

LEVINGTON AND STRATTON HALL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 6th NOVEMBER 2019 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.15 pm

Present:

Cllr David Long (Chairman)
Cllr Julian Mann (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Andrew Abram
Cllr John Bailey
Cllr David Pryke
Parish Clerk: Lucy Buckle
Mrs Angie Buggs
1 member of the public

Suffolk County Councillor's Report

A copy of the Cllr Patricia O'Brien's report is appended in the minute book.

East Suffolk District Councillors' Report

A copy of the District Councillors' report is appended in the minute book.

VILLAGE FORUM

An opportunity for residents to give comments on any issues on the agenda. (per standing orders max 15 minutes unless otherwise directed by the Chairman, a member of the public shall not speak for more than 3 minutes).

1. Marian Rose thanked the Parish Council for its support in encouraging Suffolk County Council Highways to replace the white lines on Bridge Road.
2. Marian Rose said that she could not say whether a Bugler could be found for the VE celebrations.
3. Marian Rose reported that there had been numerous problems with school transport at the start of the school year in September. She said that parents were being blamed for not applying for transport early enough. Two families in the village whose children attended Kesgrave High School for the first time in September did not have school transport in place until 3 weeks after the start of the term. Also, some siblings of children already attending a school were not given a place at the same school.

The formal meeting of the Parish Council started at 7.45 pm.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

The Chairman of the Parish Council Cllr David Long asked councillors to observe a 2 min silence in memory of Cllr James Ramsey who had sadly recently passed away.

2. CODE OF CONDUCT & DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

3. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4th SEPTEMBER 2019

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 4th September 2019 which had previously been circulated were approved and signed as a true record by the Cllr David Long (Chairman).

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

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

5. PLANNING MATTERS

- a. Erection of a new glasshouse within a wooded glade and an extension to the existing Bothy Cottage – Levington Hall Church Lane Levington IP10 0LH DC/19/390/1/FUL Received Date: 3rd October 2019 Status: Pending Consideration

Unanimously agreed the Parish Council has no objection to this planning application.

- b. Stationing of mobile caravan and decking for café use (A3) including change of use of land – TS Bar Layby Felixstowe Road Levington DC/19/1692/COU Received Date: 24th April 2019 Status: Refused

The Clerk has contacted East Suffolk Council to enquire regarding the timescale for when the caravan must be legally removed.

- c. Proposed erection of 20 on. Shipping containers creating storage area for Suffolk Yacht Harbour – Suffolk Yacht Harbour Stratton Hall Drift Levington IP10 0LN DC/19/3801/FUL Received Date: 26th September 2019 Status: Pending

Unanimously agreed that the Parish Council has no objection to this planning application.

- d. Remove oak open front to garage, extend garage slab, side walls and roof by 1.2m approximately to align with front face of porch and adjacent garage, rebuild oak front as existing and make good – St Martins Bridge Road Levington IP10 0NA. DC/19.3292/FUL Received Date: 20th August 2019 Status: Application Permitted.

Unanimously agreed that the Parish Council had no objection to this planning application.

6. FINANCE – INCLUDING 2019/2020 BUDGET REVIEW, FINANCIAL MODEL UPDATE AND AUDITOR REVIEW

- a. Bank balances at 31st September 2019

Current Account £20,739.65

Deposit Account £7,244.10

It was noted that the current account includes Solar Farm Funds £15,000.

- b. The Clerk reported that Cllr Julian Mann had agreed to be the new signatory for the Parish Council bank accounts, and it was suggested that Julian goes to Barclays Bank to set himself up as a signatory. As previously agreed, the Clerk to set up a separate account with Barclays for the Solar Farm Funds of £15,000. **Action: Clerk / Cllr Julian Mann**
- c. Income since last meeting:
Precept £4,379.50
- d. Income anticipated before next meeting:
Nil
- e. Payments made since last meeting and approved at that meeting and/or budgeted:
6 Month Payroll Services £27.00
Baby Changing Unit £113.99
- f. Payments due to be made before next meeting requiring approval:
- Lucy Buckle Salary September and October 2019 £465.56 (59.8 hours)
HMRC Tax Lucy Buckle £267.60
Lucy Buckle Homeworkers Allowance £64.00
Newsletter Printing £89.50
Poppy Wreath £15.00
One Suffolk Annual Web Hosting £60.00

