

LEVINGTON AND STRATTON HALL PARISH COUNCIL

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

Monday, 7th September 2026 7.15 pm

Cllr J Parrish (Chairman)
Cllr A Wignall
Cllr C Myhill
Cllr S Adams
Cllr D Dickerson
Cllr N Downing
Parish Clerk Angie Buggs
Cllr P Mulcahy Suffolk County Council
7 members of the public

District Councillors' Report

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

County Councillor's Report

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

Cllr Patti Mulcahy confirmed that the introduction of unitary councils in Suffolk had been cancelled and that the District Council and Parish Council elections will take place as originally scheduled in May 2027. She also noted that Jim McMahon has returned as Minister for Local Government Devolution and Regional Growth after being sacked when Angela Rayner resigned. As these two ministers were responsible for introducing LGR but not the decision for three unitary authorities in Suffolk she expects LGR to go ahead but maybe not with three unitary councils after devolution and the mayoral elections which was the original plan.

Cllr Patti Mulcahy stated that if the Parish Council goes ahead with the introduction of the VAS signs there is funding available in the Locality Budget for supporting this initiative.

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 member of the public commented that the drought was very extensive and although there is still a hose pipe ban the water is still decreasing.

A member of the public commented that the bin collections are still causing problems in the village. The Clerk agreed to post on the website some information concerning the current collection figures.

65.26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr C Yeo, Cllr L Reeves East Suffolk Council and Cllr M Ninnmey East Suffolk Council.

66.26 CODE OF CONDUCT & DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

67.26 TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 29th JUNE 2026

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 29th June 2026, which had previously been circulated, were approved, and signed as a true record by Cllr John Parrish (Chairman).

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

56.26 TO DISCUSS AND NOTE THE TIMETABLE FOR THE LOCAL PLAN AND DEADLINE TO SUBMIT THE LOCAL PLAN QUESTIONNAIRE Cllr C Yeo had previously confirmed that the Parish Council's Local Plan Questionnaire had been submitted to East Suffolk Council.

69.26 FINANCE

a. Income

None

b. Expenditure

Mrs A J Buggs Salary and Expenses July/August	£899.87
HMRC NI/Tax	£278.31
Seale Newsletters	£113.00
ICO Data Protection	£52.00
Levington Village Hall Hire	£225.00
Louise Overbury Dog Bags	£14.90
Royal British Legion Wreaths x 2 Section 137	£49.00
Community Action Suffolk IT	£298.00
Community Action Suffolk Insurance	£523.53

c. Bank Balances

Current Account as at 31 st July 2026	£9,153.50
Deposit Account as at 31 st July 2026	£24,891.40

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

d. To discuss the adoption of the Local Government Pay Award for Clerk 2026/2027

Cllr J Parrish stated that the Local Governance Pay Claim 2026/2027 had been circulated to all councillors. Cllr S Adams proposed that the Parish Council agree to increase the clerk's salary as recommended by NALC (Salary Scale LC1 13) back dated to the 1st April 2026, proposed Cllr S Adams, seconded Cllr C Myhill – all in favour. **Action: Clerk**

e. To confirm the adoption of the Local Government Insurance Policy 2026/2027

Last year the Parish Council paid £511.49 for insurance, and the cost of renewal this year is £523.53 for 2026/2027. Cllr A Wignall proposed that the Parish Council accept the quotation from Community Action Suffolk, seconded Cllr S Adams. **Action: Clerk**

70.26 UPDATE ABOUT THE ESC PATHWAY CLEARANCE SCHEME

Cllr C Yeo, Cllr S Adams and the Clerk had attended a meeting with Aimee McLachlan Sustainable Travel Officer in the village on the 16th July 2026. The councillors had walked around the village and Aimee was able to offer advice. Suffolk County Council Highways operates a self-help scheme to enable councillors to lead volunteer groups for basic clearance in and around the village. Cllr C Yeo and Cllr C

Myhill are to become qualified to enable them to train other councillors and members of the public who volunteer to carry out work in the village. **Action: Clerk**

71.26 UPDATE ABOUT LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

Please refer to Cllr Patti Mulcahy's report.

72.26 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE FUTURE OF THE LEVINGTON WARM WELCOME 2026/2027

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had received a report from the Warm Room organisers. Twelve sessions have been held since the beginning of April 2026 and the attendance average is approximately eight per session. Volunteer cover has been successful and our thanks go to Sally Long, Helen Ross and their team of willing volunteers for making the Warm Room such a success. The Parish Council had previously agreed to cover the funding until the end of September 2026 for two sessions a month. The Clerk reported that she had applied for a Locality Budget to cover the cost (£780). Cllr Patti Mulcahy being present at the meeting, stated that she would be pleased to fund the Warm Room and asked the Clerk to send some additional information. Cllr S Adams proposed that the Parish Council support the Warm Room to continue for 6 months until the end of March 2026, seconded Cllr C Myhill – all in favour. **Action: Clerk**

73.26 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE OPTIONS FOR TRAFFIC CALMING

