

LEVINGTON AND STRATTON HALL PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 1 SEPTEMBER 2010 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7:15 PM

Present: David Long (Chairman), David Pryke (Vice-Chairman)
Councillors Ian Angus; Pat Pryke; Linda Sharp; Ruth Payce
Marian Rose (Parish Clerk)

Patricia O'Brien (County Councillor)
Veronica Falconer (District Councillor)

Member of the Public: B Hawtin

• **VILLAGE FORUM**

No comments.

• **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Patricia O'Brien attended and provided the attached report. She also advised that, currently, planning applications were considered with regard to both the old and the new Local Development Frameworks. She was due to attend a planning scrutiny committee on 17 September and will mention the points previously raised by the Parish Council.

Local policing was also discussed [covered by the Safer Neighbourhood Team ('SNT') item at point 6 below].

Patricia confirmed that she would recommend the Parish Council for a grant of £500 under the Locality Budget. Councillors confirmed that this was to be discussed later in the meeting.

• **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Veronica Falconer attended and presented the attached report.

Concern was noted about the traffic arrangements for the new crematorium and in particular how Operation Stack may impact on this. It was agreed that these concerns be referred to the Highways Department at SCC.

Veronica also confirmed a report in a local newspaper that a future merger between Waveney and Suffolk Coastal District Councils was a possibility.

• **POLICE REPORT**

No officer attended but the attached report had been submitted. This is further covered by the SNT item at point 6 below.

The Parish Council meeting opened at 7:30pm

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Nick Hopkins (holiday).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (REMINDER OF CODE) – None declared.

3. TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF 5 JULY 2010

The Minutes were agreed and signed as a true copy.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MINUTES (Not covered elsewhere on the agenda)

None.

5. FINANCE REPORT

- a. The Clerk reported that the Annual Return & accounts for year to 31 March 2010 were still with BDO, the external auditors, but she had received emailed confirmation that no issues had been identified.

b. The bank balances at 31 July 2010 (reconciled to bank statements) were £3,822 in the current a/c and £15,523 in the deposit a/c;

c. A schedule showing the actual v budget income & expenditure to 31 July 2010 was presented, illustrating that forecast for the year was within budgeted expectation.

d. Income received since the previous meeting:

- £7.64 from Ship Inn bottle bank.

e. Income anticipated before next meeting:

- £2,750 precept 2nd instalment.

f. The Parish Council had approved a donation of £250 to Nacton primary school in March 2010 to be used to fund books in partnership with publishers Dorling Kindersley ('DK'). DK have since generously agreed to fund 100% of this project. It was agreed that cheque number 100651 be cancelled and this £250 donation be carried forward for consideration again at the end of the current financial year.

g. Payments made since the previous meeting:

- £640.96 – Marian Rose - salary & expenses to 28 June;
- £53.20 – Councillor Pat Pryke - July newsletter;
- £55.00 – Heelis & Lodge – internal audit.

h. The following anticipated payments were approved:

- Clerk's Salary & Expenses to 28 Aug 10: 298.43
- Pat Pryke – September newsletter printing estimated at £70;
- Ian Angus re return of three deposits on newspaper box keys: £15;
- BDO external audit £158.63 inc vat ;
- Suffolk ACRE re insurance due 1 October £304.51 – but Clerk to investigate alternative quotes for consideration of finance sub-committee before the due date;
- British Legion for poppy wreath - donation of £25;
- Payment was expected to be due to Bob Hardwick for Anglia in Bloom planting but payment would not be made until an invoice is presented.

i. Locality Budget – County Councillor Patricia O'Brien had offered £500 this year. It was agreed that this be claimed to help fund the purchase of a laptop computer and the necessary software, for use by village organisations with the digital projector purchased in the previous year. Councillors noted that further donations totalling £350 had been received towards this equipment from the Flower Show committee and accountancy firm KPMG (via the Village Hall).

6. SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

Councillor Ian Angus, now Chairman of the SNT, reported that rural policing was not seen as appropriate; cost effective or engaging the public. Two issues were of concern:

- Parish Councillors had been made aware of apparent crimes in the villages which had not been recorded by the police; and
- Police officers apparently not responding appropriately to an emergency call.

It was felt that a proposal should be formulated and submitted via the SNT for a structured response from the Police.

The next local public meeting was to be held on 21 September 2010 at Levington, which Councillors will attend. It was anticipated that the above issues and the 'process' will be discussed. A non-public meeting was to be held on 28 September.

7. PLANNING

The position on current planning applications was reviewed:

- C10/1448 - 8 RHW – application conditionally supported by the Parish Council. Revised plans subsequently submitted to SCDC and planning approval was formally granted on 4 August 2010;
- C10/1914 – Walk Farm House - supported by Parish Council planning committee on 16 August 2010;
- C10/0544 – railway line dualling time extension – due to have been considered at SCDC committee on 19 August 2010 but to date the outcome had not been reported;
- C10/1026 & 1027 – Hill Cottage – planning approval granted by SCDC on 8 July 2010;
- C10/0989 – Reservoir at Stratton Hall - planning approval granted by SCDC 18 August 2010.

8. OPERATION STACK

The recent rumours of a new site having been identified & a planned meeting of Steering Group had been denied by SCC and no further update had been received.

The Police text-notification arrangement was not yet operational. Local businesses will be advised on the procedure for notification of Operation Stack.

It had been noted that the relevant signage had not been put out during the most recent Stack. The Chairman had reported this to Inspector Des Pooley, liaison officer.

9. EMERGENCY PLAN

A letter to parishioners seeking data in connection with the village emergency plan was reviewed. This will be issued to all residents after the next newsletter which will contain an explanatory article.

Councillors plan to collate the information into a manual with pre-thought risk scenarios and planned responses. Advice will be taken on the issue of registration under the Data Protection Act.

10. RELEVANT CORRESPONDENCE (not covered elsewhere on agenda):

The following items were considered:

- a) Consultation on proposals for council tax referendum;
- b) SALC Survey with above item a) re standard of service provision by SCC, NHS, police etc;
- c) Suffolk Coasts & Heaths re 'I'm a good dog' scheme/coastal disturbance etc;
- d) Community Coffee Caravan to visit Lunch Club in September;
- e) Parish community;
- f) Church Lane sign & a hydrant marker damage. These had been reported to SCC & Fire service;
- g) Suffolk Trading Standards re new initiative called 'Suffolk Trusted Trader';
- h) A14 overnight closures planned;
- i) Mobile library timetable for 2010-11;
- j) Community Right to Build;
- k) Invitation to Home start AGM 27 Sep;
- l) SCDC pocket park definition of Church Field;
- m) Consultation re Suffolk Registration Service;

11. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

- (a) Tree and Church field – nothing to report.

- (b) Village Hall – still pursuing funding for extension.
- (c) Sir Robert Hitcham's Almshouses – a new tenant has moved in. The cost of upkeep continues to rise.
- (d) Local Transport – report attached. Recent correspondence confirms no changes to routes planned.
- (e) & (f) Coast & Heaths/Footpaths – the boardwalk had still not been cut back despite requests. The Area office was due to meet with contractors imminently and thus work could be expected shortly.
- (g) Nacton School – The school is oversubscribed by a ratio of three to one. This year our village children have again been accepted into Kesgrave upper school on appeal. The school has also received another award.
- (h) SALC – an area meeting is planned for September 6th which two Councillors were to attend.
- (i) Port Liaison – Two Councillors are to attend the meeting planned for September 10th.

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 9:25pm.

Approved by

Date

.....

.....

POINTS FROM POST-MEETING VILLAGE FORUM:

The weed growth and maintenance along Pilots Way was raised. It was agreed that this would be attended to.