

LEVINGTON AND STRATTON HALL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL ZOOM MEETING HELD ON

10th September 2020 AT 7.15 pm

Present:

Cllr David Long (Chairman)
Cllr Julian Mann (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Andrew Abram
Cllr David Pryke
Cllr John Bailey
Cllr Patricia O'Brien – Suffolk County Council
Parish Clerk Angie Buggs
2 members of the public

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

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

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).

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

42.20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mellissa Allen – District Councillor

43.20 CODE OF CONDUCT & DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

44.20 TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE 1st JULY 2020

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 1st July 2020 which had previously been circulated were approved and signed as a true record by the Cllr David Long (Chairman).

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

None

46.20 SIZEWELL C – NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE CONSULTATION

The Chairman stated that the Parish Council should decide whether they wanted to register an interest with the Planning Inspectorate as an interested party and also whether the draft paper previously circulated would support that application. Cllr David Long proposed that the Parish Council register an interest with the Planning Inspectorate – all in favour. Cllr David Long stated that

the application should be supported by a statement demonstrating that the Parish Council have considered the DCO. Cllr David Long asked whether councillors considered the draft document which had been circulated was sufficient to support the Parish Council's application – all in favour. It was agreed that the Clerk should register an interest on the Planning Inspectorate website. **Action: Clerk**

It was agreed that copies of the submission should be sent to Nacton Parish Council, Cllr Patricia O'Brien, Cllr Richard Kerry, Cllr Melissa Allen and Therese Coffey MP. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr David Long said that an email had been received from Woodbridge Town Council regarding the Suffolk United Group requesting a copy of our comments - agreed. **Action: Clerk**

SIZEWELL C PLANNING APPLICATION

REGISTER OF INTEREST SUBMISSION TO THE PLANNING INSPECTORATE

The Parish Council has participated in all four stages of public consultation over eight years.

This application concentrates on the site for the proposed Freight Management Facility [FMF] in the context of the overall Freight Management Strategy options [6.1 Environmental Statement – plate 3.3 page 12]. This releases 325 one-way HGV movements on a typical day [13.5 deliveries per hour = 1 every 4 minutes] and 500 on the busiest days [21 deliveries per hour = 1 every 3 minutes] over 24 hours. This will have a significantly detrimental impact on the local roads and the environment around the FMF.

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].

The Parish Council supports more emphasis being placed on the rail led option for the delivery of goods to the construction site.

FREIGHT MANAGEMENT FACILITY

1. Book 6.9 Volume 8 – Local Environment

Proposals to mitigate the harmful impact of this site set within the countryside and on a flat topography comprise a 3m high landscape bund [only to the west and partially to the east of the site], a 10m buffer zone and native trees/shrub planting [it is noted that a 1.8m security fence will encircle the site].

This is insufficient mitigation not to cause a nuisance:

- Visual – as almost all the HGVs and buildings will be above the height of the bund there will be a visual impact.
- Light – the lighting lanterns being 8m high at 4m spacing will clearly tower above the bund. Further mitigation is given to the use of a Central Management System, but it is difficult to assess effectiveness. Further mitigation relies on partial blockage by existing trees [mainly to the south] but this will be ineffective after leaf fall.
- Noise and Vibration –background noise is mentioned but this is low level and constant. HGVs stopping and starting, cab doors banging, will be jarring.
- Air Quality – Particular concern for nearby residents, along with other pollutants [above].
- When will planting take place and how long will it be before it matures to be an effective screen?

2. Book 8 [8.5] Traffic Assessment

- Junction with A1156 [Section 9.30 – pages 472 to 478] – Junction 41 is described as “a simple priority T-junction” which is the problem. It will become dangerous with slow HGVs crossing the sweeping bend of a 60mph A-road. There is a ‘ghost island’ providing negligible protection for right turning vehicles.
- Traffic from Port of Felixstowe using A14 Junction – on the busiest day, 75 journeys will originate from here. The junction to the Felixstowe Road is inadequate and positioned on a fast stretch of the A14. There is also concern about pollution and disturbance to residents living alongside this road.