The Parish Council unanimously agreed to the above payments.

g. Budget/Precept 2020/2021

The Chairman Cllr David Long reported that the budget had been considered at the recent FAG Meeting but that it needed to be updated. It was agreed that a FAG meeting would be held as soon as possible before the 15th January 2020 meeting to review the figures to enable the Parish Council to set the precept for 2020/2021. **Action: Clerk**

h. New Finance Regulations

NALC have published an updated Model Financial Regulations for England and Wales. The changes from the 2016 version are listed below:

- Restriction added to Regulation 11.1.a.ii clarifying disapplication of contract regulations to legal professionals limited to those acting in disputes only – not general legal work.
- Update to limits under Public Contract Regulations – footnote to Regulation 11.1.b.
- Minor change to heading Regulation 12.

These changes were approved at the October 2019 FAG meeting it was noted that the changes have NIL impact on the current Parish Council's Finance Regulations.

Unanimously agreed to adopt these changes.

- i. To note Working Shop of the East Suffolk Community Workshops on Thursday, 7th November 2019 to be attended by Cllr David Long and Cllr John Bailey.

7. SIZEWELL C UPDATE

Cllr Julian Mann gave his report on the meeting which he had attended recently highlighting specific items of interest to Levington as follows:

- The FMF or its site could conceivably remain for industrial use after the construction if the county and/or district councils desire it.
- Dr Coffey still backs the rail-led approach, but is frustrated by the lack of engagement by Network Rail with EDF. The FMF disappears from EDF's stated plans if the rail-led approach is chosen.
- EDF's traffic modelling was alleged to be deeply flawed.
- The environmental impact mitigations are vague and require much more detail.

The Parish Council replied to the consultation as follows:

The Parish Council has contributed to previous stages of consultation and, with considering this latest consultation stage, was assisted by EDF representatives Tom McGarry, George Buxton and Jack Abbotts at a Village Meeting held on 21st august 2019. At a well-attended public meeting, the representatives gave an illustrated presentation which provided much useful information, and then remained to answer many questions from those present. The Parish Council thanks EDF representatives for their time in attending this meeting.

The consultative documents clearly show the extensive areas of the actual Sizewell site and the wider area for enabling schemes required for construction. This contribution to the consultation will mainly concentrate on those proposals which are situated in our parishes, or adjacent to them, both of which would have a major impact on our residents and many other road users. These will be the proposed Freight Management Facilities (FMF) listed as:

Option 1 – Seven Hills (accessed from the old Felixstowe Road)

Option 2 – Innocence Farm

Taking into account topics raised at the Village Meeting, and the subsequent Parish Council meeting, the following is the formal submission by the Parish Council.

1. Having considered the various options suggested by EDF for transporting construction materials to the site, the Parish Council would rank them in the following order, with the most favoured at the top:

Sea Led
Rail Led
Integrated
Road Led

The Council is aware of the various constraints of the various options, especially the top two, but everything should be done to minimise road transport during the construction of the new Sizewell nuclear power station.

2. From what was stated at the Village Meeting by EDF representatives, it seems very likely that a FMF would be required, but guided by the final decision on the Options (1 above). The following refer to FMF Option 1 The Old Felixstowe Road via the Seven Hills A12/A14 junction and the A1156.

- i. EDF Stage 3 Consultation – Volume 1 – 15.4.6 states “The Suffolk Coastal Local Plan Issues and Options Consultation Document (2017) listed all sites suggested for development though earlier ‘call for sites consultation that took place in 2016. One such site listed contains the A12/A14 Seven Hills site as part of a wider 90.2ha site, stated by the land’s promoters to have the potential for use as an off-port distribution facility (Ref 15.4, page 150)”.

Please note, the 90.2ha site was not accepted by East Suffolk Council as a development site in the Final Draft Local Plan, and it was ONLY the land promoters which suggested the land for “an off-port distribution facility”, again not included in the Final Draft Local Plan. Only site reference SCLP 12.20 has been identified for potential development, now under examination by the Planning Inspector, so the proposal to now use this area of land is one that has not been chosen for development in the Final Draft Local Plan.

The Stage 3 Consultation document is false and misleading as it gives the impression of planning consent for the use of this land.

