

LEVINGTON AND STRATTON HALL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING IN THE VILLAGE HALL HELD ON

3rd November 2021 at 7.15 pm

Present:

Cllr David Long (Chairman)
Cllr Julian Mann
Cllr David Pryke
Cllr John Bailey
Cllr Andrew Abram
Parish Clerk Angie Buggs
5 members of the public

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Pattie Mulcahy – written 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 matters were raised on any of the items on the agenda.

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

85.21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Patti Mulcahy (sickness). Clerk to send best wishes from the council for a speedy recovery. **Action: Clerk**

86.21 CODE OF CONDUCT & DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr D Long declared an interest in Item 12c Driftway DC/21/4413/FUL of the agenda.

87.21 TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE 1st SEPTEMBER 2021

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 1st September 2021, which had previously been circulated, were approved, and signed as a true record by Cllr D Long (Chairman).

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

75.21 a. Cllr D Long reported that the Parish Council employment related policies will be reviewed at the January 2022 meeting. It has been decided to postponed this item

due to time constraints as a result of the Eastern Structures Planning Application.
Action: Clerk

89.21 FINANCE

a. Income since last meeting

None

b. Expenditure to be agreed at this meeting

Mrs A J Buggs – Printer Toner	£60.85
Native Trees and Gardens – Felling Sycamore Trickers Wood	£300.00
Tuddenham Press – Newsletters	£94.00
SALC Payroll	£27.00
David Long – Poppy Wreath (S137)	£15.00
Mrs A J Buggs – Salary and Expenses September/October 2021	£781.60

It was noted that the Parish Clerk had worked extra hours due to the increased workload caused by the Eastern Structures planning application. The Parish Clerk was warmly thanked for not only working these extra hours but devoting the time so willingly, frequently over weekends, so enabling the Parish Council and residents to be kept fully informed on proceedings.

c. Bank Balances at 30th September 2021

Community Account	£26,412.37
Premium Account	£7,854.08

The Parish Council noted the balances as at the 30th September 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**

d. Half Year Accounts 1st April 2021 – 30th September 2021

Cllr D Long reported that the half year accounts had previously been circulated to all councillors. Cllr J Mann proposed that the Parish Council formally adopt the half year accounts, seconded Cllr D Pryke – all in favour.

e. Draft Budget / Precept 2022/2023

Cllr D Long reported that the proposed Finance Advisory Committee meeting had been cancelled due to Covid19 cases in the village. It was proposed that a Finance Committee meeting is held in November 2021 in preparation for the Parish Council meeting to be held on Wednesday, 19th January 2022 - agreed. Cllr D Pryke stated that the finances of the Parish Council are in a strong position. **Action: Clerk**

f. To agree donation for a Poppy Wreath

A donation for a Poppy Wreath was discussed. Cllr J Mann proposed, seconded Cllr A Abram that a donation be made to the Royal British Legion of £15.00 – all in favour.
Action: Clerk

90.21 TO DISCUSS QUEEN'S PLATINUM CELEBRATIONS

A briefing note had been sent to the Parish Council by the working group giving details of the draft arrangements for the Queen's Platinum Celebrations. The briefing included a notice which the group would like included in the Levington and Stratton Hall newsletter. It was agreed that the notice should go into the next newsletter. **Action: Cllr D Long**

Discussion took place as to whether the working group should be a sub-committee of the Parish Council. Cllr D Pryke proposed that the working group should form part of the Parish Council and be called the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Working Party, seconded Cllr J Mann – all in favour. Cllr J Bailey agreed to be the Parish Council's representative. Ali Bailey has submitted provisional costings and it was agreed that Ali be asked to join the next Finance Advisory Group to discuss. The group has suggested running a Christmas Draw to raise funds to support the event however it was noted that the Parish Council would need to apply for a Gaming License. Councillors believe that if the Jubilee event was underwritten by the Parish Council and an Enabling Grant was forthcoming from East Suffolk Council a Christmas Draw may not be necessary to raise funds. **Action: Clerk**

91.21 TO AGREE PARISH COUNCIL / ANNUAL PARISH MEETING DATES FOR 2022/2023

Parish Councillors agreed the following Parish Council Meeting dates for 2022. It was noted that meetings would be held in the Village Hall. The Clerk agreed to publish the dates on the Parish Council Notice Board and the Parish Council web site. **Action: Clerk**

