

LAYHAM PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the meeting of the Council held at 7.30pm on
Wednesday 24 November 2021 in the Village Hall

Present:	Graham Coleman (GC) Jane Cryer - Clerk (JC) Sue Keeble (SK) David Pratt (DP) Sheila Roberts (SR) Michael Woods - (MW)
In attendance:	John Ward, Babergh DC (JW) 2 parishioners (part)
Apologies:	Charlotte Britton (CB) John Curran (JDC) Georgia Hall, Suffolk CC (GC)

21.11.1 APOLOGIES

See above - apologies were accepted from CB and JDC.

21.11.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

21.11.3 PUBLIC FORUM

The parishioners present wished to explain the reason for the change of location for the proposed agricultural building (*see also 21.11.10.1*). They felt that the new location, further up the field, would be more acceptable to the neighbouring properties; however, they did not agree with a comment from Babergh's Senior Environmental Protection Officer concerning the orientation of the lean-to, as this would make access more difficult. JW suggested that they should respond to the Case Officer, with a copy to him.

21.11.4 ADJOURNMENT TO RECEIVE WRITTEN REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

21.11.4.1 District Council report

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. A request for enhanced support to assist with Covid had been submitted by Public Health Suffolk; JC said hospitals were currently full, but coping. The additional funding was helping to increase the roll-out of boosters, as well as vaccinations for younger people. Babergh and Mid Suffolk's Joint Local Plan had been submitted, but they had been asked to reconsider the site allocations. JW said this would mean the Plan would be unlikely to be re-submitted until early in 2023. He said he would like to see the process reviewed as it was currently taking too long. In response to a question from MW as to why CIL money could not be used to address the problems with the footpath between Upper Layham and Benton Street, JW said this money was for new projects, rather than maintenance and repairs to existing infrastructure. However, he would speak to both the CIL team and the grants team, and also have a discussion with Frank Minns, the Mayor of Hadleigh; MW would also talk to Mr Minns. In response to a question from DP concerning new housing developments, JW said developers were required to consult with Anglian Water.

21.11.4.2 County Council report

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

21.11.5 REVIEW OF LORRY ROUTES IN SUFFOLK

It was agreed that the PC should respond to the consultation concerning the review of recommended lorry routes across the county. The points councillors wished to make were:

- Weight limit signs - ignored by a large number of lorries both on the A12 and the B1070, just before leaving Raydon (the sign on the triangle at Mason's Bridge, at the junction with the road to Lower Raydon and Shelley, had been knocked down by a lorry manoeuvring to turn back, having seen the weight limit sign);
- The ongoing problems in Benton Street with heavy vehicles causing difficult blockages and damage to buildings, which could be exacerbated if the proposed Hook Lane development went ahead (see 21.11.12.1).

21.11.6 FINANCIAL MATTERS

21.11.6.1 RFO's report

It was proposed by DP, seconded by GC and agreed unanimously that the finance report for 24 November 2021 should be approved and payments of £967.60 were authorised.

21.11.6.2 Draft budget & precept for 2022-23

A draft budget had been circulated before the meeting, together with notes and recommendations from the working party. It was proposed by MW, seconded by SK and agreed unanimously to approve the draft budget and increase the precept by £500.

21.11.6.3 Internal auditor

It was proposed by GC, seconded by SR and agreed unanimously to reappoint SALC as internal auditors for 2021/22.

21.11.7 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was proposed by DP, seconded by SK and agreed unanimously that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 20 October 2021 should be accepted as an accurate record, and signed accordingly.

21.11.8 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

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

21.11.8.1 Location of SID device

JDC and GC were liaising with Suffolk Highways to see whether the location of the post near the bus stop in Upper Layham could be reviewed.

21.11.8.2 Emergency Plan

SK confirmed that she had recruited a new ELV.

21.11.8.3 Website

JC confirmed that Suffolk Cloud had begun to build the new website; she would update councillors at the January meeting.