- ii. The Village Meeting heard from EDF representatives that all lorries bound for Sizewell would go to the FMF and released to Sizewell when required. We understand the waiting time for HGVs would be arriving from the south or west, and therefore using one of the only two FMF options.

By using the HGV movements table for the Integrated Option (page 10 of the Summary Document) there would be 650 to 1000 movements per day and, taking 85% of these, results in an HGV movement every 1 to 2 minutes whether this be over the operational hours of 7 am to 11 pm or the 24-hour higher peak working. The Road Led Options results in far more frequent HGV movements.

The impression given in the consultation document is that, when compared to the existing traffic volume on the A12/A14 (possibly leaving aside future developments in the coming Local Plan), this additional volume (10% at the busiest time) will amount to a small and manageable percentage increase in HGV traffic. What it doesn’t say is that this increased HGV traffic is a huge percentage increase when it leaves the A roads and uses the local roads and junctions.

When approaching the FMF from the South, the HGVs would leave the A12/A14 at the Seven Hills Junction. They would then need to turn right across the roundabout priority traffic at very slow speed having firstly come to a halt, before leaving the junction for the A1156 junction a short distance away. Here they will take a sharp left turn into the Old Felixstowe Road before turning left in to the FMF. All of these movements would be at very low speeds.

When being called to Sizewell, the HGVs will turn slowly across the traffic flow onto the Old Felixstowe Road and proceed to the A1156 tee junction. Here they will need to

somehow turn slowly right across traffic and accelerate slowly back to the Seven Hills Junction again. Here they will need to pull out slowly, again across the fast-moving traffic on the Seven Hills junction roundabout, before trying to gain some speed on the Seven Hills roundabout before accessing the A12.

We are going into some detail on this as you will clearly notice that:

- The Seven Hills roundabout is already extremely busy and it is our belief that it cannot cope with the high volume of additional traffic consisting of lumbering HGVs, especially cutting across the roundabout on their arrival and departure journeys.
- The A1156 is already a busy road and it is our belief that it cannot cope with the additional volume of lumbering HGVs. This is particularly so at the junction with the Old Felixstowe Road, especially where existing HGVs have to turn right across the path of two lanes of oncoming fast-moving traffic which is also on a bend with limited visibility.
- When local traffic approaches this junction from the Ipswich direction and wishes to turn right into the Old Felixstowe Road, it has to wait unguarded in the middle of the road. This is with a sense of vulnerability which will only heighten with the huge addition of HGV traffic.
- In addition to these hazards, the movement of HGVs is all against the flow of existing traffic and each HGV journey repeats itself in that the same route has to be taken when leaving and re-joining the A12/A14, a phenomenon we believe is called tromboning ie wasteful journeys.
- Another feature of the Old Felixstowe Road is that it is the designated an Operation Stack area for the Port of Felixstowe when it is not working, and the road then comes under the direct control of the Suffolk Constabulary.
- A further hazard is the slow-moving traffic using the busy Seven Hills Crematorium.
- The consultation documents list no road improvements.

All of this amounts to an inappropriate site for the FMF as it will be in no doubt whatsoever, cause dangerous conditions for road users created by all the cross-over of traffic flows and will, in the opinion of the Parish Council, greatly increase the likelihood of road traffic accidents in the locality.

3. The following is in respect of Option 2 Innocence Farm:

- In this option, arriving HGVs would at least continue over the Seven Hills junction before breaking on a fast stretch of the A14 and then having to turn left into Innocence Lane.
- Departing HGVs would leave via Innocence Lane and then turn left, at very slow speed and join easterly fast-moving traffic on the A14.
- The HGVs will then have to turn westwards at Junction 59 or the Dock Spur Roundabout, and then repeat (trombone) their journey to the Seven Hills Junction.

