

LAYHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council
held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 26 August 2020 via ZOOM

Present: Charlotte Britton - Chairman (CB)
Jane Cryer - Clerk (JC)
John Curran (JDC)
Bill Paton (BP)
David Pratt (DP)
Sheila Roberts (SR)
Michael Woods - Vice Chairman (MW)

In attendance: John Ward - Babergh DC (JW)
Parishioner

Apologies: Gordon Jones - Suffolk CC (GJ)

20.8.1 APOLOGIES

See above.

20.8.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

20.8.3 PUBLIC FORUM

The parishioner present did not wish to speak.

20.8.4 CO-OPTION

Following interviews held on 17 and 18 August, the working group's report had been circulated; the PC had been fortunate to have applications from three very good candidates. MW thanked the group for the comprehensive information provided. It was proposed by DP, seconded by SR and agreed unanimously to accept the working group's recommendation that Elaine Pye should be co-opted; JC would write to Elaine and send her an information pack. CB said she was keen to explore how the PC might work with the other two candidates in the future, for instance on working parties etc; JC would write to them accordingly.

20.8.5 ADJOURNMENT TO RECEIVE WRITTEN REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

20.8.5.1 District Council report

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. JW confirmed that the first online Council meeting had been held in July; the decisions made were in his report. The Local Plan would go to the November meeting for final approval, but it could take up to a year before being finally adopted. The Government had announced new laws aimed at delivering new homes; homeowners would be able to add up to two additional storeys to their homes through a fast-track approval process. The Government had also published a Planning White Paper which proposed radical changes to the planning system. The consultation would run until the end of October and JW encouraged councillors to respond. He said that the White Paper contained some good news, but there were areas of concern - for example, the way of calculating the number of homes Babergh had to deliver would increase the number considerably; Babergh could lose its 5 year land supply. JC would circulate details so that councillors could decide on how to approach the consultation process.

20.8.5.2 Suffolk CC

No report had been received.

20.8.6 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

20.8.6.1 Speeding

JDC had contacted SCC re possible locations for the SID device posts, as agreed at the last meeting. However, he had received an email from the Speed Management Engineer saying that, due to funding being on hold due to Covid-19, no new requests would be processed until at least December. As discussions had been ongoing for some time, JC would go back to him to ask if there was any room for manoeuvre on this; it was agreed to wait for a response before sending out a community email update.

20.8.7 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

It was proposed by DP, seconded by MW and agreed unanimously that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 29 July 2020 should be accepted as an accurate record, and signed accordingly.

20.8.8 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

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

20.8.8.1 Flooding

BP would continue to liaise with the Mill owners; JC would contact Hadleigh Town Council to discuss working together on this issue.

20.8.8.2 Covid-19

MW thanked JW for forwarding posters, which had now been displayed on the playing field and play equipment.

20.8.8.3 Litter / rubbish in Gardener's Close

JC would follow up with Flagship.

20.8.8.4 SCC Community Self-Help Scheme

The working party would meet and bring a paper to the September meeting.

20.8.9 FINANCIAL MATTERS

20.8.9.1 RFO's report

It was proposed by DP, seconded by JDC and agreed unanimously that the finance report for 26 August 2020 should be approved and payments of £,1319.85 were authorised. It was noted that the VAT refund of £1057.74 had been received.

20.8.10 MARQUIS RE-CONSULTATION - DC/20/01517 & 01518 (Listed Building Consent)

At the Planning meeting held on 25 August, councillors had voted by 4 votes to 1 to continue to object to the application. Following that meeting, JC had circulated a draft submission which was discussed; some amendments and additions were agreed. She would send a second draft to all members for final approval, before submitting it to Babergh by the deadline of 28 August.

CB said she would like to discuss the process for dealing with planning applications; this would be an agenda item for the September meeting.

20.8.11 VILLAGE SIGN

BP's update was noted. The approximate cost was projected to be around £1500, and several parishioners had confirmed they were prepared to make a donation towards a sign for Lower Layham; a local contractor had offered to construct the base for a sign. The most practical location for a sign in Lower Layham was felt to be adjacent to the new village bench, subject to approval from Suffolk Highways. With regard to Upper Layham, there was already an Upper Layham sign in an oak surround near the Marquis, although it was noted that this was a road sign rather than a decorative village sign. The PC was currently liaising with Suffolk Highways about suitable locations for a 'SID' speed device in Upper Layham (see 20.8.6.1, above), and this would need to be resolved before considering another sign.

It was agreed that, in principle, the PC would support a village sign in Lower Layham, pending further information. BP would keep a watching brief on the initiative and would continue to keep councillors updated.

20.8.12 STREET SIGN FOR POPES GREEN LANE

JC had received further information from Babergh, following the request by a parishioner for a street sign indicating Popes Green Lane. Babergh had confirmed that the PC would have to formally request such a sign and would be responsible for the cost; councillors were wary of setting a precedent. MW suggested asking SCC Highways, who had installed the sign to the Village Hall, if they would be prepared to put up a signpost; JC would contact them and report back to the next meeting.

20.8.13 AUTUMN LITTER PICK

It was agreed to hold the autumn litter pick on Saturday 31 October at 10am. SR would draft an email for JC to send out informing parishioners of the date and reminding them that litter pickers were available to be borrowed at any time. She would include the news that she had been given some free wildflower seeds if people would like to plant them around the village. The email would ask people to let the PC know where seeds had planted, and also the areas where litter had been collected prior to the day of the litter pick.

20.8.14 CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE

None.

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

None.

20.8.16 CONFIDENTIAL - CLERK'S ANNUAL REVIEW

The working group's report was noted. It was proposed by DP, seconded by JDC and agreed unanimously to approve the group's recommendation that JC's hours should be increased by one hour per month to allow time for reading / keeping up to date with legislation etc.

20.8.17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

7.30pm on Wednesday 30 September 2020, via Zoom. It was agreed that the time of all future meetings would revert to 7.30pm.

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