

LEVINGTON AND STRATTON HALL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL ZOOM MEETING HELD ON

3RD MARCH 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

Not a great deal to report. SCC business goes ahead as usual, but differently. Holding meetings on 'zoom' and unless chaired well, meaning, for me, that members are not allowed to talk for too long!!

On February 11, SCC agreed its budget for 2021/22.

SCC is increasing its planned spending in 2021/22 to \$597.9m, £41m more than 2020/21. £15.3m will be spent to address its ongoing Covid-19 costs.

In 2021/22 General Council tax will rise by 1.99%, which represents an increase of £26.68 for a Band D property. There is a 2% rise in the Social Care Precept for 2021/22 as the council recognises the rising costs and demand for adult services; thus the overall rise for a Band D property will be £53.55.

There are no proposed reductions in council services or personnel in 2021/22.

On January 29th SCC announced that it will install Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras at its recycling centres.

The cameras give an accurate count of vehicle numbers and also record the time spent on site. This will allow SCC to maximise site availability and to develop new and existing sites to better meet the needs of an increasing population. This will add to the improvements that were announced on February 3rd to expand and improve Foxhall recycling centre.

The new design will provide queuing capacity within the site and better access from the highway. The raised level construction will improve the route to containers by removing the need for stairs.

Construction will begin summer 2021 and be operational by autumn 2022. SCC intends to keep a service running, as much as possible, whilst construction takes place.

On February 23rd SCCs Cabinet confirmed its support for the creation of a new Freeport (Freeport East).

The Freeport would cover both the ports of Felixstowe and Harwich as part of the Government's aim to create a number of Freeports across the country in order to hasten job creation, investment and international trade, post Brexit.

A Freeport includes: secure customs zones and tax sites, business to be carried out inside a country's land border, different tax and customs rules apply.

Freeport East has several unique aspects that makes its bid for Freeport status particularly strong. This includes: global and regional connectivity (36% of all UK container traffic passes through Felixstowe), unrivalled international connections, particularly with Asia, strong connectivity to the Midlands and the North. The bid supports other national objectives such as development of new technology and the drive for clean energy. The Port of Felixstowe has strong research and development links with Cambridge and Essex Universities plus strong connections with the energy sector. Felixstowe Port recently won funding to trial a pilot 5G network.

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

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT

No report received.

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).

No comments were received.

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

18.21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

19.21 CODE OF CONDUCT & DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

20.21 TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE 20TH JANUARY 2021

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 20th January 2021 which had previously been circulated were approved and signed as a true record by Cllr D Long (Chairman).

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

11.21 Water Leaks

Councillors had previously received a copy of the list of water leaks which had been received from Anglian Water. Cllr D Long reported that, other than the three leaks in December and January, there had been three leaks in the last 10 years and the Parish Council agreed to note the contents of the report.

22.21 FINANCE

a. Income since last meeting

None

b. Expenditure	
Mrs A J Buggs – Salary & Expenses Jan-Feb 2021	£722.61
HMRC Tax and NI	£150.77
c. Bank Balances at 29th January 2021	
Community Account	£22,735.56
Premium Account	£7,653.51

The Parish Council noted the balances as at the 29th January 2021 for both the Community Account and the Premium Account.

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

23.21 SIZEWELL C – reconsider meeting of Relevant Representatives with EDF

Cllr D Long reported that he had received a telephone call from Philip Ridley Head of Planning East Suffolk Council asking whether the Parish Council would reconsider having a meeting with representatives from the development company of Sizewell C and to discuss, in particular, the Freight Management Facility (FMF). Following discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council should decline the offer to meet with Sizewell C representatives at this time but, may consider having a meeting during the examination process. **Action: Clerk**

24.21 TO DISCUSS LOCAL FOOTPATHS

a. No cycling signs

The Clerk reported that she had written to Martin Williams Area Rights of Way Manager Suffolk County Council regarding ‘no cycling signs’ and the condition of local footpaths but had not received any feedback.

