

LEVINGTON AND STRATTON HALL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 7TH JULY 2009 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7:15PM

Present: David Pryke (Chair)
Ian Angus, Pat Pryke, Linda Sharp, Jane Timmins,
Jean Ruthen (Parish Clerk)

PC Mike Crisp

Members of the Public: Mrs Marian Rose

- **VILLAGE FORUM (Parish Council Agenda Items Only)**
There were no questions.

- **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Patricia O'Brien was unable to attend the Parish Council meeting as she was due to attend the SCDC Local Development Task Group meeting, which was to decide on the Local Development Framework. The Task Force was being asked to put forward recommendations to Cabinet and Full Council based on the report. To consider the numbers of new housing to be allocated to the Ipswich Policy Area and to Felixstowe, in response to the consultation carried out between December '08 – February '09. Mrs O'Brien emphasised that the consultation related to 1,050 homes in Martlesham and 1600 in Felixstowe. The numbers that the Task Group was asked to consider at the meeting were 2000 for Martlesham and a 1000 for Felixstowe. These figures have not been consulted on and Mrs O'Brien questioned how the Task Group could make a judgement based on an inaccurate consultation exercise. Her report is available if required.

Mrs O'Brien has been appointed to the Police Authority and will sit on the Public Protection Scrutiny Committee plus Development Control.

She has been able to give Levington a £400 Locality Budget this year, of which £300 will be put towards the renovation of the War Memorial.

- **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Veronica Falconer was also unable to attend due to attending the District Council Cabinet Meeting.

Mrs Falconer has carried out the usual round of meetings; Parish Council AGMs, Committee Meetings, General Briefings, Licensing Panels, Forums, and the SCC and European Elections. She also went on a SCDC arranged site visit of BT, and attended the Stour and Orwell Estuary Management Strategy Forum,

The LDF have recently held two meetings to discuss changes to the Core Strategy Housing and the Core Strategy Economic documents. There are some quite dramatic changes. The site specific document which showed the 'wish list' of possible future sites that could be developed, will not be discussed until 2010 and apparently a huge number more sites have been submitted.

Next week she will be sitting on a Licensing Panel to view various short films that will be shown during the Latitude Music and Arts Festival to decide suitable classification.

- **POLICE REPORT**

PC Mike Crisp attended the meeting and reported that there had been two crimes since the last meeting.

- Theft of a fire extinguisher from a small boat on the quayside at the Marina.
- A locked garden shed was entered and water sports equipment stolen with a value in excess of £2,500.

The Speed Indicating Device (SID) had been in operation on Bridge Road and PC Smith had produced the statistical report for the last year.

David Pryke had done a graph of the figures supplied and 50% of the speeds were above 30mph. The Chairman felt these figures need attention and perhaps should be discussed further with the police to see what steps could be taken. There are pluses and minuses with all of the possible deterrents. The more people might be careful.

It was agreed that the best time for SID to be in operation was between 8:30am and 9:00am and PC Smith would endeavour to arrange an operation at that time.

PC Smith reported that he would be retiring from the Police Force at the end of October this year and this would be the last Council meeting he would be attending. He had enjoyed being involved with the village and attending the Parish Council meetings. The person replacing him would have to apply for the job and go through an interview process, so he hoped that this aspect of the job would be taken into account. He would be producing a handover document. If he was still around he would be pleased to introduce his successor to everyone.

The Chairman wished PC Smith well for the future and thanked him for all his support to the village.

The meeting opened at 7:45pm.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Apologies were received from David Long
2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (REMINDER OF CODE) – There were no Declarations of Interest
3. TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE 12TH MAY 2009
The minutes were approved by the Parish Council and signed as a true copy.
4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MINUTES (Not covered elsewhere on the agenda).
There were no matters arising.

