

LEVINGTON AND STRATTON HALL PARISH COUNCIL
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 7TH JANUARY 2009 IN
THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7:15 PM

Present: David Long (Chairman), David Pryke (Vice-Chairman)
Ian Angus, Mike Barker, Pat Pryke, Linda Sharp,
Jane Timmins, Jean Ruthen (Parish Clerk)

Veronica Falconer (District Councillor)
PC Mike Crisp

Members of Public: B. Hawtin, R. Hardwick

- **VILLAGE FORUM (Parish Council Agenda Items Only)**

There were no comments.

- **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Patricia O'Brien was unable to attend the meeting, but sent a report, which included noting the delay in the LGR process. The Secretary of State required more information on Norfolk's financial case and so the Boundary Committee will not be reporting until February and the Secretary of State's decision is now due on 27th March 2009.

Mrs O'Brien will be presenting several reports to Cabinet on Tuesday, 13th January, one of which will be the results of the consultation on Secondary School provision for Felixstowe. The other reports include the Annual Performance Assessment for Children's Services, by Ofsted.

- **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

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

Mrs Falconer wished the Parish Council a Happy New Year and also congratulated everyone in Levington on winning the Calor England Village of the Year competition.

Mrs Falconer sat on a Shared Services Committee Meeting, a Joint Scrutiny along with a Rights of Way Committee Meeting to discuss a Position Statement (on how the Rights of Way Team were coping). It was felt that Suffolk Coastal should be more commercial and financially driven in their approach to dealing with Public Right of Way matters.

She also reported that the Local Development Framework documents are now out for consultation and comments have to be received by 20th February 2009. This is a very vital piece of work that will shape the district's planning rules for the next 17 years. The site specific document sets out a number of site development options which landowners have presented to the Council.

The decision with regard to the Boundary Changes has been delayed following Norfolk's Judicial Review outcome where the Judge commented on the rather limited Local Government Review consultation.

Operation Stack – There will be an awareness event at Endeavour House, 'Life of a Lorry Driver', where haulage operators are to meet officers and councillors to help Suffolk County Council find out more about a professional lorry driver working in and out of Felixstowe on a daily basis and to gain an insight into potential solutions to Operation Stack.

- **POLICE REPORT**

The Chairman welcomed PC Mike Crisp, our new SNT Area Police Officer to the meeting. He reported on the crimes in the parish since the last meeting as follows:

Theft of wallet from a secure and unattended vehicle parked within the Marina

Theft of industrial saw from construction site close to Walk Farm

An 18' boat taken from a mooring at the Marina and subsequently recovered from the opposite bank of the river.

An outboard motor stolen from a boat moored at the Marina.

2 separate addresses in Church Lane had mirrors stolen from the driveway.

Theft of wallet from a secure and unattended vehicle parked at Walk Farm.
Convoy of 7 vehicles racing through village and Marina.

The Chairman thanked PC Crisp for attending the meeting and giving a report.

The Parish Council Meeting opened at 7:45pm.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (REMINDER OF CODE)

There were no declarations of interest.

3. TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE 5TH NOVEMBER 2008

The minutes were agreed by the Parish Council as a true copy. It was noted that in the list of councillors present, Linda Smolowitz had recently married and her name was now Linda Sharp.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MINUTES (Not covered elsewhere on the agenda)

Suffolk Wildlife Trust – Escorted estuary walk. D. Long had contacted M Wright accepting the SWT's offer of a escorted walk and as Mr Wright was away at the moment, it was left with him to contact us to arrange a suitable date and time.

5. FINANCE REPORT

- (i) Precept - D. Pryke proposed that the Precept for 2009/2010 be confirmed at £5,500. This was seconded by M. Barker and unanimously agreed by the Parish Council.
- (ii) Locality Budget of £300 given to Parish Council by our County Councillor – Email received from Patricia O'Brien agreeing to the purchase of 10 chairs for the Village Hall and the order would be placed with the Suffolk County Council directly.

