

LEVINGTON AND STRATTON HALL PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

This report covers the most unusual of times as we cope with the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The following report takes into account the implications of the Parish Council having to adapt to differing ways of working and communicating, especially as we have not met in person for over one year but still try to conduct parish business.

1. Parish Council Meetings

Under the cover of Government legislation, the Council met during the year via Zoom.

There were 5 meetings during the year and a 100% attendance by Councillors.

The Council continues with two vacancies.

In addition to these meetings, there were two village meetings: one on a contentious planning application and one on Quiet Lanes.

2. Planning

All planning applications continue to have full scrutiny by the Council, and each application is considered at meetings held in public. The Parish Council added a 2nd part to its existing examination process by ensuring that wider implications were always considered.

18 planning applications were considered. 8 were permitted, 2 withdrawn, 1 refused, and 7 are pending.

The Council remains vigilant on the wider environment and keeps a close interest in developments within the East Suffolk Coastal local Plan and the impact of national infrastructure projects. The following are examples:

- I. Site 12.56 – Housing development at Red House Farm.
- II. Site 12.20 – Business Park, Old Felixstowe Road
- III. Site 12.21 – Ransomes, Nacton Heath – possible pollution effects and traffic volume at Seven Hills junction.
- IV. Freight Management Facility, Old Felixstowe Road. This is a Sizewell C National Infrastructure Project about to be considered by the National Planning Inspectorate. The Parish Council has contributed to the 5

stages of consultation over eight years and, more recently, submitted comments to the National Planning Inspectorate.

The Parish Council understands that changes and developments will take place but is mindful of the detrimental impact on our built and landscape character which we cherish and determined to protect.

3. **Finance**

The Council continues to effectively manage its finances and operates within budgets.

The Council did not increase its precept for 2021/22 and has healthy reserves.

A satisfactory audit of accounts was received.

Good governance is also monitored by the Internal Control Statement.

4. **Various Items**

During the year, the Council considered various topics and the following is an example of them:

- i. Footpaths
- ii. Anti-social behaviour
- iii. Sewer and fresh water supply
- iv. Quiet Lanes
- v. Rubbish/Fly Tipping
- vi. Maintaining Church Field, maintaining the natural character of this area whilst taking into account public safety.
- vii. Adopting a Mission Statement

5. **Thank you and Appreciation**

- i. Our Parish Clerk and Responsible Officer, Angie Buggs, was appointed at the end of 2019 and has had to cope with the impact of Covid restrictions on the working of the Council. She has achieved this with the utmost professionalism and skill, and the Parish Councils thanks her for this highly valued support.
- ii. Our County Councillor Patricia O'Brien retires this year, and we are eternally grateful for all her support over the past 20 + years.

We also thank our District Councillors Melissa Allen and Richard Kerry for their support during the year.

- iii. Sergeant Russell Mason joined the local police team, and we thank him for his help and support.
- iv. Thank you to Daniel Garner who bravely took on the role of publishing the Newsletter. He has done an admirable job in producing it during these difficult times. Let us hope a volunteer comes forward to replace him as nears the end of his stint.

- v. To help us residents through the difficult times Ole Henriksen, Robert Fisher and Ian Angus stepped up to help support us, and communicate with us, and we thank them for this achievement, and to all the resident volunteers who made this work so successfully.

- vi. And, personally, thank you to my fellow Councillors for your support during the past year.

Parish life continues, although in a vastly different way from previous years, and I am confident we can continue to work and support each other as we move towards our emerging routine of life.

David Long

Chairman

21 April 2021