

## LEVINGTON AND STRATTON HALL PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING IN THE VILLAGE HALL HELD ON

19<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 7.15 pm

#### **Present:**

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

#### **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Cllr Pattie Mulcahy – no report

#### **DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT**

Copy of report 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).

Ian Angus requested that two flags be purchased as the current ones were deteriorating and they had already been mended. **Action: Clerk**

Gordon Carruthers stated that sometimes the minutes refer to parishioners by name and other times refers to them as a parishioner. Cllr D Long said that in future it would be one or the other. **Action: Clerk**

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

#### **01.22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr A Abram, Cllr M Richardson East Suffolk District Councillor and Cllr R Kerry East Suffolk District Councillor.

#### **02.22 CODE OF CONDUCT & DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

#### **03.22 TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE 3<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER 2021**

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021, which had previously been circulated, were approved, and signed as a true record by Cllr D Long (Chairman).

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

None

#### 05.22 FINANCE

a. **Income since last meeting**

None

b. **Expenditure to be agreed at this meeting**

Mrs A J Buggs Salary and Expenses Nov / Dec 2021	£673.81
HMRC Tax/NI Mrs A J Buggs	£336.08
C Bullard Entertainer Queen's Platinum Jubilee Deposit	£25.00
ACB Hire Chairs, etc Queen's Platinum Jubilee Deposit	£90.00
Louise Overbury Dog Bags	£10.77
Tuddenham Press Newsletters	£108.00
Mrs A J Buggs Reimbursement for Grit Bin (supplier GritBins.net)	£221.70
Mrs A J Buggs Reimbursement for 2 x Flags (supplier Easyflags)	£115.54

c. **Bank Balances at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021**

Community Account	£25,180.00
Premium Account	£7,929.28

The Parish Council noted the balances as at the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 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. **Draft Budget / Precept 2022/2023**

Cllr D Long reported that councillors had previously been sent a copy of the Budget for 2022/2023. The Parish Council had held a Finance Advisory Group Meeting and is recommending the precept is set at the same level as for 2021/2022 financial year which is £8,740.00. As a result of this, the tax base charge will show a -1.52% change on the 2022/2023 Council Tax bills against the Parish Council element. Cllr D Pryke proposed, seconded Cllr J Mann that the budget be accepted and that the Parish Council should precept for £8,740.00 for the year 2022/2023 – all in favour. **Action: Clerk**

e. **Replacement of Grit Bin Bridge Road**

Cllr J Mann reported that unfortunately the grit bin on Bridge Road had been demolished by a lorry on the 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021. The Clerk is currently pursuing the haulage company for reimbursement of the cost of replacement and has also contacted the police. The insurance policy access is higher than the cost of replacement so a claim cannot be made. Cllr J Bailey proposed, seconded Cllr J Mann that the Parish Council purchase a new grit bin – all in favour. **Action: Clerk**

#### 06.22 TO DISCUSS QUEEN'S PLATINUM CELEBRATIONS

Cllr J Bailey thanked the Clerk for her help with the preparation of the village celebrations. He said that Ali Bailey had circulated a report on the recent Queen's Platinum Jubilee Working Party which was self-explanatory however Ali had asked for some questions to be raised at the Parish Council Meeting.

1. Has an Enabling Budget been granted by the District Councillors? The Clerk reported that District Councillors had advised that an Enabling Budget could not be applied for until after 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022. However, Cllr Patti Mulcahy Suffolk County Councillor has offered funding of £1,000 to cover the cost of the marquee.
2. The organising team has arranged for a first aider to be available on Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> June however are asking whether a first aider needs to be available on Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2022. Councillors agreed that a first aider should be available on both days.
3. Does the Parish Council have the facility to print flyers to be distributed by the organising team to each house in the village? If the flyers are printed in black the Parish Council could produce the flyers if not the printing would have to be outsourced. Cllr D Long stated that the Parish Council would support the printing of the flyers.

Cllr J Bailey reported that Deben Inns had agreed to support the occasion by donating 12 bottles of prosecco.

