

**LEVINGTON AND STRATTON HALL PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY**  
**5 JANUARY 2010 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7:15 PM**

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**Present:** David Long (Chairman), David Pryke (Vice-Chairman)  
Councillors Ian Angus; Pat Pryke & Nick Hopkins  
Marian Rose (Parish Clerk)

Veronica Falconer (District Councillor)

**Members of the Public:** B Hawtin

• **VILLAGE FORUM**

No comments.

• **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Patricia O'Brien had given her apologies owing to illness. She had nothing to report apart from the continuing unification issue. She also commented that she was mindful of our emails re Stack but had nothing to add to that debate.

• **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

A copy of her report is attached.

She also asked for confirmation of the location of the site of some stables which had recently been erected and on which Councillors had been seeking clarification as to whether planning consent was required (see also point 7(c)).

• **POLICE REPORT**

Sergeant Peter Street, who was unable to attend the meeting but his report is attached.

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

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

- Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Linda Sharp, owing to illness.

**2. COUNCILLOR VACANCIES**

- Nick Hopkins was co-opted to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mike Barker.
- There had been no submissions from parishioners seeking an election for the vacancy caused by the resignation of Jane Timmins. Councillors will consider a further co-option in the near future.

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

**4. TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF 4 NOVEMBER 2009**

The Minutes were agreed and signed as a true copy.

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

None.

**6. FINANCE REPORT**

- (a) The finance report for the nine months to 31 December 2009 was reviewed.
- (b) Precept indication for 2010/2011: the Finance sub-committee's recommendation that the precept be set at a similar level to the current year was accepted. The budget for the year allowed an increase in the hours payable to the Clerk to reflect the anticipated work load.
- (c) It was agreed that an application be made for £5,500, for the 2010/11 Precept.

(d) The following payments were approved:

Payments made since last meeting:

- 22.11.09 British Legion – poppy wreath & donation = £25;
- 22.11.09 Pat Pryke – Nov 09 newsletter printing = £57.50;
- 06.12.09 SALC – New Clerk CILCA intensive course + reference books = £502.45 (mitigated by £100 NALC bursary & VAT recoverable);

Payments to be made:

- Clerk's Salary & Expenses to 31 Dec 09:

M Rose	49.5 hours (inc 15.5 hrs on courses) @ £8.344 =	£413.00
M Rose re stationery		<u>£59.61</u>
Total		
Total pay to Clerk =		<u>£472.61</u>

## 7. PLANNING

- Following Jane's resignation Nick Hopkins agreed to join the planning sub-committee, joining David Long, David Pryke, Pat Pryke & Ian Angus.
- SCDC had confirmed that the application for a reservoir at Stratton Hall Drift has been withdrawn;
- SCDC are to follow up a villager's query that the stables etc on land between Red House Walk and White House Farm are built on concrete foundations which may mean planning consent is required.

## 8. CORRESPONDENCE

- Suffolk Coasts & Heaths AONB – Connect scheme grant up to £500 available. No claim will be made under this scheme.
- Suffolk Coastal Services – bottle bank credit £37 courtesy of The Ship.
- SCDC – re future of certain red telephone boxes in Suffolk – n/a for Levington;
- SCDC – re electoral register for 2009/10 now available. MER has asked for an emailed version of the full register. She was asked to investigate if this could be used as basis for delivery of the Parishes newsletter.
- Boundary Committee advice to Sec of State – see point 9 below;
- Nacton PC – poster re affordable housing (put on main notice board 5 Dec) – to be highlighted in the next Newsletter.
- Acknowledgement from British Legion for £25 donation & poppy wreath;
- Local Works & SALC - re Sustainable Communities Act & lobbying for amendment to Bill to allow input by Town & Parish Councils; as asked, we wrote to the 7 MPs successful in Private Member's ballot. One (Burt, member for NE Beds) had presented the amendment & has had 1<sup>st</sup> reading.

