

LAYHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held at 7.30pm on
Wednesday 30 October 2013 in the Village Hall

Present:	Louise Allen - Vice Chairman (LA) Jane Cryer - Clerk (JC) John Curran (JDC) Lesley Garnett (LG) Ron Gunn (RG) Steve Laing (SL) David Pratt (DP) Michael Woods - Chairman (MW)
In attendance:	PCSO Georgi Hawkes (GH) Gordon Jones, Suffolk CC (GJ) John Ruiz, Parishioner (JR)
Apologies:	PCSO Amanda Coleman (AC) Sue Wigglesworth, Babergh DC (SW)

13.10.1 APOLOGIES

See above.

13.10.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

13.10.3 ADJOURNMENT TO RECEIVE WRITTEN REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

13.10.3.1 District Council report

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. SL referred to MW's letter to the EADT highlighting the work parish councillors undertook without claiming allowances. SL said if district and county councillors reduced the amount claimed in allowances, this could help to preserve some frontline services. He also suggested that SL Mid Suffolk and Babergh might consider converting part of their offices to residential use, now that they were not fully occupied, in order to help address the lack of smaller accommodation available for people currently affected by the bedroom tax.

GJ said that any comments/feedback could be made via the Babergh and SCC websites.

13.10.3.2 County Council report

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. It was noted that eight MPs had signed a letter to the Energy Minister calling for all sections of the new power line to be placed underground and were due to meet the Minister shortly.

In response to a question from SL, GJ said broadband provided by microwave would be a short term fix only. LA asked SL to let her have information on how church spires and towers could be used; she would pass this on to the Friends of St Andrew's. GJ said the plan to give most people superfast broadband coverage by 2015 was still on target.

GJ referred to the 'City Deal' which had just been confirmed, which provided funding to help young people up to the age of 25 to find jobs. Suffolk was one of the first areas to receive this funding.

13.10.3.3 Police report

There had been no reported crimes since the last meeting. AC had confirmed that the SID device had been used in Upper Layham for three half-hour periods during late afternoon/early evening on 24 and 25 October. Out of a total of 372 vehicles, 26 had been recorded as travelling at speeds between 35-50mph. MW said he felt more realistic statistics would be gathered if it was possible to carry out the checks over an extended period? JC said

PC Sam Gilkes had asked Babergh to conduct monitoring checks along the B1070; he would report back in due course.

GH said people should be extra vigilant about locking sheds and outbuildings now that the clocks had gone back, and should notify the police immediately of any incidents or suspicious circumstances. RG said two men purporting to be from Zenith Double Glazing, but not acting in a professional manner, had been knocking on doors in Upper Layham.

13.10.4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was proposed by LA, seconded by JDC and agreed unanimously that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 2 October 2013 should be accepted as an accurate record, and signed accordingly.

13.10.5 ACTIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

13.10.5.1 Marquis Of Cornwallis

JC confirmed that the Village Hall had been booked for the open meeting on Monday 11 November at 8pm; notices had been put up and a community email sent out. MW would chair the meeting and said he would like everyone to attend and take part in the discussion. It was noted that any consortium would need to comprise a minimum of 21 people. JC would check with Babergh to see if there was any covenant on the land currently used as a car park.

13.10.5.2 Telephone boxes

JC had contacted the paint company and would chase a response.

13.10.5.3 Risk Register

JC would use the SALC 'model' to draft a risk register for Layham PC; this would be circulated to members in due course for comment - *ongoing*.

13.10.5.4 Ownership of Playing Field

JC had returned the file to MW, as Chairman of the Playing Field Committee.

13.10.5.5 Post Office

JC was liaising with the Post Office over the possibility of an outreach post office facility for two hours per week in the Village Hall; she had been told that another potential option was a weekly visit to Layham by a mobile post office. She would report back when there was any further news - *ongoing*.

13.10.5.6 Wind turbines

JC would chase Babergh for a response to her email setting out the PC's concerns and asking for these to be addressed in the Core Strategy.

13.10.5.7 Maintenance of bench on Brett Green

RG confirmed that the materials had been purchased for the concrete base.

13.10.5.8 Clearing of road edges

SL would set up a working group to address this.

13.10.5.9 Skateboard blocks

MW had spoken to Community Action Suffolk, who had advised against this as any disturbance of the land could lead to drainage problems; if this occurred, there would be no insurance cover.

13.10.5.10 Defibrillators

JC confirmed that a representative from the Ambulance Service would attend the PC meeting on 27 November. It was agreed that the meeting should start at 7pm, and that this briefing/demonstration should be the first item.

13.10.5.11 Community email

JC had circulated a list of current participants, in order to avoid duplication when councillors were recruiting. It was felt that more people would sign up as the Emergency Plan developed.

13.10.5.12 Suffolk Wildlife Trust

JC confirmed that the PC was now a member of SWT, and she had received a 'welcome' phone call.

13.10.5.13 War Memorial project

MW had ordered the copy wills relating to the seven names on the War Memorial.

13.10.5.14 Audit of trees and shrubs

MW commented that he had noticed a slight fall-off in service now that Babergh and Mid Suffolk were operating joint services; however, he had now received a response and was awaiting a date for a site visit.