Cllr D Long said that the Parish Council had submitted an application to Suffolk County Council Highways for the closure of part of Church Lane from the Ship Inn to Walnut Tree Cottage.

Cllr D Long thanked the organising team for all their work. **Action: Clerk**

## **07.22 TO DISCUSS DISRUPTION TO VILLAGE CAUSED BY ORWELL BRIDGE CLOSURES**

Cllr D Long reported there had been a road traffic accident on the A14 and the A1156 on the 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021 which had caused chaos in the area. As a result, traffic diverted through the villages of Levington, Stratton Hall and Nacton. He stated he had spoken to the Chairman of Nacton Parish Council to work together to try and solve the problem. The Parish Council have also contacted Cllr Mick Richardson and the Police Sergeant for Roads Policing and Firearms Operations Unit. The Parish Council is arranging a joint meeting with both parish councils, District Councillor, the police and also David Chenery Suffolk County Council Highways Safety Manager. **Action: Clerk**

## **08.22 FUTURE OF EAST SUFFOLK / NORSE PARTNERSHIP**

Cllr D Long stated that Norse provides a lot services to East Suffolk Council. The contract between Norse and East Suffolk Council finishes at the end of July 2023 and ESC have decided not to renew this contract. East Suffolk Council will create a Local Authority Trading Company (LATCo) to enable it to play a more direct and influential role in the delivery of local services. At the moment it is unknown what affect this change will have on our parishes.

## **09.22 TO DISCUSS THE NATIONAL HIGHWAYS ROUTE STRATEGY / TO DISCUSS THE LORRY ROUTE MAP REVIEWS**

Cllr J Mann co-ordinated the response on behalf of the Parish Council on the consultation. Cllr J Mann reported that he had highlighted the recent incident caused by traffic being diverted off the A14 through the villages which had caused damage to local verges and the demolition of the grit bin in Bridge Road. He had also highlighted the use of rural roads which are totally unsuitable for excessive number of vehicles and in particular lorries. He had also highlighted an articulated lorry which was

parked on the wrong side of the road without lights in Bridge Road. These comments have been fed into both the National Highways Route Strategy and the Lorry Route Map Reviews.

#### **10.22 NEWSPAPER BOX**

Cllr D Long stated that Ian Angus had drawn the change of policy by the newspaper company which is moving away from a bulk delivery to an individual household drop to the attention of the Parish Council. He had informed the Village Hall Trustees of this as the newspaper box is a joint venture between the Parish Council and the Village Hall Trustees. Although the Parish Council owns the newspaper box it is situated on Village Hall Trustee land. We now need to consider whether we retain the box or remove it.

#### **The Chairman adjourned the meeting in order to allow members of the public to speak**

In response to the Chairman's question, Ian Angus stated that most of the people who use the newspaper box had decided to have their papers delivered to their own homes and the rest have decided to no longer receive a newspaper. Cllr D Long asked whether parishioners who used the newspaper box each had a key for which they had paid a deposit were requesting a refund. Will the Parish Council be expected to refund the deposits? Ian Angus said that the majority of people do not want the deposits repaid but the lock on the box will need to be changed. It was agreed that an article should be placed in the Village Newsletter making people aware that they could request a refund, and he offered to do this, which was accepted by the parish Council

#### **The Chairman reconvened the meeting**

#### **11.22 PUBLIC EV CHARGING POINTS**

Cllr D Long reported that the Clerk had made enquiries about the infrastructure for charging vehicles particularly where residents do not have driveways, from both SALC and our local MP and had received no response to our questions. The Parish Council is monitoring the situation as the infrastructure policy develops. **Action: All Councillors / Clerk**

#### **12.22 ADOPTION OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES 2021/2022**

Cllr D Long stated that the Parish Council is required to review and adopt its policies and procedures each year. The following documents had previously been circulated to all councillors.

##### **a. Risk Management**

Cllr J Mann proposed, seconded Cllr J Bailey that the Parish Council adopt the Risk Management – all in favour.

