LEVINGTON AND STRATTON HALL PARISH COUNCIL

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

Monday, 2nd November 2026 7.15 pm

Cllr C Yeo (Chairman)
Cllr J Parrish
Cllr A Wignall
Cllr C Myhill
Cllr S Adams
Cllr D Dickerson
Cllr N Downing
Parish Clerk Angie Buggs
Cllr M Ninnmey East Suffolk Council
2 members of the public

District Councillors' Report

Written report has been posted on the Levington and Stratton Hall Parish Council website.

County Councillor's Report

No 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.)

None

80.26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

81.26 CODE OF CONDUCT & DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

82.26 TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 7th SEPTEMBER 2026

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 7th September 2026, which had previously been circulated, were approved, and signed as a true record by Cllr Chris Yeo (Chairman).

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

72.26 To receive an update on the future of the Levington Warm Welcome 2026/2027
The Chairman reported that the Parish Council had received £780 from Cllr Patti Mulcahy's Locality Budget. The Chairman thanked Patti for her on-going support. **Action: Clerk**

74.26 Neighbourhood Watch

a. Cold Calling

Nothing further to report.

84.26 FINANCE

a. Income

Suffolk County Council Warm Room Donation	£780.00

b. Expenditure

Mrs A J Buggs Salary and Expenses September/October	£1,034.38
CAS IT Service Web Hosting	£70.00
CAS IT Service	£298.00
C Young Plants	£65.21
Village Hall Hire	£150.00
IT CAS Audit	£108.00
Seale Newsletters	£144.00
SALC Payroll	£61.20
HMRC Tax / NI	£274.83

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

c. Bank Balances

Current Account as at 30th September 2026	£13,902.93
Deposit Account as at 30th September 2026	£25,006.56

The bank balances were noted by the Parish Council. **Action: Clerk**

d. To discuss and approve the Half Year Accounts 2026/2027

Cllr C Yeo reported that the half year accounts 1st April 2026 – 30th September 2026 had previously been circulated to all councillors. Cllr C Yeo 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 the Draft Budget 2027/2028

The Chairman reported that the Budget 2027/2028 had previously been circulated before the meeting and a copy had been uploaded on to the Parish Council website before the meeting. Cllr C Yeo proposed that the Parish Council formally adopt the budget for 2027/2028, seconded Cllr D Dickerson – all in favour. **Action: Clerk**

f. To discuss and approve the Precept for 2027/2028

The Chairman proposed that the Parish Council maintained the precept at £12,878.60 for 2027/2028, seconded Cllr A Wignall – all in favour. It was also agree that any exceptional expenditure should be funded from existing reserves. **Action: Clerk**

g. Update on moving the Parish Council's Bank Accounts to Unity Trust Bank

The Clerk reported that Unity Trust Bank had been very slow to respond to the Parish Council's request to open a current and deposit account.

h. To discuss adding holiday pay to the Clerk's salary

The question of adding holiday pay to the Clerk's salary was discussed and the Chairman said it was entirely appropriate to do this. Cllr C Yeo proposed that holiday pay be adding to the Clerk's salary, seconded Cllr J Parrish – all in favour. **Action: Clerk**

85.26 UPDATE ABOUT LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

The District, and if necessary, Parish Council elections will take place on Thursday, 6th May 2026. Further details about devolution and local government reorganisation were expected during a Speech

and White Paper called Rewiring the State on 29th October 2026 but as yet no further information is available.

86.26 UPDATE ABOUT THE ESC PATHWAY CLEARANCE SCHEME

The boardwalk steps have been replaced. With regard to the missing 'no cycling' signs which need replacing Aimee McLalchlan Sustainable Travel Officer East Suffolk Council has requested photos and a 'Three Little Words' location to be sent to her and she will report them to her colleague at Suffolk County Council. Aimee McLalchlan has confirmed that she is still aware that she needs to get the issues with Levington Lane sorted. **Action: Cllr S Adams / Clerk**

87.26 TO REPORT ON THE ACCESSIBILITY AUDIT COMPLETED BY IT SERVICES AT CAS LTD

Cllr C Yeo reported that in the Internal Auditor's Report for2025/2026 had made a recommendation with regard to the Parish Council website meeting the standard WCAG 2.2 AA.

