

LAYHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held at 7.30pm on
Wednesday 30 June 2021 in the Village Hall

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

In attendance: Georgia Hall, Suffolk CC (GC)
John Ward, Babergh DC (JW)

Apologies: None

21.6.1 APOLOGIES

None.

21.6.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

21.6.3 PUBLIC FORUM

No parishioners were present. However, an email had been received from a parishioner re agenda item 21.6.11, which was read out by the Clerk.

21.6.4 ADJOURNMENT TO RECEIVE WRITTEN REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

21.6.4.1 District Council report

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. Hadleigh had been due to host Suffolk's annual Armed Forces Week celebrations; however, due to the extension of Covid restrictions, most events had been cancelled. Babergh and Mid Suffolk had submitted their Joint Local Plan for examination by the Secretary of State. This was due to have taken place on 21 June but had now been postponed as it was to have been held partly remotely and partly in person, but some internet connections had failed. It would now be held fully in person in September; this should not affect the overall timetable. JW confirmed that Babergh would move the rubbish behind the defibrillator on Brett Green which JC had reported.

21.6.4.2 County 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 speeding initiative, GH had facilitated a site meeting to agree the location of the poles for the SID devices; however, it could be another 14 weeks before work started (see also minute 21.6.8.1). She had reported the overgrown vegetation along the footpath from Upper Layham to Hadleigh and was awaiting a response; MW commented that, although most of the problem was in Hadleigh, Layham residents walking into Hadleigh were also affected (see also minute 21.6.12.2).

21.6.5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was proposed by JDC, seconded by SR and agreed unanimously that the minutes of the AGM held on Wednesday 26 May 2021 should be accepted as an accurate record, and signed accordingly.

21.6.6 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

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

21.6.6.1 Biodiversity initiative

With regard to Babergh and Mid Suffolk's initiative to plant more trees, hedgerow plants and wildflowers, it was agreed that the Green Team would carry out more research before possibly bringing it back to a future meeting.

21.6.7 FINANCIAL MATTERS

21.6.7.1 Internal audit report

The key comments and recommendations arising from the internal audit report for 2020-21 were noted and would be addressed during the current financial year. JC said she was aware of the requirement to publish more documents on the website and would be looking into possible alternative sites.

21.6.7.2 2020-21 Annual Return - Section 1, Governance Statement

It was agreed unanimously to approve the Governance Statement, which was then signed by the Chairman and the Clerk/RFO.

21.6.7.3 2020-21 Annual Return - Section 2, Accounting Statements

It was agreed unanimously to approve the Accounting Statements, which were then signed by the Chairman and the Clerk/RFO.

21.6.7.4 RFO's report

It was proposed by DP, seconded by GC and agreed unanimously that the finance report for 30 June 2021 should be approved and payments of £850.41 should be authorised.

21.6.8 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

21.6.8.1 Speeding

The report from the working group was noted. JDC thanked GH for facilitating the recent site meeting; however, he said it was frustrating that agreement had not been reached on the best location for the pole at the Mill Lane end of Upper Street. The working group had requested that the pole should be positioned where it would alert and remind drivers of the 30mph speed limit through the village, rather than 'catching' motorists - ie education rather than enforcement. However, JDC and BP had reluctantly agreed to position the pole near the bus stop - this would hopefully slow vehicles after the Mill Lane junction, although would not prevent accidents at that junction. It was hoped that a third pole could be installed in due course.

21.6.8.2 National Grid proposals

The update from the working group was noted. The joint response to the proposals had been submitted; JW confirmed that Babergh had also submitted a response. In addition, the working group had produced a specific Layham response which included a letter from the new owners of Benton End, who were in the process of recreating it as a centre for art and horticulture. JDC said he was concerned that NG was not listening to parishes, or taking their comments seriously; four days after the deadline for responses they had circulated a 270-page scoping document. JW said he would take this up with James Cartlidge MP. The working group would meet again once the next stage of the consultation process had been announced.

21.6.9 PLANNING

21.6.9.1 DC/21/01624 - Rowan Cottage, Stoke Road

It was noted that permission had been granted for the replacement of the garage roof to create loft space.

21.6.9.2 DC/21/01898 - The Granary, Mill Lane

It was noted that permission had been granted for a single storey extension and single storey sun room.

21.6.9.3 DC/21/02323 - Walnuts, Upper Street

The approval of reserved matters was noted.

21.6.9.4 DC/21/022381 - The Leys, Rands Road

It was noted that permission had been granted for a single storey orangery/garden room.

21.6.9.5 DC/21/02733 - Beck Cottage, Overbury Hall Road

The discharge of conditions was noted.

21.6.10 GDPR policy

It was agreed to defer this item to a future meeting; in the meantime, JC would liaise with the Information Commission re statutory and non-statutory clauses deemed appropriate for small parish councils.

21.6.11 DOG REFUSE BINS

The suggestion by a councillor that there should be a bin at the bottom of Church Lane was discussed, but it was not considered to be an appropriate location. JC would ask Babergh if the existing bins could be emptied more frequently; she would also research the cost of having an additional bin to be located somewhere else in the village.

21.6.12 CORRESPONDENCE

21.6.12.1 Festival of Suffolk 2022

A letter had been received from the Lord Lieutenant for Suffolk asking parishes to join in with the Festival theme, to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and her 70 years as monarch. It was agreed that the Events Committee would take this forward - CB would email committee members. MW commented that the PCC was also keen to be involved with the Festival.

21.6.12.2 Overgrown footpath alongside the B1070

A parishioner had written to highlight that the footpath was now so overgrown that it was impassable by disability buggies. He called for the hedge to be cut back, and the bank to be cut back where it had encroached over the metalled pathway.

21.6.12.3 Possible visit by helicopter

MW, as Chairman of the Playing Field Committee, had been contacted to ask whether the committee would be willing to have an Apache helicopter land on the playing field to mark end of term for children and families. It was agreed that no decision could be made until more information was available from Wattisham.

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

None.

21.6.14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

7.30pm on Wednesday 28 July 2021, in the Village Hall.

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