

LAYHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held at 7.30pm on
Wednesday 30 October 2019 in the Village Hall

Present: Charlotte Britton - Chairman (CB)
Jane Cryer - Clerk (JC)
John Curran (JDC)
Sheila Roberts (SR)
Tony Stenning (TS)
Michael Woods - Vice Chairman (MW)

In attendance: Gordon Jones, Suffolk CC (GJ)
6 Parishioners

Apologies: Bill Paton (BP)
David Pratt (DP)
John Ward, Babergh DC (JW)

19.10.1 APOLOGIES

See above - apologies were accepted from BP and DP.

19.10.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

19.10.3 PUBLIC FORUM

All the parishioners present were interested in the speeding survey and what action might be undertaken; they all felt that speeding had become worse over the past few years. In addition, there was concern that the bus now stopped in a different place near a bend, but children still had to walk up towards the bus stop. The importance of letting the PC know about incidents and accidents was stressed, as the police were not always aware. The lack of road markings was also raised.

19.10.4 ADJOURNMENT TO RECEIVE WRITTEN REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

19.10.4.1 District Council report

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes.

19.10.4.2 County Council report

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. Since the report was produced, there had been a Cabinet reshuffle - Andrew Reid had taken over responsibility for Highways from Mary Evans; however, he had been unable to attend the PC meeting due to a prior engagement. GJ now had responsibility for Finance and Resources. A Boundary Commission review was under way and the consultation period had been extended until 2 January 2020; it proposed that the number of councillors be reduced from 75 to 70. JDC had responded to the Sizewell C consultation on behalf of the PC; however, there was nothing in GJ's report about power lines. GJ said concern about pylons had been raised at the Cabinet meeting; personally, he was in favour of cabling being under water rather than above ground. Concern had also been raised by the AONBs.

19.10.5 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

19.10.5.1 Speeding

JDC explained that, until now, no definitive information had been available. The survey had been carried out on the B1070 at each end of Upper Layham during a seven-day period starting on 2 October and the working party had analysed the data, which showed the percentage of vehicles

speeding through Upper Layham was extremely high with an average of over 60% exceeding the speed limit. GJ said road safety was a priority and some villages had been designated 'amber' - eg Holton St Mary; he would provide information on the 'traffic light' classifications. He suggested contacting Holton St Mary PC to see if the police van, which regularly visited Holton, could also visit Layham; JC would investigate. He also said that Police still felt Community Speedwatch was useful; CB said this was one of the options the working party would be looking at. As far as ANPR (automatic number plate recognition) was concerned, there had been slow progress but he was hopeful that there would be some action by spring 2020; however, the police still had reservations because of the additional workload. In response to a suggestion from TS that a 'chicane' (ie building out of the road on one side) might work, GJ said he would be happy to investigate this, but Highways would also need to be involved. He would also look into the possibility of the roundels being reinstated; SR would use the SCC online reporting tool to report missing white lines, roundels etc. In response to a query from JDC about missing 'cats' eyes', GJ would report back on what the current policy was. It was agreed that there was obviously a need for some urgent action and the working party would be looking at various options to bring back to full Council; it was proposed by JDC, seconded by MW and agreed unanimously that they should also talk to Suffolk Highways and GJ to see what could be done quickly. It was also agreed that the speeding survey data should be put on the website; JDC would send a summary to JC.

19.10.5.2 Emergency Plan

JDC's report was noted. He had produced an updated communications tree but noted that there were still some gaps - ie telephone numbers and email addresses. A recent amber warning had highlighted the importance of PC members pairing up so that if one person was away, the other would be able to contact their ELVs. It was agreed to hold a training/ briefing session for all involved on 2 December - JC would check that the Village Hall was available on that date; JDC would draft an email for JC to send out.

19.10.6 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was proposed by TS, seconded by CB and agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 18 September 2019 should be accepted as an accurate record, and signed accordingly.

19.10.7 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

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

19.10.7.1 Bus routes

JC would chase a response from GJ about the impact of recent cuts on Layham.

19.10.7.2 Training

The joint Planning training session with RPC had been cancelled as further information was awaited from SALC about other options. General councillor training would be an agenda item for the November meeting.

19.10.7.3 Banking

Mandate change forms had been completed to add CB and BP as signatories. JC would continue to research alternative banking arrangements.

19.10.7.4 General Risk Assessment

This would be an agenda item for the November meeting; JDC would update the document and send it to JC.

19.10.7.5 Remembrance Day

JC confirmed the wreath had been ordered. SR volunteered to clean the War Memorial if necessary.

19.10.8 FINANCIAL MATTERS

19.10.8.1 RFO's report

It was proposed by JDC, seconded by TS and agreed unanimously that the finance report for 31 October 2019 should be approved and payments of £1,246.31 were authorised.

It was noted that a CIL payment of £1,266.26 had been received; JC would circulate the link to Babergh's CIL database where further information was available.

19.10.8.2 Subscription to Suffolk Local History Council

It was proposed by MW, seconded by JDC and agreed unanimously that the PC should pay the annual subscription of £25 to the SLHC, on behalf of the Layham Local History Group.

19.10.8.3 Budget/precept for 2020/21

It was agreed that the working group would comprise CB, MW and JC, who would prepare recommendations for full Council; JC would provide information to inform the discussion.

19.10.9 PLANNING

19.10.9.1 DC/19/04913 - Partridge Cottage, Stoke Road

There were no objections to the application for change of use of agricultural access track to residential curtilage and erection of boundary wall (retention of).

19.10.9.2 DC/19/03610 - The Haven, Stoke Road

It was noted that permission had been granted for the erection of a two storey front and side extension and side porch.

19.10.9.3 DC/19/04150 - 8 Upper Street

It was noted that permission had been granted for the erection and retention of a single storey side extension (retention of).

19.10.10 SCC COMMUNITY SELF-HELP SCHEME

CB, MW and SR had met with Luke Merton from SCC; CB's report had already been circulated. A risk criteria matrix was now in place and all work undertaken by Suffolk Highways was assessed against this. The focus on statutory maintenance had impacted on what SCC classed as 'cosmetic maintenance', which in turn had led to an increase in volunteers working on the highways; the Self-Help Scheme had been developed as a direct response to this, to try and support volunteers through training and access to resources. JC would ask SCC to clarify whether gritting was covered by the scheme. It was proposed by SR, seconded by CB and agreed **in principle** that the PC should sign up to the scheme. However, there were three different levels of agreement; SR would circulate the link to these and there would be a discussion at the November meeting to decide which level was the most appropriate.

19.10.11 SEAT / PICNIC TABLE AT BLACKSMITH'S CORNER

TS had looked into the issue of a streetworks licence, which appeared to cost around £450; he had not been able to find any reference to the charge being waived if a Parish Council made the application. It was agreed that JC would contact the parishioner who had made the original request on behalf of the QH charity and ask him to clarify the situation.

19.10.12 CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE

None.

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

None.

19.10.14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

7.30pm on Wednesday 27 November 2019, in the Village Hall.

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