

LEVINGTON AND STRATTON HALL PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 2 MARCH 2011 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7:15 PM

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

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

Members of the Public: Mr Barrie Hawtin

- **VILLAGE FORUM**

No comments.

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

Patricia O'Brien attended and provided the attached reports. She added that the meeting of the Full Council to discuss the LDF, planned for March 9th, had been postponed. This is to allow time to consider fully a late report by Suffolk Wildlife Trust. A full analysis has to be undertaken and it is unlikely that the LDF will come to Full Council for several months.

Patricia also highlighted that she has modest funds under the Quality of Life Scheme available for highway-related projects. Councillors commented that they would like to provide a better lay-by opposite the Almshouses and Patricia agreed to put this idea forward for a contribution. The Clerk was asked to obtain a quotation for the likely cost.

Councillor Pat Pryke thanked Patricia and SCC officers for their input on the recent public transport changes (see also item 12 below).

Attention was drawn to the recent Evening Star article with a photograph of the laptop presentation, featuring Patricia and representatives of the other contributors.

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

Veronica Falconer attended and presented the attached report. She added that the result of the Foxburrow Farm planning appeal was expected in the following two weeks.

This being the last meeting before the election David Long thanked Patricia and Veronica for their efforts on behalf of the parishes over the last four years.

- **POLICE REPORT**

PC Paul Smith attended and presented the attached report. He also highlighted the need for continued vigilance for thefts of heating oil. There had been 60 thefts from vehicles in the Felixstowe area of which 42 were from unsecured vehicles.

Councillor Angus raised the reported problems of unsocial behaviour at the Creek car park. PC Smith confirmed that police would regularly patrol the area and would keep a record of this. He explained that it was difficult to prosecute offenders unless caught in the act of an offence.

The Parish Council meeting was declared open at 8pm.

The Chairman stressed that all items on the agenda should be considered in the light of the proposed budget cuts.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (REMINDER OF CODE)

None declared.

3. TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF 18 JANUARY 2011

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) It was reported that the bank balances as at 28 February 2011 (reconciled to bank statements to 31 January) & reviewed by the Finance Group were:

- Current account: £3,390.44;
- Deposit account: £15,701.56;

(b) The clerk presented a schedule of the actual v budget for 11 mths to 28 Feb 2011. This showed forecasts for the year were within budgeted expectation.

(c) Councillors heard that income since last meeting was:

- £25 for newsletter subscriptions;

(d) Income anticipated before next meeting:

- Flower Show committee donation of £260 towards more chairs with arms. (These had been ordered 9 Feb 2011);

(e) Payments made since the last meeting (and agreed at the previous meeting):

- £334.62 – Clerk Marian Rose - salary & expenses to 31 December 10;
- £18.00 – SALC - for Clerk's election course;
- £70.20 – Councillor Pat Pryke - January newsletter;

(f) Payments anticipated to be made before next meeting were approved:

- Clerk's Salary & Expenses to 28 February 2011:

M Rose: 71 hours @ £8.344 =	£ 592.42
Expenses	<u>£7.20</u>
Total pay to Clerk =	<u>£597.62</u>

- Councillor Pat Pryke – March newsletter printing estimated at £70;
- SCC for 6 new arm chairs for Village Hall from Gopak £319 (inc £53 VAT);
- Village Hall hire fees for the year (budgeted at £400)
- Donations to:
 - St Peter's Church £150;
 - Levington Village Hall £350.
 - At the suggestion of Councillor Ian Angus, Nacton primary school's budgeted donation will be carried forward to the next financial year, to be pooled with other resources.

6. PLANNING

Activity since last meeting:

- C11/0090 – two storey extension at 1 Keepers Cottage, Levington: PC planning committee had raised no objection. SCDC was advised of this on 8 February;
- David Pryke agreed to draft a letter to SCDC planning dept re Hill Cottage changes. This is to be copied to Suffolk Preservation Society. This was to be circulated among the Councillors for review and approval.

7. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK/ DRAFT CORE STRATEGY

The Parish Council's letter dated 20 January 2011 in response to the SCDC consultation was formally placed on record.

8. EMERGENCY PLAN

Councillor Sharp provided an update. 57 households had now responded. A meeting had been held with Robin Buncombe from the Suffolk Joint Emergency Planning Unit who provided examples of other Emergency Plans. It was agreed that Councillors should meet again to consider how our own Plan should best be presented.

The SALC Area Meeting on 7 March is to have a speaker on Data Protection. David Long, Pat Pryke & Marian Rose will attend to seek advice on whether registration under the Act will be required.