Payments already made:

2.12.08. P. Pryke – Printing Nov Newsletter		£ 47.00
13.12.08. Rail fare to London for Village of Year	P. Pryke	£ 17.75
“ “ “	D. Long	£ 17.75
21.12.08. P. Pryke. Village of Year Events in Village Hall		£ 52.80
29.12.08. I. Angus. Keys cut for newspaper box		£ 15.00

Payments to be made:

Clerk's Salary & Expenses			
42 hrs @ £8.071		£339.00	
Expenses – Cartridge	£ 9.99		
Tel	£ 2.60		
	£ 12.59		£351.59

All payments were agreed by the Parish Council.

6. PLANNING

C08/1831 – Sea Breeze, Bridge Road, Levington, IP10 ONA –Supported by Parish Council -
24.11.08. Letter from SCDC 21/11. This application has now been withdrawn.

C08/2034 – Suffolk Yacht Harbour, Stratton Hall, IP10 0LN – Erection of security station –
Supported by Parish Council.

C08/2127 – 1 & 2 Stratton Hall Cottages, Stratton Hall Drift – Erection of replacement dwelling.
Planning Committee Meeting arranged for 08.01.09.

CO8/1975 – Pinetree Cottages, Bridge Road, Levington IP10 0NA – Erection of rear
conservatory. Planning Committee Meeting arranged for 08.01.09.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

- (i) SCDC has teamed up with ScreenEast, an agency responsible for promoting, developing and supporting the film and media industries in the East of England, to encourage more filming in Suffolk. Further information could be found on www.screeneast.co.uk and this was noted by the Parish Council.

- (ii) SCC – Draft Fire Action Plan 2009/2010 – Circulated 4/11/08 and noted.
- (iii) Suffolk Coastal Services – Recycling and Refuse Collection arrangements for Xmas and the New Year. Circulated 30/11/08 and put on notice boards.
- (iv) Suffolk Coastal Resource Network Autumn Newsletter – Circulated 3/11/08 and noted by Parish Council.
- (v) NHS – Application for Outline Consent to Dispense – Gipping Valley Practice, Barham. Circulated 30/11/08 and noted.
- (vi) Barclays Bank plc – Information regarding Business Bonus Account. Circulated 30/11/08 and noted.
- (vii) SCC – Waste Core Strategy Issues and Options – Strategic sites. Circulated 8/12/08 and noted.
- (viii) ‘Access Suffolk’ Linking Communities to Nature – circulated 13/12/08 and noted.
- (ix) Letters of congratulations for winning the Calor Village of the Year from the Chairman of SCDC, Chief Superintendent of Suffolk Constabulary and Elmswell Parish Council.
- (x) Babergh District Council – Draft Supplementary Planning Document – Circulated 16/12/08 and noted.
- (xi) Suffolk Coast and Heaths – The opportunity to apply for a grant from their CONNECT Scheme. The Parish Clerk would write to SC&H advising that the Parish Council did not wish to make a submission this time, but would be grateful if they would inform us of any proposals that relate to our area which might come from anyone else.
- (xii) SCC – Planning & Performance Improvement – Councillor Briefing 9.2.09 – London 2012 Olympic & Paralympic Games. Circulated 29/12/08 and noted.
- (xiii) SCC – Temporary Closure of part of Church Lane to carry out water mains works - start date 8th January. Notices put on boards and copied to The Ship and Suffolk Yacht Harbour for information. It was reported that the electricity would be turned off for a day on the 12th January and another part of the village on the 28th. I. Angus would ensure that the residents of the Almshouses had assistance if needed.
- (xiv) Communities and Local Government – Communities in Control – Circulated 29/12/08 and noted.
- (xv) SCC – Adult and Community Services – Brochures for ‘Older People’ – On notice boards and circulated 29/12/08. Noted by the Parish Council.