##### **b. Standing Orders**

Cllr D Long reported that the Standing Orders are based on the NALC Model Standing Orders. Cllr J Mann proposed, seconded Cllr J Bailey that the Parish Council adopt the Standing Orders – all in favour.

##### **c. Asset Register**

Cllr D Pryke reported that the Parish Council had been reviewing their assets. He stated that it was important to have the Asset Register accurate and each asset clearly identified and logged. It was agreed to defer the adoption of the Asset Register until the Parish Council's meeting in March 2022. **Action: All Councillors / Clerk**

##### **d. Financial Regulations**

Cllr D Long stated that the Financial Regulations needed to be personalised to include the Parish Council's name at the top of the document. There have been no changes to the document during the year. It was proposed by Cllr J Mann, seconded Cllr J Bailey that the Parish Council adopt the Financial Regulations with the proviso that councillors review the document before the next meeting – all in favour. **Action: All Councillors / Clerk**

**e. Internal Control Statement**

Cllr D Long stated that a check list had been produced which had been circulated to all Councillors. It was agreed to defer this until the March meeting to enable the Parish Council to consider it in greater detail. **Action: All Councillors / Clerk**

**f. Data Protection**

Cllr D Long reported that the Internal Auditor had scrutinised and was satisfied with the data protection documents. Cllr D Pryke proposed, seconded Cllr J Mann that the Parish Council should adopt the Data Protection documents – all in favour. **Action: Clerk**

**13.22 PLANNING**

**a. Planning Report**

The updated Planning Report had been circulated by the Clerk.

**b. Eastern Structures DC/21/4413/FUL**

Councillors noted that the Eastern Structures application is still pending and it was noted that East Suffolk Council extended the consultation period until after Christmas 2021. The applicants submitted a report from a specialist in noise and Cllr J Bailey responded to that report. There are holding objections from Suffolk County Council Highways plus three other consultees. The Parish Council did respond to East Suffolk Council regarding the time extension and received a reply stating they often extend the timescale. Cllr J Bailey asked whether this planning application would go to Planning Committee rather than being decided by the Planning Officer. The Clerk was requested to write to Philip Ridley asking this question. **Action: Clerk**

**c. High View Nacton Road Levington DC/21/5433/FUL – First floor front extension, single storey rear extension and alterations to main house and proposed cladding finish to garage elevations and infill of 2 no. windows**

This application is still pending.

**d. The Haven 3 Stratton Hall Cottages Stratton Hall Drift DC/21/5186/FUL – Internal and external alterations**

It was noted that this application has been approved.

**e. Redevelopment of Orwell Truck Stop A14**

Cllr D Long reported although not in Levington and Stratton Hall both Highways England and Suffolk County Council Highways have objected to the planning application for the area which is, or, was until it was closed, Orwell Truck Stop.

The objection states that the application is contrary to NPPF109 and 111.

109. Planning policies and decisions should recognise the importance of providing adequate overnight lorry parking facilities, taking into account any local shortages, to reduce the risk of parking in locations that lack proper facilities or could cause a nuisance. Proposals

for new or expanded distribution centres should make provision for sufficient lorry parking to cater for their anticipated use.

111. Development should only be prevented or refused on highway grounds if there would be an unacceptable impact on highway safety, or the residual cumulative impacts on the road network would be severe.

- f. Cllr D Pryke said he had read with interest the recent email from the Enforcement Team that talked about how people should report enforcements however the next day this email was withdrawn. The email had stated that referrals to the Enforcement Team should be reported by the Parish Council rather than directly from an individual.

#### **14.22 SIZEWELL C**

- a. **Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy notification that the report period has been extended to no later than the 25<sup>th</sup> February 2022**  
A decision will therefore not be made until May 2022.
- b. **Newspaper article that alleges the Hinkley Point C project may be delayed after defects found in a similar reactor in China**  
Allegedly this reactor has been shut down due to the fact that some of the fuel rods have become damaged. It is now considered by civil engineers that there is a design fault in this type of reactor.

