

LAYHAM PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the AGM of the Council held at 7.30pm on
Wednesday 26 May 2021 in the Village Hall

Present:	Charlotte Britton (CB) Graham Coleman (GC) Jane Cryer - Clerk (JC) John Curran (JDC) Sheila Roberts (SR) Michael Woods - (MW)
In attendance:	Georgia Hall, Suffolk CC (GC) John Ward, Babergh DC (JW) 5 Parishioners
Apologies:	Bill Paton (BP) David Pratt (DP)

21.5.1 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

It was proposed by SR, seconded by JDC and agreed unanimously that Charlotte Britton be re-elected Chairman for 2021/22; she confirmed she was happy to accept the nomination. It was further proposed by JDC, seconded by GC and agreed unanimously that Michael Woods be re-elected Vice Chairman; he accepted the nomination. Declaration of Acceptance of Offer forms were duly signed.

21.5.2 APOLOGIES

Apologies were accepted from BP and DP.

21.5.3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

21.5.4 PUBLIC FORUM

No parishioners wished to speak.

21.5.5 ADJOURNMENT TO RECEIVE WRITTEN REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

21.5.5.1 District Council report

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. BDC had approved community grants totalling £621,939 during the past financial year, providing vital funding for organisations during the pandemic. Babergh and Mid Suffolk had also launched a new grant fund to support the recovery of local businesses unable to access the Government's Restart scheme. Babergh had received funding of £400,000 towards temporary accommodation for rough sleepers and additional support staff. JW said that, following the end of the power to hold remote meetings, Babergh's annual meeting on 25 May had been held at Wherstead Park as the Council Chamber was not large enough to allow for social distancing. In response to GC's comment that the free outdoor fitness classes were 'boot camps' and therefore not inclusive, JW said the classes should be suitable for all age groups and he would investigate. CB asked about Park Runs, which had resumed in Essex, JW would find out whether anything similar was happening in Suffolk. In response to a question from SR concerning the fines paid to Babergh for food hygiene offences, JW would confirm what the income was used for.

21.5.5.2 County Council report

Georgia Hall, the new Suffolk County Councillor, introduced herself and said she would be happy to help take forward any outstanding matters; she had already been in touch with JDC about speeding issues.

21.5.6 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was proposed by JDC, seconded by GC and agreed unanimously that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 24 March 2021 should be accepted as an accurate record, and signed accordingly.

21.5.7 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

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

21.5.7.1 Speeding

JDC confirmed that the Speed Indication Devices (SIDs) had been ordered. Highways had now approved the location for one near the Marquis, but agreement had not yet been reached on the one at the Mill Lane end. GH said Highways had agreed to make a site visit; she would ask them to liaise with JDC. The importance of warning motorists that they were about to enter a 30mph zone was emphasised. With regard to the ANPR trial along Upper Street, JDC confirmed that the owners of the properties near the proposed locations of the posts had given their permission. The post near the Marquis could be used for both the SID and the ANPR camera; however, an additional post at the Mill Lane end would be required. In response to a request from CB, GH said she would check the costs of extending the 30mph speed limit; however, she said these tended to be high due to legal requirements etc. JDC would email GH with the background to all these issues.

21.5.7.2 Flooding

SR had reported the prominent kerbstones on Layham Road near the Rugby Club; the response from SCC said that the kerbs had not been fully submerged during the recent period of heavy rainfall, and so were *'avoidable by any vehicle ... it is a driver's choice to drive onto the verge, and not a defect.'* JC was continuing to liaise with Hadleigh Town Council re flooding and had forwarded to the Town Clerk some background provided by a parishioner.

21.5.8 FINANCIAL MATTERS

21.5.8.1 RFO's reports

It was proposed by MW, seconded by JDC and agreed unanimously that the finance report for 31 March 2021 should be approved. It was further proposed by SR, seconded by CB and agreed unanimously that the finance report for 26 May 2021 should also be approved and payments of £1820.09 should be authorised. It was noted that the first tranche of the precept for 2021-22 had been received, together with a parish grant from Babergh of £209 (calculated in proportion to the reductions in the calculated tax base for the parish).

21.5.8.2 2020/21 external audit

It was proposed by CB, seconded by JDC and agreed unanimously to certify Layham Parish Council as exempt; the Certificate of Exemption was duly signed by the Chairman and the Clerk/RFO.

