
LEVINGTON AND STRATTON HALL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 5th NOVEMBER 1st 2017 at 7:15pm

Present: Councillors: David Long (Chairman) ('DL'); David Pryke (Vice-Chairman) ('DP'); Pat Pryke ('PP'); John Bailey ('JB'); Ian Angus ('IA'); Andrew Abram ('AA'); James Ramsey (JR); – Parish Clerk: Jane O'Hear (JO)
SCC Councillor Patricia O'Brian ('PO')
Four members of the public.

- **VILLAGE FORUM (Agenda Items Only)**

None

- **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

The first couple of weeks of October I was on holiday; there has been much to catch up on. I have sent all parish councils the new arrangements for contacting Highways. It is early days and it takes time for a new system to settle down. I have been in conversations with Highways, regarding their assessment of SCDC's transport views in relation to development at Adastral Park, and their report gives specific mitigation measures that must be adhered to before SCC agrees to SCDC's report. I have read SCC's 30 page report and have commented and sent my response to SCDC. All parishes have received copies.

I attended an Accountability & Performance meeting between the Tim Passmore, PCC and the Constabulary on 20.10.17.

I found the meeting most interesting for it demonstrated how the police are working within financial constraints (as are other public bodies) to deliver services. They are determined to deliver the best service they can, in the circumstances, and thus priorities have to be made and services reviewed.

The meeting confirmed, an observation that I have held for some time, that public bodies need to work more closely together than they do. Organisations will have to come together to enable them to give services more efficiently and in true partnership. Too much time is spent on talking about partnership; action is required asap. Of course, some partnerships are working well, but so much more is needed. The police are aware that good communication, with the public, is paramount. Accurate information is vital.

Almost 7,000 students in Suffolk were entered for GCSE results this year and provisional figures show that 2% more students in Suffolk are achieving the expected standards in English and Maths at GCSE compared with last year.

The provisional A Level figures show that Suffolk pupils have once again performed well with the General Applied entry and Tech Level entries remaining above the national average figures.

SCC is launching a series of campaigns to encourage more Suffolk residents to become foster carers. The first campaign will focus on the need to recruit more foster carers for teenagers.

For more information visit: www.fosterandadopt.suffolk.gov.uk

- **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Councillor Susan Harvey was unable to attend the meeting as she was on holiday.

The consultation on the Issues and Options has finished. About 60 town and Parish Councils had one to one meetings with Officers which everyone agrees was very productive. The responses are now being examined and recorded before the process moves on to the next stage. A lot of people

attended some of the drop-in sessions. Thank you to those councils and individuals for copying me in to their responses.

I am heavily involved with planning and attending many related meetings. The government's latest system for assessing housing need means we should be delivering 495 houses a year. We have been delivering 465 houses a year.

The Adastral outline application is now expected to be heard before the end of the year.

The Bell Lane Kesgrave appeal for 300 houses failed and it was mainly due to what the Inspector perceived to be an unsustainable development. It did not fulfil the NPPF requirement to produce an economic, a social and an environmental role. However the Inspector acknowledged that we do have a 6 year housing land supply.

MAIN MEETING:

The Parish Council ('the PC') meeting was declared open at 7.25pm.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

None

2. CODE OF CONDUCT & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

3. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 5th SEPTEMBER 2017 AND 12th OCTOBER

Deferred to January 2018 PC meeting as not distributed to all councillors in time for the meeting

4. MATTERS FOR REPORT FROM THE LAST MINUTES (not covered elsewhere on the agenda)

None.

5. FINANCE

• Proposed Budget for 2018/19 and Precept Amount:

Following Finance Advisory Group budget planning review meeting and preparation of draft budget for 2018/19, it was noted that there would be a need to raise the Precept and also have tight budgetary control to meet all necessary financial demands. It was also noted that other forms of revenue income could be considered such as introducing paid-for advertising in the Newsletter. DL requested that all councillors consider the submitted draft budgets for the next financial year and comment *before* the January PC meeting which will include the formal approval of the budget and Precept amount.

