

LEVINGTON AND STRATTON HALL PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2010 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7:15 PM

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

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

Members of the Public: B Hardwick; B Hawtin; M Ralph

- **PRESENTATION OF LAPTOP COMPUTER**

A new laptop computer, for the use of the parishes, was received by David Pryke on behalf of the Parish Council. This had been purchased with funds donated by the County Council Locality Budget, accountants KPMG & the Flower Show Committee. The presentation was made by County Councillor Patricia O'Brien, Marian Rose representing KPMG & Max Ralph for the Flower show Committee.

- **VILLAGE FORUM**

No comments.

- **SUFFOLK COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Patricia O'Brien attended and provided the attached report. She highlighted the launch of the County Council's New Strategic Direction and that she will be a member of the divestment committee. Savings of £110m intended in the next four years, £40m of which will be in the next two years. The Police Authority intends to hold fewer meetings as part of its strategy to address its budget cuts. Patricia agreed to check on progress of the chevron warning signs which are to be erected at Stratton Hall Drift corner.

- **SUFFOLK COASTAL DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Veronica Falconer sent her apologies as she was unable to attend but supplied the attached report.

- **POLICE REPORT**

PC Paul Smith attended and presented the attached report which included four crimes in the previous two months.

He added that the list key holders for the gate at Nacton foreshore has been rationalised and it is hoped this will ensure the gate is kept locked after dark.

The Parish Council meeting was declared open.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Ian Angus

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

3. **TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF 1 SEPTEMBER 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 BDO, external auditors had given a clean Audit Report for our Return for year ended 31 March 2010. This was received before the 30 September 2010 deadline. The

appropriate notice was placed on the main notice board for the necessary period. No comments had been received from parishioners;

The Parish Clerk was thanked for her financial management skills.

(b) Bank balances at 30 September 2010 (reconciled to bank statements & reviewed by finance group):

- Current account: £5,481.15;
- Deposit account: £15,574.62. This includes monies from Village of the Year winnings and is retained for use with previously agreed projects – notably the planned extension to the Village Hall;

(c) A schedule showing actual v budget for half year to 30 Sep 2010 was presented. This showed forecast for the year was within budgeted expectation.

This also included a suggested budget & precept claim for 2011. The Finance Group had suggested reduced expenditure in order to keep precept at previous years' level. 2011/12 precept will need to be formally considered and agreed at the meeting in January 2011.

(d) There is to be an SCDC Budget review meeting on 10 November 2010 – David Long was to attend on behalf of the Parish Council.

(e) Income since last meeting:

- £2,750 precept 2nd instalment;
- £500 Locality Budget;

(f) Income anticipated before next meeting:

- £250 from Village Hall to pass on the KPMG donation to the new laptop;

(g) Payments made since last meeting:

- £298.43 – Marian Rose - salary & expenses to 28 August;
- £175.00 – new dog bins;
- £68.52 – Councillor Pat Pryke - Sept newsletter;
- £262.50 – Came & co re Insurance – new policy with Aviva;
- £41.26 – Councillor Ian Angus re key deposit returns & dog bin bags;
- £158.63 – BDO re external audit 2009/10.

(h) Payments due to be made before the next meeting:

- Clerk's Salary & Expenses to 31 October 10:
M Rose 47 hours @ £8.344 = £392.17
Expenses £56.97
Total payment to Clerk = £449.14

- Pat Pryke – November newsletter printing estimated at £70;
- Ian Angus – dog bin bags & 1 newspaper key £31.26;
- British Legion for poppy wreath + donation: £25;
- David Pryke – new laptop etc £984.62 (funded by donations + VAT recoverable);
- Flag for Church (see also item 12 below). Estimated £60-£70;
- Payment to Bob Hardwick for Anglia in Bloom planting - invoice awaited.

6. PLANNING

Activity since last meeting

- C10/1914 – Walk Farm House - supported by Parish Council - SCDC planning approval granted 16 September 10;
- C10/0544 - railway line dualling time extension – SCDC approved this on 19 August 10 & letter of explanation had been received. The line appears to be attracting attention to get freight to the Midlands;
- Martlesham development – ongoing.

- The revised Local Development Framework was due to be issued soon with a consultation period of eight weeks only. This may require a special meeting to consider our formal response.

7. A14 TRUNK ROAD: EMERGENCY DIVERSION PLANS

Meeting is planned for 1 December which David Long will attend on our behalf. This should provide an opportunity to gain more information regarding the impact of Operation Stack during such diversions.

8. OPERATION STACK

David Long outlined the main points of the last meeting of the Steering Group held in February 2010. A further meeting is to be held on 23 November at which the County Council's further investigations of two options are to be revealed. David Long & David Pryke will attend.

