

LEVINGTON AND STRATTON HALL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL ZOOM MEETING HELD ON

1st JULY 2020 AT 7.15 pm

Present:

Cllr David Long (Chairman)
Cllr Julian Mann (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Andrew Abram
Cllr David Pryke
Cllr John Bailey
Parish Clerk Angie Buggs

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

The Parish Council noted the contents of Patricia O'Brien's report.

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).

The formal meeting of the Parish Council started at 7.30 pm.

22.20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies were received.

23.20 CODE OF CONDUCT & DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

24.20 TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE 15TH JANUARY AND THE 3RD MARCH 2020

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 15th January 2020 and the 3rd March 2020 which had previously been circulated were approved and signed as a true record by the Cllr David Long (Chairman).

25.20 MATTERS TO REPORT FROM THE LATEST MINUTES (not covered elsewhere on the agenda)

Minutes dated 15th January 2020

Page 4 – 10.20 Highways Update – Cllr Andrew Abram

It was reported that the holes in the dip have been dealt with.

Page 6 – Village Forum – England Coastal Path – see minutes 3rd March 2020 – noted.

26.20 TO FORMALLY APPROVE THAT EXISTING OFFICERS REMAIN IN POST UNTIL MAY 2021 AS PER GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION

Discussions took place regarding the new government legislation which has resulted due to Covid-19 that the current Parish Council officers can continue in office until May 2021. Parish Councils can also hold virtual meetings until May 2021. Cllr David Pryke proposed that the Parish Council officers stay in post until May 2021, seconded Cllr John Bailey – all in favour. **Action: Clerk**

27.20 SIZEWELL C – NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE CONSULTATION

The Planning Inspectorate (PINS) accepted the Sizewell C Development Consent Order (DCO) for examination – meaning it is satisfied with EDF’s pre-application public consultation and full examination of the proposals can take place.

The Planning Inspector has released papers for the pre-examination stage which runs from the 8th July 2020 for twelve weeks until the 30th September 2020. The pre-examination stage is not a public consultation but it is an opportunity for interested parties to read the application and register their interest with the Planning Inspectorate.

Cllr David Long said councillors should decide whether to make representations to become an interested party in this application. Cllr David Pryke stated that there are a lot of documents to read before the Parish Council could register their interest as the Parish Council would need to provide a summary of their views when registering.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council should read the papers and let the Clerk have any comments with a view to registering the Parish Council’s interest on the 31st July 2020. Once the Parish Council has registered their interest, they will be kept informed of on-going developments. One area of interest for the Parish Council is the potential use of the Seven Hills site as an FMF. **Action: All Councillors / Clerk**

A letter has been received from the Anglian Energy Planning Alliance (AEPA) requesting the support of Parish Councils who have drafted a letter to the Secretary of State complaining about consultation taking place during Covid-19 and the difficulty in communicating and engaging with local communities on this. The AEPA is asking whether the Parish Council would co-sign a letter and whether we would share with them our main area of interest. It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council should reply agreeing to being a co-signatory and that our main area of interest is the Freight Management Facility. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr David Long reported that the Parish Council had been approached by Suffolk Coastal Friends of the Earth asking whether we will make a donation to their crowd funding appeal mainly looking at the water table. It was agreed that the Clerk should reply to the Suffolk Coastal Friends of the Earth wishing them well but unfortunately, we could not make a donation. **Action: Clerk**

28.20 PLANNING

a. Report on the latest position regarding the enforcement order Old Felixstowe Road

Cllr David Long reported that we are still waiting for the Enforcement Order. **Action: Clerk**

b. DC/20/0815/FUL Lorry Park Application

A Village Meeting was held on the 20th March 2020 and a reply was formulated as a result of information gathered at the meeting. Subsequently the Planning Application was withdrawn.

- c. **DC/20/0831/FUL Levington Research Station**
Application permitted.
- d. **DC/20/0330/FUL Yacht Harbour Levington Marina Stratton Hall**
Application withdrawn.
- e. **DC/20/0902/OUT Suffolk Constabulary Force HQ – demolition of existing buildings and build 300 new homes**
Awaiting decision.
- f. **DC/20/1367/VOC Variation of operating hours at Seven Hills Crematorium**
Application permitted.
- g. **DC/20/1589/FUL 20 Bridge Road - Demolition of front porch. Erection of single storey rear extension with roof lights, together with timber cladding at first floor of property.**
Application permitted.
- h. **Solar Farm Temporary Planning Application**
Application permitted

29.20 DRAFT LOCAL PLAN – TO DISCUSS THE PLANNING INSPECTOR’S MAIN MODIFICATIONS LETTER DATED 31ST JANUARY 2020

The Parish Council noted that they have until the 10th July 2020 to make any comments on the Planning Inspector’s Main Modifications to the Draft Local Plan.

