

# **LEVINGTON AND STRATTON HALL PARISH COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES OF THE PLANNING MEETING HELD AT 9.30 AM ON** **18 November 2015**

**Present:** David long [Chairman], David Pryke, Ian Angus, James Ramsey, John Bailey, Pat Pryke

**Apologies:** Nick Hopkins [away on holiday]

**Declarations of Interest:** None

**Lead Councillor:** David Pryke

**Members of the Public:** None

### **The Committee met to consider the following Planning Application:**

**Application No:** DC/15/4107/VOC

**Location:** Walk Farm, Stratton Hall

**Proposal:** Variation of condition 3 of original application to allow for an extension, of the life time of the planning permission, to 30 years, for solar panels & ancillary works

### **Minutes of Meeting**

The Parish Council Planning Committee has now held two meetings in public to consider this planning application. The first was on Wednesday 4 November 2015 and the second on Wednesday 18 November 2015.

The Planning Committee had before it the planning application for an extension of five years to the already approved twenty five year period, plus the additional aspect of a £15,000 contribution by Lightsource Renewable Energy Holdings Ltd to a Community Benefit fund for the benefit of Stratton Hall parish, via the Levington and Stratton Hall Parish Council.

The Parish Council sees these two parts of the planning application as being inextricably linked: they are part of the one planning application.

Given that the Community Benefit payment could be seen by the general public as a financial inducement, the Parish Council decided not to take a decision at their first meeting held on 4 November. It strongly felt that more guidance was required from our planning authority, Suffolk Coastal District Council.

To enable this to happen an extension to the planning consultative period was sought, and this was agreed to 18 November.

An email dated 9 November was sent to Mr Ridley seeking guidance on our position, particularly in respect of a Community Benefit payment. To date, and at the time of our second meeting which was at the end of our time extension, a response has not been received.

Therefore, at the second meeting today, 18 November 2015, the Parish Council was not willing to make a decision on this planning application until there was clarity on the ethical and legal situation of Community Benefit payments from Suffolk Coastal District Council. It further agreed that Suffolk Coastal District Council should not ethically make a decision on this planning application until there was clarification on Community Benefit payments.

Although an extension of the consultation period was granted to today's date, the Parish Council felt that it would be unfair to be pressed for a decision until we received assurances about our ethical and legal position, which should also delay any decision by Suffolk Coastal District Council until we were all clear of our position.

David Long  
Chairman, Levington and Stratton Hall Parish Council  
18 November 2015