

LAYHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 26 August 2015 in the Village Hall

Present: Jane Cryer - Clerk (JC)
John Curran (JDC)
Ron Gunn (RG)
Steve Laing - Vice Chairman (SL)
David Pratt (DP)
Sheila Roberts (SR)
Doreen Sillett (DS)
Michael Woods - Chairman (MW)

In attendance: PCSO Julia Bignell (JB)
Gordon Jones, Suffolk CC (GJ)
Patrick King - parishioner (part)
John Ward, Babergh DC (JW)

Apologies: PCSO Amanda Coleman (AC)

PUBLIC FORUM

Patrick King expressed concern at the two Mustangs that flew over Layham regularly, from Raydon airfield. He said the owner of Layham Hall also had a private aircraft and had been flying at the same time as them on the previous Saturday. JC said the Mustangs had been flying at a private air show held for the families of the American pilots stationed there during the war. However, the planes also flew when there was no organised event taking place. It was agreed that JC would contact Raydon Airfield Committee to ask what safeguards were in place. GJ said there had been issues in the past with paragliders over Stratford St Mary and the CAA were very helpful - he would forward the contact details to JC.

PK also reported noise from a trials bike every night around midnight on the main road near the Marquis; it was agreed to monitor this.

15.8.1 APOLOGIES

See above.

15.8.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

15.8.3 ADJOURNMENT TO RECEIVE WRITTEN REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

15.8.3.1 Police report

There had been one reported crime since the last meeting: a gate to an enclosure containing pheasants was found open and a number of the birds found dead; possible attack by a dog. The next Safer Neighbourhood priority-setting meeting would be held at East Bergholt School on Wednesday 16 September; JC had circulated details by community email. JB said it was possible that this would be the last such meeting. MW said he had completed the survey that University Campus Suffolk was carrying out in partnership with the Police, to help them understand people's perceptions of crime, anti-social behaviour and local policing services in Suffolk; he urged others to do so. The results of the survey would feed into a project currently underway to identify where cost savings could be made in light of government cuts to policing budgets.

15.8.3.2 District Council report

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. Babergh and Mid Suffolk had instigated a number of programmes to ensure they were able to meet the challenges facing local authorities in the coming years. JW talked about the 'funding

circle' - a crowd-sourced investment vehicle for small to medium sized businesses where people could specify the postcode area in which they were interested in investing. In response to a comment from DP, GJ said the funding would be coming from reserves, not a surplus, and would be available for medium to long-term investment. In response to a question from SL, JW said no decision had yet been made on office accommodation for Babergh and Mid Suffolk DCs, but he felt it unlikely that the existing buildings in Needham Market and Hadleigh would be used; there was a possibility that 'satellite' offices might be introduced. He would keep the PC informed of progress. There would be a Community Action Suffolk conference on 'growing your community' on 25 September - JC would circulate details. With regard to Layham's playing field being used by young people from Hadleigh, JW had spoken to his Hadleigh colleagues who would raise the issue with the Town Council. However, he said there was a feeling that as people from Layham also used Hadleigh's facilities, it should not be a problem. MW said the difference was that the Town Council managed areas in Hadleigh for organised sport, but there were no areas for an informal 'kick around', hence the appeal of Layham's playing field - which was owned and maintained by the community.

15.8.3.3 County Council report

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. MW said he was pleased to note the launch of the first Suffolk Walking Strategy. However, this did raise the issue of maintenance of - for example - the pavement between Layham and Hadleigh and footpaths in general. Some parts of footpaths had been inaccessible for many years. GJ said that Raydon Parish Council had raised similar concerns and he had recently met the Chairman and Kevin Verlander from SCC for a discussion; he had already raised the issue with the Health & Wellbeing Board. MW and SL would find some examples of footpaths that suddenly stopped and GJ would talk to Kevin Verlander; however, he warned that re-opening footpaths could be a time consuming and sometimes costly exercise. He confirmed that there was a Footpaths Officer at County Hall, and a Rights of Way Committee. In response to a question from JDC, GJ confirmed that, currently, only Babergh and Mid Suffolk charged for garden waste collection; if people preferred not to pay for a bin, they would be encouraged to compost their waste. Discussions about possible devolution were continuing and this issue would go to the Suffolk Leaders' Group in early September. In response to a question from SL about the Positive Choices programme, GJ said he was due to have a meeting within the next couple of weeks. With regard to the visit by Colin Noble, Leader of SCC, GJ had contacted Mr Noble's PA who was liaising with Hadleigh Town Council to find a suitable town centre venue.

15.8.4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was proposed by RG, seconded by JDC and agreed unanimously that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 29 July 2015 should be accepted as an accurate record, and signed accordingly.

