

**LEVINGTON AND STRATTON HALL PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON**  
**TUESDAY 18 JANUARY 2011 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; Linda Sharp; Nick Hopkins; Ruth Payce  
Marian Rose (Parish Clerk)

Patricia O'Brien (County & District Councillor)

**Members of the Public:** Mr Derek & Mrs Rosanne Girling

- **VILLAGE FORUM**

No comments.

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

Patricia O'Brien attended and provided the attached report.

She also mentioned that proposed cuts to library services were to go for consultation for which response were due in April 2011.

Patricia had also attended a meeting the previous day on the Local Development Framework. She noted that there was a great deal of disharmony among Councillors. She had had to leave before the end of the meeting and thus was not yet aware of any conclusion reached.

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

Veronica Falconer sent her apologies as she was unable to attend but supplied the attached report.

- **POLICE REPORT**

No officers attended but had sent apologies and had submitted the attached report.

**The Parish Council meeting was declared open.**

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (REMINDER OF CODE)**

None declared.

3. **TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF 3 NOVEMBER 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) It was reported that the bank balances as at 31 December 2010 & reconciled to bank statements were:

- Current account: £3,904.51;
- Deposit account: £15,651.56;

The bank reconciliations had been reviewed by finance group to 30 November 2010;

- (b) The Clerk presented a schedule showing the actual income & expenditure against the budgeted forecast for the 9 months to 31 Dec 2010. This showed that the forecast for the year was within the Council's budgeted expectation.
- (c) A proposed budget for the year ended 31 March 2012 was also presented. Councillors wished to try to keep the annual precept application at £5,500, a level which has been maintained for seven years. The budget forecast showed that to achieve this it may be necessary to reduce donations for the year 2011/12. However this would be reviewed in January 2012. It was formally agreed that precept application for £5,500 be submitted for 2011/12;
- (d) Receipt of the following income received since last meeting was noted:
- £250 - from the Village Hall committee, passing on the donation from KPMG for the laptop;
  - £5.03 - recycling credits from The Ship;
  - £15 – for newsletter subscriptions.
- (e) The following income is anticipated before the next meeting:
- Flower Show committee donation of £260 towards more chairs with arms for the Village Hall (Councillor David Pryke was asked to look into this purchase through SCC);
- (f) Payments made since the last meeting were noted:
- £449.14 – Marian Rose - salary & expenses to 31 October 10;
  - £26.26 – Councillor Ian Angus re dog bin bags;
  - £70.84 – Councillor Pat Pryke for the November newsletter;
  - £25.00 - British Legion for poppy wreath & usual donation;
  - £984.62 – Councillor David Pryke – new laptop etc (funded by donations + VAT recoverable);
  - £57.31 – Councillor Ian Angus re flag for Church purchased in 2009;
  - £66.34 – MrFlag.com for a new flag for Church;
  - £115.55 - Bob Hardwick for Anglia in Bloom planting. £206 had been budgeted for this (in Projects);
  - £5.00 – M Rose return of newspaper box key deposit re M Barker (via Councillor Ian Angus);
  - £34.99 - Councillor David Pryke for pointing device for use with digital projector.
- (g) Payments due to be made before next mtg:
- Clerk's Salary & Expenses to 31 December 10:
 

M Rose 38 hours @ £8.344 =	£ 317.07
re stationery etc:	
Printing paper x 4	£9.00
Selotape	£2.35
Telephone calls – 31 @ 20p	<u>£6.20</u>
	<u>£17.55</u>
Total payt to Clerk =	<u>£334.62</u>
  - Pat Pryke – January newsletter printing estimated at £70;
  - Councillor Ian Angus re dog bin bags - £26.26;
  - SALC – re election course for Clerk - £18.00.

## **6. PLANNING**

Activity since last meeting:

- C10/2820 – Seabreeze, Bridge Rd, Levington: the Clerk reported that this application had been approved by SCDC on 21 December 2010. The draft plans had previously been conditionally supported by Parish Council;
- C10/1026 – Hill Cottage, Levington: this application concerned a Grade II listed building and Councillors had noted that the materials used, in the now completed works, appeared to be different from those shown in the plans originally submitted to them. In response to Councillors' query, SCDC had advised that the required materials and design had been changed at their behest but that the changes were not considered significant and thus the Parish Council's views on the revisions were not sought. Councillors felt this issue highlighted a serious weakness in the planning system and agreed that a letter should be issued to the Planning Department at SCDC setting out Councillors' concerns.