8. LOCAL REORGANISATION IN SUFFOLK

Notification of further Town and Parish Liaison Meetings to be held in January, on the local Government review, had been received from SCDC and it was agreed that D. Long, D. Pryke and I. Angus would attend the meeting on 14th January at Kesgrave Conference Centre. The Boundary Committee for England had now been given an extra six weeks until 13th February to report, but, unless notified otherwise, it was presumed that the meeting would still be held. Suffolk Coastal District Council’s Budget for 2009/2010 was also on the agenda.

Results of the Town and Parish Survey of the Local Government Reorganisation process were circulated to the Parish Council. The Parish Council had contributed to this survey.

Letter received from Suffolk County Council dated 15.12.08 – Unitary councils in Suffolk. Independent report on affordability of the financial cases published www.boundarycommittee.org.uk.

9. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

A Local Development Workshop held on the 19th November 2008 at Dennington Village Hall was attended by I. Angus and D. Pryke.

Consultation Documents on Suffolk Coastal Local Development Framework were received on 5th December 2008.

1. Core Strategy and Development Control Policies (Preferred Options)
2. Site Specific Allocations & Policies (Issues and Options)
3. Core Strategy and Development Control Policies (Sustainability Appraisal)

(A further letter was received from SCDC dated 12th December 2008, correcting some errors in earlier documents). Two CDs had also been received and these would be put on circulation.

The documents were being considered by the previously agreed working group of D. Long, D. Pryke and I. Angus and an opening discussion document by D. Long, on behalf of the working group, was circulated to the Council for their consideration, which also identified site specific submissions of land which are in the neighbourhood.

Given the seriousness of this subject it was agreed to arrange an additional meeting of the Parish Council on 3rd February 2009 for full consideration of the proposed response from the working party and to formally agree the Parish Council 's response to meet the Suffolk Coastal District Council's closing date of 20th February 2009.

10. SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAMS

Ian Angus attended the first Tasking Meeting held on November 18th 2008 and tabled a report, the main points of which are as follows:

The new amalgamated Safer Neighbourhood Team, which covers Felixstowe, the Trimleys and the rural parishes, including Levington, met to decide how the work of the new enlarged team would be organised.

It was decided that the rural parishes will have their own Community Engagement Public Meetings every three months, starting in March, at which all members of the public can have their say about local issues that they wish addressed. Three of the most pressing issues will then be taken to a 'multi-agency Tasking Meeting', at which alternative strategies will be discussed and plans made for improving each situation.

If pressing issues need to be addressed between meetings, they can be brought to the attention of the police who are in charge of administering the workings of the new system.

It is hoped that the whole Safer Neighbourhood Team will be able to concentrate full-time on their new tasks and will not be taken off to do other more urgent police work.

New SNT: Sergeant Peter Street (peter.street@suffolk.pnn.gov.uk)
P.C. Mike Crisp (michael.crisp@suffolk.pnn.police.uk)
Both on 01473 613500. This is the main switchboard – ask for Felixstowe – if there is no one in Felixstowe they will still be contactable by telephone.

The next meeting will be held on 17th March at Bucklesham Village Hall after which there will be a Community Engagement public meeting.

I. Angus reported that there was a lot of goodwill at the meeting and he felt it was very positive considering the three S N Teams were being merged into one.

11. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

Freedom of Information Act - The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) has produced a new model publication scheme that should have been adopted and operated by all public authorities by 1st January 2009.

The Parish Council had not been directly notified of this information. A copy of the new model publication scheme had been obtained and circulated to the Parish Council and was formally adopted at this meeting. The 'guide to information' was received and it was agreed that if any councillor wished to make further comment on it they should contact the Parish Clerk and it would be approved at the next Council meeting. It was noted that most of the information listed in the 'guide to information', was already available on the website.

It was agreed that the 'model scheme document' and 'guide to information' should be notified to the community by our usual communication of newsletter and website.

12. VILLAGE OF THE YEAR

Levington had won the Calor England Village of the Year 2008 and Pat Pryke tabled a report, the main points of which were as follows: (A copy of this report will be available if requested).

Chairman David Long and Councillor Pat Pryke travelled to London on Tuesday 2nd December 2008 to attend the Calor Village of the Year Luncheon Awards Ceremony at the Guildhall, London.