13.10.5.15 Gravel Pit

JC confirmed that a response to the planning application discussed at the last meeting had been submitted to SCC, taking into account feedback from the Gravel Pit Liaison Committee meeting; the PC's response had been copied to Polstead PC.

13.10.5.16 Remembrance Day

MW confirmed that Maureen Brown and Les Hambling, the descendants of two men named on the War Memorial, had agreed to lay the Parish Council's wreath on Remembrance Sunday. The Rev John Druce would be leading the service on Sunday 10 November from 10-11am, and would contact both of them before the day. JC confirmed that the wreath had been ordered; a donation of £25 would be made to the Royal British Legion. RG said the Memorial was in good condition and just required a little cleaning around the base.

13.10.5.17 Grit bins

JC would ensure that SCC was aware of all the bins in the parish so that they could be topped up if necessary.

13.10.5.18 Lunch Club

It was agreed that the profit from the community lunches would be banked after the next one, on 6 November.

13.10.5.19 Driveway at Brook Cottage / Blacksmith's Cottage

JC would speak to the landlords to discuss what might be done.

13.10.6 FINANCIAL MATTERS

13.10.6.1 RFO's Report

It was proposed by JDC, seconded by DP and agreed unanimously that the financial statement as at 30 October 2013 should be accepted; payments of £507.17 were authorised. It was noted that recycling credits totalling £194.22 had been received - LG asked JC to confirm the total amount for the current year.

13.10.6.2 Budget working party

The budget working party (JC, LA, MW and SL) arranged to meet at 6pm on Monday 18 November.

13.10.7 WRITTEN REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

13.10.7.1 Green Team

LG's report was noted. LG and MW had met Leonie Washington, one of SWT's Community Advisors, to discuss possible projects, and had made a site visit to the Playing Field. When Leonie's report had been received, LG would report back to the PC.

The Autumn Community Lunch on Wednesday 6 November was already fully booked.

13.10.7.2 Emergency Planning

JDC's report was noted. It was agreed to hold the briefing meeting for Emergency Link Volunteers (ELVs) at 7.30pm on Monday 25 November, in the Village Hall; JDC would chair the meeting. The letter to the ELVs and the agenda for the meeting were both approved. DP would contact his potential ELVs to confirm their willingness to help. JC would check with SALC about Data Protection regulations around keeping databases of contact details.

JDC referred to the recent storm and subsequent loss of power. He had spoken to UK Power Networks and said parts of IP7 were still without power. He suggested that the PC might consider purchasing some plug-in phones for the ELVs. RG reported on action taken so far to deal with trees damaged in the storm.

It was agreed that a letter should be sent from the PC to UK Power Networks concerning poor communication and the lack of information during the emergency. One possible solution might be that one person in a parish could be the nominated contact in order to cut down on the number of people trying to get through at any one time.

13.10.8 PLANNING

13.10.8.1 B/13/00956 - Water Lane Cottage, Water Lane

It was noted that this application had been approved by Babergh.

13.10.8.2 B/12/01433 - Raworth Park, Upper Street

It was noted that an appeal had been made to the Secretary of State.

13.10.8.3 B/13/01155 - Raworth Park: erection of two dwellings, garaging and vehicular access

It appeared that the only difference between this application and the previous one was that the entranceway was in a different place. The issues raised by the PC in letters to Babergh dated May and June 2013 remained the same, including:

- Plot 2, as well as being outside the village envelope, was on agricultural land; the new road would also be on agricultural land.
- It appeared that a previous owner had moved part of the fence line that had run behind the now demolished bungalow out into the paddock, thus creating enough space to make an application to put two new buildings there.
- The previous owner had retained some land, including a piece of land beyond the proposed development running into the paddock, thus creating space that could be used to extend the gardens of the proposed new properties further beyond the village envelope. It was felt that this agricultural land should not become domestic gardens without formal planning application.
- Despite a statement to the contrary in the application papers, a water course ran through a large pipe under part of the land to be developed, then under Upper Street, becoming a stream running between Rose Cottage and 8 Upper Street. John Ruiz, whose house (Rose Cottage) was situated opposite, and lower than the road, had already told Babergh that there was a water course and an uncovered manhole evident on the proposed development site. Mr Ruiz was concerned that building work could interfere with what was currently a well defined channel, causing flooding.
- The general speed and frequency of traffic on the B1070 was dangerous to vehicles emerging from the driveway - it was believed that a 75' splay was required, in both directions. There was also a bus stop almost opposite to consider.

JC would write again to Babergh, reiterating the Council's concerns.

13.10.8.4 B/13/00821 - Raworth Bungalow: application for re-pollarding of six lime trees (TPO BT73G1)

It was agreed that this work was necessary; there were no objections.

13.10.9 CORRESPONDENCE

13.10.9.1 School bus

Concern had been expressed by a local parent that the school bus was still stopping on the blind corner at the top of Mill Lane. GJ said he was due to meet the school transport people later in the week and would raise this issue; he would ask the appropriate person to contact JC.

13.10.10 FUTURE MEETING DATES

13.10.10.1 Next meeting

The next meeting would be held at 7pm (see minute 13.10.5.10) on Wednesday 27 November in the Village Hall.

13.10.10.2 2014 meeting dates

With two amendments, the draft schedule of meeting dates for 2014 was agreed (amended schedule attached).

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