- It is here they will again have to cut across fast moving traffic on the junction roundabout (see 2 above) to access the A12.
 - Again, the Parish Council can see the extra danger to road users with this heavy volume of lumbering HGVs.
4. Neither FMF Option has an Environmental Impact Assessment so there appears to be no indication of the levels of pollution such as fumes (especially caused by diesel engines), noise, light, and visual impact. This is especially important in respect of Option 1 as there is the additional impact on residents who live in very close proximity to it and any detrimental impact to their quality of life would not be acceptable.
 5. The Orwell Bridge is a well known pinch point for traffic flows, especially when closed through inclement weather, accidents, suicides/attempts or vehicle breakdowns, and the Parish Council can see no provision for the high number of HGVs when the Orwell Bridge is closed, either on the way to the Sizewell site, or after leaving it. This is a concern.
 6. The Parish Council is also concerned about whether the existing road junctions are able to cope with the additional volume of HGV traffic, namely Junctions 55 to 58 on the A12/A14 (especially the Copdock Interchange and, as mentioned above, the Seven Hills Junction). On the A12, there is concern about the 4-roundabout stretch at Martlesham, and the stretch from the Woodbridge/Seckford Hall junction to the junction with the A1152.
 7. The Parish Council felt the FMF site should have access and egress using the direction of flow of the existing traffic. Some examples could be:
 - The proposed Park and Ride site at Wickham Market, which will have the provision for a mini holding area.
 - The unused Toys R Us Site at Copdock (a brownfield site).
 - A 10ha site to the west of the A12 between the Seven Hills junction and the Foxhall Road roundabout, but nearer the Seven Hills junction as it is on land which, the Parish Council believes, it is in the same ownership as the Old Felixstowe Road site.
 8. EDF claims the land will be returned to previous use at the completion of the Sizewell Project in around 10 years. The Parish Council would appreciate assurances that this would be a legally enforceable condition in any future planning approval (please note – the legends to the site maps refer to temporary facilities but this is not applied to the Freights Management Facilities).

With respect to the two options for the FMF – the Parish Council assumes that EDF has been guided by East Suffolk Council using the simplistic approach of some area of land submitted to them under the Local Plan Consultation process (one included in the First Draft Local Plan – Option 2, the other is not – Option 1). If this is so, the sites suggested by them are totally inappropriate, inefficient, will add significantly to the danger of local road users, detrimentally impact local residents, and appear to indicate a lazy approach to this important site identification. EDF should encourage East Suffolk Council to be far more constructive with identifying sites that are more fit for purpose.

The Parish Council would appreciate its comments being considered at Stage 4 consultation and highlights its strong opposition to the Freight Management Facilities options.

EDF – What happens next?

- EDF Energy will now analyse all the feedback which will inform our proposals. We aim to submit the application for a Development Consent Order for Sizewell C next year.
- Sizewell C is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). This means that the local district and county councils are important statutory consultees to the proposals, but they do not make the decision on the application. The application will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) and after months of assessing the proposals, PINS will give its recommendation to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, who will announce the decision.
- It is imperative that local Parish Councils are aware of the process because local organisations can register and have their say on the submitted proposals, which will be fully accessible to the public.
- We are available to explain the process to Parish Councils, whether at a formal meeting of the Parish Council or a briefing session for individual chairs and clerks. If this is of interest, please do not hesitate to contact us.

It was agreed the Clerk seeks to arrange a meeting with EDF representatives. **Action: Clerk**

8. HIGHWAYS UPDATE

The Clerk has raised two issues with Suffolk County Council Highways:

- Request that the white lines to be reinstated on Bridge Road after they were removed after resurfacing by the corner of 17 Red House Walk. This work has now been completed.
- To request that the remediation work of significant potholes that have appeared by Stratton Hall to be completed as soon as possible. Still waiting for this work to be completed therefore we need to take a much stronger approach on this matter as the potholes are becoming very dangerous. **Action: Clerk**

9. VE DAY 75

Cllr David Long had previously circulated the 1st Draft Programme for the VE Day 75 weekend as follows:

1st Provisional Programme

Friday, 8th May

- Set up exhibition in village hall [possibly set up on Thursday 7 May?]
- Re-enactors and vehicles arrive – park and camp in The Ship lower field
- 3pm outside The Ship – National Toast – read by.....?
- 6.55pm outside The Ship Cry for Peace Around the World – read by
- 7pm Ringing out for Peace – ringing of St Peter’s church bells
- Continue in The Ship

Saturday, 9th May

- Open exhibition in Village Hall
- BBQ at The Ship
- Re-enactors vehicles in the village [and surrounds]

Sunday, 10th May

- 10.30am – Church Services of Celebration and Commemoration. To include:
 - Tribute to the Millions read byRevd. Harry Stalker?
 - Playing of Last Post and Reveille [attempts are being made to arrange this]
- Exhibition continues and Re-enactors remain in village until later in the afternoon

CLlr David Long stated that this event does rely on the Ship playing a key role in the celebrations and it is hoped that by the next Parish Council Meeting we will know whether they would like to take part.

