

LEVINGTON AND STRATTON HALL PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY
4 NOVEMBER 2009 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7:15 PM

Present: David Long (Chairman), David Pryke (Vice-Chairman)
Councillors Ian Angus & Linda Sharp
Jean Ruthen (retiring Parish Clerk) & Marian Rose (newly appointed Parish Clerk)

Patricia O'Brien (County Councillor)

Members of the Public: B Hardwick, B Hawtin & N Hopkins

- **WELCOME**
The Chairman welcomed Marian Rose in her new role as Parish Clerk.
- **VILLAGE FORUM**
No comments.
- **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT** [See comments between Minutes 14 and 15]
- **POLICE REPORT**
PC Paul Smith, who had been appointed the new SNT contact in succession to PC Crisp who had recently retired, was unable to attend the meeting but sent his report which is attached.

The Parish Council Meeting opened at 7:30pm

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Pat Pryke, owing to illness.
Mrs Jane Timmins had written to the Chairman advising of her resignation as Parish Councillor, explaining that she felt unable to fulfil the role to her satisfaction owing to other commitments.
Councillors expressed their regret at her decision and recorded their thanks for the contribution she had made since her election.
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (REMINDER OF CODE)** – None declared.
3. **TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE 2 SEPTEMBER 2009**
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 finance report for the six months to 30 September 2009 indicated the results were slightly better than forecast and likely to remain so for the rest of the financial year.
 - (b) Precept indication for 2010/2011 – agreed that the Finance sub-committee would meet to prepare for this. It was anticipated that the precept would be set at a similar level to the current year. It is believed that SCDC faces a 20% reduction in its Government funding, and other public authorities were likely to face similar pressure on their budgets for 2010/11.
 - (c) The Projects Programme was reviewed and appeared to be as expected with no apparent overruns.
 - (d) The following payments were approved:
Payments made since previous meeting:

5.10.09	- Pat Pryke - printing newsletters	£57.50
5.10.09	- Ian Angus - Dog bin bags	£25.70
13.10.09	- Mitsubishi - digital projector	£913.95

Payments to be made:

Clerks' Salary & Expenses:

J. Ruthen	- 42 hrs @ £8.261 =	£ 347.00
	- Cartridge	£12.99
	- Tel	£4.20
		<u>£364.19</u>
M Rose	- 5 hours & £8.261 =	£41.30
	- Stationery	£22.57
		<u>£63.87</u>
David Pryke	- New Clerk's laptop & printer	£942.91
PC Doctor	- Help with new Clerk's IT set up	£40.00

- (e) SCDC – Financial Position 2010/11 Councillors Long & Angus presented a report – copy attached.

6. COUNCILLOR VACANCY

A villager considering filling the vacancy created by the resignation of Mike Barker. The potential co-option was deferred to the next meeting.

The Clerk was asked to advertise the vacancy created by Jane Timmins.

7. PLANNING

- (a) C09/0097 – Land adjoining workshop, Walk Farm, Stratton Hall. Supported by Planning Committee, 10.2.09. This application has been withdrawn

C09/1026 – Plot 1, adjoining Walnut Tree Cottages, Bridge Road – Erection of dwelling and garage. Planning Committee Meeting was held on 27.7.09 and supported this application. This application has been approved by the District Council.

C09/1345 – Proposed Agricultural Reservoir, Stratton Hall Drift, Stratton Hall. Construction of reservoir. Supported by Parish Council Planning Committee on 5.10.09.

David Pryke undertook to follow up the query recently raised re the stables erected near to White House Farm in Bridge Road, apparently without planning consent.

- (b) Linda Sharp confirmed her wish to stand down from the Planning Committee due to work commitments. Pat Pryke had indicated her willingness to take her place and the appointment was approved. The vacancy created by the resignation of Jane Timmins was deferred to a future meeting.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

- (i) Invitation to Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership Annual Forum 18.11.09
- (ii) Email from SCDC regarding proposed charges to car park management in Suffolk Coastal.
- (iii) SCC – Active Wellbeing – Fit villages – Possible funding opportunity for village halls.
- (iv) SCC – Bus Stop improvements.
- (v) Suffolk ACRE Funding E-Shot September 2009
- (vi) Soundsavers – Advertisement for New portable PA system
- (vii) SCC – Suffolk Household Waste Recycling Centres – Glass Recycling Changes
- (viii) SCDC – Planning budgets for next year. Invitation to Town and Parish Council
- (ix) Suffolk Constabulary notice of SNT Meeting on 20 October.
- (x) Paperwork received from Norfolk County Council - Norfolk Minerals and Waste – Local Development Framework.

All correspondence had been circulated and noted by the Parish Council.

9. LOCAL REORGANISATION IN SUFFOLK

Local Government Reorganisation continues to be delayed due to a legal challenge and no further information has been received.

10. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

(i) In response to the Consultation Document, Councillors David Long, David Pryke and Ian Angus presented their report. The proposal to support the Martlesham development, whilst noting the reservations regarding the factors concerning A12 & A14, was reluctantly approved as the best given option available.

(ii) East of England Plan. The Public Consultation Event on 16 September had been attended by David Pryke and he gave an account of the four scenarios. Councillors David Long, Ian Angus & David Pryke presented a written report. It was agreed that scenario two be supported as it builds upon existing settlements; stands more chance of limited detrimental impact on the environment; builds upon existing infrastructure and can further 'green' opportunities. However, as in previous Parish Council comments, reservations were again expressed on the lack of detail about the full range of infrastructure to support such large developments.

11. AFFORDABLE HOUSING

It was reported that building in Nacton had commenced. There was to be an open meeting on 19 November and this would be suitably advertised in the village.

12. ANGLIA IN BLOOM

Pat Pryke had sent her report on the results 'Anglia in Bloom'. It was agreed that the village planting of annuals that had been put in place for 'Anglia in Bloom' should be replaced to more hardy displays at an appropriate time.

13. OPERATION STACK

A holding letter had been received from Mr Guy McGregor, County Councillor at Suffolk County Council in response to the Council's requests for clarification on the current situation regarding Operation Stack. The letter stated only that a meeting of the Steering Group would be convened before the end of the year, 2009. This will be monitored to ensure the meeting takes place as promised.

14. SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

Meetings of the SNT took place during September, and the community meeting was attended by a large number of local residents. The main concern was about the alleged inappropriate use of a lay-by on the old A45. It was suggested that the woodland next to this lay-by was inappropriately used for sexual behaviour. At the second of these meetings, the Tasking Meeting, Inspector Gallant had advised that as no one had witnessed any sexual behaviour, then public decency had not been outraged, and any sexual activity was not therefore illegal.

At the open meeting, attended by a D. Long, P. Pryke and I. Angus, it was reported that, although the level of police spending in Suffolk was nationally very low, the police budget was to be cut over the coming three years.

At this point Patricia O'Brien (County Councillor) joined and the Chairman adjourned the Parish Council meeting to receive her report. A copy is attached.

The Locality Budget was discussed and it was agreed that the Council may apply for a £400 grant towards the cost of refurbishing the war memorial.

The meeting was then reopened.

15. STOUR AND ORWELL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

There is to be a key stakeholder meeting of the Essex Shoreline Management Plan on 10th November. David Pryke to attend.

16. HIGHWAYS

(i) An approach had been made to SCC Highways regarding road signage on the sharp [90 degree] bend in Stratton Hall

(ii) A letter had also been written to the SCC, Traffic Management regarding the speed of traffic on Bridge Road – to the north of Levington from the current 30mph plate at the edge of Levington village, to the junction with the old A45. Local company BDK had also expressed support for this. No formal response received as yet & will be monitored. Councillor Ian Angus had carried out a survey and noted that up to 200 cars per hour travel over the railway bridge. It was noted that during periods of Operation Stack these would all need to drive through the village.

17. EQUALITY OF HUMAN RIGHTS – PUBLIC SECTOR DUTIES

This item was deferred to a future meeting.

18. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

- (i) Tree and Church field - Nothing to report.
- (ii) Village Hall - AGM to be held on 26 November at which there was to be a presentation of the proposed extension project.
- (iii) Sir Robert Hitcham's Almshouses – work to be carried out shortly in connection with fire safety.
- (iv) Local Transport - Pat Pryke reported that there had been no major problems with the public bus service through the village since the last Parish Council meeting.
- (v) Coast & Heaths/Footpaths - Ian Angus reported that 10-12 bags of rubbish were collected at the Foreshore Litter Pick on the 19 September 2009. It was reported that dog litter is still being left despite the available bags and bins. This will be raised in the parish November Newsletter.
- [vi] SALC - 4 Councillors to attend the AGM on 9 November 2009 at which they gave a presentation on our experiences in the Village of the Year competitions.
- [vii] Port of Felixstowe Liaison Meeting – A meeting on 17 September 2009 was attended by Pat and David Pryke and Ian Angus. Plans for possible use of land at Kirton bordering the A14 [Innocence Farm] for large scale warehousing and lorry parks gave rise for concern. It was agreed that we would liaise with Kirton parish council on this matter.

VILLAGE FORUM – a villager queried an earlier comment that there was to be a 20% reduction in the grants made by Government to County Councils and commented that this may spur on the proposed re-organisation programme in the county currently under consideration.

Following the formal business of the meeting the Chairman, on behalf of the Council, made a presentation to Jean Ruthen the outgoing Clerk. He thanked her warmly for all her hard work and support during her tenure. Her husband's contribution to the role was also recognised.

Approved by

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Date

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