## 9 LOCAL REORGANISATION IN SUFFOLK

New recommendations had been published by Boundary Committee. David Long had produced a report for Councillors giving a brief resume of previous considerations and communications with the Boundary Committee attached. Further representations invited & it was agreed that we would respond in support of the new 'no action' option whilst reiterating our earlier comments and reservations.

## 10 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

As previously agreed, a letter supporting the Martlesham development plans was issued on 13 November 2009. The next SCDC cabinet meeting has been rescheduled for 24 February 2010. David Long to attend.

## **11. OPERATION STACK**

It is almost two years since Operation stack was imposed on the village as a 'temporary measure'. There had still been no constructive progress in arranging a meeting with Mr Guy McGregor, County Councillor at Suffolk County Council. However a meeting of the Steering Group was due to be convened before the end of the year, 2009. This was to be monitored to ensure the meeting takes place as promised. It had recently been discovered that local bus companies have decided not to attempt to drive along the old A45, through the stack area, but had failed to notify passengers effectively. This will be added to the list of issues arising which require clarification.

## **12. HIGHWAYS**

The Parish council's request to extend the speed limit further along Bridge Road to the railway bridge had been refused by SCC on basis that the road does not present a danger nor has a history of accidents. Agreed that Ian Angus will make further representation to SCC.

There had been no response to the request for a 'bad bend' sign at Stratton Hall Drift. Clerk will pursue.

## **13. SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM**

The Police report attached refers to concerns about activities by the lay-bys on the old A45. It appears that the suspected activities are not illegal unless witnessed and reported.

The local Response Team will now report to Ipswich.

## **14. TELEPHONE BOX**

It was reported that, recently, the public telephone box & its foundations had been badly damaged by a car. BT had attended to make the box electrically safe but the telephone remained unusable. It was not yet known if BT will reinstate the telephone box.

## **15. VILLAGE WEBSITE**

It was noted that parts of the village site were still out of date. Councillors agreed to review the content of the site and a future Newsletter item would stress to village organisations that any new information should be submitted to David Pryke. The matter was referred to a future meeting for follow up.

## **16. ESSEX SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

David Pryke updated Councillors following a recent stakeholder event. Copy of his report is attached.

## **17. NATIONAL GRID PYLONS – SUFFOLK**

Chattisham & Hintlesham PC had requested support for their opposition to the proposals to extend pylons between Bramford & Twinstead. It was agreed that the Council wished to support the villages currently affected.

## **18. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS**

- (a) Tree and Church field - bird boxes were to be put up in the near future with the aid of local Scouts.
- (b) Village Hall - AGM was held on 26 November at which there was a presentation of the proposed extension project. Application would now be made for lottery funding.
- (c) Sir Robert Hitcham's Almshouses – work had been carried out in connection with fire safety. One incumbent in hospital.
- (d) Local Transport - report from Pat Pryke attached.
- (e) & (f) Coast & Heaths/Footpaths - see earlier comments.
- (g) Port of Felixstowe - Liaison Meeting - next meeting due in March 2010, in Cambridge.

- (h) SALC - 4 Councillors attended the AGM on 9 November 2009 at which they gave a presentation on our experiences in the Village of the Year competitions.

**There being no other business the meeting was closed at 9:50pm.**

**Approved by**

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**Date**

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**POINTS FROM POST-MEETING VILLAGE FORUM:**

A request was made for an extension of the routes taken by the gritting lorries so as to include Church Lane as far as the Church and The Ship. Councillors felt this was unlikely to succeed except at times of Operation Stack when a better case could be made. An alternative solution was discussed whereby additional grit bins be obtained for placement opposite the Church and The Ship entrance. Villagers could then apply the grit/salt to the road as required. Costs of such bins will be investigated with a view to possibly obtaining local business sponsorship for funding of one or both. The grit would be supplied free by SCC.

It was also reported that horse riders had been seen using the Church Field. This was not allowed. There is a permissive footpath only to this area and health & safety issues also arise. Advice will be sought from local advisory body.