

## LAYHAM PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the meeting of the Council held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 27 August 2014 in the Village Hall

<b>Present:</b>	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)
<b>In attendance:</b>	PCSO Amanda Coleman (AC) Noel Herring (NH) - Parishioner Patrick King (PK) - Parishioner Sue Wigglesworth, Babergh DC (SW)
<b>Apologies:</b>	Gordon Jones, Suffolk CC (GJ)

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#### Public Forum

PK expressed concern about the proposal to extend the car park at the Marquis of Cornwallis, which would be very visible despite the planned planting, which would take many years to grow. MW said it was unlikely to be full all the time, and was situated on a slope which would make it less visible - he also said that the owner wanted to start planting as soon as possible, with a mixture of mature and decorative trees (see also minute 14.8.8.1).

PK also raised the subject of dog fouling - recently some bags had been left by the kissing gates and he had put up polite notices asking people to take their rubbish home. JC had also received an email from a resident of Upper Layham whose child had fallen into some mess. SL suggested looking into enforcing a Dog Control Order on the Playing Field.

PK also said he would like to formally thank the Chairman for his sterling work on the War Memorial project.

NH referred to agenda item 14.8.11 - the National Pollinator Strategy. He showed the meeting a Solitary Bee Nest, available for use in gardens; the nest comprised 100 tubes, each containing 8 eggs. He also gave information to MW about a company run by a leading expert in this field.

#### 14.8.1 APOLOGIES

See above.

#### 14.8.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

SL said he would not participate in any discussions relating to the Marquis of Cornwallis (agenda item 14.8.8.1).

#### 14.8.3 ADJOURNMENT TO RECEIVE WRITTEN REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

##### 14.8.3.1 Police report

AC said there had been a burglary in Upper Layham since the last meeting. There had also been burglaries in Shelley and Thorrington Street; a suspect had been arrested for the Shelley break-in. There had been a serious accident in Benton Street over the bank holiday weekend involving a motor cycle; the Police would be contacting Highways to discuss whether the 30mph speed limit should be extended. JC would contact the Police's data management department to request information about the number of accidents over the last few years between Benton Street and the Marquis of Cornwallis.

#### **14.8.3.2 District Council report**

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. A new initiative was under way - Priority Based Resourcing Project (PBR) - to identify key priorities. In response to a question from JDC, SW said there was a 'menu' of charges for some services. With regard to waste collection, SW said Babergh was keen to encourage people to make more effort to recycle. SL said job sharing did not seem to work properly and offices were sometimes unmanned; he would write to Babergh about his concerns.

#### **14.8.3.3 County Council report**

A written report was circulated, a copy of which is filed with these minutes.

#### **14.8.4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

It was proposed by RG, seconded by SL and agreed unanimously that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 30 July 2014 should be accepted as an accurate record, and signed accordingly.

#### **14.8.5 ACTIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

##### **14.8.5.1**

JC had been told by Babergh that there was no Section 106 available for Layham; she would try to obtain more information and SW would also investigate.

##### **14.8.5.2 Burnt-out van on Brett Green**

JC had received a response from Babergh to say the damage to the verge was minor and should recover naturally. The damage to the pavement fell under the remit of Suffolk CC, who had erected a barrier around the damage and had the matter in hand; JC would liaise with SCC.

##### **14.8.5.3 Post Office**

JC had received a response from Wendy Hamilton from Post Office Services to say that, due to the low customer numbers, it had not proved possible to reinstate a service; she would be in touch should the position change.

##### **14.8.5.4 Land in front of 7 & 8 Upper Street**

Tom Barker from Babergh was in the process of checking with the Land Registry about ownership.

##### **14.8.5.5 Defibrillators**

JDC had been in touch with UK Power Networks and also National Grid to ask whether it might be possible to install a defibrillator at the sub-station or gas pumping station; neither organisation was prepared to allow this. Another possible solution might be if a resident agreed to have the equipment attached to a garage wall. However, this was all part of the decision-making process on whether or not to proceed with the project; JDC and SL would submit a proposal to the September meeting.

##### **14.8.5.6 Ownership of Village Hall**

JC would discuss ownership of the Village Hall with DP, with the aim of clarifying the position by the end of the calendar year.

##### **14.8.5.7 Allotments**

RG had obtained a copy of Capel St Mary's agreement which he would pass to JC, who would look into updating the current agreement before the annual renewals in April 2015.

##### **14.8.5.8 Fence between Brett Green & Mill Lane**

JC had written to Babergh to ask if they would consider renewing the fence; she had received a response saying the request had been logged onto Babergh's enquiry system and given a reference number. MW had concerns over a particular household with young children and would visit them to warn them of the potential danger.

##### **14.8.5.9 Potholes**

JC and MW had publicised the link for reporting these via the HCN and community email. SL would draw up a list allocating roads to each member.

##### **14.8.5.10 Internal controls**

These would be reviewed at a future meeting, in line with a recommendation arising from the internal audit.

#### **14.8.5.11 Speeding**

Councillor Gordon Jones had requested information on accident statistics, which JC would try to obtain (see also minute 14.8.3.1). With regard to the speed limit near the Marquis, JC would contact the owner (see also minute 14.8.8.1).

#### **14.8.5.12 Path across Playing Field**

MW and RG had taken measurements and MW had contacted a specialist company in Braintree. The company had advised that it would be simpler and cheaper to use a mesh pegged over the turf, which the grass would then grow through. The cost would be in the region of £1100. It was proposed by JDC, seconded by LG and agreed unanimously that MW would discuss this with the Playing Field Committee at their next meeting in September.