3. **6.9 Volume 8 – Chapter 2 – 2.6.3 Return to Original Use including Felixstowe Road**

The intention to return the site to agricultural use AND reinstating the Felixstowe Road should be a legally binding commitment so avoiding a predatory planning authority or developers industrialising the countryside.

47.20 PLANNING

a. **Report on the latest position regarding the enforcement order Old Felixstowe Road (Eastern Structures)**

Cllr David Long reported that there was no further information on the progression of the enforcement order. The Clerk has contacted Rachel Lambert Case Officer both by telephone and email and had also emailed Philip Ridley on numerous occasions. Cllr Julian Mann reported that he had been to the site and Eastern Structures have extended the area that they are using by approximately 20 metres where red pipes are being stored. They have also erected an earth bund between the road and their site. It was agreed that the Clerk should endeavour to contact Rachel Lambert by the 25th September and if the Clerk does not receive a response then a Zoom meeting should be setup between Rachel Lambert, Philip Ridley, District Councillors and the Parish Council. **Action: Clerk**

b. **Planning for the Future Consultation**

The Government has produced a White Paper outlining its intention to streamline the planning systems and gives details of various suggestions. The consultation period deadline is the 29th October 2020. Cllr David Long asked councillors to let the Clerk have any comments they wish to make by the end of September 2020. **Action: Clerk**

c. **How to Frame Planning Consultation Responses**

Cllr David Long stated that the document “How to Frame Planning Consultation Responses” had been sent out by East Suffolk Council and suggested that the document be kept by councillors for future reference when considering Planning Applications. **Action: All Councillors / Clerk**

d. **Consultation on Coastal Applications Supplementary Planning Document**

Cllr David Long said that the Parish Council had received a consultation document on Coastal Applications Supplementary Planning Document which covers the coast from Holkham in Norfolk to Felixstowe in Suffolk. Cllr David Long said that Levington part of the coastline is generally covered by Essex Coast to the Thames Estuary Shoreline. Cllr David Pryke reported that he had done some research and this consultation is at a very early stage and suggested the Parish Council wait until the consultation is at a later stage, which was agreed.

48.20 DRAFT LOCAL PLAN – TO NOTE THE PLANNING INSPECTOR MAIN MODIFICATIONS

In accordance with the Parish Council decision a response was made to the main modifications from the Planning Inspector and Levington and Stratton Hall comments were noted and recorded by East Suffolk Council. The Parish Council have just been notified that the Planning Inspector has published his modifications and our comments are included in the document. The East Suffolk Council Cabinet will meet on the 17th September 2020 with a Full Council Meeting on the 23rd September 2020 and it is likely that it is at this meeting the Local Plan will be adopted. It was noted that Local Plan also includes the Business Park on the Nacton end of the Old Felixstowe Road.

49.20 SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

a. To discuss Boardwalk and Orchid Meadow Footpath Repairs

The Boardwalk is in need of repair and Martin Williams, SCC Rights of Way Officer, has agreed that this work should be carried out by the end of September.

Martin Williams has agreed to remove the hand rails which were damaged by cattle on Orchid Meadow Footpath. The repairs will be carried out when necessary. If the Parish Council are concerned about repairs needing to be completed, we will contact Martin Williams. **Action: All Councillors/Clerk**

b. Central Reservation, Old Felixstowe Road

Several people expressed concern about the height of the grass on the central reservation. The Clerk contacted Suffolk County Council Highways however the grass was eventually cut by a local resident. The Parish Council thanked the resident for his help.

