

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

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**Present:** David Long (Chairman), David Pryke (Vice-Chairman)  
Councillors Ian Angus; Linda Sharp  
Marian Rose (Parish Clerk)

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

**Member of the Public:** M Barker

- **VILLAGE FORUM**  
No comments.
- **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**  
A copy is attached.
- **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**  
A copy is attached.
- **POLICE REPORT**  
PCSO Amy Clarke attended and her report is attached.

**The Parish Council meeting opened at 7:30pm**

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**  
Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Pat Pryke, owing to family illness, and Councillor Nick Hopkins who was attending a SALC training event.
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (REMINDER OF CODE) – None declared.**
3. **TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF 5 JANUARY 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 finance report for the 11 months to 28 February 2010 was reviewed.
  - (b) Since the previous meeting income of £583 had been received from the sale of Village of the Year DVDs and a donation from KPMG, both towards the digital projector purchased for the village.
  - (c) The following payments were approved:  

Payments made since last meeting:

    - 05.01.10 Clerk's Salary & Expenses to 31 Dec 09 £472.61;
    - 12.01.10 Suffolk ACRE re insurance for digital projector & camcorder £34.92;
    - 30.01.10 Pat Pryke re Jan 10 newsletter printing £58.75;

Payments to be made:

• Clerk's Salary & Expenses to 28 Feb 10:	
M Rose 42 hours @ £8.344 =	£ 350.45
M Rose re stationery etc:	
Printing paper x 3	£7.49
Printer cartridge	£17.99
Post-it notes & 'neon' stickers for notice boards	£1.48
Telephone calls – 13 @ 20p	<u>£ 2.60</u>
	<u>£29.56</u>

Total payment to Clerk = £380.01

- Donations budgeted:

Village Hall	£350.00
Church	£150.00
School	£250.00;
- Village Hall hire costs – estimated at £150;
- Pat Pryke – March newsletter printing estimated at £60;
- SALC re NH& MER training £135.

## 6. PLANNING

- a) SCDC has advised that planning permission is required for the stables which have been erected on land between Red House Walk and White House Farm. SCDC had also reported that the land owners were taking professional advice on the matter.

## 7. CORRESPONDENCE

Councillors noted the following correspondence:

- a) Correspondence between a parishioner and site owner re disagreement with driver of the vehicle belonging to contractors working at Levington Hall. No action deemed appropriate.
- b) Email from East of England re Plan Pan review – now completing analysis of all responses;
- c) SCC Draft Fire Action Plan - public consultation on draft Integrated Risk Management Plan for 2010/11
- d) Email from SCDC Investigation Unit re fraud awareness – clerk has asked for posters to display;
- e) Letter of thanks issued to County Councillor for the £400 grant under the Locality Budget towards the cost of refurbishing the war memorial.

## 8. LOCAL AUTHORITY REORGANISATION IN SUFFOLK

The report produced by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government revealed that a decision on any Suffolk re-organisation should be deferred pending 'county constitutional convention'. Councillors noted no further action was required at this time.

## 9. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

SCDC cabinet meeting on 24 February 2010 had approved the draft framework and this was to be considered at a full Council meeting on 18 March 2010 – David Long to attend.

## 10. OPERATION STACK

The chairman gave a report of the meeting of the Steering Group he and David Pryke had attended on 25 February 2010. A copy is attached. That meeting had not resulted in any conclusion and it was agreed that Councillors should meet again to consider their response to the points raised.

**11. HIGHWAYS**

- (a) Suffolk County Council has rejected the request for an extended speed limit in Bridge Road. Councillor Angus will make representation to SCC to try to get this decision overturned.
- (b) Suffolk Coastal District Council has also rejected the request for a ‘sharp bend’ sign at Stratton Hall Drift. Agreed that application be made for funding potentially available from our County Councillor’s Quality of Life Scheme.
- (c) the dates of planned overnight closures of A14 were noted.

**12. SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM**

The next local meeting is to be held on 23 March 2010 at Levington, which Councillors will attend.

**13. TELEPHONE BOX**

BT have advised that they do not wish to replace the damaged telephone box. The Parish Council has not yet been formally consulted by SCDC. Villagers’ views to be invited via the Newsletter.

**14. BUS SHELTER**

The foundations have been laid for the new bus shelter on the Ipswich bound carriageway of the old A45. This work is being carried out at no cost to the village.

**15. FOOTPATHS**

- a) Access to and inappropriate use of Church Field was discussed. The issue had been raised in the newsletter and it was agreed to take no further action for the time being.
- b) SCC comments in response to complaints about the state of riverside path were still awaited.

**16. ESSEX SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

There is a drop in session on 25 March 2010 which David Long is to attend.

**17. STOUR & ORWELL ESTUARIES STRATEGY**

David Long had attended the Strategy launch on 26 February at which the attached report was presented.

**18. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS**

- (a) Tree and Church field - bird boxes were to be put up shortly with the aid of local Scouts.
- (b) Village Hall - Further application would now be made for funding for the planned extension as first attempt had failed.
- (c) Sir Robert Hitcham’s Almshouses – One vacancy and one incumbent in hospital. Fence to be erected at rear.
- (d) Local Transport - nothing to report.
- (e) & (f) Coast & Heaths/Footpaths - see earlier comments.
- (g) Port of Felixstowe - Liaison Meeting - next meeting 18 March 2010, in Cambridge – David Long to attend.
- (h) SALC - area meeting on 8 March 2010 - David Long & Ian Angus to attend.

**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:**

Mr Mike Barker raised the following points:

- Telephone box: can be useful when a landline telephone is out of order as mobile signal is poor in the villages; he suggested that BT's policy on the distances between public pay-phones be ascertained; Councillors confirmed these points would be considered as part of any consultation;
- Operation Stack: the police should use some sensitivity in allowing public access through the Stack area, particularly at times when the alternative route is affected by snow or ice; he also commented that anecdotal evidence suggested the Port do not adequately communicate the reasons for closure;
- Village of the Year signs: these have not been erected and it is some time since the competition. Councillors confirmed they had some sympathy with his comments but agreed that they were aware and would address this as soon as possible.