Cllr D Long reported that he had drafted a report on ‘no cycling signs’ which had been circulated to all councillors which aims to reduce/eliminate cycling on the footpaths. Cllr J Mann said that the Parish Council also needed to include reference to horse riders. Cllr D Long said that some time ago Cllr J Mann and Louise Overbury [Footpaths Warden] carried out a survey on the erection of ‘no cycling signs’. Councillors discussed the positioning of the signs. Included with the report was a picture of the signs that Waldringfield Parish Council have erected. Cllr D Pryke stated he felt that the signs were too large and needed to be more discreet. Following discussion, Cllr D Long stated that all councillors appeared to be in favour of erecting signs and asked councillors to submit their suggestions to the Clerk for suitable signage by the 12th March 2021 which would enable the Parish Council to discuss the preferred options and obtain an accurate estimate of the cost. Cllr D Long said that he had considered costs on the basis of local voluntary labour and that metal signs are approximately £40 each excluding posts. The Parish Council agreed to earmark £500 for the cost of the signs. The work needs to be undertaken in consultation with Martin Williams, the landowners and the owner of the Marina. Cllr A Abram agreed to contact Jonathan Dyke to discuss. All in favour. **Action: All Councillors/Clerk**

b. Condition

Cllr D Long reported that the Clerk had been in contact with Martin Williams about the general condition of the footpaths and in particular Footpath 25. The Parish Council had reported the

landslip to Martin Williams and a legal order has been put in place to close it. A site meeting involving the SCC Rights of Way Officer and the landowner would be taking place.

Comments have also been received about Bridleway 22 off the Levington/Nacton Lane near East Lodge Cottages – the New Meadows church path to Shore Lane Nacton. Horse riders are finding it difficult to use as a bridleway which is caused by encroachment from the side of the footpaths. This has also been reported to Martin Williams. **Action: Clerk / All Councillors**

25.21 TO DISCUSS FLY TIPPING

Cllr D Long reported that there has been a spate of fly tipping in the area. When the Clerk has reported the incidents East Suffolk Council have responded very quickly. Cllr A Abram suggested erecting ‘no fly tipping signs’.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting to allow a member of the public to speak

John Pritchard stated that this week alone he had reported three instances of fly tipping; two of which were on the long road to the Marina and one in the Creek. John said he had been submitting reports via an App on his mobile called “Clear Waste”. The App locates your position, you then take a picture and log a short report. The notification goes to all local authorities in the country. John said he believes the Levington and Stratton Hall area is a hot spot for fly tipping as it is out of the way and when the lighting is low, the offenders go undetected. John said that he believed it is possibly the same people.

The Chairman re convened the meeting.

26.21 TO DISCUSS A DATE FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Cllr D Long reported that the Annual Parish Meeting is scheduled for the 19th May 2021 however the legislation for Parish Council’s to hold virtual meetings expires on the 6th May 2021. Currently there has been no legislation put in place to allow Parish Councils to continue meeting virtually passed that date. The Annual Parish Council Meeting is on the 5th May 2021. Cllr D Long recommended that the Parish Council move the Annual Parish Meeting date to the 21st April 2021 to enable the meeting to be held virtually – all in favour. **Action: Clerk / All Councillors**

27.21 PLANNING

a. MAST – EYE C/04/0143 18th March 2004

It has been brought to the attention of the Parish Council that this Planning Application was granted for a year only and does not appear to have been renewed. The Clerk has written to East Suffolk Council to report this issue. **Action: Clerk**

b. 1 Seabridge Cottages Stratton Hall Drift ENF/21/0066/DEV

The Parish Council have received reports regarding the erection of a building at 1 Seabridge Cottages. The Parish Council have not received a Planning Application and are unsure as to whether Planning Permission is required. The matter has been referred to East Suffolk Council Enforcement Officer who has stated he will investigate. Unfortunately, enforcement action is taking longer at the moment due to the Covid19 situation but if the owner of the property does require Planning Permission they go ahead with building at their own risk. **Action: Clerk**

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

The Parish Council are waiting for East Suffolk Council to take enforcement action. Clerk to speak to Enforcement Officer re the current situation. **Action: Clerk**

b. Cllr D Pryke stated that the Parish Council had received notification from East Suffolk Council regarding a change to the Walk Farm Planning Application. When he looked at the Planning Application, he could not find any changes. Clerk to contact East Suffolk Council to find out what triggers an alert to be sent and why this particular notification was sent. **Action: Clerk**

28.21 TO DISCUSS PROGRESS WITH QUIET LANES INITIATIVE

Cllr J Bailey reported that the Parish Council is now in Stage 2 of Wave 1 whereby a notice of our proposals has been made public in the local press. He said he had spoken to George Firth Suffolk County Council Legal Department and a notice has been posted in the local press so members of the public can comment. The closing date for comments is the 15th March 2021. The Chairman thanked Cllrs Bailey and Abram and the Clerk for their work on this initiative.

