

LAYHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 18 February 2015 in the Village Hall

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

15.2.1 DEFIBRILLATORS

The Chairman welcomed David Jones from BOC, who demonstrated a training unit defibrillator of the type purchased by the PC. He explained that, if the PC was willing to download data and email it to the manufacturer (Heartsign), replacement batteries and pads would be provided free of charge - he stressed that all data was anonymous. The defibrillator was voice-activated and would talk the operator through the process, repeating instructions if necessary. In response to a comment from MW that not everyone knew how to perform CPR, Mr Jones said training was available. GJ wondered whether counselling was offered if the defibrillation was unsuccessful; it was possible that this might be available through the Ambulance Service.

15.2.2 APOLOGIES

See above.

15.2.3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RG declared an interest in agenda item 15.2.12 (Allotments); SL declared an interest in agenda item 15.2.9.1 (Planning - Marquis of Cornwallis).

15.2.4 ADJOURNMENT TO RECEIVE WRITTEN REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

15.2.4.1 Police report

No report had been received.

15.2.4.2 District Council report

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. The report referred mainly to the consultation on Babergh and Mid Suffolk's new Joint Local Plan (see minute 15.2.10).

15.2.4.3 County Council report

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. GJ confirmed that the budget for 2015/16 had been agreed at a full council meeting the previous week; there would be no increase in Council Tax. Savings of £38m had been found, but it was likely that the same amount would have to be saved in the coming year. SCC Highways had introduced a new reporting tool; JC had circulated details to the community email group. The roadworks on the A12 were currently running behind schedule. MW referred to the new campaign to address loneliness and said Layham was already trying to help this issue by holding regular community lunches. There was also a social club every fortnight, run by a volunteer from the parish. The PCC organised Sunday lunches in the village hall, and coffee & chat mornings in the church. The Men's Club continued to meet every Tuesday evening. LG said she was pleased to

read about the proposed link between the centre of Ipswich and the Waterfront. In response to her question, GJ explained that the 'call in' concerning the Children's Centre review meant that Cabinet had decided to accept the report but Labour had called that decision in. He explained that statutory advice had been referred to in the report, but a copy of this had not been included. Following a hearing by the Scrutiny Committee, the report would be re-submitted to Cabinet.

15.2.5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was proposed by RG, seconded by DP and agreed unanimously that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 14 January 2015 should be accepted as an accurate record, and signed accordingly.

15.2.6 ACTIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

15.2.6.1 Police newsletter

JC confirmed that PCSO Coleman's monthly newsletter was now being sent direct to the webmaster and would be posted on the website.

15.2.6.2 Speeding

JC would ask Raydon PC whether they would be interested in sharing a vehicle-activated speed sign. She would also try to obtain further information on accidents in the Benton Street / Upper Layham area. In response to a comment from MW, GJ said he would look into what could be done about the broken fence between the end of Benton Street and the Hook Lane turning.

MW had spoken to the agent acting for the owner of the Marquis of Cornwallis, who was keen to see the Layham sign improved; the old 'gate' was falling apart. The owner was willing to have a new oak sign made, and would also like to see the 30mph sign moved further along the road, to somewhere near Windy Ridge. GJ said moving speed signs could be a lengthy process, but he would speak to Steve Merry in SCC Highways.

15.2.6.3 Brett Green

MW and RG would remove the damaged tree in the summer, if necessary. JC would chase a response from Highways re the possibility of changing the priority at the junction with Mill Lane.

15.2.6.4 Potholes

SL had met representatives from Highways on site and would produce a report for the next meeting. The work on clearing Water Lane had now been completed and JC had received an update from Steve Merry on some other outstanding issues.

15.2.6.5 Playing Field

MW said the Playing Field Committee was due to meet on 9 March and he was hopeful that a decision could be made on the proposed footpath across the playing field. He and LG would visit Woodbridge Golf Club in the meantime, to look at the surface there.

15.2.6.6 Environmental matters

JC had contacted Babergh about the broken fence near the bus shelter on Upper Street; BDC would not be replacing this at the moment, but would ensure the debris was removed. JC's contact at Flagship had left the organisation, but she was now in touch with her successor. MW said the conifers were now cutting out the light which was affecting some of the houses in Gardeners Close. JC had received confirmation from Anglian Water that they would carry out maintenance at the sewerage pumping station in Mill Lane.

15.2.6.7 Phone boxes / defibrillators

The defibrillator to be installed in the phone box in Lower Layham had been received, but further work was required before the phone box was ready. In the meantime, SL said he and/or JDC would obtain quotes from two electricians. With regard to Upper Layham, the possibility of moving the phone box had been discussed - MW had spoken to Justin Kerry, Senior Asset Utilisation Officer at Babergh, and said it seemed the proposed new location was public open space, in which case Babergh would have to give their approval. However, SL said he now felt it would be better left where it was, as long as there was still a power supply; he would ask UK Power Networks to investigate.

