

LAYHAM PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of the Council held at 7.30pm on
Wednesday 26 February 2014 in the Village Hall**

Present:

Jane Cryer - Clerk (JC)
John Curran (JDC)
Lesley Garnett (LG)
Steve Laing (SL)
David Pratt (DP)
Michael Woods - Chairman (MW)

In attendance:

Gordon Jones, Suffolk CC (GJ)
Vivien Boyter (VB) - parisioner (part)
William Reid (WR) - parishioner (part)

Apologies:

Louise Allen - Vice Chairman (LA)
PCSO Amanda Coleman (AC)
Ron Gunn (RG)
Sue Wigglesworth, Babergh DC (SW)

Public Forum

WR referred to agenda item 14.2.9 and advised caution, especially with regard to insurance and possible litigation. SL explained that the PC was not looking to create a response unit, just to provide defibrillators and associated training in how to use them. WR's comments were noted.

14.2.1 APOLOGIES

See above.

14.2.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

14.2.3 ADJOURNMENT TO RECEIVE WRITTEN REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

14.2.3.1 Police report

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. Parishioners were urged to report anything unusual by calling 101.

14.2.3.2 Babergh DC report

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. Babergh's Core Strategy had been finalised and approved. However, the Plan required some additional documents, one of which was the 'Rural Areas Growth Guidance' covering village housing developments and opportunities for possible growth in hinterland villages. It was proposed by SL, seconded by JDC and agreed unanimously that JC should write to SW asking for wind turbines to be included.

14.2.3.3 Suffolk CC report

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. GJ said there was some additional money for faster broadband, with the aim of increasing coverage to 95%; new BT cabinets were being installed in parts of the county. Publication of the national league tables for schools based on the most recent GCSE results had seen Suffolk move up to 137th place (out of 151 local authority areas); GJ would be visiting Hadleigh High School during March. In response to a question from SL concerning proposed budget savings, GJ said considerable savings would be made on landfill taxes due to the new Energy from Waste site, as well as savings on bringing services in-house following the end of the contract with Customer Services Direct. With regard to the review of Children's Centres, a tier of management would be cut in order to operate the Centres more effectively. The proposed reduction of £4m from the capital budget was a long term saving and would mean charging for some services currently provided free of charge.

14.2.4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was proposed by JDC, seconded by DP and agreed unanimously that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 15 January 2014 should be accepted as an accurate record, and signed accordingly.

14.2.5 ACTIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

14.2.5.1 'Scam' targeting elderly people

JC had sent a community email alerting parishioners to this.

14.2.5.2 Marquis of Cornwallis

JC had contacted Richard Groom to see if there was a covenant on the land used as a car park; he had confirmed there was not.

14.2.5.3 Risk Register

Ongoing.

14.2.5.4 Outreach Post Office

Ongoing.

14.2.5.5 Wind turbines

JC had written to Babergh confirming that the PC supported Belstead's concerns. See also minute 14.2.3.2.

14.2.5.6 Audit of trees and shrubs

MW had finally received a response from Babergh. Unfortunately it was now too late to do much in the current year; Babergh had confirmed they would action some of the outstanding points highlighted by the audit during the next financial year. MW would provide a full report for the next meeting.

14.2.5.7 Driveway at Brook Cottage/Blacksmith's

JC would speak to the landlords. However, she reported that the tenants of Blacksmith's had been sweeping stones on the road back into the drive from time to time.

14.2.5.8 Emergency Plan

JC had sent a reminder about the questionnaires and also asked ELVs to confirm whether or not they had plug-in phones. The new grit bin on the corner of Mill Lane and Watermill Close had now been filled with grit by SCC.

14.2.5.9 Budget

JC would email the amended version to all members.

14.2.5.10 Footpaths & Highways

DP said he believed Wyncolls Lane track had already been downgraded; however, his recollection was that this had been confirmed verbally only. JC would write to request a definitive statement.

SL confirmed that he would be meeting members of the PCC to discuss the area around the War Memorial.

14.2.5.11 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; however, she had discovered both the phone number and email address had changed, and had now sent another email which had been acknowledged. This highlighted the need to review and update the Welcome Booklet, which JC would undertake.

14.2.5.12 Annual Spring Clean

This would take place on Saturday 8 March, and had been publicised.

14.2.5.13 Gap in Brett Green/Mill Lane hedge

RG had blocked the gap with some woven hedging; it was not possible to plant more hedging as the gas air vents needed to be kept clear.

14.2.5.14 Area in front of 7 & 8 Upper Street

MW and JC were due to meet Tom Barker from Babergh on Wednesday 12 March.

