

**LEVINGTON AND STRATTON HALL PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 2<sup>ND</sup>**  
**SEPTEMBER 2009 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7:15 PM**

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**Present:** David Long (Chairman), David Pryke (Vice-Chairman)  
Councillors Ian Angus and Pat Pryke,  
Jean Ruthen (Parish Clerk)

Patricia O'Brien  
Veronica Falconer

**Members of the Public:** Marian Rose

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

- **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Patricia O'Brien attended the meeting and reported on her new role as a County Councillor member of the Suffolk Police Authority. Mrs O'Brien had visited some local police stations and attended an Induction Programme. She gave an overview of many of the topics involved, and noted that there would be a lot to learn, but found it very interesting.

Mrs O'Brien also said that she had written to John Gummer MP regarding the BT planning application and was awaiting a reply.

- **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Veronica Falconer attended the meeting and the main points of her report were as follows:

**Boundary Committee** – After a lot of time and money, this appears to have come to a halt pending legal agreement. Mrs Falconer hopes that all will be left alone to let Suffolk carry on governing the County in the very successful way such a diversified County has been governed for many decades.

**BT Application** – A revised application was submitted. Determining it has been delayed mainly due to the fact that the Local Development Framework has still not been approved by Cabinet. As the LDF is out for further consultation, BT application will probably not be determined until January 2010

**Local Development Framework** must go out for further consultation in September for 8 weeks. Mrs Falconer recommended that the Parish Council makes their views known as the huge amount of development both on the BT site and 1600 houses at Felixstowe, with a further 3600 houses throughout the district, will impact very dramatically on this area.

Mrs Falconer made an interesting site visit to Foxhall tip to view the way the Green Waste is handled, turning it into compost, that is then collected and used by the farmers. She also viewed the enormous new pit which will take all the non-recyclable waste for the next ten years or more. This has a capacity of 400,000 cubic metres, which cost £1.10 million to create.

Mrs Falconer has sat on two Licensing Panels and as Vice Chairman of the Council had already carried out five functions.

- **POLICE REPORT**

PC Mike Crisp was unable to attend the meeting but sent his report. He reported three crimes as follows:

- (a) An insecure car was left unattended at Levington Marina and a disable parking permit stolen.
- (b) A motor boat left unattended, within Levington Marina, was entered and water skiing equipment stolen.
- (c) A secure and unattended car parked at Levington Creek, was entered by smashing the rear quarter light window and a wallet stolen that had been left on display.

PC Crisp attended a report of a possible burglary in progress at a house in Red House Walk, where the occupants were away on holiday. It turned out that builders were legitimately carrying out work for the occupiers. PC Crisp mentioned the incident to demonstrate the excellent community spirit in Levington. He also advised that the Police had received a number of reports of vehicles with single male occupants parked in the lay by on the Old A45 on the left towards the T-junction, and the situation is being monitored.

The Parish Council Meeting opened at 7:55pm

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jane Timmins and Linda Sharp

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (REMINDER OF CODE) -There were no Declarations of Interest.**

**3. TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE 7<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2009**

The Minutes were agreed 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 REPORT**

Internal Audit report had been signed off by Heelis and Lodge.

2008/2009 Audit – Annual Return approved by External Auditor BDO Stoy Hayward LLP on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2009. Auditor recommended that a detailed Risk Assessment be made next year.

£8000 was transferred from the Council’s Community Account to the Bonus Account, in Barclays Bank.

**Payments already made:**

11.7.09 Ian Angus (Wood for signs & dog bin bags)	£71.09
3.8.09 SALC Clerk’s Workshop	£28.75
P. Pryke - Printing newsletter	£55.75

**Payments to be made:**

**Clerk’s Salary & Expenses**

42 hrs @ £8.261	£347.00
Expenses – Cartridges	£ 49.95
(Refilled cartridges not working properly- getting too used – had to buy a new HP cartridge)	
Leverarch files	£ 2.78
Tel	<u>£ 5.00</u>

**£404.73**

P. Pryke - reimbursement regarding Anglia in Bloom costs £121.20

Suffolk ACRE Insurance £260.41

BDO Stoy Hayward – External Audit £155.25

**6. PLANNING**

(a) **C09/0097** – Land adjoining workshop, Walk Farm, Stratton Hall. Supported by Planning Committee, 10.2.09. (This case is not yet determined)

(b) **C09/0495** – Levington Hall – site for proposed barn, access 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. Planning permission granted by SCDC on 15.7.09.

**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. Planning Permission granted 7.8.09

**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.

- (c) Letter written to SCDC Planning Department regarding the application for a 'Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence at 1 Heath Cottages. Letter received from SCDC confirming that this site had been visited and they do not deem the level of activity to be a material change of use. The owner was notified that any significant change on the site may require a joint use to that of domestic and business

**7. CORRESPONDENCE**

- (i) Request from Terry Hunt, Editor, East Anglian Daily Times, asking if the Parish Council would contribute any important stories from within the village. Report of the Anglia in Bloom event was forwarded. The Council would consider any future possible articles.
- (ii) Email received from Suffolk County Council registering username and password, to use the Suffolk e-Consultation system.
- (iii) Weekly - Rural Services Community newsletters
- (iv) Email received from NALC Leadership Academy – Invitation to attend this years three day event at Warwick University from 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> September.
- (v) SCC Revised bus services. (Bus operator changed)
- (vi) SCDC – Outdoor Playing Space Contributions
- (vii) Email from Orwell Housing Association – looking to use newsletter/website for advertisements.

