
LEVINGTON AND STRATTON HALL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY JANUARY 17th 2018 at 7:15pm

Present: Councillors: David Long (Chairman) ('DL'); David Pryke (Vice-Chairman) ('DP'); Pat Pryke ('PP'); Ian Angus ('IA'); Andrew Abram ('AA'); James Ramsey (JR);
– Parish Clerk: Jane O'Hear (JO)
SCC Councillor Patricia O'Brian ('PO), SCDC Councillor Susan Harvey (SH)
Two members of the public.

Apologies: John Bailey ('JB')

- **VILLAGE FORUM (Agenda Items Only)**
None
- **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT - JANUARY 2018

Firstly, May I wish you all a happy and successful New Year.

I find that January is always a difficult month to report on for one is looking back at happenings in December, which is such a pressurised month from a work and home perspective. However, here goes.

Home to School Transport

Suffolk County Council has launched a school travel consultation.. In Suffolk £21m is spent per year on school transport. Over the past two years SCC has managed to save £2.6ml from its school and post 16 travel budget, making it more efficient. However, despite this, the budget is £3ml overspent. Changes to school travel policies now need to be considered so the service is affordable and capable of meeting growing demand.

The two and half month consultation began December 12th and ends February 28th.

SCC current school transport policies go above the legal requirements and the consultation seeks views on changing these policies and presents 3 alternative options:

1. In Sept.2019 change the school travel policy so that it is line with legal requirements.
2. From Sept.2019 introduce changes on a phased basis as a child joins or moves school. This would cost SCC an estimated £8.8ml to implement.
3. Make no changes to school transport but take savings from other services provided by SCC.

There is to be a full programme of events and opportunities for discussion, plus consultation workshops. In the Martlesham Division that is to be at **Kesgrave Conference Centre** 12 Acre Approach, IP5 1JF on **January 16th** in the Orwell Room from 19.00 until 20.30.

Retention of business rate pilot scheme

SCC has been named as one of the 10 pilot areas for a new government scheme to retain 100% of business rate from Council Tax in 2018/19. More information is needed before SCC knows how much additional income this could generate.

Warm Homes Fund

Local authorities, working together as the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership, have been successful in securing funding from the first round of the Warm Homes Fund for a project worth £4.3 million.

Suffolk's local authorities are now able to provide fully funded central heating systems to 514 fuel poor households across Suffolk over the next three years.

The new £150m fund was established by National Grid using part of the proceeds from the sale of the company's majority stake in its gas distribution business.

Upper Orwell Crossings

Structural and environmental tests to finalise the detailed design for the Upper Orwell Crossings in Ipswich are to begin early next year.

Ground investigation works, which could last up to three months, are scheduled to begin on 15 January 2018. Contractors Fugro GeoServices Ltd will dig trial holes and deep boreholes both on land and in the water.

The works will determine the underlying properties of the ground and river bed. The land based work will take place between 7am and 7pm Monday to Friday and 7am and 1pm on Saturdays, while the work in the water will be carried out 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Noise levels will be monitored closely throughout the works.

High Needs Funding Consultation

On 13th December 2017 Suffolk County Councils launched a consultation, to reform the way in which education providers are funded for delivering high needs support to children/ young people with special educational needs and or disabilities.

Funding is not being reduced, the consultation is to determine the fairest way to use the budget SCC has.

The consultation will run until 9th February 2018.

ADASTRAL Park - 1.50m slot

Members, I hope will be aware that I have objected to this application from its inception in 2008 and that they will have read all of my letters of objection dating back to 2009. I objected to the 1st proposal for 1,000 homes, which shortly became 2,000 when Felixstowe refused 1,000 of the original 1,600 proposed. I have continued my objections over the years. My objections remain the same.

