

## **LAYHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the meeting of the Council held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 14 January 2015 in the Village Hall**

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

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#### **15.1.1 APOLOGIES**

See above.

#### **15.1.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

#### **15.1.3 ADJOURNMENT TO RECEIVE WRITTEN REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES**

##### **15.1.3.1 Police report**

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. There had been two burglaries from sheds/garages in Stoke Road; there were no leads forthcoming. Another burglary had taken place in Upper Street; enquiries were ongoing. There had also been an attempted theft from a vehicle parked in Rands Road; the owner had been able to give details of the offender's vehicle to the police and an arrest had been made. SL said a burglar alarm had gone off in Lower Layham and had been reported to 101 - however, the response had been that nothing could be done without keys. It was noted that the call could probably have been handled more efficiently, but after discussion it was decided that this was not an issue for the PC. GH advised calling 999 to report a major crime only, otherwise 101; it was noted that the criteria for a 999 call were:

- a crime is being committed
- an offender/suspect is in the area at the time
- there is threat of harm/danger to life and limb
- suspicious activity - requiring a timely response, so falls in the 999 category

However, if callers were at all unsure of which number to ring, they should ring 999. GH also suggested registering with Police Connect for text messages.

##### **15.1.3.2 District Council report**

No report had been submitted.

##### **15.1.3.3 County Council report**

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. JDC commented that he was encouraged by the campaign for better mobile phone coverage in Suffolk.

#### **15.1.4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

It was proposed by SL, seconded by JDC and agreed unanimously that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 26 November 2014 should be accepted as an accurate record, and signed accordingly.

#### **15.1.5 ACTIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

In the absence of the Clerk, the majority of the action points were carried over to the next meeting.

##### **15.1.5.1 Speeding**

MW proposed contacting the owner of the Marquis of Cornwallis to see if he would be willing to contribute to moving the speed limit sign. JDC proposed that if he was not, the PC should fund this as it was a safety issue; DP seconded both proposals, which were agreed unanimously.

##### **15.1.5.2 Section 106 money**

MW had written to Nick Elliott to chase a response to JC's enquiry and had received a comprehensive response which he would forward to councillors. In essence, there was a sum of £2719 relating to a proposed development at Raworth Bungalow in 2007; the development had not yet commenced and therefore the money could not be accessed.

##### **15.1.5.3 Potholes**

SL had received various reports from councillors; he was aware of potholes in Rands Road, and the Kennels road had already been repaired. SL would arrange a site meeting with Highways as soon as possible. DP would report on Overbury Hall Road by the end of the week. MW stressed that this survey had been delayed several times and requested that outstanding reports were sent to SL very soon to enable him to submit a written report to SCC Highways during January.

With regard to Water Lane, SL had sent photographs to Highways and was chasing action.

##### **15.1.5.4 Defibrillators / phone boxes**

RG had approached the owner of no 57 Brett Green, who had said he would need more information before making a decision. Another suggestion was to move the phone box in Upper Layham to the area at the top of Mill Lane; SL had spoken to some home owners in that area, all of whom were happy - in principle - with the concept. SL proposed that a) all parties be consulted and approval sought; b) further investigations be made about land ownership; c) feasibility study and cost of moving the phone box and installing the defibrillator into it be produced, with the Clerk formalising each stage once agreed. This proposal was seconded by MW and agreed unanimously. With regard to Lower Layham, JDC would liaise with UK Power Networks. DP and RG were thanked for their sterling work preparing the phone box for the defibrillator. MW reiterated that all members had agreed to look for additional funding sources.

On a separate matter SL had requested 250 risk register leaflets from UK Power Networks, which would be distributed with the Hadleigh Community News.

##### **15.1.5.5 Grit bin for Water Lane**

MW had sent an email to Nigel Morsman requesting a new site in his hedge.

##### **15.1.5.6 War Memorial**

JC had reminded Neil Luxton to submit his invoice for cleaning the War Memorial; however, he had kindly offered to carry out the work free of charge, as his contribution towards the village. JC had presented him with a bottle of wine and a thank-you card, on behalf of the PC.

##### **15.1.5.7 Complaint re chickens - no 6 Upper Street**

It appeared that the chickens had now been rehomed.

#### **15.1.6 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

##### **15.1.6.1 RFO's report**

It was proposed by LA, seconded by JDC and agreed unanimously that the financial statement as at 14.1.15 should be accepted and payments of £1,637.04 were authorised.

#### **15.1.6.2 Precept for 2015/16**

It had been agreed at the meeting held on 26 November 2014 that the precept for 2015/16 should remain at £8,500 (see minute 14.11.7.2). The precept form was signed by MW, LA and JDC; JC would countersign and return the form to Babergh by 31 January.

#### **15.1.7 WRITTEN REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS**

##### **15.1.7.1 Phone box / defibrillator - Upper Layham**

SL's report was discussed - see minute 15.1.5.4, above.

#### **15.1.8 PLANNING**

##### **15.1.8.1 B/14/01109 - Pipkin House**

It was noted that the application for the erection of a first floor extension had been approved.

##### **15.1.8.2 B/14/01357 - Layham Hall**

It was noted that the application for the replacement of ridge to indoor training building had been approved.

##### **15.1.8.3 B/14/01358 - Shepherds Farm, Lower Layham**

There were no objections to the application for change of use from agricultural building to dwellinghouse.

##### **15.1.8.4 B/14/01508 - Partridge Cottage, Lower Layham**

There were no objections to the application for the erection of a first floor extension, insertion of 3 dormer windows, 2 chimney flues and the erection of a single-storey side extension. However, Councillors felt that, in order to remain in keeping with the surrounding structures, a brick chimney stack would be more in keeping than a stainless steel flue.

#### **15.1.9 LAYHAM LOCAL HISTORY RECORDER**

It was noted that MW had agreed to take on the role of Local History Recorder; his appointment was ratified by the PC. He would compile an annual report highlighting major events, eg Remembrance Day, the sale and refurbishment of the Marquis of Cornwallis, the sale of Partridges market garden etc. A small budget of £100 per annum was approved, in principle.

#### **15.1.10 2015 GENERAL ELECTION**

As Parish Councils were required to be apolitical, it was agreed that it would not be appropriate to invite aspiring MPs to a hustings event.

#### **15.1.11 2015 ANNUAL MEETING**

This would take place on Wednesday 29 April. The format would be the same as in previous years, with councillors reporting on their four-year tenure.

#### **15.1.12 ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN**

LG had suggested Saturday 7 March, which was agreed. The B1070 would be the key area to target; it was noted that proper signage would be required and LG would check with SCC Highways to see whether any training was required. JDC would produce a risk assessment. As there was a good deal of vegetation encroaching onto the footpath, MW proposed asking SCC to help by providing a skip, lending signage, and clearing up after the rubbish had been removed; he also proposed asking Hadleigh Town Council if they would support the initiative. This proposal was seconded by LA and agreed unanimously.

#### **15.1.13 CORRESPONDENCE**

A letter had been received from John Crook concerning a bill before Parliament proposing that parking on pavements be made illegal. It was agreed that the Clerk should respond, thanking him for bringing this to the PC's attention and commenting that, if and when it became a major issue, the PC would deal with it appropriately.

**15.1.14        NEXT MEETING**

7.00pm on Wednesday 18 February 2015, in the Village Hall (*please note 7pm start, to allow for presentation by David Jones from BOC*).

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