9. FIRE SERVICE CHANGES – CONSULTATION

A consultation document had been circulated explaining proposed changes to Felixstowe fire station. Councillors were aware that a new fire station was being built at Ransomes Europark, which would be closer to the parishes. Therefore it was agreed that the Council had no particular comment to make on the proposals for the Felixstowe station. The Clerk was asked to write accordingly.

10. LOCALISM BILL & LIBRARY CLOSURES CONSULTATION

A questionnaire/survey form had been circulated by SCC and it was agreed this should be completed stressing support for the continuation of the mobile library service. It was suggested that, as a little-used mobile police van also attends the village regularly, these services could liaise to use one vehicle, thus making cost savings.

11. DELIVERY PROBLEMS FOR ADDRESSES IN BRIDGE ROAD

It had been reported at the November post-meeting-forum that some addresses in Bridge Rd had trouble with deliveries because of duplication of numbering. The Clerk reported that a further problem had arisen on 10 February when mail addressed to Red House, Falkenham was delivered to Red House Walk, Levington.

The Clerk had been unable to obtain a satisfactory reply to her approaches to Royal Mail but it was known that the problem arose only when a relief postman was on duty.

Councillor Ian Angus had met with affected residents and property owners who had agreed to put up clearer house name and number signs. Councillor Nick Hopkins also agreed to raise a proposal at the AGM of the Red House Walk Residents' Association to provide more signs.

12. PUBLIC TRANSPORT & BUDGET CUTS

Councillor Pat Pryke's report is attached in which she sets out the proposed changes to the local services from 4 April 2011. These include a trial feeder service to replace the current bus through the village.

13. UNDERGROUNDING ELECTRICITY CABLES CONSULTATION

Details of the public consultation on National Grid's approach to undergrounding cables had been circulated. It was agreed that the Parish Council should respond supporting the undergrounding.

14. SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

Councillor Ian Angus (as local Chairman) confirmed that a public meeting was held in Levington Village Hall on 25 January 2011. No issues had arisen from this meeting. The Council had also been notified of the 'Don't be a loser' campaign which involves police visits to all households to give advice on crime prevention. Councillors agreed they would support these visits wherever possible.

15. CORRESPONDENCE

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

Items of particular interest and not considered elsewhere on the agenda were;

- (a) Home Farm response to help prevent water from coming off one of their fields onto the road on a Z bend – Clerk to follow this up with the manager;
- (b) the new chevron warning sign at Stratton Hall Drift was now in place. This had been funded though the County Councillor’s 2010 Quality of Life Scheme. It was noted that a branch needs to be trimmed back to allow the sign to be seen more clearly;
- (c) the SCDC’s comments on the air quality checks at the Seven Hills crematorium were noted;
- (d) it was noted that the Council had joined the SALC Delegated Services Email Group. This is likely to be for information purposes only rather than for direct contributions.

16. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

- (a) Tree and Church field – nothing to report.
- (b) Village Hall – a meeting is to be held on 17 March and Councillor David Pryke planned to attend a Funding Workshop on 10 March.
- (c) Sir Robert Hitcham’s Almshouses – Councillor Angus reported that sadly two residents were unwell but had nothing else to report.
- (d) Local Transport – Councillor Pat Pryke’s report is attached, as referred to at point 12 above.
- (e) & (f) Coast & Heaths/Footpaths – Councillors David Pryke & Ruth Payce reported that the footpath to the decoy has been repaired with sleepers by Suffolk County Rights of Way team.
- (g) Nacton School – Councillor Ian Angus reported that this is their centenary year and various activities are planned to commemorate this.
- (h) SALC – the next area meeting was due to be held on 7 March 2011. David Long, Pat Pryke & Marian Rose are to attend.
- (i) Port Liaison Committee – Councillors Ian Angus and Pat Pryke are to attend the next meeting on 10 March 2011.

Before closing the meeting the Chairman, David Long, thanked everyone involved in the Parish Council for all their time and efforts in the last four years including Clerks Jean Ruthen and Marian Rose. He, in turn, was thanked for his own contribution and chairmanship.

Approved by

Date

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POINTS FROM POST-MEETING VILLAGE FORUM:

It was noted that, to date, there had been no response to the request for a new Village Recorder. Derek Girling had kindly prepared a list of the type of items he currently records. Councillors noted that if a new Recorder cannot be found then the role could be covered by dividing the ‘work’ among several volunteers. A newsletter article will highlight the vacancy again.

The meeting closed at 9:20pm.