

LEVINGTON AND STRATTON HALL PARISH COUNCIL

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

Monday, 5th November 2025 7.15 pm

Present:

Cllr Chris Yeo (Chairman)
Cllr A Wignall
Cllr C Myhill
Cllr Dickerson
Parish Clerk Angie Buggs
Cllr M Ninnmey East Suffolk District Council
Cllr Patti Mulcahy Suffolk County Council
2 members of the public

County Councillor's Report Cllr Patti Mulcahy Suffolk County Council

Cllr Patti Mulcahy gave a report on her work for the Suffolk County Council. A lot of work has been carried out on devolution and the Business Plan Suffolk County Council has put forward is One Suffolk. It is now for the Government to decide which proposal they want to take forward. The elections for the Norfolk / Suffolk Mayor are scheduled to take place in May 2026 and the newly elected Mayor will be the person who will liaise with Central Government. Currently it is "business as usual". The 2026/2027 budget has been produced and it is now up to electors to voice their opinion. The consultation process is open until the 27th November 2025 and a copy can be viewed on the Suffolk County Council website. <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/budget-council-tax-and-finance/the-budget-for-suffolk> Another project which may be of interest to local people is the Public Rights of Way map. The map can be accessed via Suffolk County Council website. <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/public-rights-of-way-in-suffolk/view-definitive-maps-of-public-rights-of-way>

Cllr Patti Mulcahy said that she had been inundated with emails regarding the planning proposal for 1300 properties on Foxhall Road Foxhall which is in the process of public consultation. In conjunction with Martlesham Parish Council, Patti will be meeting with the public to try and answer some of the questions being asked by residents. Two meetings are being held in Martlesham Village Hall on the 18th November (late afternoon) and the 19th November (evening). ESC Planning Department have been requested to attend the meetings to answer questions. This parcel of land was not identified for development in the Local Plan 2019 and it is believed that if Bloors are granted planning permission it will "open the flood gates" for further development in the area. It was only in 2019 that Gladmans submitted a Planning Application for an extensive development in the area which was subsequently withdrawn by the developer. This development will have an extensive impact on the local roads including the A12 and the A14. There are considerable local concern about linking up the local villages. Although Bloors have stated that the Planning Application would be submitted in the New Year 2026 it is widely believed that the application may be received by the ESC Planning Department over the Christmas 2025 / New Year 2026 period. Kirton and Falkenham Parish Council Vice Chairman is in the process of resurrecting the Orwell and Villages Cross Boundary Group.

District Councillors' Report Cllr Mike Ninnmey East Suffolk District Council

Cllr Mike Ninnmey stated that the figures for building properties over the next 5 years is between 909 up to 1,600. Cllr Mike Ninnmey said that if Planning Permission for the properties on Foxhall Road is approved it will be a long time before building is commenced.

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.)

A resident asked for an update on the amplification in the Village Hall. The Chairman replied that this item will be dealt with later in the meeting.

A resident stated that in addition to the development of Red House Farm there was also an application for a lorry park near the level crossing on the Old A45 which has yet to be determined. It is worrying that Levington and Stratton Hall villages are the separation between Felixstowe and Ipswich. This puts the Old A45 in a very vulnerable position.

185.25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Sarah Adams, Cllr John Parrish, Cllr Neil Downing and Cllr Lee Reeves East Suffolk District Council.

186.25 CODE OF CONDUCT & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

187.25 TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE 2nd September 2025

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 2nd September 2025, which had previously been circulated, were approved, and signed as a true record by Cllr C Yeo (Chairman).

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

There were no matters arising.

189.25 TO DISCUSS AND CONFIRM MEETING DATES FOR 2026

Cllr C Yeo reported that a list of the suggested meeting dates had been circulated to all councillors and that all dates had been scheduled for the first Monday of every other month except January as follows:

Monday 12th January 2026
Monday 2nd March 2026
Monday 4th May 2026 Annual Parish Council Meeting
Monday 18th May 2026 Annual Parish Meeting
Monday 6th July 2026
Monday 7th September 2026
Monday 2nd November 2026

Cllr A Wignall proposed that the meeting dates be approved, seconded Cllr C Myhill – all in favour.

Action: Clerk

190.25 TO NOTE THE CONTENTS OF THE LOCAL PLAN CALL FOR SITES

Cllr C Yeo reported that the Call for Sites is part of the early preparatory work for the new Local Plan. The new Local Plan will set out a spatial strategy seeking to ensure that future needs are met, identifying sites for development and setting policies against which applications for planning permission are determined. The new Local Plan will replace the Waveney Local Plan adopted in 2019 and Suffolk Coastal Local Plan adopted in 2020, which both plan for the period up to 2036. The new Local Plan will plan up to at least 2044.

