

## LEVINGTON AND STRATTON HALL PARISH COUNCIL

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

Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2022 at 7.15 pm

#### **Present:**

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

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

Cllr Patti Mulcahy Suffolk County Council – written report.

The Clerk had circulated the report before the meeting, but the Chairman made particular reference to the redevelopment of Foxhall Recycling Centre.

#### **£7.8m redevelopment of Foxhall Recycling Centre to Begin**

RG Carter Ltd has been appointed by Suffolk County Council as contractor for the £7.8 million project, with work scheduled to start on the 17<sup>th</sup> October.

The new design will increase capacity for cars on site, reducing queuing and improve access from Foxhall Road and provide greater capacity to meet future growth.

The site will have a raised level construction, giving better access to the containers for users without the need for stairs.

Containers can also be emptied without the need to close the site.

The funding includes £794,414 from East Suffolk Council through the Community Infrastructure Levy collected from new housing developments in the East Suffolk area.

Work is scheduled to complete in early 2024 and the site will remain open to the public during construction.

RG Carter will work alongside Concertus Design and Property Consultants on the scheme.

The project will be conducted in phases to keep the centre operational throughout the build, but at certain times this may result in fewer booking slots being available to the public.

The Re-use Shop will change location in the new layout and will need to be closed for a period early next year to allow this to take place.

The project will also see the installation of a feeder lane from Foxhall Road, making access into the site safer.

Of the 11 recycling centres across the county, Foxhall accounts for 19% of recycling and waste, collecting more than 12,500 tonnes a year.

### **DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT**

Cllr Michael Richardson East Suffolk Council – written report.

Cllr Richard Kerry East Suffolk Council – written report.

### **VILLAGE FORUM**

An opportunity for residents to give comments on any issues on the agenda. (as 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 members of the public wished to speak.

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

#### **109.22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr John Ross (holiday), Cllr Andrew Abram (illness), Cllr Mick Richardson East Suffolk Council, Cllr Richard Kerry East Suffolk Council and Cllr Patti Mulcahy Suffolk County Council.

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

No declarations of interest were received.

#### **111.22 TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE 7<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022**

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022, which had previously been circulated, were approved, and signed as a true record by Cllr D Long (Chairman).

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

##### **a. Update on the purchase of a dog bin dispenser.**

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council were awaiting delivery from Norse.

##### **b. Picture / Certificate Queen's Platinum Jubilee – Village Hall**

Cllr D Long reported that at the September Parish Council meeting councillors agreed to use the balance in the Queen's Platinum Jubilee account to support a photograph of the event to be printed and framed to go in the Village Hall alongside the official certificate for holding an official Queen's Jubilee Beacon Lighting Ceremony. The Village Hall Trustees have agreed to provide a space on the wall. **Action: Cllr D Long**

#### **113.22 FINANCE**

##### **a. Income since last meeting**

East Suffolk Council Warm Room Project

£2,860.00

<b>b. Expenditure to be agreed at this meeting</b>	
Mrs A J Buggs Salary and Expenses August/September 2022	£860.81
David Long (Warm Room refreshments)	£72.96
Community Action Suffolk – Web Hosting	£60.00
SALC Payroll	£27.00
<b>c. Bank balances as at the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022</b>	
Current Account	£26,089.28
Deposit Account	£8,157.59

The Parish Council noted the balances as at the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022 for both the Community Account and the Premium Account.

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

**d. To approve the Half Year Accounts 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

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

**e. To approve the Draft Budget / Precept 2023/2024**

Cllr D Long reported that, by applying the Council Tax Base notified by East Suffolk Council on 2 November 2022, if the Parish Council Precept remained the same as for the financial year 2022/2023 (£8,740.00) this charge would show as -1.41% change in the year 2023/24. However, if the Parish Council wishes to keep its tax charge the same as 2022/2023 this would show as a 0% change on the 2023/2024 council tax bill and the requested precept would be £8,864.92. The Parish Council are facing financial challenges and increased costs for the financial year 2023/2024. The Finance Working Group have discussed the proposed budget and is suggesting a precept of £9,700.00. The budget and precept will be decided at the Parish Council meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2023 so that the precept request can be submitted to East Suffolk Council by the deadline of the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023. A meeting of the Finance Advisory Group would meet early in January 2023 to finalise its recommendation to the Parish Council.