The proposed road infrastructure will provide limited junction widening and traffic lights. Not enough mitigation to smooth the extra 4,000 cars from the development. Rat runs will be created as vehicles escape the ever-lengthening Qs. A wide area will be impacted. SCDC have given no thought to these matters and I quote p.122 para 6.117 “ It may be necessary for the Council to take a more strategic view beyond 2027 in relation to the highway network” Surely a far-sighted council would have done so! The Orwell Bridge, a strategic lifeline for the Port of Felixstowe and for the revival/survival of Ipswich is not mentioned. Accident, weather cause delay on an all too frequent basis. That this has not been examined is perplexing. Please take into consideration.

The Highways Authority state that it will accept the proposal only on the basis that all the mitigation measures are met. I ask the question, “Who is to police the mitigation?” Committee a question to be debated.

Finally, I have always been opposed to this not only because of the inevitable disappearance of the AONB, the inability of an inadequate road structure to cope, but of even greater concern is the legacy that we leave our children and grandchildren. Not one to be proud of!!

Patricia O'Brien

County Councillor for Martlesham Division.

• DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Firstly may I wish you all a healthy and happy new year.

The key challenge for 2018 will be the work to prepare for a single Council in 2019. In November The Rt Hon Sajid Javid said he was 'minded' to support the plans to combine SCDC with Waveney DC. We now await the Secretary of State's final decision. Several Member Working Groups have been set up, these cover several topics including number of Councillors, financial and governance arrangements. Until 8th January anyone can make representation to Sajid Javid by email sajid.javid@communities.gsi.gov.uk

- **BROWN BINS**

SCDC will introduce a charge of £43 for brown bins in line with most councils in Norfolk and Suffolk. This service will be entirely voluntary with people having to 'opt in' and register to receive the service. A timetable will be drawn up including details of how and when people can join and pay should they opt to use the service. As soon as this information is available it will be issued to residents. Providing the organic waste collection and composting service currently costs SCDC £1.2 million a year. This cost has been exacerbated by the £200,000 per year reduction in support for recycling organic waste previously provided by the County Council which is also trying to make savings wherever possible. Our East Suffolk Business Plan identifies the need for us to become increasingly financially self sufficient in the future.

- **LEISURE FACILITIES**

Woodbridge Pool and Leisure facility is being modernised and brought up to date. Then it will be Leiston's turn. Finally there will be a consultation starting in January for Felixstowe and its surrounding villages. The consultant period will last for 6 weeks and responses will be used to make sure we get the best leisure provision in the area.

- **SCOTTISH POWER NETWORK**

Work is proceeding in preparation for the undergrounding of the cables which affects Falkenham, Kirton, Newbourne, Hemley and Waldringfield in the Ward which I serve. I attended a presentation which was fascinating. A drone had filmed the entire length of the works from Bramford to Bawdsey. There have been presentations of some of the archaeological finds.

- **ADASTRAL PARK APPLICATION**

Finally this application is being heard on Monday January 15th. Several of the Parish Councils have taken the opportunity to make valuable contributions during this process working with Ben Woolnough the Planning Officer responsible for processing this application. Their help has been very much appreciated.

- **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS**

Town and Parish Councils are still being encouraged to work towards these. Some Parishes have claimed funding and paid for a trained planner to assist with their preparation.

PLANNING COMMITTEE DECISION

Jan 18: DC/17/5374/FUL – Research Station Scotts Miracle-Gro Ltd, Levington Park, Bridge Road - Change of use from open garage to enclosed office and fit-out, including retrospective planning approval for changes to roof from asbestos sheet to insulated composite panel and metal window frames to double glazed, insulated white UPVC white window frames and doors. No objection.

MAIN MEETING:

The Parish Council ('the PC') meeting was declared open at 7.32pm

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

JB

- 2. CODE OF CONDUCT & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

- 3. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 5th SEPTEMBER 2017, 12th OCTOBER and 1st NOVEMBER 2017**

All Minutes were approved and duly signed as a correct record

4. MATTERS FOR REPORT FROM THE LAST MINUTES (not covered elsewhere on the agenda)

None

5. FINANCE

- Following an extensive Finance Advisory Group review of anticipated 2018/19 budget demands, (including new data protection procedures required to comply with the May 2018 (General Data Protection Regulation - GDPR) a Precept of £7650 was approved for submission. To date, no potential use of SCDC Locality Budget contribution has been identified.