## **7. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK/ DRAFT CORE STRATEGY**

Councillors David Long, David Pryke & Ian Angus had reviewed the Consultation document and subsidiary data on behalf of the full Parish Council. Their findings were outlined and it was agreed that their comments be submitted to SCDC by the consultation closing date of 23 January 2011.

## **8. OPERATION STACK**

David Long outlined the main points of the meeting of the Steering Group on 23 November 2010 at which the County Council's further investigations of two options (both Levington) were revealed. He also referred to the letter (previously circulated) written to SCC on behalf of the Parish Council in response to the meeting. It was felt that the present temporary arrangements would continue. Councillors will continue to seek to improve the working arrangements by working with the police and SCC. It was agreed that an informal meeting be arranged with the new acting Police Inspector Julian Ditcham.

The potential problems caused by the proposed A14 emergency diversion routing and implications if this should occur during Stack were also discussed. This issue had been raised by Councillors at a recent meeting but had not been resolved and was still under consideration by the Highways Agency and SCC Highways.

## **9. EMERGENCY PLAN**

Councillor Sharp reported that 55 households had responded. She was in process of collating the data and it was agreed that Councillors would consider how this should best be presented. A meeting would then be arranged with the SCDC expert to consider the next stage.

## **10. PUBLIC TRANSPORT & BUDGET CUTS**

Councillor Pat Pryke's report is attached in which she sets out the proposed changes in use of Seniors' Free Bus Passes and the implications to the village bus service proposed by SCC in a document previously circulated to Councillors. She remained hopeful that the village would retain some form of bus service in future.

## **11. SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM**

Councillor Ian Angus (as local Chairman) confirmed he had nothing to report. The next public meeting was due to be held in Levington Village Hall on 25 January 2011. A notice highlighting police priorities had been placed on village notice boards.

**12. DELIVERY PROBLEMS FOR ADDRESSES IN BRIDGE ROAD**

Following comments made during the Village Forum after the last meeting, regarding postal delivery problems because of duplication of numbering, reported at addresses in Bridge Road, the Clerk confirmed she had written to the Royal Mail Sorting Office on 11 November 2010 to seek their advice/comments. In response to a complaint logged on Royal Mail’s website, Royal Mail had issued an apology and confirmed that the local delivery office had been notified. The Clerk would pursue this. It was also agreed that the relevant owners and residents affected (in Bridge Road, Red House Walk & Walnut Tree Cottages) should be asked to consider installing clearer signage.

**13. LOCALISM BILL**

It was noted that a briefing document from SALC issued 18 January 2011 was a useful guide. A consultation document had also been issued on the proposed closures to local libraries. This will be carried forward to the next meeting for comment by 30 April 2011.

**14. CORRESPONDENCE**

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

**17. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS**

- (a) Tree and Church field – nothing to report.
- (b) Village Hall – nothing to report.
- (c) Sir Robert Hitcham’s Almshouses – nothing to report.
- (d) Local Transport – Councillor Pat Pryke’s report is attached, as referred to at point 10 above.
- (e) & (f) Coast & Heaths/Footpaths – Councillors David Pryke Ruth Payce have not yet had a response to their query concerning the possibility that the footpath to the decoy has been diverted and also that it is too wet to be used.
- (g) Nacton School – nothing to report.
- (h) SALC – the next area meeting was due to be held on 7 March 2011. Provisionally agreed that David Long, Pat Pryke & Marian Rose would attend.
- (i) Port Liaison Committee – nothing to report.

**There being no other business the meeting was closed.**

**Approved by**

**Date**

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**POINTS FROM POST-MEETING VILLAGE FORUM (taken prior to the meeting by full agreement of Councillors):**

a. Chairman David Long read a letter received from Mr Derek Girling offering his resignation as Village Recorder with effect from 30 June 2011. Derek confirmed he was willing to continue to keep his daily weather records but wished to pass on the mantle of keeping the village diary of events etc. He would like to present his historical records to the Parish Council for retention so that they may remain publicly available.

On behalf of the Parish Council, David thanked Derek and his wife Rosanne for their hard work and dedication over the years but understood their decision.

The council will consider how they may help find a new Recorder and an appropriate article will be placed in the next newsletter. Derek agreed to set down a guide to the recording he has typically undertaken in the past.

b. Derek Girling also reported that the branch of Trimley and District British Legion is to close later this year, citing lack of members. The Standard often used at village Remembrance Day services will have to be 'laid up' – possibly in Trimley Church – and would not be available again.

However, the Poppy Appeal is administered separately and Derek will still be able to obtain the village wreaths and poppies.