**f. To discuss and decide on the donation to Quiet Lanes Suffolk**

Cllr D Long reported that at the Parish Council meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021 Minute 44.21 -To Discuss Progress with Quiet Lanes Initiative, the Parish Council agreed to donate between £50 and £100 to Suffolk Quiet Lanes. Cllr J Bailey explained that Levington and Stratton Hall were in Wave 1 of Suffolk Quiet Lane scheme and the Parish Council were not asked to contribute to the cost of either the signs or the legal work required to erect the signs on the highway. Cllr J Bailey stated that if the Quiet Lanes scheme had not been in place, the cost to the Parish Council would have been in the region of £900.00 for the signs and in the region of a contribution towards £10,000 for the legal work.

Following discussion, Cllr J Mann proposed, seconded Cllr D Pryke that the Parish Council contribute £100.00 to the Quiet Lanes Suffolk Project – all in favour.

**114.22 PLANNING**

**a. Eastern Structures Update DC/21/4413/FUL**

Planning Application DC/21/4413/FUL has been refused by East Suffolk Council. There is a 21-page Planning Officer/Committee Report on the ESC Planning portal which gives the reasons for refusal. It is unknown whether Eastern Structures will lodge an appeal against the refusal or submit another Planning Application.

**b. DC/22/3248/FUL Suffolk Yacht Harbour – Erection of the Installation of 20no. shipping containers to add to the existing storage area**

Parish Council Comments – No objection.

ESC - Approved

**DC/22/3003/TPO The Driftway Church Lane Levington 1no. Sycamore (T2 on plan) – fell**

Parish Council Comments – No objection.

ESC - Approved

**DC/22/3085/TPO The Driftway Church Lane Levington 1no. Sycamore (T1 on plan) – fell**

Parish Council Comments – No objection.

ESC - Approved

**DC/22/2929/TPO High Trees Bridge Road Levington 2no. Sycamore (T1 and T2 on plan) – Overall crown reduction by up to 30% in crown height and radial spread**

Parish Council Comments – No objection.

ESC – Pending

**DC/22/3761/FUL St Ambrose The Drift Levington Outbuildings and repositioning of existing sheds**

Parish Council Comments – No objection.

ESC – Pending

**DC/22/3762/FUL St Ambrose The Drift Levington Extensions and alterations including replacement of roof tiles to existing house**

Parish Council Comments – No comment.

ESC – Pending

**DC/22/3014/FUL Stratton Hall Stratton Hall Drift Stratton Hall Erection of single-storey, oak-framed orangery**

Parish Council Comments – No objection.

ESC - Approved

**c. Planning List**

The Parish Council noted the updated Planning List for November. **Action: Clerk**

**115.22 TO DISCUSS THE COST OF LIVING CAMPAIGN (EASE THE SQUEEZE) WARM ROOM**

A Warm Room has been set up using the funding from East Suffolk Council. A rota of volunteers to be responsible for the Warm Room has been set up by Sally Long and Helen Ross. Cllr D Long thanked all the residents who have put themselves forward as volunteers. Yesterday was the first day and was opened from 10 am – 4 pm. 14 people came along and used the Warm Room and were provided with beverages and biscuits. Cllr D Pryke offered a vote of thanks to Cllr D Long and Sally Long for all the work they have done in getting the project up and running.

