

LEVINGTON AND STRATTON HALL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL ZOOM MEETING HELD ON

20TH JANUARY 2021 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
3 members of the public

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Unfortunately, we are not starting 2021 in a better state than when we exited 2020. As you will no doubt know we are now in tier 4, restrictions have tightened and there is no freedom of movement except for essentials ie shopping, child-care and work, such as building, that cannot be done at home. Households cannot mix or stay overnight away from home. However, it is permitted for 1 person to meet with another in a public place.

I doubt if any of us have experienced this kind of situation. I find the hardest 'rule' to obey is that of not meeting with people. I zoom in on council meetings but, for me, it is nothing like being in a room and gauging the atmosphere and 'reading' people. However, let us trust that we will see a lessening of the virus as we see extensive roll-out of vaccines.

Happenings within SCC:

Schools are no longer a safe and secure environment for children and they are to remain closed. Lessons are being provided on-line and I have had feed-back that children are enthusiastic. Of course, it is early days but let us hope the novelty of lessons at home does not wear off!

Suffolk County Council is to create a joint venture company to lead new housing developments on some of its own land. Since 2019 the county council, as a major landowner in Suffolk, has been investigating how it can do more with its own assets to support district and borough councils in their role as strategic housing authorities. SCC wish to boost the supply of much needed housing in the county.

Suffolk County Council has launched the Suffolk Design: Streets Guide, and is asking members of public for feedback in shaping new residential developments.

The Streets Guide is part of the Suffolk Design initiative for which District and Borough planning authorities plus the County Council are working together to improve the design and guidance for new developments across the county.

The consultation is open until 10 February 2021. Members of the public can take part by visiting, www.suffolk.gov.uk/suffolkstreets

More residents on low incomes or benefits can now get financial help if they are told to self-isolate due to COVID-19.

Councils across Suffolk are helping administer the Government grant scheme to help people remain at home.

Those who are eligible will need to meet all the following criteria:

- You have been told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace on or after 28 September 2020.
- You have responded to your notification from the NHS Test and Trace and engaged with the service by providing the legally required information.
- You are employed or self-employed.
- You cannot work from home and will lose income as a result.
- You are currently receiving at least one of the following benefits: Universal Credit, Working Tax Credit, income-based Employment and Support Allowance, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income
- Support, Housing Benefit and/or Pension Credit, OR (under the new discretionary powers) you have a household income of less than £37,400 (couple or single parents) or £19,200 (single person) and have savings of less than £3,000.
- test and trace self-isolation period.

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

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT

The Parish Council noted the contents of the District Councillors' Ward Bulletin for January 2021. Cllr D Long reported that the Parish Council has received an email from Cllr R Kerry noting that Eastern Structures have been refused planning permission and that, as District Councillor, he has contacted the Planning Department regarding enforcement action. Cllr R Kerry also highlighted new beach huts are to be located at Felixstowe and a new primary school for Trimley St Mary.

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).

Marian Rose thanked the Parish Council for putting the water supply on the agenda and contacting Anglian Water. She said that councillors may be aware that Red House Walk [private road] had a new mains water supply fitted last summer which supplies the seventeen residents in Red House Walk and at the time, when the engineers were there, they told residents that they knew the water main in Bridge Road needed work completing but that they kept running out of funding to do the work. Residents are hopeful that having had three leaks in the two weeks after Christmas it may encourage Anglian Water to carry out the work.

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

01.21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Patricia O'Brien – Suffolk County Council.

02.21 CODE OF CONDUCT & DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

03.21 TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE 4TH NOVEMBER 2020

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 4th November 2020 which had previously been circulated were approved and signed as a true record by Cllr D Long (Chairman).