Councillors particularly noted Policy SCLP 4.6: Conversion and Replacement of Rural Buildings for Employment Use page 75. Some important changes which include the removal of the amenity of local residents. Under sections [b] and [g] there has been a removal of the wording “amenity of local residents”. This has been replaced by “living conditions of local residents”. There is appears to be no definition of these statements to differentiate them and so it is impossible to know of the impact. If the replaced wording results in increased detrimental impact to local residents then the Parish Council would oppose this.

There appears to be an error in referencing.

In the tracked version of the main and additional modifications document there is reference on page 395 to SCLP12.55 [which was previously 12.56] referring to Land at School Lane, Knodishall, and on page 398 reference to 12.56 Land at Bridge Road, Levington.

In the Schedule of Main Modifications May 2020, page 15, there is a list containing:

SCLP 12.55 - Land at School Lane, Knodishall

SCLP 12.56 - Land at Bridge Road, Levington

In the detailed pages which follow on page from page 15, Land at School Lane, Knodishall is referred to as SCLP12.56. It should be SCLP12.55, and so be in accord with the changed reference number on page 395 of the Tracked Changes Document and page 15 of the Schedule of Main Modifications.

It was agreed that councillors should read the main modifications document and send comments to the Clerk for inclusion in the reply. **Action: All Councillors / Clerk**

30.20 COVID-19 – DISCUSS CREATION OF WEBSITE, FUNDING BY ESC, VOLUNTARY SUPPORT SCHEME

Cllr David Long offered a vote of thanks to Ole Henriksen for creating the Covid-19 Website and to Ian Angus for organising the volunteer scheme. It was agreed that the Parish Council Newsletter should also appear on the Parish Council website. **Action: Clerk**

31.20 SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

a. To discuss Boardwalk and Orchid Meadows Footpath Repairs

Cllr David Long reported that the Parish Council had received reports about the Boardwalk and Orchard Meadows Footpath Repairs. Both Louise Overbury and the Clerk had been in touch with Suffolk County Council Rights of Way so it has been drawn to their attention therefore it is hoped remedial work will take place. **Action: Clerk**

b. Central Reservation, Old Felixstowe Road

The Clerk has been in touch with Suffolk County Council Highways to report the long grass on the central reservation Old Felixstowe Road / Bridge Road junction. The Clerk reported that it should be cut about the 6th July 2020. Clerk to continue to monitor the situation. **Action: Clerk**

32.20 TO DISCUSS ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN THE AREA

Cllr David Long said there had been reports of substance misuse on the Millennium Bench overlooking Tankards Meadow. It looked like a number of nitroxide canisters were found and cleared away by a local resident. It was reported to the police and they said they would increase their patrols around that area but there have been no more problems since it was reported.

33.20 TO DISCUSS THE CONSULTATION ON THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COUNCILLORS

Cllr David Long said that he thought councillors should submit individual responses due to time constraints. **Action: All councillors**

34.20 FINANCE

a. Income since last meeting

Covid-19 Enabling Budget (Website) Thanks to Melissa Allen.	£152.42
Precept 1 st Payment	£4,370.00
Anticipated income before next meeting	None

b. Expenditure to be agreed at this meeting

Mrs A J Buggs Salary & Expenses January/February	£773.37
Levington Village Hall Hire	£350.00
Daniel Garner Web Address	£131.99
HMRC Mrs A J Buggs Tax/NI	£185.12
Ole Henriksen – Covid-19 Web Site	£152.42
SALC Subscription	£139.04
SALC Payroll	£27.00

Mrs A J Buggs Expenses (incl Flags)	£203.86
Mrs A J Buggs Salary March/April	£572.63
Trevor Brown Internal Audit	£60.00

c. Bank Balances at 31st May 2020

Community Account	£24,430.22
Premium Account	£7,450.29

Cllr David Pryke proposed, seconded Cllr John Bailey that the above expenditure is approved – all in favour. Action: **Clerk**

d. Locality Budget

Cllr David Long reported that the Village Hall was being redecorated inside and partially outside and the newspaper box [owned by the Parish Council] at the Village Hall also needs repairing and repainting. A quote has been received from DC Construction for renovating the newspaper box at the cost of £200.00 plus VAT. Cllr David Long proposed that the Parish Council ask Cllr Patricia O’Brien whether she would be willing to pay for this expenditure from the Locality Budget – all in favour. Action: **Clerk**

35.20 YEAR END 2019/2020

a. To discuss and approve the year end accounts

The Year End Accounts 2019/2020 had previously been circulated to all councillors. Cllr David Long thanked the Clerk for her work on producing the accounts in a well-presented format. Cllr David Long also offered thanks to Trevor Brown Internal Auditor for his work on the Internal Audit. Cllr John Bailey proposed that the Year End Accounts 2019/2020 be approved by the Parish Council, seconded Cllr David Pryke – all in favour.

b. To approve and sign the 2019/2020 AGAR

The AGAR 2019/2020 had previously been circulated to all councillors. Cllr David Pryke proposed that the Chairman Cllr David Long sign the AGAR on behalf of the Parish Council, seconded Cllr Andrew Abram – all in favour.

c. To note the contents of the Internal Auditor’s Report and Recommendations

The Internal Auditor’s Report had previously been circulated to all councillors. It was noted that the Internal Auditor had made to recommendations as follows:

Recommendation 1

The Council should consider setting aside further Earmarked Reserves for specific future projects and continue to monitor the level of General Reserves being maintained.

