

LAYHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr Herring expressed support for the proposed social club (see minute 13.1.6.4). MW said Anne Mayhew, who had lived in the village for a number of years, was interested in starting a social club and had approached the Parish Council for help with start-up costs. MW had said he would support the idea, but that her request would have to be put to the full PC; he had also suggested that she might approach the Thrift Shop in Hadleigh, as well as asking the Village Hall Committee if it would consider letting her use the village hall free of charge for the first two sessions, which would be held on a weekday afternoon for, say, two hours. Her plan for the first meeting was to provide refreshments and identify potential activities. Mr Herring said he would be willing to help; he had heard from someone else that they would also be prepared to assist financially. MW would contact Mrs Mayhew and advise that Mr Herring would be in touch with her.

13.1.1 APOLOGIES

See above.

13.1.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

13.1.3 ADJOURNMENT TO RECEIVE WRITTEN REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

13.1.3.1 District Council report

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. SW said that, by the next meeting, BDC's budget should be clearer and priorities identified. It was likely that there would be further job cuts.

In response to a question from MW, SW said that because the new Morrison's supermarket was situated out of the town, there had been no requirement for a market analysis - however, with regard to the ongoing application by Tesco, an impact study would have to be carried out. She emphasised that Babergh's decision would be made purely on planning grounds. DP wondered whether Babergh might consider purchasing the land for recreational purposes, rather than granting permission to Tesco. In response to a suggestion from SL that Babergh should look at reducing business rates, SW said that in future business rates would be pooled between the County and the District and, given the current requirement to reduce costs, it would be difficult to justify cutting income. It was noted that the retention of free car parking would help to encourage shoppers to use the High Street - the cost of purchasing and maintaining ticket machines to issue free tickets was also questioned.

13.1.3.2 County Council report

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. DYE said a proposal to freeze council tax for a third year would go before Full Council on 14 February.

The introduction of the new Oyster-type travel cards for young people was welcomed, as was the 'Stay Safe' scheme. With regard to recycling, MW said he thought replacing the current black bins with half-size bins would help to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill. SW said that Babergh planned to introduce food waste collection in due course, as this could be composted rather than burnt.

DYE said that he would not be standing again when the County Council elections were held in May; MW wished him well for the future.

13.1.3.3 Police report

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

13.1.4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was proposed by JDC, seconded by LG and agreed unanimously that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 28 November 2012 should be accepted as an accurate record, and signed accordingly.

13.1.5 ACTIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

13.1.5.1 Noticeboard on Brett Green

RG said that Brian Strutt had very kindly supplied some perspex to replace the damaged piece; RG had made the repair. It was agreed that JC would send a thank-you card to Mr Strutt.

13.1.5.2 Textile recycling

LG had requested a large 'satellite' textile bin to be located in the Queen's Head car park and would follow up delivery with Babergh. JC would email the community email group when this was in place and ask them to spread the word.

13.1.5.2 Locality budget

SL and MW had met John English to discuss the replacement of the existing stiles at each end of his field in Church Lane with 'kissing gates'. It had been agreed that the replacement gates should be metal; MW had obtained a quotation for two gates at £432 plus VAT. The installation charge would be £385, plus £68 for two oak sleepers. A further quotation for steps was awaited. In addition to these costs, SL said there would be a charge from BT for moving the protection cabinet (*later confirmed as approximately £200*).

With regard to LG's suggestion that a notice board be fixed to the wall of the Recycling Centre, there was a brief discussion about whether this should be lockable or open, and whether it would be for PC notices or for anyone to use. LG would carry out some further research and this would be an agenda item for the next meeting.

13.1.5.3 Speeding

It was agreed that speeding surveys were needed in Upper Layham, either side of the bend where the 30mph sign was situated, and also in Lower Layham on Stoke Road, from Turner's Cottage to just beyond Cobbler's Corner. JC would liaise with Suffolk CC's Highways department.

13.1.5.4 Community email group

It was agreed that there should be an update on the number of people signed up in each issue of the HCN, and that everyone should do their best to encourage participation.

13.1.5.5 Grasscrete track

Babergh had written to residents requesting them to leave their bins at a new collection point; RG confirmed that this new arrangement appeared to be working so far.

13.1.5.6 Grit bins

SL confirmed that laminated signs had been fixed to the inside of all the grit bins. A new bin had been purchased with Water Lane in mind; however, it had not been possible to agree where this should be situated and, as the supplier had delivered the wrong colour, JC would contact them to request a smaller, green replacement to be located at the junction of Mill Lane and Watermill Close - JC would confirm that Suffolk CC was happy with this.

13.1.5.7 Marquis Of Cornwallis

JC would ask Babergh for an update and report to the next meeting.

