

LEVINGTON AND STRATTON HALL PARISH COUNCIL

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

Monday, 2nd September 2024 7.15 pm

Present:

Cllr John Ross (Chairman)

Cllr Derek Dickerson

Cllr John Parrish

Cllr Neil Downing

Cllr Ann Wignall

Cllr C Yeo

Cllr C Last

Parish Clerk Angie Buggs

8 members of the public

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 asked why the Parish Council's bank accounts had not been changed to another provider as agreed at previous meetings. The Clerk replied that changing community bank accounts is a long process; it is in hand.

A member of the public said that he had sent a report to the Parish Council in answer to the report written by the Parish Council Sub-committee on Church Field and stated that a lot of the issues in his report had not been addressed. He was concerned that initiating discussion with the landowner and Martin Williams Suffolk County Council Rights of Way Officer concerning the extension to the board walk needed at both ends had not been addressed. Cllr J Ross stated areas such as Pilots Way, Trickers Wood and the foreshore did not fall within the remit of the Sub-committee which related solely to the maintenance and use of Church Field. Cllr J Ross also said that Trickers Wood was not raised as part of the Parish Council's 4-year Plan. **Action: Cllr J Ross**

75.24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Lee Reeves East Suffolk Council, Cllr Mike Ninnmey East Suffolk Council and Cllr Patti Mulcahy Suffolk County Council.

76.24 CODE OF CONDUCT & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

77.24 TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE 1ST JULY 2024

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 1st July 2024, which had previously been circulated, were approved, and signed as a true record by Cllr J Ross (Chairman).

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

65.24 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A RESILIENCE / EMERGENCY PLAN

Report from Cllr N Downing

I attended the Emergency Planning Workshop held at East Suffolk Offices in Melton on the 15th July. Following that meeting, it is significantly more clear about the purpose of the plan and how we are expected to apply it. Specific elements to call out include:

1. The plan should consider how residents might be affected by a range of issues, some generic and some that might be specific to our parish.
2. The plan should assume that current emergency services are not available to the village (either because they are unable to respond or because they might in all likelihood be prioritising their resources elsewhere that might make them temporarily unavailable to use).
3. The Emergency Plan should provide a framework for how temporary rest centres should be created and managed and how communication of their existence be relayed to East Suffolk.
4. Whilst local government has access to some resources the plan should not assume that any additional resources would be available, nor that budget would be forthcoming to purchase additional resources locally.
5. Whilst there are specific issues regarding personal data gathering and storage (ie GDPR) we should make efforts to identify and catalogue vulnerable people within our local area and also suitable resources that could be called upon (eg 4-wheel drive cars, tractors, etc).

Clearly this is not totally consistent with what the current Emergency Plan has. I am now going through the provided templates and documentation with a view to creating a draft Emergency Plan and follow up actions list (eg there will be a call for specific help for example talking to local businesses and individuals). I hope to have the draft Emergency Plan ready for discussion at the Parish Council's meeting on the 4th November 2024.

Cllr Downing stated that there will be more workshops in October such as how to manage a rest centre. The Clerk was requested to circulate dates of the workshops. **Action: Clerk / Cllr N Downing**

79.24 FINANCE

a. Income

None

b. Expenditure

Mrs A J Buggs Salary & Expenses July / August 2024	£805.17
Mrs A J Buggs Flags	£157.00
C Young Tub Planters	£34.05
Village Hall Bookings	£75.00
P J Print Newsletters	£95.00
P J Print Newsletters	£83.00
Business Services at CAS Ltd	£473.48
Royal British Legion Donation (S137) Wreaths x 2	£49.00
John Parrish PC Cabinet Keys	£18.00

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

c. Bank Balances

Current Account as at 31 st July 2024	£22,336.53
Deposit Account as at 31 st July 2024	£8,857.14

The Parish Council noted the balances as at the 31st July 2024 for both the Community Account and the Premium Account.

d. To confirm expenditure re wreaths for the Royal British Legion

The Chairman reported that the Parish Council request two wreaths from the Royal British Legion each year for which the Parish Council make a donation. Cllr J Ross proposed that the Parish Council make a donation to the RBL of £49.00 this year, seconded Cllr C Yeo – all in favour. **Action: Clerk**

e. To discuss Parish Council insurance from 1st October 2024 – 30th September 2025

The Clerk reported that the renewal notice for the Parish Council insurance for 2024/2025 had been received from Gallagher. The cost for 2024/2025 is £900.63 an increase from £460.37 in 2023/2024. The Clerk had received an alternative quotation from Business Services at CAS Ltd of £473.48. It was unanimously agreed to accept the quotation of £473.48. Cllr C Yeo and the Clerk were thanked for their work on the Parish Council's insurance policy. **Action: Clerk**

f. Email from PKLittlejohn Audit Notification

The Clerk reported that PK Littlejohn External Auditors had confirmed that Levington and Stratton Hall Parish Council had exemption status for an External Audit for the year ended 31st March 2024. **Action: Clerk**

80.24 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE TO THE VILLAGE TREE WARDEN BEING PART OF THE TREE WARDEN NETWORK - SUFFOLK

Cllr J Ross had submitted his report to councillors which had also been posted on the Parish Council website as follows:

Introduction

The Tree Council is a National Charity established in 1973. Their vision is:

The Tree Council brings everyone together with a shared mission to care for trees and our planet's future. We inspire and empower organisations, government, communities and individuals with the knowledge and tools to create positive, lasting change at a national and local level.

