

LAYHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 14 January 2026 in the Village Hall

Present: Jane Cryer - Clerk (JC)
John Curran - Vice Chairman (JDC)
Sue Keeble (SK)
Steve Laing - Chairman (SL)
Sheila Roberts (SR)

In attendance: John Ward, Babergh DC (JW)

Apologies: Gillie Cranfield (GC)
Will Dunn (WD)
Julie Thickpenny (JT)

26.1.1 APOLOGIES

Apologies were accepted from GC, WD and JT.

26.1.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

26.1.3 PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public were present.

26.1.4 ADJOURNMENT TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

26.1.4.1 District Council

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. Babergh and Mid Suffolk were trialling the idea of a regular drop-in surgery to answer queries about the National Grid's Norwich to Tilbury project. The consultation on local government reorganisation had closed and a decision by the Government was awaited. SCC favoured one unitary authority; districts and boroughs would prefer two or three new bodies. JW expressed concern that AI would be used to review the different proposals submitted. It was likely that elections scheduled for May would be postponed. In response to a question from SL about proposed increased parking charges, JW said the budget was still under huge pressure; he confirmed that using Ipswich Borough Council and West Suffolk teams to deal with parking enforcement was cheaper than BMSDC running their own team. He would give a budget update at the next meeting.

26.1.4.2 County Council

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. With regard to bus services, Babergh's Transport Manager would be discussing improvements with SCC, although any new services would need to be subsidised.

26.1.5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was proposed by SR, seconded by SK and agreed unanimously that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 26 November 2025 should be accepted as an accurate record, and signed accordingly.

26.1.6 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Most of the actions were either ongoing or were on the agenda. There was an update on:

26.1.6.1 Allotments

It was agreed to discuss at the next meeting the possibility of fencing the allotments to avoid more damage being caused by vehicles using the end plot as a parking space and dumping ground.

26.1.7 FINANCIAL MATTERS

26.1.7.1 RFO's report

It was proposed by SL, seconded by JDC and agreed unanimously that the finance report for 14.1.26 should be approved and payments of £1544.48 authorised.

26.1.7.2 Online banking

JC's paper was noted. The majority of suppliers were now refusing to accept payments by cheque, or charging a fee to do so. It was agreed to move to online banking, with the option to pay by cheque where necessary. JC would initiate payments to be approved by a second signatory for security purposes; the second signatory would usually be JDC, unless unavailable.

26.1.8 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

No reports had been submitted.

26.1.9 PLANNING

26.1.9.1 DC/25/05318 - Cherry Orchard Farm

Councillors had no objections to the application for planning permission for additional infill extensions.

26.1.9.2 DC/25/05225 - Cherry Orchard Farm

The approval of discharge of conditions was noted.

26.1.10 SIGN FOR MILL LANE

A revised quotation had been received from Highways for one sign instead of three. However, the cost was only marginally less; JC would query this. She would also confirm whether CIL funding could be used to pay for the sign. A decision would be made at the next meeting.

26.1.11 ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

The list of roles and responsibilities was reviewed. No changes were necessary; however, SL would ask WD if he would be willing to join the speeding working party.

26.1.12 REGISTER OF INTERESTS

JC had asked councillors to review their forms and advise whether there were any changes.

26.1.13 CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE

26.1.13.1 Online reports to SCC

A parishioner had reported various issues to SCC concerning damaged signage, potholes and faded road markings; SCC had scheduled the necessary works. JC would contact GH about a missing 'Give Way' sign at the top of Mill Lane.

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

None.

26.1.15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

7.30pm on Wednesday 18 February 2026, in the Village Hall.