No response has been received to a request to Highways for their contingency plans for traffic arrangements for new crematorium at times of Operation Stack – the Clerk was asked to send a reminder.

9. EMERGENCY PLAN

Councillor Sharp reported that there has been a good response to the letter distributed to all villagers. A reminder for outstanding replies will be included in the next newsletter. A meeting will be arranged with the SCDC specialist to discuss our plans.

10. PREPARATIONS FOR THE WINTER

The Clerk has asked for grit to be left in 4 locations in the parishes. A newsletter item was planned to remind parishioners of how they can prepare for the winter months.

11. SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

Councillor Ian Angus has submitted the attached report.

12. VILLAGE FLAG

David Long advised Councillors that a new flag was needed for St Peter's Church. In recent years the flag has been funded by the Parish Council. Councillor Ian Angus has arranged the purchase of the previous flag but had not been reimbursed for this. It was agreed that he be reimbursed with the cost of £57.31. It was also agreed that the Parish Council should purchase a new flag. Councillors felt that consideration should be given to whether the flag is flown at all times or restricted to preserve the condition of the flag. The views of the PCC and villagers will be sought.

13. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The dates of planned future meetings were reported:

- Tues 18 Jan 2011;
- Weds 2 Mar 2011;
- Weds 6 Apr 2011 (Annual Parishes Meeting which is to be separate from the Parish Council Annual meeting);
- Tues 10 May 2011 (the first meeting after the election which is provisionally planned for Thurs 5 May);
- Weds 6 Jul 2011;
- Weds 7 Sept 2011;
- Tues 8 Nov 2011;
- Weds 18 Jan 2012.

14. CONCEPT OF ‘BIG SOCIETY’ – EMERGING NATIONAL POLICY:
(i) CODE OF CONDUCT: STANDARDS FOR COUNCILLORS;
(ii) SCC: NEW STRATEGIC DIRECTION

David Long reported that it was not yet clear how changes will affect Parish Councils but Councillors needed to be aware of the changing climate. It was known that the Code of Conduct will no longer be in force. It is also apparent that volunteers will be asked to run some resources.

15. ANGLIA IN BLOOM

Pat Pryke gave a report on the Silver Award in the 2010 competition. Thanks were recorded to the Levington Bloomers team and to Bob Hardwick in particular for all their hard work.

16. CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence since the previous meeting as shown in the attached list was noted.

17. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

- (a) Tree and Church field – David Long reported that a commemorative plate has been placed on the entrance gates to Church Field by the family of the donor.
- (b) Village Hall – David Pryke advised that the AGM is to be held on 24 November 2010. Operational costs are now covered by normal income. The Trustees continue to pursue funding for an extension.
- (c) Sir Robert Hitcham’s Almshouses – nothing to report.
- (d) Local Transport – Councillor Pat Pryke’s report is attached. Timetables have been requested for the bus stops and attempts still being made to get an answer from SCC re buses failing to pick up passengers from all stops on local routes.
- (e) & (f) Coast & Heaths/Footpaths – Councillor Ruth Payce has asked the SCDC officer to comment on the possibility that the footpath to the decoy has been diverted and also that it is too wet to be used.
- (g) Nacton School – nothing to report.
- (h) SALC – AGM to be held on 8 November – David Long & Ian Angus to attend. The area meeting on 22 November will be attended by David Long and Pat Pryke.
- (i) Felixstowe Flyer – Councillor Pat Pryke has agreed to provide a regular article on parish news.
- (j) Port Liaison – Councillors Pat & David Pryke had attended the meeting on September 10th and gave a full report. It was clear that the spending review would have a profound effect on infrastructure. Local Enterprise Partnerships were being encouraged but as yet no agreement had been reached.

The changes to the Copdock roundabout at the A12/A14 junction are to be funded by the Port but SCC/Highways have not yet finalised their plans for this work.

A new port facility on the Thames is likely to prove a big competitor of Felixstowe and new warehousing etc is needed to meet this competition.

250 new houses are proposed on Trinity land at Walton.

The port has community fund which gives modest grants to local organisations.

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 9:30pm.

Approved by

Date

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POINTS FROM POST-MEETING VILLAGE FORUM:

- a. David Long advised that a villager had asked if the Parish Council could offer any help with a problem of post not being correctly delivered in Bridge Road owing to a duplication of house numbers. Councillors agreed to consider how they may help with this. A letter will be issued to Royal Mail in the first instance to seek their comments.
- b. David also reported that a villager had also raised concerns about the welfare of lorry drivers who park overnight in the Old A45 lay-bys. It was agreed that further details were needed before this could be effectively considered.