14.2.5.15 Playing Field

MW had obtained costings for resurfacing both entrances to the Playing Field. The end near the Mill would need to be resurfaced with tarmac and would cost £1655. The Playing Field Committee was happy with MW's suggestion that the area at the other end could be dealt with on a DIY basis, putting down 'grasscrete', which would retain the soakaway element and the 'rural' feel. This would cost £1188. In response to a question from MW, GJ said he thought funding would probably be available from either the Locality or the Highways budgets for the first cost and asked MW to send him copies of the paperwork. LG commented that she would prefer to see a proper footpath all the way across the Playing Field; MW would discuss this with the Playing Field Committee but said that further funding would be required for this, and also people were reluctant to lose more grass.

14.2.6 FINANCIAL MATTERS

14.2.6.1 RFO's report

It was proposed by DP, seconded by SL and agreed unanimously that the financial statement as at 26 February 2014 should be accepted; payments of £895.60 were authorised.

14.2.6.2 Clerk's annual review

It was agreed that MW, LG and LA would meet with JC during March (date and time tbc). JC would write a brief report for circulation prior to the meeting.

14.2.7 WRITTEN REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

14.2.7.1 Green Team

LG's report was noted - the following events had been arranged and publicised:

- Working morning on Tuesday 11 March to start work on a path to cross the Conservation Area;
- Village Spring Clean on Saturday 8 March - LG confirmed that a risk assessment had been carried out and would be kept on file by JC;
- Spring Community Lunch on Wednesday 5 March - this was now fully booked. LG said costs would be reviewed before scheduling the next one.

14.2.7.2 Emergency Planning

JDC expressed disappointment at the low number of questionnaires returned to date; it was noted that this was partly due to concern about how the information would be used. Everyone was asked to contact their ELVs again and emphasise that the information would be kept by JDC and would remain confidential.

With regard to emails about weather warnings, JDC said that he would appreciate confirmation that these had been received; he would also request a response when sending emails in future.

14.2.8 PLANNING

14.2.8.1 B/13/01541 - Raydon Mill

There were no objections to the proposed erection of a single-storey extension.

14.2.8.2 B/13/01155 - Raworth Bungalow

It was noted that the amendment to the site plan showed further incursion into agricultural land, outside the village envelope. JC would write to Babergh expressing councillors' concerns.

14.2.8.3 B/13/01433 - Raworth Park

It was noted that the appeal in respect of the conversion of existing outbuildings to form annex accommodation had been allowed.

14.2.9 DEFIBRILLATORS

SL had obtained a quote from BOC and confirmed that the Queen's Head charity would be willing to contribute £500. He said that the equipment was less expensive than some other models and had already been proven in the field. The supplier was based in Claydon, and could also provide training.

JDC said the power supply needed would be fairly minimal and suggested that, instead of installing a new supply, it might be possible to approach a nearby householder and pay them an amount each year to use their supply. SL said he would be happy for the Queen's Head power supply to be used for a defibrillator in the phone box.

MW suggested that a second quotation should be obtained and said the St John Ambulance offered a price comparison. He said that ancillary costs - eg maintenance, insurance, the cost of refurbishing the phone boxes first, electricity supply - should also be taken into consideration. Each location would also require a custodian.

JDC offered to work with SL to gather more information and work up a firm proposal. MW proposed that his offer be accepted; this was seconded by SL and agreed unanimously. JDC proposed that there should be a demonstration of the equipment at the Annual Parish Meeting - this proposal was seconded by MW and agreed unanimously. JC would contact Jon Needle, Community Partnerships Manager for the Suffolk Ambulance Service, who had briefed the PC in November 2013.

14.2.10 SOLAR PANELS

MW said that Babergh was planning to put solar panels on all the buildings they owned, to provide an income stream for the Council; some PCs were doing the same. He suggested that, as the running costs for the Village Hall were minimal, installing solar panels on the roof could provide an income for the PC, to be used for the community. For ongoing consideration.

14.2.11 CORRESPONDENCE

14.2.11.1 SALC's Babergh Area meeting

It was agreed that LG would attend the meeting on Monday 3 March.

14.2.11.2 Layham Quarry Liaison Group

A copy of the minutes of the meeting held on 9 October 2013 would be kept on file. It was confirmed that DP remained the PC's representative on the Group, although he was no longer Chairman, and would report to PC meetings as appropriate.

14.2.11.3 Community car

The Chief Exec of Hadleigh Community Transport Group wished to make parishioners aware that there was a community car (disabled friendly) for hire at reasonable rates - 35p per mile, and maybe less for short journeys. The car was currently under-utilised and in danger of being withdrawn if use didn't increase. JC would circulate information to parishioners via the community email; MW would include in the next HCN.

14.2.11.4 Hadleigh Community Choir

MW said the Hadleigh Community Choir would be giving a concert in St Andrew's Church, Layham, on Friday 23 May, to raise money towards the fabric of the church.

14.2.12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

7.30pm on Wednesday March 2014, in the Village Hall.

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