#### **14.8.5.13 Telephone boxes**

JC and MW had asked for volunteers via the community email and the HCN to help with the refurbishment; JC had also asked Matt Wilding to quote.

#### **14.8.5.14 Raworth Bungalow**

JC had written to Babergh expressing Councillors' objections. In response to a question from SW, MW confirmed that he would like to speak if the application went to Committee; the PC would value SW's support.

#### **14.8.5.15 Environmental matters**

JC had written to Babergh concerning various horticultural and fencing maintenance issues; these had all been logged onto Babergh's enquiry system and would be dealt with individually.

JC had written to Anglian Water concerning maintenance of the screening around the sewerage pumping station in Mill Lane, and had received a response saying this would be dealt with. She had also contacted Anglian Water concerning the frequency of bursts on the road near Dixie Cottage/Middle Orchard and had received a response to say they were reviewing the situation.

JC had written to Flagship concerning Gardener's Close, but to date had not received a response. SW said she would ask one of Babergh's Housing Officers to contact Flagship.

### **14.8.6 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

#### **14.8.6.1 RFO's report**

It was proposed by LA, seconded by JDC and agreed unanimously that the financial statement as at 27.8.14 should be accepted and payments of £978.39 were authorised.

### **14.8.7 WRITTEN REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS**

#### **14.8.7.1 Tree Warden's report**

MW had attended a meeting about Ash dieback. Parish Councils were being asked to carry out regular surveys and were responsible for trees on their own land (ie the Playing Field); reduced manpower within district councils meant they would not have the resources to fell trees except in exceptional circumstances.

### **14.8.8 PLANNING**

#### **14.8.8.1 B/14/00951 - Marquis of Cornwallis, Upper Street**

Councillors were happy with the plans and pleased to note that they recognised environmental best practice with regard to heating etc. However, some concern was expressed about the visibility of the car park, which was essentially situated in countryside, outside the village envelope. Considerable new planting of mature trees was planned, but it was noted that some of these would be decorative; the general feeling was that the majority should be natural British species more in keeping with an area of designated countryside. There was also some concern about the speed limit on the main road; it was noted that the proposed splay did meet requirements, but members said they would like to see the 30mph speed limit extended in the interests of safety. It was proposed by LG, seconded by RG and agreed unanimously that JC should write to the owner re concerns over the speed limit, and ask if he would support their request to SCC Highways to review this. (See also Public Forum notes, above).

#### **14.8.8.2 B/14/00664 - Deaves Farm, Potts Lane**

It was noted that permission had been granted for the erection of a side extension, various outbuildings, erection of new brick garden wall and change of use of land to domestic curtilage.

#### **14.8.8.3 B/14/00738 & 9 - 3 Potts Cottages, Potts Lane**

It was noted that permission had been granted for the removal of poly-carbonate roof and provision of tiled pitched roof, and retention of existing structure with glazed infill to gable end.

#### **14.8.8.4 B/14/00829 - Squirrels, Rands Road**

It was noted that this application had been withdrawn.

#### **14.8.8.5 B/14/00841 - Butterfly Hall, Upper Street**

It was noted that permission had been granted for the erection of a one and a half storey side extension.

#### **14.8.9 RISK REGISTER**

JC and JDC would work on the draft and bring it to a future meeting.

#### **14.8.10 PROVISION OF LEISURE FOOTBALL PITCHES IN HADLEIGH**

MW expressed concern that there was currently no netted goal for casual use in Hadleigh, which meant the Layham Playing Field was an attraction for boys from Hadleigh, resulting in excessive wear on the grass, damage to the goal net, litter and dominance of the area preventing local children from using the pitch. His proposal that the PC should write to the Hadleigh Town Clerk about this was seconded by LG and agreed unanimously.

#### **14.8.11 NATIONAL POLLINATOR STRATEGY**

MW proposed that he should invite Charles Clover, an environmental journalist living in Nayland) to a future PC meeting; this proposal was seconded by LA and agreed unanimously (see also Public Forum notes, above).

#### **14.8.12 CHILDREN'S CENTRES**

In order that the PC could make a considered response to the proposal to close the Brett River Children's Centre in Hadleigh and merge its services with East Bergholt, MW had asked JC to request more information, including statistical data; she had written to SCC but had not yet received a response. JC had also spoken to Home-Start South Suffolk & District, who worked closely with the Brett River Centre. This would be an agenda item for the September meeting; in the meantime, JC would chase a response from SCC.

#### **14.8.13 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**

MW had met Joan Challis, aged 99, who was the daughter of Private Willie Rolfe, remembered on the War Memorial. JC would write to invite her to attend the service on 9 November, bringing the total invited to nine. MW outlined the arrangements for the day; JC would write to all those invited with more information. It had been agreed that the PC would order and pay for the wreaths and it was further agreed to provide each representative with a copy of the book 'Layham War Memorial - the stories behind the names'. The PCC would provide refreshments.

Following a further meeting with Victoria Reed, MW was able to confirm that a workshop to produce artwork to be displayed in the church on Remembrance Day would take place on Sunday 2 November, for up to 24 children (parents would accompany children under 11). On the evening of Saturday 1 November the film 'War Horse' would be shown in the Village Hall. The project would be funded through a grant from Babergh to support activities in the school holidays. A flyer would be distributed to all households in the village with children up to the age of 18.

#### **14.8.14 CORRESPONDENCE**

The only correspondence had been an email concerning dog fouling on the Playing Field (see minute Public Forum notes).

#### **14.8.15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

7.30pm on Wednesday 24 September 2014, in the Village Hall.

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