(ii) SUMMARY OF RECENT TRANSACTIONS

Payments since Nov 1st:

01/11/17	£39.26 – Clerk office purchases
01/11/17	£416.28 – Clerk salary and expenses (Oct)
27/11/17	£105.35 – Newsletter production
27/11/17	£8.33 – SALC AGM Dinner (IA to reimburse)
30/11/17	£359.88 - Clerk salary (Nov)
30/11/17	£40.00 – GDPR training
12/01/18	£27.00 – SALC payroll to Sep 20 2017
12/01/18	£22.93 – Purchase of fido bags & a newspaper key
12/01/18	£380.94 – Clerk salary and expenses (Dec)

Income since Nov 1st

03/11/17	£84.60 - Clerk tax refund
27/11/17	£6.00- Newsletter sub
04/11/17	£1.17- Interest

6. DATA PROTECTION LEGISLATION IMPACT

Following attendance at 2 introductory seminars in December, JO summarized key impact on PC data storage and communication procedures, including the required mandatory data audit and appointment of a Data Protection Officer. As parish clerks are the parish council data administrators, NALC recommends appointing an external DPO. Research suggests Suffolk based LCPAS consultancy is offering the most competent and cost effective DPO service for a fee of £300 p/a. It was agreed:

- To acquire DPO services from LCPAS and for JO to follow up with CEO Jayne Cole to confirm this appointment for L&SH PC.
- Create a task group comprising JO,DL, IA and DP to assess/monitor application requirements of DPO

7. PLANNING – RECENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS & PC COMMITTEE RESPONSES

- Dec 17: DC/17/2633/FUL – Proposed side/first floor and porch extensions, 4 New Cottages, Nacton Rd – recommended by L&SH PC and subsequently permitted
- Dec 17: DC/17/4411/FUL - Change of use of two farm buildings to light industrial, Walk Farm, Old Felixstowe Road – approved by L&SH PC but as some local concerns expressed also requested, considering potential referral to SCDC Planning Committee Chairman and Vice-Chairman
- Jan 18: DC/17/5367/FUL – Proposed extension and alteration to existing facilities block, Suffolk Yacht Harbour, Stratton Hall – no objection from L&SH and considered a welcome enhancement

OTHER PLANNING RELATED ACTIONS

- Nov 17: DC/16/4757/FUL – JO notified Naomi Gold at SCDC Planning Department about recent reports of excessive new lighting fitted to the exterior walls at the switch house. An investigation was requested as the six new lights appear to be permanent which is in contravention of the stipulated planning conditions. These specifically refer to only one light that is only on when triggered by a motion sensor. Ms Gold followed up with Chris Sugars from UK Power Network and was assured that additional lighting was temporarily required during the construction phase of the project which should be completed in January 2018. IA to make informal enquiries with the project manager at Levington site and if required thereafter JO will contact Chris Sugars.
- Dec 17: Following expressed local concerns about size and height of newly erected fence at The Barn Bridge Rd, JO requested an inspection by SCDC Planning Department. Advised this would take place during January 2018 and if deemed appropriate, the case will be passed to the Area Planning Officer for follow up.

OTHER NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED

- DC/17/3885/FUL – Erection of green sawn oak clay tiled roofed motorcycle store, St Martins, Bridge Road – application permitted
- DC/16/9857/FUL – Alterations ground and attic floor and positions of window and doors – Pollys Cottage, The Drift – application refused

8. SOLAR FARM COMMUNITY PAYMENT

Approaching 2 years since offer of a potential community benefit payment of £15,000 was made by solar energy business Lightsource to L&S Hall PC, JO contacted the representative agent Quintasenergy to clarify whether the proposed payment is still available and this was confirmed.

Welcoming this news, the PC agreed:

- As the original documents are out of date by nearly 2 years, request a new offer document from Quintasenergy
- If identical to original document, as so much time has elapsed discuss possibility of a revised, current and simplified document with Quintasenergy

9. VILLAGE PEDESTRIAN GATE

IA advised that the work on ground levelling and additional topsoil would commence as soon as a suitable date and time could be arranged.

10. COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

Following a meeting between IA and the police to identify a satisfactory place from which speedwatch can operate; the Residents' Car Park outside the Almshouses was chosen. Final approval is awaited.

Following on from the previous meeting, it was noted that double yellow lines in Church Lane would be prohibitively expensive and it is difficult to gain permission. It was therefore agreed not to pursue installing them. However IA is currently waiting for 'No Parking' and 'Parking direction signs' opposite the church in Church Lane. (To be provided free by Ipscreen Ltd.)

11. BROADBAND/WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

- The Clerk has requested more detailed information from Openreach about proposed improvements to Broadband speeds in Levington and Stratton Hall via "Nacton P3" and will circulate when received.
- (i) JO advised that onesuffolk is upgrading all its parish council customer websites to a new version of SilverStripe software in the second half of January. During this period, individual websites will not be accessible. Required training demonstrations will be held in Ipswich during February and March but there may be a longer waiting list for this due to demand.
- (ii) IA confirmed that local resident Daniel Garner (DG) is happy to help develop the parish council website content and also to follow up with the current owner of the domain name levington.org regarding transferring ownership to the Parish Council. The cost will be £15.00 for the first year and £10.00 thereafter. IA will continue to liaise with DG.

It was agreed that going forward Broadband and Website Development would be included separately on each relevant agenda.

12. BRIDGE FARM SURFACE DRAINAGE

Senior Highways Technician Matt Williams has advised he is working on a longer term, more structural plan to reduce flooding along Bridge Road. He is researching the feasibility of replacing soakaways along the verge at Red House Walk and this is being monitored by DP.

13. 2018 VILLAGE EVENT DAYS

- Queens Birthday in April: The village beacon will be lit for this occasion
- Commemorative Remembrance Day in November: As part of the national 100 years Memorial event, the National Pageant Master has notified the Parish Council of the Order of Service.
 - (i) 6.55pm: Battles Over, The Last Post (Marion Rose has confirmed arrangements made for this)

- (ii) 7.00pm: WW1 Beacon of Light (Noted that Derek Girling and Louise have been approached to light as they have done so much to draw village attention to WW1, including exhibitions and displays.
- (iii) 7.05pm: Battles Over – Ringing Out for Peace. The Churchwardens have agreed to ring the bells of St Peter’s and have registered with the National Pageants Master.
- (iv) Churchwardens will also be considering the timing of the church service on this day. 2018. IA will liaise between PC and Churchwardens and the Parish Council on the logistics and timing for the day.
- (v) More detailed organisational arrangements are yet to be finalised.

14. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

- Village Hall - leak being managed and repaired (DP)
- Alms Houses - Beeches at rear of #2 being cut down (IA)
- Coasts, Heaths and Footpaths – IA reported increased complaints about anti-social littering along local AONB, exacerbated by strong, seasonal winds. IA is also reviewing the viability of an additional litter bin, subject to landowner permission. He will also look into initiating newsletter requests for litterpick volunteers. DL thanked IA for his considerable efforts in relation to clearing up local fly tipping.
- Newsletters - Since the previous PC meeting, 2 editions have been received from Nacton Primary School and circulated (JO)
- SALC – New SALC CEO was recently appointed (IA)
- Police Liaison – the next meeting is scheduled for April (IA)
- Safer Neighbourhood – Meeting held in January (IA)

The meeting concluded at 8.55pm and members of the public were invited to speak.

VILLAGE FORUM

2 local residents commented:

1. In response to a verbal request from IA to the former Clerk, she agreed to forward details of the local flag supplier.
2. a) Local resident reported that Network Rail is considering a bridleway underpass at Trimley and is organising one or more public meeting/s in January. More information can be found at <https://www.networkrail.co.uk/running-the-railway/our-routes/anglia/felixstowe-branch-line>
 b) Openreach is wrong to state all village broadband connection upgrades are complete and this is therefore subject to continuing correspondence