Cllr S Gregory reported that she had contacted all residents who had requested logs to be delivered to their homes. Delivery dates have been discussed with the preferred supplier. The preferred supplier has offered to provide logs at a very competitive price and delivery will be made to individual houses. None of the residents who have ordered the logs have requested help with moving the logs once they have been delivered. **Action: Cllr S Gregory**

#### **116.22 TO AGREE PARISH COUNCIL / ANNUAL PARISH MEETING DATES FOR 2023**

Parish Councillors agreed the following Parish Council Meeting dates for 2023. 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. 2023 is an election year therefore the Parish Council must hold its Annual Parish Council Meeting within 2 weeks of the election date. **Action: Clerk**

Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023

Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023 (Annual Parish Council Meeting – Election Year)

Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023 (Annual Parish Meeting)

Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023

#### **117.22 QUALITY OF WATER AT LEVINGTON CREEK / ANGLIAN WATER**

The Parish Council was approached by a local resident about the scum on the water at Levington Creek. The Clerk contacted Anglian Water who replied that the Levington Water Recycling Plant is inspected regularly. Anglian Water made a visit to the site and reported that everything was working correctly. They reported that there was some scum on the top of the water in the Creek but there was no evidence to show that it was caused by Anglian Water discharge.

#### **118.22 TO DISCUSS REPLACEMENT FLOWER CONTAINERS ON THE GREEN**

Cllr D Long reported that the Village Green had benefitted from having two tubs planted with flowers on the Village Green. The tubs have been in place for around 10 years and due to wear and some traffic damage, require replacement. The cost of replacement of the tubs is £49.99 each plus the cost of filling them with suitable planting material. The total cost is estimated to be around £120.00. Caroline Young and Helen Kingston Ross have agreed to maintain the tubs.

Following discussion, Cllr D Pryke proposed that the Parish Council support the cost of replacing the tubs and plants, seconded Cllr J Bailey – all in favour. **Action: Clerk / Cllr D Long**

#### **119.22 WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

A programme to develop the Levington and Stratton Hall website has been agreed and the Website Working Group is due to meet on the 18<sup>th</sup> November 2022 to discuss progress. Cllr J Ross has spoken to Matthew Morling at One Suffolk and Matthew has set up a skeleton site for the first phase of the project. The Clerk reported that all the previous year's documents will need to be uploaded on to the new site. **Action: All Councillors / Clerk**

#### **120.22 TO DISCUSS A REPORT ON SPEEDING**

Cllr J Ross has investigated the problem of speeding through the villages and circulated his report. The report is very thorough and looks at the two main sites; Church Lane, the bend alongside the Church and Bridge Road, the straight piece of road from Red House Walk to the right-hand bend heading

north. Cllr S Gregory expressed concern about the amount of speeding through the village which is particularly bad at weekends. It was agreed that this item should be deferred until the January 2023 meeting. **Action: Clerk**

#### **121.22 TO DISCUSS AMPLIFICATION AT PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Cllr D Long said that it had been suggested to the Parish Council that some people attending meetings were unable to hear what was being discussed and whether there was a possibility of amplification of meetings.

**The Chairman adjourned the meeting to allow members of the public to take part in the discussions.**

Various options were discussed. A hearing loop can only be used by people who use a hearing aid. If microphones can be used but if two microphones are close together it can cause interference.

Ian Angus said that he is working on behalf of the Church to look at amplification in the Church for people with hearing loss and he would be pleased to keep the Village Hall problems in mind when looking at the various options available. **Action: Ian Angus**

Cllr D Pryke thought that if the Parish Councillor's sitting on tables on each side of the Chairman spanned them out it might help because those councillors would be facing the audience. It was agreed that the Parish Council would try this approach at their next meeting. **Action: All councillors**

**The Chairman reconvened the meeting.**

#### **122.22 TO DISCUSS THE LAY-BYS – OLD FELIXSTOWE ROAD**

The Clerk reported to Environmental Health the rubbish and fly tipping in the lay-bys on the Old Felixstowe Road and had received a reply to say this would be actioned. Cllr S Gregory commented that the lay-by had been cleaned however it appears that the rubbish is building up again. **Action: Clerk**

#### **123.22 CORRESPONDENCE**

All relevant correspondence has been forwarded to councillors.

#### **124.22 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS**

**a. Tree and Church Field Warden**

No report.