> ***Recommendation 1:*** *Whilst it is considered that the Council is overall demonstrating proper governance of its digital presence, the Council is advised to test the Council's Website as soon as practicably possible to determine how far the website is compliant with the latest accessibility standard WCAG 2.2 AA. Following the review, action can be taken to address any areas not in compliance with the latest standards, if it is practicable to do so.*

As a result the Clerk contacted Matthew Morling IT Manager at Community Action Suffolk and requested that an audit of the website be carried out. The cost of the audit was £108.00. The results of the audit are as follows:

Red Alerts

Link colour did not meet colour contrast guidelines. Changed link colour across site to meet colour contrast rules.

- Empty Headings tags were found on a couple of pages. This usually occurs when you create titles and then remove them but never delete the space left. Removed all empty heading tags. See section 2b of our guide https://www.onesuffolk.net/low-cost-organisation-websites/documentation-and-guidelines/v/accessibility to see guidance on this.
- Removed existing accessibility statement and added in compliant up to date version.

Yellow Alerts

Some images had no "alternative text" on them. Added alternative text to any I found it missing on. See section 2a of our guide https://www.onesuffolk.net/low-cost-organisation-websites/documentation-and-guidelines/v/accessibility to see guidance on this.

- Incorrect use of alternative on image gallery page. Alternative text was set to file name of image. Correct alternative text on images affected.
- Some use of "read more" and "click here" links on pages. Corrected all these links. Please see our guide at https://www.onesuffolk.net/low-cost-organisation-websites/documentation-and-guidelines/v/accessibility and our links sections on how links should be formatted.

- Use of Tables within the design of pages. Tables are not recommended as a visual design tool on web pages and should only be used to display financial data as people with visual impairment who use screen readers will often get confused when viewing a page with tables on them. Removed all tables and converted to standard text. See section 2f of our guide https://www.onesuffolk.net/low-cost-organisation-websites/documentation-and-guidelines/v/accessibility to see guidance on this.
- Significant use of justified text found on a few pages. Removed justified text and changed to standard page formatting. See section 2b of our guide https://www.onesuffolk.net/low-cost-organisation-websites/documentation-and-guidelines/v/accessibility to see guidance on this.

One Suffolk will continue to work on the Accessibility on the core One Suffolk templates where they can and will update the Parish Council if and when this work is done.

PHP Programming Language

The Parish Council may have seen recent news coverage regarding critical security vulnerabilities discovered in the PHP programming language, which is widely used across the internet, including the One Suffolk platform.

The vulnerabilities, identified as CVE-2026-109618 and CVE-2026-109619, have been classified as severe and could potentially allow unauthorised code to be executed on vulnerable systems.

As soon as One Suffolk became aware of the issue, they began working with their hosting and security partners to review the impact on the One Suffolk platform and implement the recommended protective measures.

A number of additional security controls, configuration changes and monitoring measures have been deployed across the platform. These mitigations follow guidance issued by both the PHP development team and the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC).

Based on their assessment and the measures now in place, they are confident that One Suffolk websites are protected against the currently known attack methods associated with these vulnerabilities.

No action is required from Parish Councils at this time and it is believed the risk to Parish Councils specifically, is low, even before the mitigations were put in place. One Suffolk will continue to monitor the situation closely and implement any further recommendations should they become necessary.