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

Minute 72.20 Meeting Dates 2021

Cllr D Long stated that there had been an incorrect date in the minutes of the previous meeting which should have read the Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 19th May 2021 and not as previously reported. **Action: Clerk**

05.21 SIZEWELL C – NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE CONSULTATION

Cllr D Long reported that since the last meeting the Parish Council had responded to the Supplementary Public Consultation expressing our concerns at the Freight Management Facility.

Sizewell C Change Consultation (11254)

Submission by Levington and Stratton Hall Parish Council

1. We welcome the re-consideration of the use of rail and sea transport.
2. We note the assertion that under the new proposals, the proportion of materials that will need to be transported by HGV is estimated as 40% – down from 60%. However, we note that this is qualified as “may be possible” and that it is also influenced by a re-evaluation of the total quantities of materials to be used or re-used. It is hoped further reductions can be made through effective use of alternative rail and sea transportation of materials.
3. We note and welcome the reduction in estimated HGV movements:

	Stage 3	Current
Peak times	1000	700
Typical Day	650	500

4. We are disappointed that a similar re-consideration has not been made of the need for the Facilities Management Facility at Levington, especially in the light of the reduction in estimated HGV movements. We would expect that the need for 150 parking places would be reduced proportionately to 115 with a similar reduction in land requirement.
5. **We still maintain that in this modern digital world of mobile communications, the objectives of the FMF could be achieved by an electronic booking/management system, AS WAS PROPOSED BY EDF AT STAGE 2 [this has been included in the Parish Council submission to PINS “It is**

regrettable that SCDC did not support a web-based Delivery Management System [Volume 9 – 6.9 – Chapter 3 – 3.2.5 and 3.2.6 refers]”. This should now be reviewed.

6. With a reduction in the number of HGV movements and the reduced need for HGV parking places [see 4 above], coupled with the use of modern freight management systems, this totally challenges the need for a separate Freight Management Facility.

Sizewell C Project – Traffic Incident Management Plan [8.6] and Planning Statement Appendix 8.4c on the Southern Park and Ride Site clearly shows a Traffic Incident Management Area which sized to accommodate 90 HGVs. Although this is linked to either planned or unplanned incidents, it is a large available space which would be empty most of the time and greatly underutilised. By modern and efficient freight management coupled with reduced HGV movements [see above] would provide the Freight Management Facility.

The use of just one site would be more environmentally friendly, avoid huge capital costs at the beginning and end of the project, and the revenue costs throughout the construction period.

A group of councils have been in contact with the Secretary of State about the combined impact of energy infrastructure work and this relates to both Sizewell C and the Offshore Wind Farms but more importantly where they strike land and the infrastructure required. We have been asked if, as a Parish Council, we are willing to support this initiative by signing a letter going to the Secretary of State drawing his attention to our concerns. Councillor unanimously agreed to sign the letter. **Action: Clerk / Cllr D Long**

Cllr D Long stated that an email had been received from Sizewell C requesting that as we move towards the Examination which PINS (Planning Inspectorate) will take forward this year, they would like to meet with the Parish Council to discuss our council’s representations and responses to the recent consultation on the proposed changes to the DCO.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council should decline the offer to meet with them until after the PINS examination. **Action: Clerk**

06.21 FINANCE

a. Income since last meeting

None

b. Expenditure

Felix Press – December Newsletter	£568.00
Mrs A J Buggs – Salary & Expenses Nov-Dec 2020	£754.59
HMRC Tax and NI	£329.27
SALC Payroll	£27.00
Native Gardens and Forestry Trees – Tree Cutting	£450.00

c. Bank Balances at 31st December 2020

Community Account	£24,121.50
Premium Account	£7,628.51

The Parish Council noted the balances as at the 31st December 2020 for both the Community Account and the Premium Account.