The Call for Sites invites submissions of land to be put forward for consideration for allocation in the Local Plan. This is the very start of the process and later decisions on preferred site allocations will be informed by a range of evidence and assessments and consideration of a strategy and visions for the plan, as well as by public consultation which will be undertaken during preparation of the plan. The submission form and associated guidance will be found on <https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/new-local-plan>

The Call for Sites was noted by the Parish Council.

191.25 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE THE ADOPTION OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME

Cllr S Adams had reported the following before the meeting.

Neighbourhood Watch thrives through engagement of communities, so the main objective is to encourage residents to join the scheme. It's all free, so that will hopefully attract membership.

The benefits for registering go beyond just house insurance, a flavour of these can be seen via the national neighbourhood watch website.

Once registered and the scheme is set up, the scheme will be approved and contact will be made by The Community Policing Team is S16 (Martlesham and Orwell).

If decided to be appropriate 'deputies' should be set up to cover different parts of the two parishes.

Cllr C Myhill proposed that the villages of Levington and Stratton Hall should register to set up the scheme, seconded Cllr D Dickerson – all in favour.

It was agreed that the villages would need deputies to act as co-ordinators to manage the scheme and that details should be published in the newsletter and website in due course. **Action: Cllr S Adams / Cllr A Wignall / Clerk**

192.25 FINANCE

a. Income

2 nd Half Precept	£6,439.30
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b. Expenditure

Mrs A J Buggs Salary & Expenses Oct/Nov 2025 + Backpay	£960.45
Community Action Suffolk One Suffolk Hosting	£66.00
Village Hall Hire	£125.00

Seale Newsletters	£150.00
Village Hall Hire	£75.00
HMRC Tax/NI	£264.61
Village Hall Hire	£100.00
CAS Mailboxes	£216.00
SALC Payroll	£27.00

Cllr C Myhill proposed, seconded Cllr D Dickerson that the above expenditure is approved – all in favour. **Action: Clerk**

c. Bank Balances

Current Account as at 30 th September 2025	£13,089.88
Deposit Account as at 30 th September 2025	£24,437.24

The Parish Council noted the balances as at the 30th September 2025 for both the Community Account and the Premium Account.

d. To discuss and approve the Half Year Accounts 2025/2026

The Clerk reported that the half year accounts 1st April 2025 – 30th September 2025 had previously been circulated to all councillors. Cllr C Myhill proposed that that the Parish Council formally adopt the half year accounts, seconded Cllr A Wignall – all in favour. **Action: Clerk**

e. To discuss and approve Draft Budget 2026/2027

The Chairman reported that the Budget 2026/2027 had previously been circulated before the meeting and a copy had been uploaded on to the Parish Council website before the meeting. The predicted spending for 2026/2027 is £13,102. The Parish Council has added £50 to upkeep the flower tubs at the Village Hall which the WI previously maintained. The Parish Council has also budgeted for 6 Parish Council Meetings a year plus the Annual Parish Meeting and additional Planning Meetings. In previous years the Parish Council has received funding to offer a Warm Room at the Village Hall however this year the organisers thought they would be unable to maintain volunteers for four half days a week. The Parish Council has therefore agreed to sponsor a Community Hub for one half day a fortnight which will be reviewed in January 2026. . Cllr A Wignall proposed that the Parish Council formally adopt the budget for 2026/2027, seconded Cllr D Dickerson – all in favour. **Action: Clerk**

f. To discuss and approve the Precept for 2026/2027

The Chairman reported that if the Parish Council maintained the precept at £12,878 this would show as a 0.46% change on the 2026/2027 Council Tax bills against the Parish element. Cllr A Wignall proposed that the Parish Council precept for £12,878, seconded Cllr D Dickerson – all in favour. **Action: Clerk**

193.25 PLANNING

a. General – Updated Planning List for October 2025

The Parish Council noted the contents of the Planning List.

b. Planning Applications

DC/25/0681/ARM RED HOUSE FARM

This application was withdrawn by the applicant.