David and Pat were delighted to accept on behalf of Levington residents:

- The Eastern Environment Award (£500)

- The Calor Eastern Village of the Year 2008/09 Award (£2000) and the
- ultimate prize, the Calor ENGLAND Village of the Year 2008/09 Award (£7000)

With the cheques came several framed certificates and two metal plaques to display in the village.

On their arrival back in the village, many villagers packed into The Ship to celebrate the news that Levington had won the Calor ENGLAND Village of the Year. The Parish Council expressed their thanks to Mark Johnson, the manager of The Ship for organising 'free drinks all round!'

Calor's citations and press release were attached to the report. Of note, within the document, Calor's Managing Director said he had the great pleasure and privilege of passing on the congratulations of HRH The Prince of Wales, a long time supporter of the competition.

The Parish Council held two events in the Village Hall on Monday 8th December, to celebrate the win. A DVD showing a day in the life of Levington, including still clips of events and seasons of the year had been made for the competition and there had been many requests for copies.

Mrs Pryke wished to thank everyone that supported or got involved in any way to help achieve the England title. Everyone had worked together and there had been a genuine sense of community spirit. Mrs Pryke reminded everyone that winning this competition meant that we were Village of the Year until next December so some thought ought to be given to this fact.

It was agreed that a put an item in the Newsletter requesting suggestions to consider on how to utilise the prize money – all replies to be sent to Pat Pryke by 31st January 2009. These would be considered by the Parish Council and a decision would be made that would best benefit the village. A decision of where to place the external plaques and internal framed certificates had also to be made and this would involve the Village Hall Trustees.

M. Barker had agreed to produce another banner so it can be put up during the year when appropriate.

13. ANGLIA IN BLOOM

Some thought had been given to entering Levington in Anglia in Bloom this year, the Small Villages' Section. The village would be assessed on not only flowers, permanent landscape shrubs and local environment, but also on community spirit and participation. Judging would be by a portfolio document and a one hour visit in July by two judges.

Councillors Linda Sharp, Pat Pryke and David Long had agreed to co-ordinate an entry, some of which would be in place from the Village of the Year submission. It was felt it was very important that volunteers from the village became involved to create an organising committee. More details would be placed in the Newsletter for a response by 31st January 2009.

14. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

- (i) Tree and Church Field – D. Long reported that he was successful in obtaining hedging plants under the Tree Planting Scheme (free of charge), for along the edge of the Almshouses. D. Long and R. Hardwick would plant them in a few weeks.

An approach was received from Suffolk Biodiversity Partnership for a questionnaire on a Parish wildlife projects survey to be filled in and returned. D. Long had completed and circulated the form to all Councillors for their comments on a decision. It was agreed that D. Long would return the completed form.

- (ii) Village Hall AGM was held on 27th November – Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer were re-elected. Accounts were approved. The next meeting of the committee would be held on the 5th February 2009.
- (iii) Sir Robert Hitcham Almshouses – I. Angus reported that a condition survey would be carried out in this month. M. Barker reported that some of the lighting approaching the Almshouses did not appear to be working and I. Angus would investigate this.

- (iv) **Local Transport** – nothing to report.
- (v) **Coast & Heaths/Footpaths** – M. Barker reported that the Cliff Path seemed to be a bit overgrown. It was noted that it was unlikely to be cut by Suffolk County Council contractor until the spring.
- (vi) **Emergency Planning** – This was deferred to the next Council Meeting
- (vii) It was noted that many of the road signs from ‘Operation Stack’ are left lying around. This would be mentioned to the Police at the next meeting, to be arranged..
- (viii) There would be a Litter Pick on Saturday 21st March. A Church Yard Clear-up on 4th April and a Foreshore Clear-up on 18th April.

VILLAGE FORUM – There was an enquiry regarding the progress on the refurbishment of the War Memorial. The Chairman advised that he was still waiting for a revised quotation from a stonemason.

The meeting closed at 9:40pm