

LEVINGTON AND STRATTON HALL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 5 JULY 2010 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 Payce
Marian Rose (Parish Clerk)

Patricia O'Brien (County Councillor)

Member of the Public: B Hawtin

- **VILLAGE FORUM**

No comments.

- **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Patricia O'Brien attended and was congratulated on her appointment as Vice-chair. She provided the attached report and also commented that County Councillors were still unclear on how local government would be affected by the new coalition government. She had been told verbally that the District Council would not consider any large developments until guidance was received from the new National Government. Parish Councillors asked Patricia to seek written confirmation of this as this was potentially serious issue.

Patricia also advised that the entrance to the new Seven Hills Crematorium is to be designed so that traffic would not be able to turn right when exiting the crematorium.

Parish Councillors agreed to the County Council's suggestion of chevron signs at Stratton Hall Drift corner would be a useful warning to traffic.

- **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Veronica Falconer was unable to attend but supplied the attached report.

- **POLICE REPORT**

PC Paul Smith provided the attached report. The meeting heard that the crime mentioned at item 2 at the Marina, was considered a very 'professional' job and therefore was considered to be more serious.

It was also reported that the barrier at Nacton foreshore was not being put up at the proper time in the evenings. This is being pursued with Orwell Park School.

The Parish Council meeting opened at 7:50pm

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None.

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

3. **TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF 11 MAY 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 confirmed that Annual Return & Accounts for year to 31 Mar 2010 were currently with Heelis & Lodge, internal auditors and were due to be passed to BDO, the external auditors, on 23 July;

b. The bank balances at 31 May 2010 (reconciled to bank statements) were £3,088 in current a/c; £15,471 in deposit a/c;

c. Income since last meeting:

- £0.26 from Treasury interest on 2 ½ % Cons Stock;
- VAT refund £932 for the year to 31 Mar 10.

d. Expenditure since last meeting:

- Clerk's Salary & Expenses to 30 April 2010 £482.67;
- SALC subscription £108;
- Pat Pryke – May 2010 newsletter £60.20;
- SALC re RP training £105.75.

e. Payments to be made:

- Clerk's Salary & Expenses to 30 Jun 10: £640.96;
- Pat Pryke – July newsletter printing estimated at £60;
- Ian Angus re return of newspaper box deposits £10.
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f. Locality Budget: £500 has been made available to the Parish Council this year. Councillors were asked to consider how this may be spent in readiness for a decision at the next meeting.

6. SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

Ian Angus is now Chairman and reported that there had been no significant local problems. The next local public meeting is to be held on 21 September 2010 at Levington, which Councillors will attend. A non-public meeting is to be held on 28 September.

7. PLANNING

Two Councillors had attended the recent Planning Forum arranged by Suffolk Coastal District Council ('SCDC'). They had clarified that, when responding to SCDC on local planning applications, the Parish Council is at liberty to report any reservations and may give only conditional approval in cases where this was considered more appropriate than full support or objection.

SCDC have issued guidance on implementing the Local Development Framework and the County Councillor's comments above were also noted.

The position on current planning applications was reviewed:

- C10/0544 re branch line dualling – supported 26 Mar 10 - still no decision from SCDC;
- C10/0950 & 0933 re Hill Cottage renewal – supported with suggested amendment 13 May 10 - SCDC approved 2 June 2010;
- C10/1026 & 1027 re Hill Cottage new application – supported 13 May 10 but suggested that earlier application be amended - no decision as yet from SCDC;
- C10/0989 re Stratton hall reservoir – supported 13 May 10 - no decision from SCDC;
- C10/0940 re Scotts research station - supported 27 May 10 – approved by SCDC 22 June 2010;
- C10/0942 re stables in Bridge Rd - supported 27 May 10 - no decision from SCDC;
- C10/1448 re 8 Red House Walk – Parish Council planning committee was to meet 6 July to consider this.

8. EAST OF ENGLAND PLAN

This appears to have been abolished by the new Government.

9. OPERATION STACK

The Chairman and Parish Clerk had met with Des Pooley the new Police Inspector responsible for Operation Stack. They had explained the problems residents have experienced with poor signage and communication when Stack is implemented. Inspector Pooley suggested a dedicated text alert system the register for which could be co-ordinated by the Parish Council. Councillors felt this would be useful for residents and that this should be advertised in the next newsletter. Emergency access had also been discussed at the meeting and Inspector Pooley agreed to ask Highways Agency not to block off the full road width but to leave room for emergency vehicles to access and leave the village easily.

10. DOG FOULING

It was agreed that a dog-litter bin be erected on the footpath behind Red House Walk at a cost of £175, to be paid from general reserves. This would be erected by Parish Council which will also be responsible for the provision of bags but would be emptied free by SCDC.

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

The following items were considered:

- a) Reply to SCDC re bin collection review. The Parish Council had no issues at the present time but any suggestion of collections less often would be opposed.
- b) SCDC had acknowledged the Parish Council's letter to planning scrutiny committee. The working party was due to report 21 June.
- c) Suffolk Coasts & Heaths management strategy 2010.
- d) SCC letter & brochure re speed guidelines – Councillors had found this helpful and suggested it be passed to a resident who had been seeking extension of the speed limit in Bridge Road.
- e) SALC newsletter.
- f) SALC/LAIS update.
- g) SCC letter seeking incidents of anti social behaviour.
- h) Forest Heath DC re Village Plan – we replied that we have no current version but explaining our approach.
- i) Police re changes to opening hours of public enquiry desks.
- j) SCDC re current allotments provision & waiting list (none).
- k) SCDC request for comments re Essex Shoreline Man Plan. The Parish Council had written supporting SCDC comments.
- l) Patricia O'Brien had sent a copy of her letter to the Secretary of State re Adastral Park. It was agreed that the Parish Council should also write in support of her comments.
- m) SCDC outdoor & indoor playing provision & planning implications. A response outlining the use of Church Field was agreed.
- n) Census 2011 Councillor Handbook. A note was made to mention the census in the January 2011 newsletter.
- o) Suffolk Coasts & Heaths statutory landscape designations letter & booklet and newspaper.
- p) SCC re police station siting – this had also been mentioned in the District Councillor's report.
- q) Suffolk Foundation newsletter.
- r) SCDC letter & guidance re interim planning policy – also referred to in point 7 above.
- s) Rural Coffee Caravan – Councillor David Pryke has arranged for this community-help project to visit the village for the September Lunch Club.

12. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

- (a) Tree and Church field - field to be cut soon. The long growth on the central reservation of the old A45 is now posing a danger to drivers. SCDC will be asked to cut this. Councillors expressed their gratitude to Messrs Hardwick, Stennett and Rackham for their help in keeping the village tidy.
- (b) Village Hall - operational finances are satisfactory. The AGM will be held on 24 November 2010.
- (c) Sir Robert Hitcham's Almshouses – two possible future tenants have been identified for when any vacancies arise. The Trustees are seeking grants for bathroom improvements.

- (d) Local Transport - the new bus shelter had been damaged but now repaired. One incidence of failure in service.
- (e) & (f) Coast & Heaths/Footpaths - nothing to report – probably due to the very dry weather.
- (g) Nacton School – the school has received an award for art both inside and outside the classroom.
- (h) SALC - area meeting report. SALC are seeking that Parish Councils are made aware of any vehicular planning applications. A planning survey is to be circulated. SALC hopes to have Guy McGregor (SCC Highways Councillor) as speaker at its next meeting.

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 9:00pm.

Approved by

Date

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POINTS FROM POST-MEETING VILLAGE FORUM:

None