5. FINANCE

Payments already made:

Gopak Ltd. Change to chairs for village hall	£69.00
F. Masters Ltd. Refurbishment of war memorial	£872.85
Pat Pryke - May newsletter	£48.50
Heelis & Lodge – Internal Audit	£55.00
Crystal Gardens Nursery – Plants for Anglia in Bloom	£72.68
D. Pryke – Battery for camcorder	£21.85
Ipscreen ('No Litter' signs)	£34.50

Payments to be made

Clerk's salary and expenses:

46 hrs @ £8.261	£380.00	
1 Cartridge	£9.99	
12 1 st Class stamps	£4.68	
Tel	£6.00	£400.67

SALC – New Clerks Training £51.75

All payments were agreed by the Parish Council.

6. PLANNING

- (a) C09/0097 – Land adjoining workshop, Walk Farm, Stratton Hall. Supported by Planning Committee, 10.2.09. (This case has not been decided yet)
- C09/0495 – Levington Hall – site for proposed barn, access to Levington to Levington Hall,

Levington. Erection of agricultural barn to be used for the housing of tractors, other estate equipment and a sawmill. The Parish Council held a Planning Committee Meeting on 5th May 2009 and lodged an objection to this planning application. Letter to the Parish Council, by email, was received from Mr. Scardino, which explained various points and offering to meet with Parish Council. He also forwarded copies of letters to relevant interested parties in the village. All correspondence, including the reply from the Parish Council Chairman, D. Long, were circulated to the Council.

C09/0494 - Levington Hall- Construction of swimming pool and associated pool house; improvements to existing outbuildings and restoration of a derelict garden pavilion to provide additional sleeping accommodation to the main house; conversion of a former calving shed adjacent to the walled garden to a greenhouse and creation of a new water garden.

Planning Committee Meeting met on 2.7.09 and supported this application, with the proviso that it hadn't seen the plans, other than the location plan for the swimming pool, and for the applicants to ensure that the heavy vehicles going in and out, do so safely. It also pointed out that when Operation Stack was on, "all lorry movements must stop".

- (b) Planning application C00/1494 – dated 13.11.2000. Erection of Barn for Agricultural Purposes. A letter had been received from a resident regarding a possible infringement of this planning application and it had been referred to the Compliance Officer at Suffolk Coastal District Council. Response received from SCDC which stated that no breach of permission was identified, however before closing the case the matter will be reviewed by the enforcement team. It was agreed to review this again at a future date.
- (c) Letter written to SCDC Planning Department regarding the application for a 'Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence at 1 Heath Cottages. Response received that the Parish Council's representation had been logged onto the enforcement team's computer records for investigation in due course. It was agreed to write further pointing out that it was not asking the Planning Department to refer this to the enforcement team, just to present our representations to the Traffic Commissioner as a Statutory Objector and whether this had been done.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

- (i) Letter – Orwell Housing Association Ltd. – information on new Housing Related Support Service. Leaflet had been placed on notice board.
- (ii) Acknowledgement of completed survey forms on SALC services
- (iii) Suffolk Preservation Society – Sustainable Communities Act 2007
- (iv) SCC - Notification of Temporary Road Closure
- (v) Consultation on Suffolk Coastal's Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan. The Council agreed to look into this issue further.

8. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION IN SUFFOLK

- (i) With reference to the expected recommendations to the Boundary Committee on the 15th July 2009, this period of further recommendations has now been extended to Friday 18th September 2009
A copy of a letter to Stephen Baker, Chief Executive of SCDC, from Communities and Local Government was received, setting out the Secretary of State's intentions in advance of his taking statutory decisions.
It was noted that the Secretary of State had changed with a Cabinet reshuffle, which might produce some changes.
- (ii) Reference the contact from Jack Cade, Kirton Parish, regarding an additional joint representation to the Boundary Committee by the parishes, that would be included in the North Haven authority if that was agreed. Further details were received from Jack Cade regarding the responses he received. Out of about 8 parishes contacted, only three were against the North Haven option.

9. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

Comments received on the LDF were considered by the Local Development Framework Task Group at the following two meetings. Only the Task Group members, plus other SCDC councillors present were able to speak.