• External Audit Report and Certificate

The Clerk confirmed receipt of the External Audit Certificate for 2016/17 and advised that the 2017/18 Risk Assessment was conducted and recorded in April 2017. On behalf of the PC, DL thanked previous Clerk Lucy Buckle for successfully managing and completing the process. The Clerk will seek to identify the External Auditor for 2018/19 before the January PC meeting.

• Review of Finances to month-end Oct 17:

(a) The Clerk distributed a hard copy summary of the PC account status, which included details of income & expenditure in September and October

(b) Due to Clerk still waiting for mandate approval from Barclays, the latest *reconciled Bank balances at 29 Sep 2017 were:

- Current account: £6,358.06
- Deposit account: £6,618.67

- (c) Total income to end of Sep 17 - £8089.54
Income in October 17 - £26.00

Payments made in Sep 17:

- Clerk's Salary £233.55 (LB)
- Clerk's Salary £330 (JO/Aug)
- HMRC £469.40 (3 months to October 5th)
- Clerk Office Supplies £7.99 (VAT £1.33)
- Newsletter Expenses (PP) £105.90
- Datacom £35.00
- Parish Noticeboards £535.00
- PC Annual Insurance £300.37

Income September 17:

- £11.00 (Cash Newsletter sub (£6.00 and Key Cut £5.00))
- £3417.50 (Precept second payment)

Payments made in October 17

- SALC Media Training £33.60 (VAT £5.60)
- D. Long Poppy Wreath £15.00
- External Audit Fee £156.00 (VAT £26.00)
- Clerk Salary £484.20 (September)
- Clerk Expenses £16.20 (September)
- D Pryke Meeting Flyers £24.05
- Clerk Printer Cartridges £210.10 (VAT £32.02)

Income October 17:

- £6.00 (Cash Newsletter sub)
- £20.00 (Litterpick)

(d) Payments due to be made before next mtg:

- October Clerk's salary £319.68
- Clerk September homeworker allowance £24.00
- Clerk October homeworker allowance £24.00
- Clerk October travel expenses £48.60

6. CONSULTATION ON LOCAL PLAN

- DL advised that following the Village and Extraordinary PC meetings and consultation session with SCDC Planning Officers, a comprehensive local plan response from the PC had been delivered to SCDC Planning. SCDC had provided, as promised, the supporting reports and surveys to the consultation document.
- DP and JB attended the joint parish councils meeting. Whilst the meetings were worth attending they were disappointed that the letter to SCDC was not stronger on opposing development along the A14 corridor between Ipswich and Felixstowe.
- The Port Liaison meeting highlighted the need to lobby for keeping a clear separation between Ipswich and Felixstowe, as it is clear that the Port authorities and Trinity College are seeking more land for development via the Local Plan. DP pointed out that the Port already has planning permission for some areas in the immediate vicinity of the Port. PP stressed that the inevitable increase in logistics resulting from any Port development needed more attention.
- DL reported that the PC has received copies of several individual responses to the Local Plan and thanked all those who had contributed.

7. PLANNING

- Notification from SCDC that application for improvements at Heath Cottages IP10 OLS approved
- At the Planning Committee meeting on 31/10/17, application DC/17/3885/FUL for the construction of a roofed motorcycle store at St Martins, Bridge Road was supported and the Clerk had duly submitted this response to SCDC.

- The Right Homes Consultation document had been circulated by the Clerk and the councillors were reminded to follow up by 9/11/17.

8. RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION ON PRECEPTS REFERENDUM

The Parish Council had submitted a response to this consultation by the response deadline, and now awaited the response by the Government.