21.11.8.4 Popes Green Lane

Suffolk Highways had confirmed that the work carried out recently was in response to a customer complaint about vegetation narrowing the width of the road.

21.11.9 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

21.11.9.1 Speeding

SID devices - GC gave a verbal update on the SID device; the latest data had been circulated prior to the meeting. A flyer had been delivered to every household in Upper Layham asking for volunteers to help with moving the device; however, there had been no responses. GC confirmed that the data showed the device was slowing down the traffic.

He suggested purchasing another camera, possibly solar-powered; however, this would have to be approved by Highways. There had also been a request from a parishioner that a SID device should be considered for Stoke Road in Lower Layham. GC would research costs etc and the working party would produce a report and recommendations for the January meeting. It was further agreed that JC would contact GH about extending the speed limit on Stoke Road.

Signage - in response to a comment from MW that the 30mph sign near the Marquis had been obscured by a hedge, SK would raise this with Steve O'Leary.

30mph wheelie bin stickers - it was proposed by GC, seconded by SK and agreed unanimously that the PC would have an initial quantity of 100 signs printed.

21.11.9.2 Green Team

SR's report was noted; she would produce a summary for the January HCN. MW would discuss the issue of the wood piles on the playing field with the PF Committee. Climate Change would be an agenda item for the January meeting; in the meantime, JC would send out a community email inviting parishioners to try to make at least one change as a New Year Resolution.

21.11.9.3 Queen's Platinum Jubilee

The report from the Events Community Group was noted; there would be regular updates in the HCN and via community emails.

21.11.10 PLANNING

21.11.10.1 DC/21/06002 - Agricultural land north of Partridge Cottage, Stoke Road

There were no objections to the new location for the proposed agricultural building; however, it was agreed to support the applicants' concern that the suggestion from Babergh's Senior Environmental Protection Officer concerning the orientation of the lean-to would make access difficult.

21.11.10.2 DC/21/06064 - Cherry Orchard Farm, Stoke Road

There were no objections to the proposed change of use.

21.11.10.3 DC/21/06051 - Rands Farm, Rands Lane

There were no objections to an application for prior approval for proposed change of use.

21.11.10.4 DC/21/05866 & 7 - Popes Green Farm House

There were no objections to the proposals, or to the application for listed building consent.

21.11.10.5 DC/21/05725 - Marquis of Cornwallis

There were no objections to the application for removal or variation of conditions.

21.11.10.6 DC/21/03370 - Marquis of Cornwallis

Approval of the discharge of conditions was noted.

21.11.11 COUNTY BROADBAND

JC's report was noted. The current broadband network used copper cables and was installed pre-internet and was already at full capacity. The service was currently provided by a number of companies, but all of them used Openreach equipment. Electricity was carried through the same fibre optic cable running from the exchange to one of the green roadside cabinets, with the signal carried through copper cables which tended to lose effectiveness over even a short distance. County Broadband provided infrastructure to rural locations with fibre optic cables from the cabinet to individual households. The aim was to provide faster speeds and a more reliable network. To be kept up to date on the rollout of this project, parishioners could register their interest at www.countybroadband.co.uk/register. County Broadband was organising a public meeting in Raydon in December which Layham parishioners were welcome to attend.

21.11.12 CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE

21.11.12.1 Hook Lane

With regard to a proposed new development in Hook Lane, Hadleigh, a two-day drop-in event would be held in the Town Hall on Wednesday 1 December (11.30am - 3pm) and Thursday 2 December (3pm-8pm) where people could find out more.

21.11.12.2 Requests from charities for support

JC had received two requests for support; it was agreed that these (and any others received in the meantime) would be considered in the new year).

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

None.

21.11.14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The schedule of meetings for 2022 was agreed. The next meeting would be at 7.30pm on Wednesday 26 January 2022, in the Village Hall.

* * * * *