- (i) 16.6.09 Trinity Park – Housing and Settlement Policy – This meeting was attended by David Long and David Pryke. Notes on this meeting by David Long were circulated.
- (ii) 22.6.09 Council Offices, Woodbridge – Economy, Environment, Community Well-being and Development Control - David Long and David Pryke attended this meeting and a report by David Pryke was circulated. The large document under consideration summarising the ‘Preferred Options Core Strategy’ is on circulation and the Chairman recommended that it was important for Councillors to read it and take note of the details, albeit too late.

The Core Strategy, as revised by the Group, was being presented to the Cabinet of Suffolk Coastal and if it is approved by them they will take it to the full Council later in July. Then it will once again go out for consultation and the responses received will form the agenda for the Examination in Public by an external inspector. At that point it might be possible for the Parish Council to have another chance to send a representative if asked.

Regarding ‘Employment Land’ the amended document identifies 3 strategic areas:

- (a) Felixstowe Port
- (b) Martlesham Heath Business Campus, including Adastral Park
- (c) Ransomes Europark (mostly in IBC area but to extend into Suffolk Coastal)

It was generally agreed that Levington should be seen to be involved at every stage and the Council should have an adapted follow-up policy ready for when developments become known, and this would be considered further.

10. PROJECTS PROGRAMME

Meetings of the Parish Council/Village Hall Trustees joint management team are taking place on the range of projects associated with the village hall. Draft designs and costs are being undertaken regarding the potential extension. The type of outside lighting is still being considered, but the bench could not be placed until the building was finished. The chairs with arms had now been received and the dishwasher had been installed

The glass for the village hall notice board is in the preparation stage. The bird boxes have now been made, at no cost, and advice will be sought as to where they should be placed. The war memorial has now been refurbished. (This was funded partly by the Locality Budget and the Parish Council).

The rest of the projects are being considered and reviewed.

Non-funded projects – a quotation has been sought for the parking area at the Almshouse and this will be reviewed at a later date. Pat Pryke reported it appears that the District Council will provide another bus shelter on the opposite side of the Old A45 near the bridge, at no cost to the Parish Council.

11. ANGLIA IN BLOOM

Pat Pryke presented her report to the meeting and the main points were as follows:

- Two village road sign sites have been planted up with colourful bedding plants.
- A new water butt has been connected to the village hall downpipe to help with watering the tubs and nearby planting.
- The ‘Anglia in Bloom’ portfolio had been completed and sent off to the two judges.
- The judges will be visiting the village on Friday 10th July

The results of the judging will be known on 16th September at an Awards afternoon near Gorleston.

12 OPERATION STACK

Further to our letter to Mr. Guy McGregor dated 18th June 2009, regarding temporary arrangements for Operation Stack, no response had yet been received and it was agreed to contact him further.

13. SCHOOL CATCHMENT AREAS

A meeting was organised by the Parish Council, held in the village hall on 9th June 2009, following initial problems this year of Levington children gaining access from Nacton Primary School to the catchment high school of Kesgrave. The Chairman commented that he thought it was an excellent example of the Parish Council reacting to and facilitating a helpful meeting for the parents concerned. The meeting was attended by Ian Angus and Davis Long for the Parish Council, Patricia O'Brien, SCC, Eric Toyne, SCC Education Department, Helen Arnold, SCC School Preference Advisor and parents from the village.

Eric Toyne had, on request from Ian Angus, produced projected figures which showed the current annual intake of Year 7 pupils at Kesgrave (280 per annum) and the potential number of in-catchment area pupils in Year 6. It was clear from these figures that Kesgrave would not be able to accommodate all pupils as things stood and that an increasing number of children were likely to be disappointed.

Ian Angus felt that it was important to look at alternatives for next year and to some extent this would depend a great deal on what happened to the unitary bid, being cluded in with Felixstowe and Ipswich. The Chairman advised that the Council should keep an eye on this topic.

It was also noted during discussions, that there were 4 interested bodies in the running of the proposed new Felixstowe Secondary School, which could, in the longer term, provide improved education that could potentially be available to Levington schoolchildren.