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

**8. LOCAL REORGANISATION IN SUFFOLK**

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

**9. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK**

Letter received from SCDC – Proposed changes to the Core Strategy have now been considered by Cabinet. They agreed a further round of consultation on changes to the housing distribution. Consultation is likely to commence early September 2009 and run for no more than 8 weeks. It urged Town and Parish Councils to consider and respond to the document. It was agreed that when the consultation documents were received, Councillors David Long, David Pryke and Ian Angus would take a look and draft a response. If the documents arrived in time, the response would be discussed at the PC Meeting on November 4<sup>th</sup>.

East of England Plan. An invitation to a Public Consultation Event on 16<sup>th</sup> September from 7.00pm at Endeavour House had been received and would be attended by David Pryke.

**10. AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

Planning and design documents were loaned to the Parish Council by Nacton Parish Council, regarding 6 Affordable Homes to be built in land north of The Cottage, 1-6 Field View, The Street, Nacton and had been circulated to the Parish Council. The planning application was approved on the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009 and the project appears to be moving on.

**11. PROJECTS PROGRAMME**

The Chairman gave an update on the Projects Programme, which concentrated mainly on the village hall extension options. The Village Hall Trustees and Parish Councillors are looking at two options. David Pryke ran through the second option which is to make a much bigger extension to the left of the building, divided into two rooms, one for storage and one for the archives. This option will be more expensive and David Pryke will be working on a proposal for a grant or lottery funding. If the cost is not achievable then the first option would be considered. Before any decisions are made regarding alterations to the village hall, all parishioners would be consulted on the options.

**12. ANGLIA IN BLOOM**

Pat Pryke presented her report on 'Anglia in Bloom'. The two judges visited Levington on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2009 to do the judging. They remarked that the Levington portfolio was the best they had seen out of the 14 judgings they had done and was the only one that had shown the village through the seasons.

The results of the judging will be known on 16<sup>th</sup> September at an Awards Lunch near Gorleston.

Pat wanted to record a big thank you to the 'Levington Bloomers' team and everyone else in the community who worked so hard to make the village look wonderful on the 10<sup>th</sup> July and that includes the

businesses of Levington Park.

It was agreed that the village planting of annuals, that had been put in place for 'Anglia in Bloom' should be replaced with more hardy displays.

### 13. OPERATION STACK

A further letter had been written to Mr Guy McGregor, County Councillor at Suffolk County Council asking for clarification on the current situation regarding Operation Stack. The Parish Council had first written in March 2009 requesting to know what progress the working group had made towards a permanent arrangement for Operation Stack, but no information had yet been received.

It was agreed that if no response was received by the next meeting, the Council would approach Mr. McGregor and if appropriate, arrange a meeting.

### 14. EMERGENCY PLANNING

Mr Mike Topliss came along and met with the Parish Council on the 12<sup>th</sup> August and gave a very informative talk on Emergency Planning. Linda Sharp will take forward the plan for the parish and the Chairman suggested that a meeting should be held to discuss the draft, in due course.

### 15. SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAMS

- (i) Email from David Long was sent to Sgt. Peter Street regarding antisocial behaviour in the lay by between Levington Bridge and A1156, to bring this to the attention of the Safer Neighbourhood Teams.
- (ii) Next public meeting will be held at 6pm on Monday 21st September, in Levington Village Hall and a Tasking Meeting on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September at 2pm.

### 16. STOUR AND ORWELL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

- (a) Report produced by David Long and David Pryke had been sent as a response, on behalf of the Parish Council, to the 2009 Stour and Orwell Management Strategy. This had been circulated to the Parish Council and also a copy forwarded to Nacton Parish Council. The Chairman of Nacton brought up the subject of jet-skis and this was discussed. It was agreed that if this was mentioned in the report, the Parish Council would highlight the subject as a supplementary point.
- (b) A communication had been received from the Essex Shoreline Management Plan giving dates of a further round of key stakeholder meetings. David Long would attend the meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> November at Tendring, involving the Stour and Orwell Rivers.

### 17. 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 would be 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

### 18. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

- (i) Tree and Church field - Nothing to report.
- (ii) Village Hall - David Pryke had made a report earlier
- (iii) Sir Robert Hitcham's Almshouses - Copy of Annual Report of the Trustees received from Louise Overbury, Clerk/Treasurer.
- (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 mentioned that there would be a Foreshore Litter Pick on the 19<sup>th</sup> September 2009.
- [vi] SALC - Ian Angus would attend the next SALC area meeting on Monday 14th September 2009.
- [vii] Port of Felixstowe Liaison Meeting - 17<sup>th</sup> September 2009. This meeting will be attended by Pat and David Pryke and Ian Angus

VILLAGE FORUM – There were no questions.

The meeting ended at 9:00pm.