15.8.5 ACTIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING - PURPOSE AND USE OF LIST

MW said the list of actions had been introduced as an aide memoire so issues did not get missed. However, he and JC had discussed it and suggested that, in future, the action list would still appear on the agenda, to be noted. MW proposed that he and JC would monitor the list and when something was felt to be important - and there was sufficient information about it, it would be put on the agenda as a separate item; councillors were asked to let JC know when they felt an item warranted discussion. The proposal was seconded by SL and agreed unanimously.

15.8.5.1 Water flow across the B1070

JC had received confirmation from Hadleigh Town Council that this had been reported and SCC had issued a report number; the work had been ordered to address the problem and would be carried out within the next 4-6 weeks.

15.8.5.2 Speed limit near the Marquis

MW, JC and GJ had met Steve Merry on site to discuss the proposed moving of the 30mph speed limit sign; SL would now prepare a report. MW thanked GJ for attending; GJ said he had also raised the issue with James Finch.

15.8.6 FINANCIAL MATTERS

15.8.6.1 RFO's report

It was proposed by JDC, seconded by DS and agreed unanimously that payments of £1234.51 should be authorised.

15.8.7 WRITTEN REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

15.8.7.1 Defibrillators

JDC, SL and DS had met to discuss the British Heart Foundation funding form and their proposed responses to the questions asked were considered. In response to a question from MW about the number of people already trained in CPR, JDC said this was an estimate of the number of people in the parish already trained, whose training was recent enough for them to be confident about providing CPR. In response to a question from SR, JDC explained that the funding application related to CPR training only, rather than how to use the defibrillator itself. The aim to hold four training sessions each month was only a target; this would obviously depend on the number of people interested in taking up the offer of training. MW's suggestion that two PC members rather than one should 'manage' each training session was agreed. Everyone confirmed that they were happy to support the initiative - MW asked that the wording in the answer to question 5 be amended to "... The first training session will be for all of the Parish Council members, including the Clerk". It was proposed by MW, seconded by DP and agreed unanimously to approve the funding application form. JDC and JC would discuss the admin issues separately. MW thanked the working group.

15.8.8 PLANNING

15.8.8.1 B/15/01025 - Popes Green Farm, Popes Green Lane

There were no objections to the application for change of use of existing agricultural land to domestic curtilage.

15.8.9 Section 106

MW confirmed that any applications must involve a public space, eg the playing field. In the case of the playing field, the Playing Field Committee (PFC) should also be consulted. SL suggested asking parishioners for their ideas, via the HCN and community email. MW would also ask the PFC for their opinion. This item would remain on the action sheet; JC confirmed there was no time limit for applications.

15.8.10 COMMUNITY PAYBACK PROJECT

MW had met John Wesley, Placement Coordinator, to discuss whether the Project might be able to assist with clearing the verge on the B1070; due to the close proximity to the road, bends and fast moving vehicles, this was not something they could take on without proper insurance and traffic management, which would be too expensive. However, Mr Wesley had also visited the playing field and had agreed to bring a working party on 28 September to tidy this up by weeding, strimming and cutting back. There was a possibility of a further visit later in the year.

15.8.11 COMMUNITY EMAIL

Several more parishioners had signed up since the last meeting; PC members would continue to encourage participation.

15.8.12 ASH DIE-BACK CRISIS

MW said that ash trees would probably disappear completely over the next ten years as a result of ash die-back. The Woodland Trust had launched a scheme whereby they would provide sixty native trees as suitable substitutes, together with canes and plastic sleeves, at a subsidised cost of £45 per pack. MW suggested that the PC should contact the major landowners in the parish to see if they were interested - and possibly purchase the packs for them. In response to a suggestion from SL that all parishioners, not just the large landowners, should be given the opportunity, it was proposed by MW, seconded by DP and agreed unanimously to let as many people as possible know about the scheme, through the HCN and the community email, and gauge the level of interest before purchasing any packs.

15.8.13 VILLAGE KEEPER

MW said Bungay Parish Council employed a part-time 'village keeper', or handyman, through an agency. He suggested that the PC should look into the possibility of paying to do something similar for a set time - probably six months - to see what difference it made to the village. After that trial period, parishioners would be asked whether they thought it was a good idea, and whether they would be prepared to agree to a small increase in the precept to cover the cost in future. It was proposed by MW, seconded by DP and agreed unanimously that JC should carry out some research and report back.

15.8.14 CORRESPONDENCE

It was noted that the next Community Lunch would be held on Wednesday 28 October; MW would publicise in the October issue of the HCN and JC would send a community email.

15.8.15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

7.30pm on Wednesday 23 September 2015, in the Village Hall.

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