50.20 TO DISCUSS ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN THE AREA

Cllr David Long reported that more nitrous oxide cannisters were found in the village, this time near Red House Walk and that the likelihood is they were thrown from a car. The police were contacted and they have advised us to report incidents on their website under antisocial behaviour and they will track where they are being deposited. **Action: Clerk**

51.20 RED HOUSE FARM AND CHURCH LANE – OVERHANGING TREES

Cllr David Long reported that the trees in Bridge Road do not appear to be overhanging the road to a dangerous degree. However, the trees which are overhanging from Trickers Wood are not giving clearance over the road. Prior to the meeting two quotes for the work were circulated. The trees are under TPOs however we have the agreement of the Arboriculture and Landscape Manager to carry out the pruning. Cllr David Long proposed that the Parish Council accept the lower of the two quotes, £450.00 including VAT, seconded Cllr David Pryke – all in favour. **Action: Clerk**

52.20 TO DISCUSS CYCLING ON THE RIVER WALL FOOTPATH

Cllr David Long reported that Waldringfield Parish Council had contacted Levington and Stratton Hall Parish Council as they were having problems with people cycling on the River Wall along the Deben and they have erected “no cycling” signs. Councillors would consider reinstating “no cycling” signs but expressed concerns that cyclists would probably ignore the signs or vandalise them. As Louise Overbury [Footpaths Warden] had already offered to help with the identification of appropriate places for signs to be erected it was agreed that Cllr Julian Mann would contact Louise to compile a

list of suitable sites. When completed, approaches would be made to local landowners and the SCC Rights of Way Officer. An update would then be reported on at the next meeting.

It was also agreed that the Clerk should contact Waldringfield Parish Council to see whether the new signs are having any affect. **Action: Cllr Julian Mann / Clerk**

53.20 LEVINGTON LANE (BUCKLESHAM / LEVINGTON)

Cllr David Long reported that a query had been raised in February 2020 by a resident concerning the status of the pedestrian crossing of the A14 between Levington and Bucklesham and the ownership of the road. This has been raised with Suffolk County Council Highways and their response is:

- The land may be in private ownership but the highway rights are independent of the overall ownership of the land.
- The big issue here is crossing the A14, there is no 'safe' crossing, just a gap in the central reservation, on a very busy 70 mph road. I couldn't encourage anyone to cross here, regardless of the legality of the route. With very limited use it is unlikely that a safe crossing point would be created.

Cllr David Long proposed that the Parish Council note the comments made by Suffolk County Council Highways – agreed.

54.20 SEWERAGE FLOW BACK

Cllr David Long reported that there has been a sewerage outflow near to the sewerage works. The Clerk contacted Anglian Water and an engineer has visited and we have written up advice to residents as to what should not be flushed down the toilet. Cllr David Long stated that the Parish Council should consider sewerage if a Planning Application is submitted for development at Red House Farm. **Action: All Councillors**

55.20 TO REVIEW THE ASSET REGISTER

Cllr David Long asked councillors to submit any comments on the asset register to the Clerk. **Action: All Councillors / Clerk**

56.20 QUIET LANES

The Parish Council has expressed an interest in the development of quiet lanes across Suffolk. Cllr John Bailey said that there is a group which he would like to be involved with to represent Levington and Stratton Hall Parish Council. Cllr David Long suggested that Cllr John Bailey contacts the group and reports back to the next meeting. **Action: Cllr John Bailey / Clerk**

57.20 LOCAL BUS SERVICE

Cllr Julian Mann reported that since the last meeting the Number 163 bus service which ran three days a week is now running under a new Number 78 five days a week. Unfortunately, the Suffolk County Council website information and the national website is incorrect for the Nacton and Levington journeys as the buses run 20 mins later. The notice at the Village Hall has been amended. Cllr Julian Mann stated that there is confusion about which bus stop it leaves from in Ipswich and that he had

notified all residents who he believes use the bus service of the correct stop. An article would also be placed in the Newsletter. **Action: Cllr Julian Mann**