Cllr J Mann proposed, seconded Cllr D Pryke that the above expenditure is approved – all in favour. **Action: Clerk**

d. Accounts 1st April – 31st December 2020

Cllr D Long stated the councillors had received the accounts from 1st April 2020 to 31st December 2020. Cllr D Pryke proposed that the Parish Council adopt the accounts, seconded Cllr A Abram – all in favour. **Action: Clerk**

e. To agree the Budget/Precept 2021/2022

Cllr D Long reported that councillors had previously been sent a copy of the Budget for 2021/2022. The Finance Advisory Group had met and is recommending the precept is set at the same level as for 2020/2021 financial year which is £8,740.00.

The budget and precept recommendations were accepted by the Parish Council. Cllr J Mann proposed, seconded Cllr A Abram that the budget be accepted and that the Parish Council should precept for £8,740.00 for the year 2021/2022 – all in favour. It was noted that the precept would remain the same as for the year 2020/2021. **Action: Clerk**

f. To appoint the Internal Auditor for the year 2021/2022

Cllr D Long reported that the Parish Council should minute the appointment of the Internal Auditor for the financial year 2021/2022. He said that Trevor Brown was our auditor in the current financial year and that the audit was extremely thorough and helpful. It was proposed by Cllr J Mann, seconded Cllr J Bailey that Mr Trevor Brown should be appointed as auditor – all in favour. **Action: Clerk**

07.21 TO ADOPT THE STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

Cllr D Long reported that the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations had been circulated to all councillors and that our Standing Orders and Financial Regulations are based on NALC standard models. There have been no updates during the last year. Cllr D Pryke proposed, seconded Cllr A Abram that the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations should be adopted – all in favour. **Action: Clerk**

08.21 PLANNING

a. Eastern Structures – Planning Application DC/20/4526/FUL

The Planning Application has been refused by East Suffolk Council and was opposed by the Parish Council. Cllr R Kerry East Suffolk District Councillor has already contacted ESC regarding the enforcement of this refusal.

b. 8 Red House Walk – Proposed detached studio – Planning Application DC/20/4725/FUL

Cllr D Long reported that this application has now been approved. He said that unfortunately our 'no objection' comment was not included in the comments on the ESC website. The Clerk had submitted the Parish Council comments on the Planning Portal. The Clerk stated that when you submit comments in the Planning Portal an acknowledgement is not received however if you

submit comments by email to the Planning Officer an acknowledgement is received. It was agreed that in future, comments from the Parish Council, should be submitted by email. **Action: Clerk**

09.21 TO DISCUSS PROGRESS WITH QUIET LANES INITIATIVE

Cllr J Bailey reported that the Parish Council are in Wave 1 of Quiet Lanes Suffolk (QLS) which is the first group of parishes to start the process. The finance for the project is provided by Suffolk County Council and each parish will receive £600 and in addition East Suffolk Council will donate £600 per parish. Our current estimate for the signage and posts is £480 for Levington and Stratton Hall and this does not include the cost of holding a Zoom meeting and printing leaflets. The Parish Council agreed to meet any additional costs of signage and posts not covered by Suffolk County Council or East Suffolk Council however the estimate is well within the money available.

Cllr J Bailey stated that the Parish Council need to note the following:

1. The minutes of this Parish Council Meeting need to be submitted to the QLS Group and that they include a Minute on QLS which confirm that the Parish Council will agree to meet any additional costs of signage and posts.
2. A Parish Meeting has to be held by the 31st January 2021 as the first stage of the public consultation, having notified residents and businesses of the proposal by leaflet/circulation of information.
3. The public consultation begins on the 21st January 2021 and leaflets advertising QLS will be available. The consultation is being conducted to try and establish the level of community support for QLS.
4. When the Parish Council receives comments from residents, they should be submitted to QLS and they can then move into the second round of approval which involves legal notices, planning etc. The formal consultation begins on the 22nd February 2020
5. To have completed a signage costings spreadsheet correct the map so that it shows the extent of the proposed land accurately.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Meeting would be held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 26th January 2021. The meeting, due to lockdown, will be advertised electronically, in the following ways; Parish Council website, Parish Covid19 Website, the village WhatsApp group, Parish Council Notice Board and the two groups of emails.