The Parish Council had considered various methods of traffic calming which included ANPR, speed bumps and Speed Indicator Device (SID)s. The Parish Council has decided that the most effective method of traffic calming appeared to be the installation of SIDs. Cllr J Parrish reported that he had met with Cllr E Lawrence from Brightwell Foxhall and Purdis Farm Parish Council as Eddie has considerable experience over many years of buying, installing and managing SIDs. Three positions have been identified; Church Lane, Nacton Road and Bridge Road. If the Parish Council wants to position a SID outside a house, the owner's agreement will need to be sort. Currently BFPF have battery operated devices and are seeking to move to solar powered therefore they will have a number of devices for sale. BFPF have agreed to give Levington the first opportunity of purchasing the devices at an approximate cost of £250 to £300 per SID. There are no on-going maintenance costs involved. Cllr J Parrish is seeking approval from the Parish Council to take this initiative forward. Cllr A Wignall proposed that the Parish Council starts the process of installing SIDs by approaching Suffolk County Council Highways for the siting of the SIDs, seconded Cllr D Dickerson – all in favour. **Action: Cllr J Parrish / Clerk.**

74.26 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

a. Cold Calling

Cllr S Adams reported that cold calling stickers are available. In addition there is a sign which could be erected on the three entry points to the village. Cllr S Adams to investigate further siting three signs in the village. **Action: Clerk**

75.26 UPDATE ON THE EMERGENCY PLAN

Cllr N Downing stated the Emergency Plan has now been published and a copy has been placed on the Parish Council website. The Emergency Plan needs to have a Community Emergency Planning Group

(known as the CEPG). The Parish Council has been unable to find residents to serve on the group therefore it has been decided that all members of the Parish Council, in the first instance, will make up the CEPG. The CEPG needs to gather information on vulnerable residents and also the availability of resources such as 4x4 vehicles, generators, etc. A questionnaire has been put together to gather information which will be included in the next edition of the Parish Magazine and replies should be posted in the PC black post box on the entrance to the Village Hall. Cllr N Downing reassured residents that all information will be stored securely electronically and the hard copies of questionnaires disposed of in the secure way. The Parish Council discussed whether the group needed a Child Protection Policy however this was not deemed necessary as any children in the village would be accompanied by their parents/carers and would be their responsibility. It was agreed that Cllr N Downing would circulate a copy of the questionnaire for comment by councillors and then printed and included in the Parish Magazine. **Action: Cllr N Downing / Clerk / All councillors**

76.26 PLANNING

a. General – Updated Planning List for September 2026

The Parish Council noted the contents of the Planning List.

b. Appeal Decision No 6007778

Land South of Felixstowe Road Stratton Hall IP11 0SQ

Construction of lorry park comprising up to 70 no. lorry parking spaces inclusive of ancillary office, driver's building, staff parking, landscaping and associated CCTV and lighting apparatus (with access and layout)

Prologic Services Ltd

Decision: The Planning Inspectorate allowed the appeal and planning permission has been granted.

b. Planning Application DC/26/2961/TPO – Elm Bank Bridge Road Levington Ipswich Suffolk IP10 0LZ

1no. Beech (T1 on plan) – Fell – Lead Councillor Cllr John Parrish

Cllr J Parrish presented his report as follows.

There have been a number of instances recently where large pieces of branch have fallen off the tree and it is deemed that the tree is very dangerous. The tree has Honey Fungus disease and needs to be felled. This fact is supported by Falcon Saunders who is an Arboricultural and Tree Officer for East Suffolk Council.

The Chairman closed the meeting to allow members of the public to speak.

No member of the public wished to comment.

The Chairman reopened the meeting.

Following discussion Cllr S Adams proposed that the Parish Council do not object to the Planning Application, seconded Cllr A Wignall – 5 in favour, 1 abstained due to conflict of interest (Cllr J Parrish) **Action: Clerk**

77.26 CORRESPONDENCE

All relevant correspondence has been forwarded to councillors.

78.26 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

a. Church Field Warden

Report from Cllr Derek Dickerson
Nothing to report.

b. Village Hall

Report from Cllr John Parrish
There is a meeting of trustees early in November. The installation of Wi-Fi in the Village Hall will be discussed.

c. Sir Robert Hitcham's Almshouses

Report from Cllr Sarah Adams
The work on the almshouses roof has been completed and the residents of the almshouses are very happy with the result. Cllr S Adams stated that further work on the almshouses will be commenced shortly.

d. Public Transport

Report by Marian Rose
The £2 bus fare identified by the Prime Minister will commence on the 1st January 2027.

e. Footpaths

Report from Cllr John Parrish
The rail at the steps leading to the foreshore at the end of the boardwalk is still a hazard to walkers and the Clerk agreed to speak to Aimee McLachlan Sustainable Travel Officer East Suffolk Council. **Action: Clerk**

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
Cllr C Yeo attended the latest meeting of the Orwell and Villages Ward Cross-Parish Group held at the Recreation Ground Pavilion in Kirton. This group discusses new and potential developments along the Felixstowe Peninsular. Potential developments such as the Bloor Homes and Gladman Orwell Green sites were discussed as well as the potential expansion of Felixstowe Dock to Innocence Farm Kirton. It was agreed that at present there was a lack of business investment and progress was slow on housing developments such as Brightwerll

Lakes which could cause problems with the provision of much needed infrastructure and facilities. No date has been set for the next meeting as we are waiting for actual applications from Bloor Homes and potentially Gladmans.

79.26 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday, 2nd November 2026

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15 pm.

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

A resident asked a number of questions regarding the traffic calming and how the SIDs work. Councillors were able to answer all the queries.

A resident asked how the Emergency Plan would be evoked; East Suffolk Council? Cllr N Downing confirmed that the Emergency Plan would be evoked by East Suffolk Council.

Signed..... Date

Angie Buggs
Clerk to Levington and Stratton Hall Parish Council