The Parish Council noted the actions taken by One Suffolk on the audit and the PHP concerns.
Action: Clerk

88.26 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE OPTIONS FOR THE PROCESS OF INSTALLING SIDs IN THE VILLAGE

Cllr John Parrish met with Cllr Eddie Lawrence Brightwell Foxhall & Purdis Farm Group Parish Council and the plans for the future of SIDs in that Parish were discussed. Prices for the sale of their three SIDs was also discussed and BFPF have agreed a sale price of £800.00 for the cameras, batteries and fixings and support. Cllr Parrish believes two councillors are required to manage the SIDs; one to maintain and change the batteries and one to collect and collate the data and present at Parish Council meetings. A sufficiently robust Windows computer will be required to run the programme. Cllr Neil Downing agreed to research the old Parish Council laptop to find out whether it is capable of managing the data. Cllr Parrish stated that the next step is to liaise with Suffolk County Council Highways to agree

site positions for three posts. Also one of the posts will be situated outside a resident's house (Red House Walk) and permission will need to be granted from the resident.

Cllr C Yeo thanked Cllr J Parrish for his work and proposed that the Parish Council go ahead with the purchase of the SIDs at a cost of £800 plus the cost of the posts, seconded Cllr J Parrish – all in favour. **Action: Cllr J Parrish / Cllr N Downing / Clerk**

89.26 UPDATE ON THE EMERGENCY PLAN / EMERGENCY PLANNING AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Twenty responses to the questionnaire which was sent out with village newsletter have been received and the data now needs to be inserted in the database. To comply with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) the residents will need to be contacted every 2 years to confirm that they are still happy for the Parish Council to store their data. Cllr N Downing reported that he had attended rest centre training at the Suffolk Emergency Board. Cllr Downing suggested that Village Hall Trustees attend the training. Cllr J Parrish agreed to bring the training to the attention of the Village Hall Trustees. **Action: Cllr J Parrish / Cllr N Downing**

90.26 TO DISCUSS AND CONFIRM MEETING DATES FOR 2027

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 and May as follows:

Monday, 11th January 2027
Monday, 1st March 2027
Monday, 5th April 2027 (**Annual Parish Meeting**) Please note the APM **must** be held between the 1st March and 1st June)
Monday, 17th May 2027 (**Annual Parish Council Meeting**) Please note this is an election year and the election will be held on Thursday, 6th May 2027. The APCM **must** be held between 4 to 14 days after the election.
Monday, 5th July 2027
Monday, 6th September 2027
Monday, 1st November 2027

Cllr C Yeo proposed that the suggested dates be accepted, seconded Cllr J Parrish – all in favour. **Action: Clerk**

91.26 PLANNING

a. **General – Updated Planning List for November 2026**
   The Parish Council noted the contents of the Planning List.

b. **DC/26/2940/FUL Red House Farm Bridge Road Levington Ipswich Suffolk IP10 0LZ - Conversion of Barn to a Self Build Dwelling**
   PC Decision - Whilst the majority of councillors were concerned about the continuing development in the village it was agreed that there were no substantive planning grounds to support an objection.
   ESC Decision – Pending

DC/26/3245/FUL 15 Red House Walk Levington Ipswich Suffolk IP10 0LY - Construction of a single-storey front entrance porch measuring approximately 2.7m wide by 2.6m deep, with a pitched roof, entrance door and glazed side panels, attached to the front elevation of the existing dwelling.
PC Decision – No objection
ESC Decision – Pending

DC/26/2312/OUT Land At, Foxhall Road, Foxhall, Suffolk Outline planning application for a phased development of up to 1,200 residential dwellings (Use Class C2 and C3) (to include Market and Affordable housing and Self and / or Custom Build); commercial, business and services uses (Use Class E); a primary school (Use Class F1); community uses (Use Class F2); open space including Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) and sports provision; and associated works including any necessary demolition, provision of roads, utilities, renewable energy infrastructure (Sui Generis), groundworks, ground remodelling, other engineering operations and landscape works. Provision of two main vehicular accesses off Foxhall Road (a western signalised junction and an eastern roundabout), controlled access to the A12 (public transport and active travel only) and new pedestrian and cycle priority route along Dobbs Lane submitted in detail, with all other means of access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale reserved for subsequent approval.
PC Decision – The Chairman said that in view of the fact that Brightwell Foxhall & Purdis Farm Group Parish Council is the main consultee, Levington and Stratton Hall Parish Council would await their respond before responding. Cllr C Yeo suggested that residents comment to East Suffolk Council. Details are available on East Suffolk Council website and the Levington WhatsApp Group.

