
LEVINGTON AND STRATTON HALL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF EXTRAORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY 12th October 2017 at 7:15pm

Present: Councillors: David Long (Chairman)('DL'); David Pryke (Vice-Chairman) ('DP'); Pat Pryke ('PP'); John Bailey ('JB') Andrew Abram ('AA'), James Ramsey – Parish Clerk: Jane O'Hear (JO)
SCDC Cllr Susan Harvey (SH))

The Parish Council ('the PC') meeting was declared open at 7.15pm.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Cllr. Ian Angus out of Parish

2. VILLAGE FORUM

None

3. CODE OF CONDUCT & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest

4. TO AGREE AND APPROVE THE LEVINGTON AND STRATTON HALL PC RESPONSE TO THE LOCAL PLAN PROPOSALS

The Chairman reminded the meeting that he previously circulated a detailed synopsis of the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan and in view of the length of both documents, subject to approval of councillors, he had identified and distributed 8 discussion points deemed most relevant to L&S PC. These items were approved by all councillors.

- Growth Scenarios
- Housing Distribution Options
- Gypsies, Travellers, Travelling Showpeople and Boat Dwellers
- Physical Limits Boundaries
- Sites Considered Appropriate for Future Consideration by the Council
- Other particularly relevant matters
- Identify any issues on the Initial Site Assessments
- Any other topics to raise at the 1-2-1 meeting with SCDC planning officers

Growth Scenarios

DL pointed out that the current Local Plan was already being actioned separately and this should be made clear on the maps. Of the 3 housing growth scenarios, all the councillors favoured using the Baseline prediction at this point and confirmed the need for proper consultation of exactly where growth should be located. All agreed that brownfield sites should be developed ahead of agricultural and JB and DP reported that Bidwells is pushing for more local land for Port activities. There was further agreement that the consultation should ask "what sites are inappropriate" as opposed to "what sites are appropriate".

Housing Distribution Options

In relation to any advantage in moving housing development out of the larger towns and market towns, PP stressed the importance of Ipswich and Felixstowe remaining separate and this was strongly endorsed by the whole meeting.

Gypsies, Travellers, Travelling Showpeople and Boat Dwellers

In relation to identifying appropriate site locations, the meeting agreed that this issue is generally self-determined by the guidelines which required sites to be located near existing facilities.

Physical Limits Boundaries

DP pointed out that Levington and Stratton Hall is classified as not sustainable due to the lack of appropriate infrastructure and therefore physical limits boundaries are not relevant plus there is no real demand for affordable housing because this had been met in partnership with Nacton.. JB recommended promoting local AONB as planners have to respect these boundaries.

Sites Considered Appropriate for Future Consideration by the Council

The meeting agreed that the pressure from interested parties within the Port of Felixstowe for development of Innocence Farm was because these areas will be cheaper to develop than those within the Port. It will be important for L&S PC in conjunction with other impacted parish councils and groups, to continue protesting about the scale of these proposed developments.

Other Particularly Relevant Matters

None raised

Identify any issues on the Initial Site Assessments

PP said that references to local transport provision should be tightened up – e.g. references to available transport 3 days per week should be accurately described as 3 mornings per week if that is the real frequency.

Any other topics to raise at the 1-2-1 meeting with SCDC planning officers

JR stressed the importance of avoiding too much negativity about local planning development.

JB said the accuracy of the economic forecasts included in the plan should be questioned, particularly in view of BREXIT which is clearly impacting data sets.

DL emphasised that the purpose of the SCDC meeting will be to explore the current process rather than present the parish council conclusions. There was general agreement that the 1-2-1 meeting would investigate (i) the clarity of the current process; (ii) the effectiveness of the process, particularly given the poor communication of the public consultation; (iii) the lack of unstructured content in the Consultation report; (iv) the lack of a genuinely independent report on the prospective Port of Felixstowe development.

The meeting closed at 21.15.