MW reminded members that the money still needed to be raised for a second defibrillator and it was agreed that everyone should research possible grants and sources of funding before the next meeting, when this would be a main agenda item. LG would pass the information she had already found from the British Heart Foundation to SL and JDC.

15.2.6.8 Raworth Bungalow

JC would have one more attempt to chase a response from Babergh to her letter.

15.2.6.9 Land in front of 7 & 8 Upper Street

MW and JC had met Becky Sutton, Babergh's Locality Officer, on site. She would look further into the matter and a response was awaited.

15.2.6.10 Grit bin for Water Lane

MW had discussed this further with Nigel Morsman, who had decided a grit bin was not necessary.

15.2.6.11 Annual Spring Clean - Saturday 7 March

Hadleigh Town Council had confirmed they would be happy to work with Layham, providing there were enough volunteers. JC had received a response from Highways suggesting that, rather than having a skip, lopped branches should be piled off the footway and SCC contractors would collect them on 9 March. SCC was unable to supply road signs, but suggested asking local construction companies if they could spare any. With regard to the problem with elder, this would be cut back and the stump treated to kill the plant. LG said John Cryer had agreed to be the contact in Lower Layham on the day; DP agreed that the sacks of rubbish could be left in his garden for collection. JC would send out a reminder on the community email the week before.

15.2.7 FINANCIAL MATTERS

15.2.7.1 RFO's report

It was proposed by SL, seconded by RG and agreed unanimously that the financial statement as at 18.2.15 should be accepted and payments of £425.26 were authorised.

15.2.7.2 Clerk's annual review

This would be carried out by MW and LG - date in March to be agreed.

15.2.8 WRITTEN REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

No written reports had been submitted. LG said 30 people had booked for the next community lunch, on 11 March.

15.2.9 PLANNING

15.2.9.1 B/14/01631 - Marquis of Cornwallis

This was a re-submission of the plans previously approved. It was agreed that JC would ask the architect to summarise the changes (*NB: it was subsequently discovered that Babergh had already approved the application - the architect confirmed the changes, which were minor*).

15.2.9.2 B/15/00017/TPO - Raworth Bungalow

Prior to the papers being received, MW had contacted Babergh to suggest that the tree should be left as it was, if possible. Babergh's Arboricultural Officer had visited the site and explained to the developer that it would be better to remove some of the smaller branches; this advice had been accepted.

15.2.9.3 B/14/01508 - Partridge Cottage, Lower Layham

It was noted that this application had been withdrawn.

15.2.10 CONSULTATION ON NEW JOINT LOCAL PLAN FOR BABERGH & MID SUFFOLK

MW, LG and JC had attended a meeting at Babergh on 9 February. They felt the meeting had not been well organised and the consultation period was quite short, ending on 31 March; SW explained that, because of the elections on 7 May, the process had to be finished before 23 March when the period of 'purdah' started. A new joint local plan was needed because the same planning officers would be dealing with planning applications for both Babergh and Mid Suffolk. MW commented that

the old boundaries were being eased and it would be easier in future to build houses. It was proposed by MW, seconded by DP and agreed unanimously that MW, LG and JC should meet to draft a response to the consultation, and would bring this to the next meeting.

15.2.11 ELECTION PUBLICITY

MW had written some copy for the HCN, which would appear in the March issue. JC had prepared a poster which would be put on the noticeboards and website, and sent out on the community email; she would also update the information sheet for prospective candidates. JC confirmed that she had received a supply of nomination forms from Babergh. The Annual Parish Meeting would focus on the PC's achievements over the last four years. MW's proposal that a glass of wine should be offered to those attending was seconded by DP and agreed unanimously; SL said he would organise this.

15.2.12 ALLOTMENTS

JC had circulated a draft updated agreement. Some further amendments were suggested; she would incorporate these and recirculate for final approval before renewal notices were sent out in April.

15.2.13 VILLAGE HALL OWNERSHIP

JC had produced a summary of key dates, but it was not clear where the title deeds were held. She would check with the solicitors involved at the time, and also with the Land Registry. She would also ask SALC for guidance.

15.2.14 CORRESPONDENCE

JC had received a letter from someone who was trying to find out where her great grandfather was buried; Alfred Wright and his wife, Frances, were living in Layham in 1911 and he was working as a gamekeeper. JC would look at the plan of the graveyard to see if this provided any leads.

15.2.15 MEETING DATES

15.2.15.1 Date of next meeting

7.30pm on Wednesday 25 March 2015, in the Village Hall.

15.2.15.2 Annual Parish Meeting - new date

7.30pm on Wednesday 15 April 2015, in the Village Hall.

15.2.15.3 AGM - new date

7.30pm on Monday 18 May 2015, in the Village Hall.

* * * * *