The Parish Council agreed to consider the recommendation. Action: **Clerk**

Recommendation 2

The Asset Register should be compared with the details of cover under the insurance policy to ensure that adequate cover for all appropriate assets is in place and the Minutes of the Council should formally record that the review has taken place.

It was agreed to review the Asset Register against the Insurance Policy. **Action: All Councillors / Clerk**

36.20 MISSION STATEMENT

It was agreed to defer this item until the next meeting. **Action: Clerk**

37.20 ALMSHOUSES

Cllr David Long stated that Cllr David Pryke had drafted a reply to Louise Overbury Clerk to the Trustees of the Sir Robert Hitcham Almshouses in Levington concerning the updating of the scheme with the Charity Commission. As part of the process the Charity Commission has requested that the Trustees consult in the local area on the following topics.

1. Should men be able to apply to be residents of the Sir Robert Hitcham Almshouses?
2. Should we extend the “area of benefit” from Levington and Nacton to a wider area such as the villages within the Benefice, to the whole of the Colneys Deanery or to the whole of Suffolk?

Cllr David Pryke had drafted a reply as follows:

1. Men

Whereas in the original male dominated social context, women were more vulnerable to poverty and need, today’s society, sees men falling also into that category of need. So, it would be logical to consider men who fall into the category of ‘poor’. However, unlike some almshouses (which may be in a terrace), ours is a physically enclosed and very close enclave and it may well be appropriate to retain the ‘all women’ approach, or at least to give preference to women. The views of the current residents are crucial in this respect.

2. Area of Benefit

All almshouses were set up to serve their ‘local community’ – certainly not to collectively and competitively serve the population at large (as in opening up to the whole of Suffolk). However, today’s mobile society suggests ‘Levington and Nacton’ is inappropriately too small. Suggest the local Benefice most appropriately describes an identifiable ‘local community’ in today’s environment that accords with the spirit of the original intentions.

3. ‘Poor’

In Levington, the almshouses were established to meet a need within the social context of the time, when our local community comprised mainly ‘poor’ agricultural workers. That is a far cry from the affluent middle-class communities of Levington and Nacton today. But there is still ‘poor’ folk amongst us though perhaps not as destitute as in days gone by, and ‘poor’ for different reasons. Therefore, the almshouses still have their original part to play in this regard. “Of limited financial means” is a less pejorative wording.

Finally, I would like to record that I am in awe of the Trustees in the way that they sensitively manage this precious resource within our wonderful community.

Following discussion Cllr David Long proposed that the report drafted by Cllr David Pryke be sent to the Clerk of the Almshouses, seconded Cllr John Bailey – all in favour. **Action: Clerk**

The Parish Council recorded thanks to the Trustees of the Almshouses. **Action: Clerk**

38.20 CORRESPONDENCE

None

39.20 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

a. Tree and Church Warden

Please see 32.20.

b. Village Hall

Please see 34.20 Item d.

c. Sir Robert Hitcham's Almshouses

Please see minute 37.20.

d. Public Transport

Cllr Julian Mann said he had received a response from Suffolk On Board re the bus shelters but the timetable cases have still not been replaced. **Action: Cllr Julian Mann**

e. Coast & Heath and Footpaths (CHF)

Please see minute 31.20.

f. Nacton School

Nothing to report.

g. SALC

Please see minute 33.20.

h. Port Liaison Group

Nothing to report.

i. Police/SNT

Please see minute 33.20.

40.20 POST FORMAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

- a. Cllr Andrew Abram said he had received a complaint from a resident about the foliage at Red House Farm overhanging the road. Cllr David Long said that it is a mixture of trees some of which belong to Red House Farm. Cllr David Long reported that the Clerk had been speaking to the owner of Red House Farm about the overhang and if it gets worse the Clerk will get in touch with the owner again. **Action: Clerk**

- b. Cllr Andrew Abram stated that he did not understand why East Suffolk Council Enforcement Team were not taking action against Eastern Structures. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact the Enforcement Team again. **Action: Clerk**

41.20 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, 2nd September 2020

The Chairman closed the meeting at 20.37 pm.

Signed..... Date

Angie Buggs
Clerk to Levington and Stratton Hall Parish Council