Cllr J Bailey stated that if any residents are against/in favour of QLS they will have an opportunity to express their views at the formal stage of the process.

Cllr J Bailey said that he was waiting for QLS to send a copy of the final notices.

10.21 VOLUNTARY HELP SCHEME – TO NOTE CERTIFICATE RECEIVED FROM HM LORD LIEUTENANT OF SUFFOLK AND BBC RADIO SUFFOLK MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Cllr D Long offered congratulations and thanks to Ian Angus, Oli Henriksen and Robert Fisher for all their hard work supporting the village during the Covid19 pandemic. Cllr D Long said that he had received a certificate from HM Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk and the High Sheriff of Suffolk in recognition of all the voluntary work which has been done during Covid19. Also, Marian Rose had contacted Radio Suffolk and their efforts have also been recognised by Radio Suffolk with a broadcast last week.

11.21 TO DISCUSS THE VILLAGE WATER MAIN

The Clerk contacted Anglian Water with regard to the water main. A reply had been received from the Network Support Manager stating that there have been three leaks over a short period of time. It is not uncommon for a spate of bursts to occur after a significant leak as this will drastically alter pressures in what is usually a stable network. For this reason, Anglian Water have stated they will continue to monitor the situation however currently there is no timescale for any mains replacement. Cllr D Pryke stated that although there were three leaks over the Christmas period there had been two previous leaks in previous years. Cllr J Mann suggested that the Parish Council ask Anglian Water for a history of leaks over the last 10 years. **Action: Clerk**

12.21 TO DISCUSS LOCAL FOOTPATHS

Cllr D Long stated that as agreed at the last Parish Council Meeting the Clerk contacted Martin Williams Area Rights of Way Manager regarding cyclists on the river wall and local footpaths. Councillors have received a copy of the Martin Williams' reply. In his email Martin Williams offered to reinstate two signs to which the landowner had agreed. Cllr D Pryke said that although Martin Williams' reply was really helpful and dealt with the situation and we know it is a trespass and not a criminal offence to ride a bicycle on a public footpath, we were interested to hear whether he had any experience of deterrents which actually work. Cllr J Mann and Louise Overbury the Footpath Warden had completed a survey and identified where they believed the notices should be erected and produced a map showing the locations. Cllr D Long said that the Parish Council would need to seek permission from the landowners to erect signs. He said he had contacted one of the landowners regarding the stretch between the head of the Creek and Oak Wood who had no objection. It was agreed that Cllr A Abram should approach the other landowner (the Marina) to ask whether they would be agreeable to the Parish Council erecting notices on their land. It was agreed that councillors should consider the map before the next Parish Council meeting and that the Clerk should contact Martin Williams asking him to reinstate the two signs and asking whether he is in favour of the Parish Council erecting signs at the locations detailed on the map. **Action: Cllr A Abram / Clerk**

Cllr D Long said that the Parish Council had Suffolk County Council to thank for repairing the Board Walk and Nacton Estate repairing the boarding through part of Nacton Meadows.

13.21 TO DISCUSS THE BREXIT HGV ARRANGEMENTS

Cllr D Long reported that the Government brought in new legislation in September 2020 which is The Town and Country Planning (Border Facilities and Infrastructure) (EU Exit) (England) Special Development Order 2020 which makes provision throughout the country for the holding of HGVs should there be any problem with the ports due to Brexit and the holding back of vehicle movements. It was noted that there was a notice in the East Anglian Daily Times about this so we immediately followed up with the Police and Suffolk County Council who confirmed this law has been enacted. We received confirmation that the holding area is the Operation Stack area and they have confirmed that the same arrangements remain in place although it is not known whether it will be used for Brexit arrangements or not.