58.20 ROADWORKS ON A14 BETWEEN JUNCTIONS 58 TO 62

Cllr David Long said that councillors had been briefed on the roadworks and could they be aware of any residents which are affected by the roadworks. **Action: All Councillors**

59.20 FINANCE

a.	Income since last meeting	None
	Anticipated income before next meeting	None
b.	Expenditure to be agreed at this meeting	
	HMRC Tax Mrs A J Buggs	£285.00
	Mrs A J Buggs Salary May / June 2020	£642.18
	ICO Fee	£40.00
	DC Construction Newspaper Box	£240.00
	Cllr D Long – Reimbursement Poppy Wreath	£15.00
	Mrs A J Buggs Salary July / August 2020	£672.06
	HMRC Tax Mrs A J Buggs	£144.20
	Came & Co Insurance Premium	£370.99
c.	Bank Balances at 31st August 2020	
	Community Account	£22,393.40
	Premium Account	£7,502.28

Cllr John Bailey proposed, seconded Cllr David Pryke that the above expenditure is approved – all in favour. **Action: Clerk**

d. Locality Budget

Cllr Patricia O’Brien approved the Locality Budget of £240.00 to cover the cost of repairing the newspaper box. Thanks to Cllr Patricia O’Brien.

e. To approve the expenditure of the Poppy Wreath

It was agreed that a £15.00 donation would be paid to finance the poppy wreath (£137). **Action: Cllr David Long / Clerk**

f. To discuss the Parish Council’s Insurance renewal

Cllr David Long stated that at the Parish Council Meeting on the 5th September 2017 (Minute 6) it agreed to a 3 year deal with Ecclesiastic running from 2017/2020. The proposal from our insurance company is that we continue with a 3 year deal with Ecclesiastic at a cost of £370.99 per year. There is currently £325.00 in the budget for insurance therefore £45.00 will need to be taken out of reserves. Cllr David Pryke proposed that the Parish Council accept the 3 year deal with Ecclesiastic, seconded Cllr Julian Mann – all in favour. **Action: Clerk**

g. Parish Clerk and RFO Pay Agreement

Cllr David Long stated that there has been a National Pay Agreement agreed for Parish Clerks and Responsible Finance Officers and proposed that the Parish Council agrees to implement the pay increase as agreed by the NJC with effect from the 1st April 2020, seconded Cllr David Pryke – all in favour. **Action: Clerk**

60.20 MISSION STATEMENT

Cllr John Bailey requested that if any councillor has any comments to make regarding the proposed mission statement could they email either Cllr David Long or the Clerk with details. He said the reason he was asking the Parish Council to adopt a Mission Statement is that it is often helpful to have a document agreed which is ready to use and, in the absence of a Neighbourhood Plan, would help the Council in a general sense of purpose. It was agreed that this item should be placed on the next agenda. **Action: Clerk**

61.20 CORRESPONDENCE

All relevant correspondence has been forwarded to councillors.

62.20 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

a. Tree and Church Warden

See Minute 51.20.

b. Village Hall

The redecorating has now been completed. The Village Hall remains closed but this will be reviewed on the 20th October 2020 when the Trustees next meet.

c. Sir Robert Hitcham's Almshouses

Nothing to report.

d. Public Transport

See Minute 57.20.

e. Coast & Heath and Footpaths (CHF)

See Minute 52.20.

f. Nacton School

The Parish Council does receive their newsletters and the latest one was about the precautions they are making in respect of Covid-19.

g. SALC

Area Meeting on the 23rd September 2020 which is a Zoom Meeting.

h. Port Liaison Group

Cllr Julian Mann asked whether any councillor knew when the next meeting of the Port Liaison Group was being held? Cllr John Bailey said that he had **not** received any notification.

i. Police/SNT

See Minute 50.20.

62.20 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, 4th November 2020

The Chairman closed the meeting at 20.37 pm.

Signed..... Date

Angie Buggs
Clerk to Levington and Stratton Hall Parish Council