Wednesday, 19th January 2022

Wednesday, 2nd March 2022

Wednesday, 4th May 2022 (Annual Parish Council Meeting)

Wednesday, 18th May 2022 (Annual Parish Meeting)

Wednesday, 6th July 2022

Wednesday, 7th September 2022

Wednesday, 2nd November 2022

92.21 TO DISCUSS AND REVIEW THE PARISH COUNCIL'S ANTI-HARASSMENT AND BULLYING POLICY

Cllr D Long reported that the Parish Council is reviewing its Anti-Harassment and Bullying Policy.

Cllr J Bailey stated that Levington and Stratton Hall Parish Council welcomes the guidance the current policy provides in this important area. Whilst the document covers the main areas, he felt that more guidance should be provided about the steps a Parish Council can take when the source of the problem is, for example a third party.

1.2 includes the following, "it, the policy, covers bullying and harassment by Councillors and by third parties such as residents, contractors and supplier's staff." The Policy provides little or no guidance on how these third-party cases should be dealt with, and this is needed.

1.4 writes, "Where harassment or bullying is shown to have taken place by the Clerk..." needs re-consideration in respect of the Clerk's role.

Clerk to request copies of policies from other Parish Councils and Suffolk Association of Local Councils. **Action: Clerk**

93.21 TO DISCUSS THE NATIONAL HIGHWAYS ROUTE STRATEGY

Highways England has announced the start of the third round of route strategies which will undertake a review of how the strategic road network is currently performing and to understand the needs of strategic partners, road users and local communities. Responses are required to be submitted by the 30th November 2021. It was agreed that councillors should submit comments to Cllr J Mann by the 20th November 2021 to enable him to complete the questionnaire on behalf of the Parish Council.

Action: Clerk / All Councillors

94.21 TO DISCUSS THE LORRY ROUTE MAP REVIEW

Suffolk County Council is undertaking a review of recommended lorry routes across the county. The review is formed of two parts; a technical review of routes and a community-led review of issues on lorry routes. The questionnaire is targeted to problem areas which can be added to. Parish Councillors expressed concern that when a hold-up occurs on the A14 HGV lorries can come through villages where the roads are not suitable for heavy traffic. Responses are required by the 17th December 2021 and Cllr Patti Mulcahy has requested a copy of our response. It was agreed that councillors should submit comments to Cllr J Mann by the 20th November 2021 to enable him to complete the questionnaire on behalf of the Parish Council. **Action: Clerk / All councillors**

95.21 TO DISCUSS PROGRESS WITH QUIET LANES INITIATIVE

Cllr J Bailey reported that the signs have now been erected in appropriate places and he thanked the Clerk and villagers who contributed to the consultation.

96.21 PLANNING

a. Planning Report

DC/21/4413/FUL – The Parish Council noted that the retrospective Planning Application for 1 Seabridge Cottage Stratton Hall Drift has been approved.

b. Eastern Structures DC/21/4413/FUL

Cllr D Pryke proposed that the minutes of the Parish Council Planning Meeting held on the 22nd October 2021 which had previously been circulated be approved, seconded Cllr A Abram – 4 in favour, 1 abstention. Cllr D Long abstained as he did not attend the meeting due to ill health.

Cllr D Long thanked residents who had submitted responses to East Suffolk Council and also the Clerk. He also thanked Cllr Mick Richardson District Councillor for supporting the village. Grant Heal Planning Officer has said he will accept comments for approximately another two weeks. It has been noted by the Parish Council that Suffolk County Council Highways have not submitted their comments on the application and the Planning Department has sent a reminder.

c. Driftway DC/21/4435/FUL

Awaiting decision by East Suffolk Planning Department.