21.5.9 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

21.5.9.1 Quiet Lanes Suffolk

The report from the working group was noted. The paperwork for the three routes in Layham and Shelley had been submitted and 'Notices of Proposals' would be displayed and also delivered to houses / businesses along the routes. It was noted that, thanks to increased subsidies from Suffolk CC, it now appeared that the cost to LPC would be £390, less than originally budgeted for; however, it was proposed by MW, seconded by GC and agreed unanimously to agree to a voluntary contribution of £50 towards the costs for successfully designated lanes.

21.5.9.2 National Grid proposals

JDC gave a verbal update. A group response had been sent to the Government by all Suffolk parish and town councils prior to the special meeting called on 28 April. The response concentrated on the way the NG had approached the consultation, and threatened to call for a Judicial Review if the timetable was not extended. At the special meeting on 28 April, the PC had agreed to submit its own letter of objection (as well as being a signatory to the group response) and to undertake an awareness-raising campaign for parishioners. Babergh and Mid Suffolk had also submitted a response objecting to the proposals; JDC was disappointed that it had not mentioned the Brett

Valley in connection with undergrounding; JW would raise this issue. On 11 May notification was received that the formal consultation had commenced, with a non-extendable deadline of 8 June. The working party had met to discuss the next steps and proposed that a paper should be produced objecting to the proposals and calling for the whole route to be put underground. There would be a further Zoom meeting of parish and town councils on Friday 28 May which JDC and CB would attend; JW confirmed that he would also attend. Councillors agreed that, if another joint response was proposed, LPC should be part of this. MW said NG had community grants available to offset the impact of the development.

21.5.9.3 Green Team

SR's paper was noted. With regard to Babergh and Mid Suffolk's initiative to plant more trees, hedgerow plants and wildflowers, JW agreed to see if the deadline of 20 June could be extended; if so, the initiative would be discussed in more detail at the June meeting.

(NB it was subsequently confirmed that there was no longer a deadline)

21.5.10 PLANNING

21.5.10.1 DC/21/01624 - Rowan Cottage, Stoke Road

Councillors had no objections to the application for replacement of the garage roof to create loft space.

21.5.10.2 DC/21/01428 - Heath Farm, Polstead Heath

As this was outside the village, councillors did not wish to comment.

21.5.10.3 DC/21/02323 - Walnuts, Upper Street

Councillors had no objections to the application for approval of reserved matters following outline approval for a single detached dwelling.

21.5.10.4 DC/21/01898 - The Granary, Mill Lane

Councillors had no objections to the application for a single storey extension and single storey sun room.

21.5.10.5 DC/21/02381 - The Leys, Rands Road

Councillors had no objections to the application for a single storey rear extension to form an orangery/garden room.

21.5.10.6 DC/21/02892 - Popes Green Farmhouse

Councillors had no objections to the application for erection of a 4-bay cartlodge with accommodation ancillary to host dwelling.

21.5.10.7 DC/21/02929 - The Barn, Popes Green Farm

Councillors had no objections to the application for the erection of one dwelling following demolition of barn.

21.5.10.8 DC/21/02930 - Dorian, Stoke Road

Councillors had no objections to the application for erection of a cartlodge with domestic annex accommodation.

21.5.10.9 DC/20/01517 & 8 - Marquis of Cornwallis

It was noted that permission had been granted for the proposed extensions.

21.5.10.10 DC/20/01290 - Beck Cottage, Overbury Hall Road

The discharge of conditions was noted.

21.5.11 GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE

The General Power of Competence introduced in the Localism Act of 2011 gave local councils in England 'the power to do anything that individuals generally may do' and removed the need for councils to ask whether they had a specific power to act. Layham met the criteria, having a qualified Clerk and two-thirds elected members, and had adopted it in July 2019. It was proposed by SR, seconded by JDC and agreed unanimously to renew the General Power of Competence for 2021/22 (no AGM having been held in 2020 due to the pandemic).

21.5.12 STANDING ORDERS

It was proposed by GC, seconded by JDC and agreed unanimously to adopt the revised Standing Orders.

21.5.13 CORRESPONDENCE

The Examination Hearing for the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Local Plan would start at 9.30am on Monday 21 June 2021 at Ipswich Town Football Club; arrangements would be in place for people to observe the hearing sessions in person, or by audio livestream - details would shortly be available on the website (www.babergh.gov.uk/jointlocalplan).

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

None.

21.5.15 MEETING DATES

21.5.15.1 Next meeting

7.30pm on Wednesday 30 June 2021, in the Village Hall.

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