**b. Village Hall**

As reported in Minute 12.22b above the Village Hall Trustees have agreed to allow a framed picture of the Queen's Platinum celebrations and the official certificate for lighting the Queen's Jubilee Beacon Lighting Ceremony. The income for the last financial year did not cover the expenditure for the Village Hall. The trustees are considering ways to make up the difference. Cllr J Bailey reminded councillors that there could be funds available for local projects from the Sizewell C development. The hiring charges for the coming financial year will be remain the same as last year.

**c. Sir Robert Hitcham's Almshouses**

Written report from Ian Angus.

The Annual General Meeting was held in October under the Chairmanship of Revd Ian Wilson. The Trustees were able to confirm a satisfactory hand over of responsibilities of the Clerk to Ros Eaton (Nacton representative) and Treasurer to Chris Mayhew (Red House Walk). They were very grateful for the outstanding work previously carried out by Louise Overbury (Clerk) and Dorrie Giles (Treasurer). The charity had a space for a new Trustee and Michael Hill (White House) has kindly stepped up to the position.

After a summer, making sure that the walls in the courtyard were completely dry, lime render has been plastered onto the original external brick. The residents love the sombre, natural colour of the new render and have asked that the walls are NOT painted white.

**d. Public Transport**

Report from Cllr J Mann.

First Eastern Counties have been allocated 15 new double decker buses however the new buses will not be based in Ipswich. First Eastern Counties have also received some single decker buses which are 10 years old. These buses have a bigger capacity compared to the buses that are on morning route to Levington. I have not received any reports of problems on the Levington bus service. The bus shelter at the Bridge is in need to cleaning but this is being organised by residents. This week a lady went missing in the village. First Eastern Counties were contacted who now have a facility on their ticket machines which allows broadcasting to the drivers. Currently there are no threats to bus routes.

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

No report.

**f. Nacton School**

It was noted that a report had been received from the school which had been circulated to all councillors.

**g. SALC**

No report.

**h. Port Liaison Group**

Cllr J Bailey reported that a Port Liaison Group meeting has not been held recently. Concerns have been expressed about the railway lines being adjacent to houses and this appears to be a serious problem. It was agreed that Cllr J Bailey should draft a document setting out the concerns on behalf of the Parish Council that some members were splitting from the Group to discuss various subjects and so denying the full membership to contribute to debate. **Action: Cllr J Bailey**

**i. Police/SNT**

No report.

**125.22 DATE OF NEXT MEETING WEDNESDAY, 18<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2023 IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

**The Chairman closed the meeting at 20.21pm.**

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

Cllr D Long stated that he had received an email from Marian Rose expressing thanks to the way the Police had handled the concerns about a missing person in the village. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the Police and Crime Commissioner to say, "thank you". **Action: Clerk**

Cllr S Gregory asked when the "No Cycling" signs would be erected on the footpaths. Cllr D Pryke said that he needed to contact Jonathan Dyke and Nacton Parish Council about the signs the Parish Council would like to erect on their land. The bespoke signs will then be orders for which funding has already been agreed. **Action: Cllr D Pryke / Clerk**

Gordon Curruthers asked whether the Parish Council believed the Quiet Lanes project has been a success. Cllr J Bailey stated that unfortunately there is nowhere on the route that two cars cannot pass. Cllr D Long stated that there is no way to monitor the success.

Cllr J Bailey said that a resident had remarked on the bright red colour of the dog bins in the village and was it possible to have a colour that blended into the environment. It was agreed to put an item on the January 2023 agenda to discuss dog bins.

Ian Angus reported that when he was walking through the village at lunch time this week there were two people collecting litter with the correct litter picking equipment. He was told that the two people were employees of OOCL. He said he had written to the HR lady thanking her for the work OOCL are carrying out. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to OOCL thanking them for their efforts in the village.

Ian Angus that two good pieces of news had been reported; Eastern Structures refusal and the Warm Room project which was because of pro-active work by the Parish Council. Ian Angus offered a vote of thanks to the Parish Council.

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

Angie Buggs  
Clerk to Levington and Stratton Hall Parish Council