14. SHORELINE AND ESTUARY MANAGEMENT

- a. Essex Shoreline Management Plan – Invitation to Key Stakeholder Event – 15th July 2009. The Council has registered as a stakeholder. The invitation was accepted on behalf of David Long, but was open to any councillor who wished to attend. This relates to flood defences over the next 20/30 years and the Council felt it was an issue that it should keep an eye on as it will affect the area.
- b. Stour and Orwell Estuaries Forum - Friday 26th June 2009. This was attended by David Long and David Pryke. The Stour and Orwell Management Strategy (Draft 2009) is on circulation to the Parish Council and comments were requested by the middle of August. The Chairman stated that this was an important document and recommended that all Councillors read it. The Management Strategy could cause the area difficulty, especially the part of the report on leisure activities but the Chairman reported that he and David Long talked to all the right people to ensure that Parish Councils were advised on all activities before anything definite was done.

15. SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAMS

David Long had attended the most recent meeting, which was held on 10th June 2009, at Nacton Village Hall and his report was circulated to the Parish Council.

The meeting was attended by 15 people and included many Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators, who had been specifically invited for the first time. This added to the variety of topics discussed and information exchanged. Some points were:

- An increase in anti-social behaviour at the Nacton Picnic site. The police said they would increase patrols in an effort to reduce the nuisance.
- Road traffic speeding. A common problem which would be tackled with speed guns and SID at different sites.
- It was hoped to introduce an effective Marina Watch Scheme, which may assist in the reduction of crime at Levington Marina.
- David Long updated the meetings of the Council's attempts to gain information on the length of time for the temporary arrangements for Operation Stack,

The next meeting will be on Monday 21st September 2009 in Levington Village Hall.

At this point Jane Timmins left the meeting.

16 'NO -LITTER' SIGNS

New 'No Litter' signs had been organised by Ian Angus and 7 had been placed on the A45, 3 here, one on Stephen Rackhams gate, one at the bottom of Pilots Way and one at Levington Creek. Ian Angus had more notices made in case they were required.

Suffolk Coastal Services Limited has agreed to put a new bin in the middle of the lay by on the Old A44. Ian Angus will

The Chairman thanked Ian Angus for all his work on this.

17. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

- (i) Suffolk Coastal Area Meeting on 8th June, attended by Ian Angus. There was nothing new to report.
- (ii) Tree and Church Field – No report
- (iii) Village Hall - All recent updates had been given earlier by David Pryke in the report on the Projects Programme.
- (iv) Sir Robert Hitcham's Almshouses - Ian Angus reported that there would be a meeting next week to discuss the Quinquennial report and also the recommendations by the Fire Officer for work to be done. Ian Angus reported that Louise Overbury, the Clerk/Treasurer for the Almshouses, had been doing an excellent job.
- (v) Local Transport - Report by Pat Pryke was presented to the Parish Council and the main points were as follows:
 - Reinstatement of bus stop pole/signs on the Old A45 – these are now in situ.
 - Application for second bus shelter on the Old A45 (westbound) near Levington Railway Bridge. Mrs. Pryke had received information from Suffolk County Council that they hope to incorporate the shelter into the upgrade of the bus route 75, 76 and 77, which will be ordered later this year as part of the whole scheme.
 - 163 Village Bus Service. Far East Travel is the new operator (replacing Country Travel) from Monday 6th July 2009.
- (vi) Coast and Heaths – Definitive Map and Statement for the Parishes of Levington and Stratton Hall had been received from SCC, Rights of Way Officer.

Linda Sharpe reported that she had walked all but one of the footpaths in Levington and Stratton Hall and found them all passable and well signposted. However, there were a few issues and it was suggested that the SCC Rights of Way Officer should be approached for advice.

- (vii) Emergency Planning – The Parish Clerk would arrange a meeting with Mike Topliss, the Emergency Planning Officer for the District Council, to meet with the Parish Council in August.

The meeting ended at 9:30pm.

VILLAGE FORUM

A resident enquired about the vacancy of Councillor on the Parish Council and was advised that the Council would consider 'co-option' in due course.