9. SOLAR FARM COMMUNITY PAYMENT

JR reiterated that the advice received from NALC that accepting funding from an external business could be interpreted as the PC receiving money from an interested party. After following up with local law firms, he was doubtful that relevant *probono* advice would be forthcoming. It was duly noted that there might be such incurred fees and JR will therefore go back to the law firms for a costing in relation to advising on the legality of receiving Community Support for this project and signing the offer documents. The Clerk will try and locate the original Lightsource Community Benefit offer and circulate before the January PC meeting.

10. VILLAGE PEDESTRIAN GATE

IA said he is still waiting for the required topsoil and will follow up on levelling the ground area as soon as it is delivered.

11. COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

The Clerk advised that a hardcopy of the latest SUFFOLKROADSAFE.NET document was available for reference as well as online. IA said he had established that following monitoring, Levington and Stratton Hall is not considered a crucial area for Speedwatch as no vehicles had been reported exceeding the speed limit. It was agreed that purchasing an SID would be beyond the PC budget. IA said he would remain in contact with local police to see whether an alternative position could be identified for Community Speedwatch and it was agreed that the councillors would review again in January.

12. DATA PROTECTION LEGISLATION

The Clerk reminded the meeting that she would attend the Data Protection SALC seminar on November 20th and report back on the potential impact of the new legislation at the January 2018 PC meeting

13. BROADBAND/WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

- Following the limited response from Openreach about some proposed improvements to Broadband speeds in Levington and Stratton Hall via “Nacton P3” the Clerk will attempt to get more detailed information.
- IA advised that he is seeking more information from Kerry Burn at suffolkcloud in relation to the required upgrading of the PC website. It was agreed that a full briefing meeting with local resident Daniel is needed in January 2018.

14. BRIDGE ROAD SURFACE DRAINAGE

DL, DP and PP following up on supplying Matt Williams from Suffolk Highways with specific details (and if available photos) of flood-affected properties in and around Bridge Road,

15. VILLAGE PARKING

IA expressed great concerns about random inconsiderate parking on pavements around the corner by St Peter’s Church. The Councillors approved his suggestion to put up no parking notices in appropriate places. He will liaise with a local resident about the provision of the signs and will then place them along Church Lane between the corner and The Ship Inn. JO will try and contact Highways for advice on the possibility of introducing double yellow lines between the Ship and Church Field Pedestrian Gate. In view of heavy lorries travelling along Church Lane it was also agreed to seek the opinion of SCC Highways about the possibility of the introduction of a weight restriction.

16. CORRESPONDENCE

Received:

- Autumn AONB newsletter
- Nacton Primary Autumn Newsletter

It was agreed that as 99% of Correspondence is now delivered via email it will no longer be a dedicated Agenda item. The Clerk will forward electronic communications via email and hard copy correspondence as it is received.

REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

- IA attended the September SALC Area Meeting Including a Suffolk Highways presentation which confirmed it now has to operate under a reduced budget. He will attend the SALC AGM on November 7th.
- DP and PP attended the Port Liaison Group Meeting. DP reported that although fewer lines operate out of Felixstowe, bigger ships are impacting work processes, especially the volume of trains and road transport containers. PP said that there was still not full clarification about available land for the proposed rail loop.
- IA attended the local SNT meeting and advised that an additional PCSO had been appointed. It was reported that despite budget cuts, the team was still making positive progress on local issues including street sleeping.

The meeting concluded at 9.35pm and members of the public were invited to speak.

VILLAGE FORUM

2 local residents commented:

1.

- Work on the Nacton P3 Green Cabinet located outside the Village Hall is scheduled from 27/11/17 until 19/01/2018. The new service should improve Broadband for residents in the southern parts of the village but not those located in the northern end
- The increase in flooding following torrential rain could be as a result of changing weather patterns and it could be interesting to see if there is a correlation between road flooding and the records of rainfall maintained by the Village Recorder.

2

- Requested that the Response to the Local Plan be posted on the Website
- An SID device would not be economic within the PC budget
- Yellow lines to deter anti-social parking would change the character of the village

