

LAYHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held at 7.30pm on
Wednesday 10 January 2024 in the Village Hall

Present: Gillie Cranfield (GC)
Jane Cryer - Clerk (JC)
Will Dunn (WD)
Sue Keeble (SK)
Steve Laing - Chairman (SL)
Sheila Roberts (SR)
Julie Thickpenny

In attendance: John Ward, Babergh DC (JW)
Georgia Hall, Suffolk CC (GH)

Apologies: None

24.1.1 APOLOGIES

See above.

24.1.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

24.1.3 PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public were present.

24.1.4 ADJOURNMENT TO RECEIVE WRITTEN REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

24.1.4.1 District Council reports for December 2023 and January 2024

Written reports had been circulated prior to the meeting, copies of which are filed with these minutes. In response to a comment from JDC that pylons should be located under the sea, JW said National Grid was looking at pylons on a project by project basis rather than taking an holistic approach; it should be possible to have a coordinated grid, but speed and cost were their main concerns. It was the Secretary of State, not local planning authorities, that would make the decisions; local MPs were doing their best, but not making much headway. In response to a question from SR concerning financial aid for flood affected properties following Storm Babet, JW confirmed that financial support was available for householders affected by subsequent storms. WD asked when consultation on part two of the Local Plan would start - JW confirmed that the call for sites had just started and would continue for four weeks.

In response to a question from SK regarding Babergh's proposed introduction of car parking charges, JW said Cabinet had met on 9 January and agreed to discuss tariffs; it was likely that the charge would be £1 for three hours in Hadleigh. He emphasised that something else would have to be cut if car parking charges were not introduced as it was vital that Babergh was able to balance its budget. SL said that the recent survey commissioned by Babergh and Mid Suffolk, at a cost of £21,000 each, had made various proposals - had any of these been implemented? JW replied that there was currently no funding to implement any of the suggestions. There were also no plans for a further consultation as one had been held in summer 2022. In response to a suggestion from SL that charges could be introduced in one car park as a test, JW said this would not be helpful as it would have an artificial impact. In response to a question from SR, JW said the fines collected by the traffic wardens still left a shortfall. He confirmed that residents' permits were already available in Sudbury and Hadleigh.

24.1.4.2 County Council reports for December 2023 and January 2024

Written reports had been circulated prior to the meeting, copies of which are filed with these minutes. With regard to funding to the arts and museums being cut, GH said the announcement had been made now as the council was required to give 12 months' notice. The cuts were necessary to allow adult social care to be funded, which was compulsory. In response to a question from WD concerning increased funding for road repairs, GH said Cabinet had approved an extra £10 million to repair and resurface local roads in villages and residential areas across Suffolk. The funding would nearly double Suffolk Highways' £11 million annual road maintenance budget, but would be targeted at smaller residential streets; it was hoped that the extra £10 million would result in fewer new potholes.

24.1.5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was proposed by SR, seconded by SK and agreed unanimously that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 29 November 2023 should be accepted as an accurate record, and signed accordingly.

24.1.6 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

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

24.1.6.1 Gigaclear

JC was in touch with Gigaclear concerning the cabinet in Upper Layham; they had assured her that they *'always liaise with parish councils and residents over the location of cabinets'* - JC had pointed out that this had not been the case in Layham and was awaiting their further response. She confirmed that she had also asked James Cartlidge MP to intervene.

24.1.7 FINANCIAL MATTERS

24.1.7.1 RFO's report

It was proposed by SL, seconded by JDC and agreed unanimously that the finance report for 10 January 2024 should be approved and payments of £3,302.20 were authorised. This included the cost of a new dog refuse bin for the Playing Field - JC said the other bin on the Playing Field and the one outside the Village Hall should also be replaced as they were in a poor state; it was agreed that she should order two new bins. It was noted that £2000 had been transferred from the savings account to the current account; the bank statement was countersigned by WD. JC would investigate transferring some funds into a fixed-term account with a higher rate of interest.

24.1.7.2 2024-25 budget update

JC's update was noted; the budget had been amended to take into account a CIL payment due in April, and increased charges for emptying litter and dog bins. JC would check whether CIL funding could be used to fund the new SID, to be purchased during 2024-25.

24.1.8 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

24.1.8.1 SIDs in Upper Layham

The decision had already been made to modify the existing SID to work on solar power; the working party had obtained a quote for one solar panel, but two would be required if the SID was to continue to be moved regularly until the additional device was purchased in the next financial year. It was proposed by JDC that two solar panels should be purchased before the end of January to avoid a possible price increase; this was seconded by SL and agreed unanimously. With regard to the additional SID, it was proposed by JDC, seconded by GC and agreed unanimously to purchase the same model as the existing one, to ensure compatibility.

24.1.9 PLANNING

24.1.9.1 DC/23/05019 - The Builder's Yard, The Street, Lower Layham
To note approval of discharge / variation of conditions.

24.1.9.2 DC/23/04971 - Cherry Orchard Farm, Stoke Road
To note refusal of permission for detached dwelling.

24.1.10 VILLAGE SPRING CLEAN

It was agreed that this would take place on Saturday 23 March

24.1.11 CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE

None.

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

None.

24.1.14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

7.30pm on Wednesday 21 February 2024, in the Village Hall.

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