13.1.5.8 Rough ground in front of 7 & 8 Upper Street

MW had been unable to contact James Mosely as he was away.

13.1.5.9 Bridleway through Waterhouse Farm

MW and SL were due to meet Kevin Verlander of Suffolk CC and Mrs Cranfield on Tuesday 5 February.

13.1.5.10 Ownership of the Playing Field

This item was deferred to the February agenda.

13.1.5.11 Post-Christmas event

The 'thank you' party held on 9 January had been very successful and appreciated by all those invited. MW thanked everyone for their help, with particular thanks to SL and Tanith for the catering.

13.1.5.12 Babergh Community Achievement Awards

The PC had nominated DP for an Achievement Award and had received confirmation that he was one of only 24 people selected to receive an award, which would be presented on 6 March at Stoke-by-Nayland Hotel & Golf Club. DP would be accompanied by his son; JC and MW would also attend.

13.1.5.13 Telephone boxes

It was agreed that the telephone boxes should be reinstated on the list of actions; as the doors were wooden, some maintenance would be required very soon.

13.1.6 FINANCIAL MATTERS

13.1.6.1 RFO's Report

Orders for payment of £1,491.74 were authorised. It was proposed by DP, seconded by SL and agreed unanimously that the accounts should be accepted and payments authorised. RG said that there had been a burst water pipe at the allotments; JC would notify Anglian Water.

13.1.6.2 Precept for 2013/14

It had been agreed last year that the precept would remain at £8,500 for the next two years, and this had been confirmed at the November 2012 meeting. The precept request form was duly signed so that JC could return it to Babergh by the deadline of 31 January.

13.1.6.3 Discretionary donations

It was proposed by DP, seconded by LG and agreed unanimously to make donations of £75 to East Anglian Air Ambulance and £50 to Suffolk Accident Rescue Service.

13.1.6.4 Proposed social club (*see also Public Forum notes, above*)

It was agreed that the PC would pay for two sessions in the village hall, totalling £28, and that this would come from the Leisure & Learning fund. The Village Hall Committee had also agreed to fund two sessions.

13.1.7 WRITTEN REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

13.1.7.1 Babergh DC Parish Liaison meeting

Notes of the meeting held on 29 November had been circulated. JC said that the general consensus at the meeting had been that, in future, smaller 'cluster' meetings would be welcomed. In response to a question from JDC, MW said Babergh had confirmed they were fighting hard for the undergrounding of electricity rather than more pylons.

13.1.7.2 Emergency Planning

JDC circulated his report, which was noted. He emphasised the need to have an action plan, and that this should be logged with Suffolk CC and other interested parties. SCC had provided a template which, when completed, would list responsibilities and include a 'communications tree', as well as a list of people willing to loan equipment in an emergency, and those with special skills. JDC had spoken to Babergh's Emergency Planning Officer, who had agreed to provide online access to OS plans which would make identifying 'clusters' of dwellings easier so that a reporting hierarchy could be established. JDC, RG and DP would meet to discuss the template further and agree a timescale. All confirmed that they were happy with the approach being taken.

13.1.7.3 Chairman's report

The Chairman's report was noted. MW was pleased that David Pearce had agreed to join the campaign group; following the December meeting of the Forum when several questions had been asked and not answered, he and MW were due to meet two senior representatives of the National Grid at 4pm on 6 February in the village hall. JC would also attend in order to take notes.

It was agreed that the annual Village Spring Clean would take place on Saturday 9 March - LG would organise this.

13.1.8 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

JC confirmed that a new part-time Coordinator had been appointed and was due to take up her appointment at the end of January; she would be based at Sudbury Police Station. It was agreed that contact should be made as soon as possible and that she should be invited to a future PC meeting. MW also suggested that she might be invited to speak at the Annual Parish Meeting in April.

13.1.9 TRAINING

JC circulated a list of forthcoming SALC training courses. It was agreed that JDC should attend new Councillor training; he would let JC have some possible dates.

13.1.10 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - WEDNESDAY 24 APRIL

There would be a review of achievements during the past year. It was suggested that MW might give a talk about his work on the stories behind the names on the War Memorial. He asked everyone to give some thought to other possible agenda items.

13.1.11 Community owl nesting box

Suffolk Wildlife Trust was able to provide free nesting boxes to be located on community land, and it was agreed that one should be sited in Layham. JC had spoken to the Trust, who would send someone to look at possible locations and decide on the most appropriate - RG and DP volunteered to meet them. The Trust would also provide advice and monitoring. It was suggested that Suffolk Wildlife Trust could also be asked to speak at the Annual Parish Meeting (*see above*).

13.1.12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be at 7.30pm on Wednesday 27 February 2013, in the Village Hall.

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