#### **15.22 CORRESPONDENCE**

All relevant correspondence has been forwarded to councillors.

#### **16.22 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS**

- a. **Tree and Church Warden**  
Cllr D Long reported that Seth Lord had been asked to estimate for the cost of reducing the bramble bush in Church Field / Pilots Way. Seth estimated the cost to be £500.00 plus VAT. Cllr D Long suggested that the Parish Council source some local effort to reduce it in size. Discussions took place as to whether it would be better to use mechanical equipment rather than manually. It was noted that the work needed to be undertaken before the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022 due to birds nesting. **Action: Cllr D Long / Clerk**
- b. **Village Hall**  
Nothing to report.
- c. **Sir Robert Hitcham's Almshouses**  
Nothing to report.
- d. **Public Transport**  
Cllr J Mann reported that Bridge Road had been closed on the 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022 due to Anglian Water proposed works. Unfortunately, the bus should have diverted by Stratton Hall Drift. Bus 78 did not operate as expected in the morning and tracking shows it attempted to use the normal route into Bridge Road from the north, turning round when the bus could not get passed the roadworks and thereby missing out both Levington and Nacton on its way into Ipswich. Although the return journey did take place there were no passengers to return. He

had spoken to First Bus and the driver will be spoken to as if he had read the notices posted in the morning, he would have been aware that he needed to use Stratton Hall Drift.

**e. Coast & Heath and Footpaths (CHF)**

Martin Williams Footpath Officer Environment & Transport Suffolk County Council arranged the repair of the boardwalk. A meeting has been arranged to discuss the footpath signage. Martin Williams has given advice but will not be attending the meeting. **Action: Clerk**

**f. Nacton School**

The Parish Council noted the newsletter received from Nacton School.

**g. SALC**

The Parish Council continues to receive weekly updates from SALC.

**h. Port Liaison Group**

The Parish Council noted the contents of the reports from the Port Liaison Group which had been circulated.

**i. Police/SNT**

The Parish Council noted the proposal to raise precepts for improvements to the 101 service. The Parish Council are continuing to liaise with the Police concerning hold-ups on the A14/Orwell Bridge. **Action: Clerk**

**17.22 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022 in the Village Hall**

**The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.33 pm.**

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

Cllr D Pryke asked the outcome of the discussions concerning the second notice board. Cllr D Long said he would contact the owners of the land. **Action: Cllr D Long**

Cllr D Pryke stated that the Post Office had still not changed the sign which was reported at the last meeting. The Clerk said that she had contacted the Post Office but, as yet, no action had been taken. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr D Pryke reported that the Parish Council still needed to address the issue of the website. **Action: All Councillors / Clerk**

Cllr D Pryke reported that some villagers had raised the issue of flooding of some roads; outside OCL, the other side of the A45, Stratton Hall Drift which appears to have got worse and in particular the old A45 is really dangerous. Cllr D Pryke stated that he would take photographs of the flooding to enable the Parish Council to report these to Suffolk County Council Highways. Ian Angus said that in some places the channels are silted up which means the water cannot drain away. **Action: Cllr D Pryke / Clerk**

Ian Angus commented on the fact that the summary of the Parish Council minutes which appears in the Parish Magazine needs to be a more detailed report. Cllr D Long stated that it is intended to be a summary and if parishioners require more information, they should contact a member of the Parish

Council or read the full Minutes on the website. Gordon Carruthers stated that more information should be available on the notice board.

Ian Angus stated that the Nacton School Report should be available to parishioners. Cllr D Pryke replied that the School Report contains information in a generalised newsletter form which is for families of children attending the school.

Gordon Carruthers mentioned the Annual Parish Meeting minutes. Cllr D Long stated that the APM is not a formal meeting of the Parish Council but a Village Meeting which councillors are not required to attend. The record of this meeting, as the record of forums at the Parish Council meetings, are in note form and not formal Minutes.

Signed..... Date .....

Angie Buggs  
Clerk to Levington and Stratton Hall Parish Council