29.21 CONSULTATION ON HIGHWAYS WORK A12 SEVEN HILLS (A1156) TO WOODS LANE (A1152)

Cllr D Long reported that a number of Zoom sessions are being held as part of the consultation process. He stated that if any councillor wished to make any comments concerning this consultation to email the Clerk so they could be circulated to all councillors. **Action: Clerk / All Councillors**

30.21 TO DISCUSS FREEPORT EAST (AND GATEWAY 13)

Cllr D Long reported that Freeport East has been supported and accepted by the Government. This creates a 45-kilometre development area from the Port of Felixstowe and the Port of Harwich to promote economic development and regeneration. Brown field sites will be developed but it was noted that Gateway 14 at Stowmarket is on a green field site. The Parish Council are aware that as part of this zone, planning consent will be streamlined and easier to achieve.

Cllr D Pryke stated that the Parish Council needs to be aware of any revision to the Local Plan and reference to Innocence Farm. Cllr J Bailey reported that much of the work on the Harwich site has already been completed.

31.21 CORRESPONDENCE

All relevant correspondence has been forwarded to councillors.

32.21 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

a. Tree and Church Warden

Nothing to report.

b. Village Hall

Cllr D Long reported that the Village Hall is still closed. It will be open on the 6th May 2021 for local elections but will be under strict conditions and Risk Assessments will be carried out. The Trustees of the Village Hall are proposing to meet nearer the 21st June 2021 when the Covid19 situation will be clearer and a decision can be made as to when it may be possible to open the Village Hall.

c. Sir Robert Hitcham's Almshouses

Nothing to report.

d. Public Transport

Cllr J Mann stated that the Clerk had updated First Norfolk and Suffolk regarding road closures and bus routes. He said that the buses are operating to schedule. He had checked on the bus shelters on the Old Felixstowe Road and they were undamaged, clean, and had up to date timetables.

e. Coast & Heath and Footpaths (CHF)

Please refer to Minute 24.21 above.

f. Nacton School

Nothing to report.

g. SALC

Cllr D Long reported that there is a SALC Area Forum on the 25th March via Zoom which he would try to attend. **Action: Cllr D Long**

h. Port Liaison Group

Cllr J Mann asked whether there had been any updates on the out-of-date pollution measuring equipment. Cllr J Bailey stated that the Port had made a new appointment and the person is experienced in dealing with pollution issues. Cllr J Bailey stated that he had received a map of the local area from Clive Eminson which indicated there is a 'hot' spot of pollution very close to Levington. Cllr D Long agreed to send the pollution map to all councillors. **Action: Cllr D Long**

i. Police/SNT

Nothing to report.

33.21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, 5th May 2021 Annual Parish Council Meeting.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 20.49 pm.

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

Ian Angus stated that 3 years ago Adnams gave the Parish Council £100 to buy flowers for the village field which was never used. Ian said he would be planting wild flowers this year and would like to submit an expense claim to cover the cost. Cllr D Long said that the Parish Council could not make formal decisions as the meeting was closed. It was agreed to add the item to the next agenda. **Action: Clerk**

Ian Angus stated that Footpath 25, which has been closed, is part of the proposed National Coastal Path. Ian Angus said that the Board Walk which is part of the circular walk is in a very bad state of repair. Cllr D Long stated that this issue has been reported to Martin Williams. Cllr D Long stated that approximately a year ago the Parish Council was consulted with regard to the National Coastal Path and submitted comments but have received no further information about the adoption.

John Pritchard stated that fly tipping and litter was now a problem in the area. He reported that in the long grass on the Old Felixstowe Road there is a lot of dumped items such as fridges and also litter. It was agreed that the Clerk should report this issue to the ESC District Councillors. **Action: Clerk**

John Pritchard stated that the wide footpath entries into the Creek is allowing cyclists to use the footpaths and suggested erecting staggered gates. Cllr D Long replied stating the Parish Council have discussed erecting gates with Martin Williams but the emphasis is on accessibility and Suffolk County Council will not support barriers.

Cllr A Abram reported that there is a problem in the village regarding stray cats. It was agreed that Cllr A Abram should seek advice from the Cats Protection League in Saxmundham. **Action: Cllr A Abram**

Signed..... Date

Angie Buggs
Clerk to Levington and Stratton Hall Parish Council