97.21 LEVINGTON AND STRATTON HALL FOOTPATHS

The meeting which had been arranged for the 21st October 2021 with Martin Williams Suffolk County Council Rights of Way Officer and respective landowners was cancelled due to Covid in the village. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact Martin Williams and ask if he cannot attend a rearranged

meeting whether another member of the team could attend a meeting with the Parish Council and landowners. **Action: Clerk**

98.21 SIZEWELL C

a. Government announces Nuclear Energy (Financing) Bill

The Minister for Energy, tabled the Nuclear (Financing) Bill on the 26th October 2021 which have significant implications for Sizewell C.

b. Recommendation by Planning Inspectorate to Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy no later than 14th January 2022

The Parish Council submitted their comments to the Planning Inspectorate. The Planning Inspectorate has now completed the examination which will be submitted to the Secretary of State by the 14th January 2022. The Secretary of State has up to 3 months to make a final decision as to whether it is approved. Suffolk County Council has some outstanding issues; one relates to the removal of the Sizewell Link Road new road which goes between the A12 and the site entrance when the site is completed.

99.21 CORRESPONDENCE

All relevant correspondence has been forwarded to councillors.

a. Email received from East Suffolk Council

Consultations:

Draft Sustainable Construction Supplementary Planning Document, Draft Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document and Draft Cycling and Walking Strategy

East Suffolk Council is inviting comments on three new planning policy documents:

1. Sustainable Construction Supplementary Planning Document, consultation period: Monday 1st November to 5pm on Monday 13th December 2021.
2. Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document, consultation period: Monday 1st November to 5pm on Monday 13th December 2021.
3. Cycling and Walking Strategy, consultation period: Monday 1st November to 5pm on Monday 10th January 2022.

The Parish Council responded to a request to comment on three policies October 2020.

It was agreed that councillors should submit comments to the Clerk by the end of November in order to formulate a reply. **Action: Clerk / All Councillors**

100.21 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

a. Tree and Church Warden

Cllr D Long reported that Ian Angus had requested to hold an outside carol service delivered from the churchyard and attenders being on Church Field due to Covid restrictions – agreed.

b. Village Hall

AGM at 7.30 pm on 23rd November 2021

c. Sir Robert Hitcham's Almshouses

Thank you to Ian Angus for a comprehensive report. Chris Mayhew will be taking over as Treasurer from Dorrie Giles. Louise Overbury will be handing over as Clerk to Ros Eaton over the next 12 months.

d. Public Transport

Cllr D Long expressed thanks to the villagers who have cleaned the bus shelter. Cllr J Mann reported that he had spoken to FirstBus to ask the driver to ensure that users are made aware of the stand the 78 is leaving from. This request seems to be working well.

e. Coast & Heath and Footpaths (CHF)

Louise Overbury the Footpath Warden has been in touch with Martin Williams Suffolk County Council Rights of Way Officer expressing concern about the poor condition of the wire surface on the boardwalk leading down to the river. Recently two residents had taken serious falls.

f. Nacton School

The Parish Council continues to receive regular newsletters from Nacton School.

g. SALC

The Parish Council continues to receive regular updates which are very useful.

h. Port Liaison Group

Cllr D Pryke reported that the next meeting is on the 25th November 2021 but as yet have not received any formal notification of the meeting.

i. Police/SNT

Nothing to report.

101.21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, 19th January 2022 in the Village Hall

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.24 pm.

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

The Quiet Lanes sign which has been located near the Ship Inn is obscured by bushes. **Action: Clerk**

John Prichard asked whether villagers could have some guidance on vehicle charging points; how they are positioned and rules for routing the cables. **Action: Clerk**

Ian Angus asked the whereabouts of the Parish Council second notice board which used to be at Red House. Cllr D Long stated there was no agreement in place to relocate the notice board but he would investigate. **Action: Cllr D Long**

Ian Angus reported that the village post box notice states that the nearest collection point for collections after 4 pm is Chelmondiston which is incorrect. **Action: Clerk**

Ian Angus reported that the village website needs updating. Cllr D Long said that the Clerk was updating the out-of-date information but the Parish Council were trying to recruit a web master to manage the site. **Action: Clerk / Cllr D Long**

Ian Angus asked the current position regarding the rewilding of Trickers Wood and associated area. Cllr D Long stated that Trickers Wood continued to be preserved as natural wildlife friendly area in keeping with its natural environment. The grass strip/verge along Church Lane could be cut to a width of one meter [the notes of the September Parish Council meeting refer to this].

A parishioner commented on the footpath across Tankards Meadow. Cllr D Long responded by saying that the Parish Council do not own the land and it is managed by the landowner in agreement with Natural England. The footpath is not obstructed.

Signed..... Date

Angie Buggs
Clerk to Levington and Stratton Hall Parish Council