no opportunity within the questionnaire to raise the issue of the deteriorating environment, eg signposts falling down etc - he would write to SCC as an individual; GJ said he would also raise this. In response to a question from SL concerning specialist education, GJ said SCC was looking at the provision of placements and agreed there were currently not enough. SL congratulated SCC on its new service to support those affected by suicide.

18.10.5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was proposed by JDC, seconded by SL and agreed unanimously that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 26 September 2018 should be accepted as an accurate record, and signed accordingly.

18.10.6 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

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

18.10.6.1 Sign for the top of Water Lane (not suitable for HGVs)

JC had received information on the size and exact location of the sign, which would be positioned as low as possible so as to avoid obstructing the neighbouring cottage's window.

18.10.6.2 ANPR / Community Speedwatch report

JC would check with GJ that the report was available before putting it on the November agenda.

18.10.6.3 S106 application - play equipment for Playing Field

JC had submitted the application to Babergh.

18.10.6.4 Wheelie bin for Playing Field

JC confirmed that this had been ordered.

18.10.6.5 Autumn Tidy-Up

SR's report was noted. She would thank Babergh for providing additional brown bins on the day.

18.10.6.6 War Memorial / Remembrance Day

SL had contacted Neil Luxton, who was happy to clean the War Memorial again. However, it was agreed that very little cleaning was required this year following last year's refurbishment and MW and RG would do this; SL would let Neil know and thank him again for his ongoing commitment.

18.10.7 FINANCIAL MATTERS

18.10.7.1 RFO's report

It was proposed by CB, seconded by DP and agreed unanimously that the finance report for 31 October 2018 should be approved and payments of £837.25 authorised.

18.10.7.2 Budget working group

The working group would comprise CB, JDC and JC, who would meet during November; JC would email some possible dates and would prepare a draft budget for 2019/20 for discussion. This would be an agenda item for the November meeting.

18.10.8 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

18.10.8.1 Review of Parish Plan

CB's discussion paper was noted. It was intended that the review would identify new actions and priorities for Layham that would form a mandate for the next Parish Council. It was agreed that a working group comprising CB, MW, JDC and SR would meet as soon as possible to agree methods of raising awareness amongst parishioners, including a leaflet drop. It was proposed by MW, seconded by RG and agreed unanimously to cover the costs of producing a leaflet; RG volunteered to deliver. CB would prepare a timeline for action.

18.10.8.2 Babergh Town & Parish Liaison meeting

MW and JC had attended this meeting on 11 October; JC's report was noted. Councillors raised concerns over the "relaxing" of planning inspectors' interpretation of the guidelines in the new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). JC said JW had confirmed that, to date, there had been no challenges to Babergh's 5-year land supply. Concern was expressed about the lack of effective communication both within, and with, the district council now that it had relocated to Endeavour House.

18.10.9 PLANNING

18.10.9.1 DC/18/03504 - Layham Hall, Upper Street

It was noted that the application for replacement ridge to the indoor riding area had been approved.

18.10.10 DEFIBRILLATOR ON BRETT GREEN

The oak mounting for the defibrillator, designed by a local architect and constructed free of charge, had been installed at the end of September. Prior to its installation, JDC and RG had looked at various possible locations, taking into account the necessary cabling etc, and had also consulted UK Power Networks to identify a suitable location. Before the actual installation, MW had visited the parishioner living closest to it, who had appeared to be happy - and who had, in fact, expressed support for the project on several occasions. However, immediately following the installation, the parishioner in question had called at MW's house to complain in the strongest possible terms about its position (on public land, opposite his house). MW asked councillors to vote on whether it was practical to move it, given that it was embedded in at least two feet of concrete. Councillors were unanimous in their decision not to move it as this would not be practical or an acceptable use of public money. JC would write to the householder to explain the Council's decision.

18.10.11 'THANK YOU' TO PARISHIONERS

A draft guest list, based on previous event held in January 2013, had been circulated; MW asked everyone to let JC know of any suggestions / additions before the next meeting. However, it was agreed that it would be difficult to include everyone given the numbers involved. JC suggested holding an "open house" event during the day to enable everyone to drop in at a time suitable for them; the event could be linked to the Parish Plan review. A decision on the format of the event would be made at the November meeting.

18.10.12 WATER ACCUMULATING NEAR HADLEIGH RUGBY CLUB

This was an ongoing problem which, whilst technically in Hadleigh, also affected Layham residents. It was proposed by SR, seconded by DP and agreed unanimously that JC should write to Hadleigh Town Council to ask if they would be willing to work with the PC to try and get drains and ditches dug out.

18.10.13 NOTICEBOARD ON FENCE AT 41 BRETT GREEN

This was not an official Parish Council noticeboard, but had been erected by Ann Miller (a former Parish Councillor) as a gift to the community. It was now in need of refurbishment or replacement, but was not used by the PC as there were now three official noticeboards in the village. It was proposed by MW, seconded by RG and agreed unanimously that JC should write to Dusty Miller to thank him for making it available over the years, but it was no longer required and the PC could not justify using public money to refurbish or replace it.

18.10.14 CORRESPONDENCE

18.10.14.1 Cycle path

A letter had been received from a parishioner in Upper Layham concerning the need for a safe, family-friendly cycle path from Upper Layham to Hadleigh. SL commented that, at the moment, the safest route would be to cycle over the bridge to Lower Layham and then into Hadleigh; this road was designated as Cycle Route 1. It was agreed that JC should write to the parishioner explaining that the Parish Plan was going to be reviewed and parishioners would be consulted and asked for their ideas, and asking her if she would like to be involved.

18.10.14.2 Map of Brett Green

A parishioner had suggested that a map showing the numbering on Brett Green would be useful for visitors, delivery drivers etc; this could be put onto the website and noticeboards. JDC said such a map was already available via GetMapping, to which the PC paid an annual subscription. He would run a copy off for consideration.

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

None.

18.10.16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

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