ESC Decision – Pending

c. Re-opening of the Call for Sites
East Suffolk Planning Department have issued another Call for Site which ends on the 16th November 2026. So far approximately 505 sites have been submitted. Noted.

d. To discuss the new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)
A new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published in August. There is a presumption that development should be approved, unless the benefits of doing so would be substantially outweighed by any adverse effects, when assessed against the national decision making policies in the Framework. Locally these are likely to be promoting sustainable transport and conserving and enhancing the natural environment. It is important to remember that due to the increased housing targets East Suffolk does not meet the 5 year supply of deliverable housing sites target and therefore development is permitted outside the settlement boundaries such as the proposed Bloor and Gladman (Orwell Green) developments. Although these will still need to be carefully considered during the planning process.

The Government has introduced new regulations which introduce a new national scheme of delegation. The national scheme of delegation specifies that some planning application types can never be determined by Planning Committee and that some planning application types may be determined by the Planning Committee subject to a "gateway test." The regulations also state that a committee may not have more than 13 members. East Suffolk Council agreed these changes at their full council meeting on 23rd September 2026. They have

decided to replace the 19 member Strategic Planning Committee and both the North and South Planning Committee with a single 13 member Planning Committee. It is hoped a single committee will encourage better attendance from councillors who can become more experienced in planning matters. The planning referral panel will continue to operate but will have a smaller range of applications to consider as the majority of planning applications such as Householder applications; Minor commercial applications; and Minor residential applications up to 10 dwellings can only be decided by a planning officer. In practice for the vast majority of applications this will make no difference, and larger developments will still go through the referral panel and end up with the planning committee. It is important that objections, comments, or support for an application are still sent to the planning officer, so they have all the information available with which to make their decision.

The Parish Council noted the comments.

e. Report from Cllr C Myhill on the NSIPs Webinar: Changes to the Planning Act and the NSIP process – 13th October 2026

In England, the Planning Act 2008 provides the legal framework for determining applications for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs). These include major energy projects, offshore wind farms, electricity transmission infrastructure, major transport schemes, water infrastructure and certain waste projects. The webinar identified 22 NSIPs in Suffolk/Norfolk - examples include Sizewell C, Ipswich Rail Chord and East Pye solar farm.

The main changes in recent years have been aimed at making the NSIP process more efficient and to be delivered more quickly.

For local authorities, town and parish councils, and local communities, the key question is how these changes affect consultation, examination, environmental considerations and opportunities to influence decisions.

Key provisions came into force on 24 July 2026

The main changes are:

1. Removal of mandatory pre-application consultation
Developers are no longer legally required under the NSIP regime to undertake the previous statutory pre-application consultation with local authorities and the public. Developers are still encouraged to engage meaningfully, and government guidance is intended to support good practice.

2. Changes to National Policy Statements (NPSs) National Policy Statements must be reviewed and updated at least every five years, with a streamlined procedure for certain policy-led updates.
Decisions should be informed by more regularly reviewed national infrastructure policy including the government's strategic priorities.

3. Changes to the examination process

The examination of applications is intended to be more focused on the main issues and concerns. This should help reduce unnecessary delays and make better use of examination time.

More direct focus, helping to organise evidence, hearings and submissions more efficiently. All relevant matters must still be considered.

4. Faster acceptance of applications
The legislation introduces a more targeted test for deciding whether an application should be accepted into the NSIP process.

The government must publish its reasons when an application is not accepted. The intention is to concentrate on the quality and suitability of applications and reduce unnecessary delays

5. Changes to legal challenges
The right to appeal is removed in cases where a judge has deemed a challenge to be totally without merit.