Cllr J Mann stated that the Parish Council needed to make First Norfolk & Suffolk aware of the arrangement that is in place whereby the Police can escort buses through the lorry park. It is a long time since Operation Stack has been evoked and First Norfolk & Suffolk may no longer be aware of this arrangement and decide to go down the dual carriageway to and from Felixstowe. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to First Norfolk & Suffolk and advise them that this arrangement is still in place and advise them to talk to the Police if further information is required. It was agreed that travel

arrangements for residents should be reproduced and published in the Parish newsletter. **Action: Clerk / Cllr D Long**

14.21 PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER EDITION

Cllr D Long said that he would like to thank everybody who contributed to the printed copy of the December newsletter. He offered a special 'thank you' to Cllr Patricia O'Brien for funding the newsletter from her Locality Budget.

15.21 CORRESPONDENCE

All relevant correspondence has been forwarded to councillors.

16.21 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

a. Tree and Church Warden

To note the completion of the tree work in Church Field and the overhang has been cut back.

b. Village Hall

Nothing to report.

c. Sir Robert Hitcham's Almshouses

Nothing to report.

d. Public Transport

Cllr J Mann reported that on several occasions recently when Bridge Road has been closed the local bus has had to turn round at The Green. He stated that small buses can manage this manoeuvre but longer wheel base buses cannot turn round safely. The village has a potential situation, if Bridge Road is shut, the bus from Ipswich to Levington may not run as First Norfolk & Suffolk often roster a long wheel base bus in the afternoon therefore the service could be cancelled and residents would have to go to the Bridge and walk. Cllr J Mann referred councillors to his email of the 9th January 2021 in which he explained the situation. It was agreed that Cllr J Mann would draft an email from the Parish Council to First Norfolk & Suffolk for the Clerk to send. **Action: Cllr J Mann / The Clerk**

Thank you to Cllr J Mann for displaying the new timetables. Suffolk County Council has now replaced the stolen timetable display cases.

e. Coast & Heath and Footpaths (CHF)

Please refer to Minute 12 above.

f. Nacton School

Nothing to report.

g. SALC

Nothing to report.

h. Port Liaison Group

Cllr J Bailey stated that the Port is still using an outdated air pollution indicator PM10 which is a very rough indicator when we should be concerned about the small particles PM2.5. Cllr J Bailey said he had registered my concerns but had not received any feedback.

- i. **Police/SNT**
Nothing to report.

17.21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, 3rd March 2021

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21.00 pm.

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

1. Cllr J Bailey stated he had studied the correspondence regarding the wooden stakes along the side of the road on Gun Hill. I know how difficult it has been over the last few months to watch road traffic erode the verges. It is not just confined to Gun Hill but it is a problem experienced by all parishes.
2. Marian Rose asked whether the Parish Council were considering carrying out a survey as to how the newsletter should be distributed. Cllr D Long said that the future of the Village Newsletter had been considered however due to Covid19 and the need to hold Zoom meetings it is very difficult to make any decisions at the moment.
3. Michael Hill said that the footpath 'no cycling signs' had not appeared to work but stated it is actually trespassing therefore would it be better to display signs which made people aware that they were trespassing by cycling on footpaths. Cllr D Long said that if the Parish Council does put up no cycling signs with the landowner's agreement and we are funding them we can word the signs to what we think would be most effective.
4. Cllr A Abram reported that at the bottom of Stratton Hall Hill a pot hole has reappeared. The Clerk has reported this to Suffolk County Council Highways.
5. Michael Hill agreed that there is a lot of pollution from the Port however he believed that it was the visiting ships rather than the Port. He said that he understood there is a new standard out for ships to comply with to be cleaner. Unfortunately, there is insufficient electricity on the quay side at the Port therefore the ships are running their diesel generators all the time. This could be raised at the next Port Liaison Committee by the Parish Council representatives. **Action: Cllr J Bailey / Cllr D Pryke**

Signed..... Date

Angie Buggs
Clerk to Levington and Stratton Hall Parish Council