

LAYHAM PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of the Council held at 7.30pm on
Wednesday 15 January 2014 in the Village Hall**

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

The Chairman asked that, in future, all mobile phones be turned off prior to the start of meetings; this was agreed.

14.1.1 APOLOGIES

See above.

14.1.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

14.1.3 ADJOURNMENT TO RECEIVE WRITTEN REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

14.1.3.1 Police report

There had been no reported crimes since the last meeting. However, a 'scam' was currently being carried out in the area targeting elderly people: a person purporting to be a police officer would phone their victim saying that they were investigating fraud concerning their bank account, and asking for account information. It was confirmed that the police would never request any bank details over the phone. The Clerk would send a community email alerting parishioners.

14.1.3.2 Babergh DC report

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. SW said she hoped business rates would not be increased as funding diminished. In response to a question from DP, she said that the external training referred to in her report related to change management. The Chairman commented that the various changes were having a marked effect on the availability of council staff, who were not responding as promptly as they had in the past to queries and requests for assistance.

14.1.3.3 Suffolk CC report

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. GJ said savings had been identified but the effect would be mostly felt during the following year and beyond.

Speeding - with regard to the possibility of extending the 30mph speed limit on the main road in Upper Layham, GJ said it might be easier to introduce a 40mph limit between the two 30mph signs; he would continue to discuss this Highways.

National Grid - GJ said that extending the AONB would take a long time. In response to a question from JDC, he would look into the process further and report back.

14.1.4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

JDC referred to minute 13.11.6.14 and said he had proposed that plug-in phones should be purchased for all ELVs **who did not already have one**. It was further noted that the counter proposal that the PC would only provide phones if requested had been made by LG, not MW, and that JDC had been against this proposal. With these amendments, it was proposed by SL, seconded by DP and agreed unanimously that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 27 November 2013 should be accepted as an accurate record, and signed accordingly.

14.1.5 ACTIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

14.1.5.1 Defibrillators

See minute 14.1.9.

14.1.5.2 Speeding

See minute 14.1.3.3.

14.1.5.3 Marquis of Cornwallis

JC would contact Richard Groom to see if there was a covenant on the land used as a car park, and let members know before the next meeting.

14.1.5.4 Risk Register

Ongoing.

14.1.5.5 Outreach Post Office

Ongoing.

14.1.5.6 Wind turbines

It had been confirmed that there was currently no mention of wind turbines in Babergh's Core Strategy, which was almost finalised. SW would ask whether something could be included at this stage. The PC had received a letter from Belstead PC concerning a planning application for a large onshore turbine between Belstead and Wherstead; it was proposed by SL, seconded by LA and agreed unanimously that JC should write to Babergh confirming that the PC supported Belstead's concerns.

14.1.5.7 Clearing of road edges

Ongoing.

14.1.5.8 Audit of trees and shrubs

MW and JC would continue to chase a response from Babergh.

14.1.5.9 Driveway at Brook Cottage/Blacksmith's

JC would speak to the landlords.

14.1.5.10 Recycling Site

The site had been publicised in the December HCN.

14.1.5.11 Emergency Plan

JC had send questionnaires and covering letters to all ELVs before Christmas; to date JDC had received only two replies and JC would send a reminder email. She would also remind ELVs to confirm whether or not they already had a plug-in phone (see also minute 14.1.4). JC had asked Jon Woods to add an Emergency Plan tab to the website. JC had again requested that SCC fill the new grit bin at the corner of Mill Lane and Watermill Close; GJ would also chase. A reminder about the gritting process had been sent to all volunteers.

14.1.5.12 Budget

JC confirmed that the budget had been amended as requested; she would email the amended version to all members.

14.1.5.13 Footpaths & Highways

DP would check to see whether Wyncolls Lane track had already been downgraded.

With regard to the area around the War Memorial, SL had spoken informally to some members of the PCC, and he and RG planned to have a more formal meeting with them shortly. The possibility of HLF funding would be

explored, especially as 2014 marked the one hundredth anniversary of World War 1. MW's project might also assist with accessing funding.

SL had received confirmation from SCC that Pope's Green Lane was scheduled to be cleared; in response to a request from JDC that Water Lane be cleared, both SL and GJ would raise with Highways.*

(* SL subsequently received confirmation from SCC that this would be done at the same time as Pope's Green)

14.1.5.14 Raworth Bungalow

The Clerk had written to BDC following the last meeting; see also minute 14.1.8.

14.1.5.15 Paintings for phone boxes

Following a suggestion made by a parishioner that the local play group be asked to make paintings to fill each window - eg snowflakes for Christmas, flowers in the spring etc, JC had tried unsuccessfully to contact the playgroup organisers; she would try again.

14.1.6 FINANCIAL MATTERS

14.1.6.1 RFO's report

It was proposed by JDC, seconded by RG and agreed unanimously that the financial statement as at 15 January 2014 should be accepted; payments of £755.03 were authorised. In response to a question from RG, JC said that Anglian Water now sent quarterly bills, but she would continue to invoice allotment holders every six months. It was noted that the limit for Section 137 expenditure in 2014-15 had been set at £7.20.

14.1.6.2 Precept

As agreed, the precept would remain at £8,500 for the next year. The precept request form was duly signed and JC would return it to Babergh by the deadline of 31 January.

14.1.7 WRITTEN REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

There were no written reports submitted. It was noted that a date should be agreed before the next meeting for the annual Spring Clean.

14.1.8 PLANNING

B/13/01158 - Raworth Bungalow

It was noted that the application for the conversion and extension of the existing cartlodge had been approved. A letter had been received from BDC explaining the reasons for their decision.

14.1.9 DEFIBRILLATORS

It was agreed in principle to go ahead with the purchase of two defibrillators, but possible sources of funding would be explored first. SL agreed to LA's proposal that she should work with him to prepare a proposal with clear recommendations; this would be put to the next meeting.

14.1.10 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

This would take place on Wednesday 30 April - it was agreed to follow the same format as last year.

14.1.11 GENERAL MAINTENANCE ISSUES

14.1.11.1 Gap in Brett Green/Mill Lane hedge

It was agreed that MW and RG would block the gap, as it was felt to be a danger for children playing in the area.

14.1.11.2 Area in front of 7&8 Upper Street

Tom Baker, part of the Communities team at BDC had offered to broker a meeting with other agencies to see if a creative solution could be found; JC would write to TB to ask him to go ahead. SW said Stephanie Osborn, who had a community police background, had also now been appointed to the Communities team.

14.1.11.3 Playing Field

Both entrances and the path across the playing field had been damaged by bikes and mobility scooters, exacerbated by the wet weather. It was proposed by MW that he and some people with relevant knowledge

should carry out a survey and prepare some costings, and then apply for funding from the Locality Budget; this proposal was seconded by JDC and agreed unanimously. GJ said funding might also be available from the Highways fund.

14.1.12 CORRESPONDENCE

JC had received an email from a resident of Gardener's Close who was interested in a house exchange. However, SW confirmed that this would have to be dealt with through the housing department at BDC and the PC could not become involved; JC would write to the resident accordingly.

14.1.13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

7.30pm on Wednesday 26 February 2014, in the Village Hall.

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