UNDERTAKE WORKS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 7 AND THE SUPPORTING TREE WORK DOCUMENT

ESC Comments: Approved

c. Proposed Development 1300 Houses Foxhall Road in the Parish of Foxhall

The Chairman reported that he had attended the briefing for Parish Councils which was held by Bloors the developers. This development is contrary to the Local Plan. Residents from other parishes have written to East Suffolk Planning Department objecting to the proposal however these objections will not be considered until a formal Planning Application has been submitted. A EIA Scoping Opinion - Outline planning application, comprising provision of up to 1,300 residential dwellings (Use Class C2 and C3); commercial, business and services uses (Use Class E); primary school (Use Class F1); community uses (Use Class F2); open space; vehicular accesses and necessary highways improvements; associated infrastructure, groundworks and engineering operations; any necessary demolition; with all matters reserved except for access from Foxhall Road and the A12 has been received by Brightwell Foxhall and Purdis Farm Parish Council, Martlesham Parish Council and Kesgrave Parish Council for comment.

194.25 CORRESPONDENCE

All relevant correspondence has been forwarded to councillors.

195.25 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

a. Church Field Warden

Report from Cllr Derek Dickerson

Cllr D Dickerson reported that a village working party had worked clearing weeds along the edge of the field.

b. Village Hall

Report from Cllr John Parrish

I have explained to the Village Hall Trustees that a more practical option would be for the Parish Council to invest in a portable sound system consisting of a 'boom' box with fixed and roving microphones. This type of system worked well at the Harvest Supper. May's bench has been sited outside the Village Hall. All the electrical work has now been carried out and certified for the next five years. Decorating the Village Hall for Christmas is planned for the 3rd December in the morning. The Village Hall AGM will take place on the 9th December at 7 pm.

c. Sir Robert Hitcham's Almshouses

Report from the Parish Council appointed trustee

The Almshouses had their annual AGM on Wednesday, 29th October 2025 and confirmed and re-elected our Chairperson Louise Overbury.

During the meeting Chris Mayhew (Finance Trustee) confirmed that a proportion of the cost of the new roofs has been arranged with an interest free loan with the Almshouse Association.

The replacement of the roofs will begin in March, a confirmation date will be distributed.

The other works in line with the Quinquennial Report which have been agreed.

Lime render to be removed from ground level to stop the damp problem on the external walls. Further redecoration once it has been dried out. Wrought iron gates to be blasted and recoated. Trickle vents to be replaced.

All the Almshouse residents will be updated following the AGM.

d. Public Transport

Report from Marian Rose

I would like to record my thanks to the Parish Council and Neil Downing in particular, for organising the village clear up on 4th October. Teams of volunteers were assigned to cleaning the bus shelters and to trimming back the verges to allow villagers to get off the road when walking to the bus stops. Some foliage was also cut back to allow an earlier sight of the bus approaching.

In case anyone does not appreciate why I ask for the bus shelters to be cleaned, this is because the seats inside get very grimy and cobwebby – you would not wish to sit down in a good coat!

The timetable for the Ipswich – Felixstowe buses changed on a 31st August. Since then, I have been pressing for the First Bus to update the timetables posted at our bus stops. I believe this may have been done this week but I have not had a chance to confirm that at the time of writing.

Earlier this week I posted an item in the village Whatsapp group to explain that First Bus will be allowing free bus travel to the Armed Forces Community on Sunday, 9th and Tuesday, 11th November 2025 to commemorate and support Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day. Anyone in these categories can obtain free travel on these dates by wearing uniform; displaying valid identification such as the MOD issued Veteran's Badge or wearing medals.

To further mark the day, if safe to do so, bus drivers will be allowed to pull over at 11 am on both days to observe the two minutes' silence.

e. Footpaths

Report from Cllr John Parrish

The railings are still loose both sides as you go up the steps toward the river at the end of the boardwalk. Hopefully there will be no accidents. The new fencing and notices to protect the birds by the sluice exit next to the footpath have been vandalised. East Suffolk Council has been notified. The contact at the local authority has offered to write an editorial for the Parish Magazine. Editorial to be sent to Cllr A Wignall by the 13th November. It was agreed that the contact be asked to speak at the Annual Parish Meeting on the 18th May. **Action: Clerk / Cllr A Wignall**

f. Port Liaison Group

Report by Cllr Derek Dickerson

The next Port Liaison Group will be held at 11 am on the 10th December. **Action:** Clerk to notify the Group that both Cllr D Dickerson and Cllr C Wyhill will be attending.

g. Police / SNT / ASB

Nothing to report.

h. ESPA

Report from Cllr Neil Downing
Nothing to report.

196.25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday, 12th January 2026

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40 pm.

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

A resident asked that additional monies be moved from the Parish Council current account to the deposit account to generate additional interest.

A resident requested that when the tree surgeon carries out work on the trees in Tricker's Wood that the ivy is removed. Cllr A Wignall confirmed that this will be part of the work of the tree surgeon.

Signed..... Date

Angie Buggs
Clerk to Levington and Stratton Hall Parish Council