CLlr David Long said that if the event was to be progressed certain things would need to be achieved; one of which would be the booking of the Village Hall. CLlr David Long proposed that at this early stage the Parish Council agree to pay £50 towards the cost of the hire of the Village Hall – agreed. **Action: Clerk**

10. MISSION STATEMENT REVIEW

This item had been placed on the agenda to discuss whether the Parish Council should adopt a Mission Statement.

CLlr John Bailey stated that he was aware that several local councils have a Mission Statement which details what the Parish Council is achieving in the local community. CLlr John Bailey said that he would draft a brief paper to present to the next meeting – agreed. **Action: CLlr John Bailey / Clerk**

11. PROPOSED LOCAL AUTHORITY BOUNDARY CHANGES

Councillors had previously been circulated with details of the proposed Suffolk County Council boundaries changes. Details are on the Suffolk County Council website. CLlr David Long proposed that the Parish Council delay making any comments until the next stage of the consultation – agreed.

12. PARISH COUNCIL 2020 PROPOSED MEETING DATES

The following are the proposed Parish Council meeting dates for 2020.

Wednesday, 15th January 2020
Wednesday, 4th March 2020
Wednesday, 6th May 2020 Annual Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday, 27th May 2020 Annual Parish Meeting
Wednesday, 1st July 2020
Wednesday, 2nd September 2020
Wednesday, 4th November 2020

Parish Councillor's considered the proposed meeting dates and it was agreed to accept the dates except for the date of the Annual Parish Meeting which it was agreed to change to Wednesday 27th May 2020. **Action: Clerk**

13. CLERK AND VACANCIES UPDATE

Cllr David Long proposed that the Parish Council appoint Mrs Angie Buggs as Clerk/RFO to the Parish Council with effect from the 1st January 2020 – agreed. **Action: Clerk / Cllr David Long**

In view of the problems with the internal audit 2018/2019 Cllr David Long suggested that the Parish Council consider asking Trevor Brown to carry out the audit for 2019/2020. Following discussions, it was agreed that Trevor Brown should be appointed as Internal Auditor 2019/2020 and that the Parish Council ask Trevor to carry out a pre-audit inspection to assess the Parish Council's current position regarding the Transparency Code – agreed. **Action: Clerk**

Due to the sad passing of Cllr James Ramsey the Clerk has advertised a casual vacancy. If ten electors do not initiate an election the Parish Council can co-opt a new councillor as from the 15th November 2019. **Action: Clerk**

14. CORRESPONDENCE

All suitable and relevant correspondence has been forwarded to councillors for information.

15. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS RE RESPECTIVE AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

a. **Tree and Church Field Warden**
Nothing to report

b. **Village Hall**
It was noted that the Annual General Meeting of the Village Hall Committee would be held at 6 pm on 21st November 2019.

c. **Sir Robert Hitcham's Almshouses**
Nothing to report.

d. **Public Transport**
The bus shelter which had been vandalised has now been repaired.

e. **Coast & Heaths and Footpaths (CHF)**
Cllr Julian Mann stated that a hornets' nest had been found by the footpath, but the tree had since fallen and although it is not a danger to the public it is still a danger to dogs.

f. **Nacton School**
Regular newsletters continued to be received during term time.

g. **SALC**
Nothing to report.

h. **Port Liaison Group**
Cllr John Bailey attended on the 17th October 2019 and the latest meeting minutes have been circulated.

16. Formal Meeting of the Parish Council ended at 9.08 pm

The date of the next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 15th January 2020.

VILLAGE FORUM (Opportunity to raise issues not necessarily on this agenda)

- a. Marian Rose asked whether the Parish Council could arrange a working party to clean the bus shelter on the Old Felixstowe Road as it has become very dirty – agreed. **Action: Clerk / Cllr Julian Mann**

The Chairman closed the meeting at 09.06 pm

Signed..... Date

Angie Buggs
Clerk to Levington & Stratton Hall Parish Council