This is intended to reduce delays caused by unsuccessful legal challenges. It does not remove the ability to bring a judicial review in the first instance

6. Access to land for surveys Developers have access to a simpler process for obtaining rights to enter private land to carry out surveys.
This should help with site investigations and preparation of applications.

7. Some projects can be directed outside the NSIP regime.
The Secretary of State has new powers to disapply the requirement for development consent for certain development, allowing it to follow a more appropriate alternative consenting route. How do these changes affect local councils and communities?

Less formal consultation:
Local councils and residents may have fewer opportunities to comment on proposals at the early stages.
Early involvement: Councils should engage with developers as early as possible to raise concerns and influence the design of projects.
Local Impact Reports: These remain an important opportunity for councils to highlight the effects of developments on their communities, including highways, noise, landscape and the environment.
Community involvement: Residents and local organisations should be encouraged to understand the process and submit representations within the relevant deadlines.
Quicker decisions: There is likely to be greater pressure to progress applications and deliver nationally important infrastructure more quickly.

Summery
The government's stated objective is to speed up infrastructure delivery. Its July 2026 announcement said the reforms could cut up to 12 months from pre-application preparation and save developers £1 billion over the current Parliament. These are projected benefits, rather than a guarantee that every application will be determined

more quickly. The government's intention is to simplify the NSIP process and speed up the delivery of major infrastructure projects. However, the removal of mandatory pre-application consultation is a significant change for local authorities and communities. For local councils, the key message is to become involved as early as possible, build strong evidence of local concerns and make full use of the formal opportunities available during the examination process.

92.26 CORRESPONDENCE

All relevant correspondence has been forwarded to councillors.

93.26 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

a. Church Field Warden
Report from Cllr Derek Dickerson
Nothing to report.

b. Village Hall
Report from Cllr John Parrish
A meeting of Village Hall Trustees will take place this week. Cllr J Parrish said he would speak to Trustees about the offer to provide rest centre training on the Emergency Plan. Cllr S Adams said that her husband is offering to fund internet facility in the Village Hall for two years. Cllr J Parrish thanks Sarah for the offer and said he would speak to the Village Hall Trustees. A new ten-year smoke detector has been installed in the Village Hall. **Action: Cllr J Parrish**

c. Sir Robert Hitcham's Almshouses
Report from Cllr Sarah Adams
Cllr Adams stated that the Almshouse Trustees had renovated the empty house by decorating and a new kitchen. She said that possible tenants had been interviewed which included both male and female.

d. Public Transport
Report by Marian Rose
Nothing to report

e. Footpaths
Report from Cllr John Parrish
A number of residents have pointed out the increased amount of dog excreta on local footpaths. Some of the excreta are in fact fox excreta and not dog. It was noted that it is particularly bad near to Red House Walk. **Action: Cllr J Parrish**

f. Port Liaison Group
Report from Cllr C Myhill
A meeting has not been held since the last Parish Council meeting therefore no report.

g. Police/SNT/ASB
No report.

h. ESPA

No report.

i. **Cross Boundary Group**
Report from Cllr C Yeo
A meeting has not been held since the last Parish Council meeting therefore no report.

93.26 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday, 11th January 2027

The Chairman closed the meeting at 20.25

VILLAGE FORUM (an opportunity to raise items not necessarily on this agenda)

A member of the public stated that Red House Walk is private property and if a SID is to be located on the grass verge then a number of people including a third party would need to be consulted as the residents pay for the upkeep and cutting of the grass. This fact was noted by Cllr J Parrish who will investigate. **Action: Cllr J Parrish**

A member of the public commented on the amount of dog excreta in the village. A member of public is still collecting rubbish. Another member of the public commented that the excreta bag bin at Red House Walk is not being filled with bags.

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

Angie Buggs
Clerk to Levington and Stratton Hall Parish Council