One element of their work is the Tree Warden Network. As the name suggests, it is a network for tree wardens, all of whom are volunteers. There is a Suffolk Network, the objective of which are:

To promote for public benefit in the county of Suffolk the conservation, protection, and improvement of the environment through planting, care, nurture and cultivation of new trees and hedgerows and safeguarding of the existing treescape, and by these actions, to contribute to Suffolk's mitigation of the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.

These objects align well with those of our village motto 'A vibrant and caring community, set in a treasured landscape'.

Whilst anyone can volunteer as a tree warden and apply to join the Network, it is usual that individuals are supported by their council to do so, whether Parish, District or County.

Such Tree Wardens do not represent their Parish Council, they operate to the benefit of the whole parish championing trees and hedgerows.

LSH PC Tree Warden

LSH PC has a designated Tree Warden – Neil Bixby. Neil had spent his professional life working as a land manager; he has a keen interest in nature and a level of professional knowledge that make him an asset in this role.

Neil is not presently a member of the Network but is keen to be. He has recently retired from his employment as a land manager for a local landowner and is keen to develop the Tree Warden role. Neil is also supported by his son Tom, who has taken over the land manager job, and provides succession planning in the Tree Warden role.

Cost Implications

There is no cost to joining the Suffolk Tree Warden Network.

Cllr D Dickerson proposed that the Parish Council supports Neil and Tom Bixby joining the Suffolk Tree Network on behalf of the two parishes of Levington and Stratton Hall, seconded Cllr C Last – all in favour. **Action: Cllr J Ross**

Councillors were reminded that it is not just trees which are supported by the Network but also hedgerows. It is hoped that Neil Bixby will come and talk to the Parish Council about what he can offer the parishes in the way of support. **Action: Cllr J Ross**

81.24 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE THE FUTURE OF THE LEVINGTON WARM ROOM 2024/2025

The Parish Council, after a successful two years of running a Warm Room, have been approached by East Suffolk Council to bid for a third year. The six priorities are:

1. To provide a safe, welcoming and staffed heated space that is conveniently located for the local community.
2. To provide a Warm Welcome for a minimum of 8 hours a week.
3. To offer hot drinks to all guests, including but not limited to tea and coffee.
4. To provide a Warm Welcome that is accessible for people and that people want to attend.
5. To provide access to the Warm Welcome for other support services from the public and VCFSE sectors to engage with guests.
6. To provide activities, entertainment (eg board games/jigsaws DVD players and library) and/or food.

Due to the success of our previous two years East Suffolk Council see our Warm Room as exemplary.

The Parish Council are required to submit returns and will receive 75% of the cost upfront and as soon as the brief is fulfilled on the completion of satisfactory returns will receive the remaining 25% of the funding.

Cllr J Ross explained that the funding has been reduced this year and for Levington and Stratton Hall the maximum funding available is £1,600. If the Parish Council were to run the Warm Room for 4 sessions a week for 18 weeks the total cost would be £1,800. It is recognised that some weeks the number of sessions would be less than 4 a week such as holiday times. The proposals are as follows:

Proposal 1 – Does the Parish Council wish to run a Warm Room?

Cllr J Parrish proposed that the Parish Council runs a Warm Room for 4 sessions a week for 18 weeks, seconded Cllr C Yeo – all in favour.

Proposal 2 – Do councillors agree to the Parish Council underwriting the £200 required to run a Warm Room?

Cllr C Yeo proposed that the Parish Council underwrites the £200 required to run a Warm Room to ‘top up’ the funding for ESC, seconded Cllr A Wignall – all in favour.

It was agreed that the Clerk should submit a funding request. **Action: Clerk / Cllr J Ross**

82.24 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE TO THE GRASS CUTTING ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHURCH FIELD

As Lead Councillor Cllr A Wignall read the report of the Sub-Committee (Cllr A Wignall, Cllr C Yeo and Cllr J Parrish) as follows:

As Lead Councillor, I have received several telephone calls and an email regarding comments and an amended plan for the management of Church Field from a member of the public. A copy of the report was published on the Parish Council website prior to the meeting. The remit of the Sub-Committee on Church Field was to review the management of Church Field and did not include reference to any related footpaths, except those within Church Field.

Introduction

Church Field is designated as part of the National Landscapes originally known as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It is the only place within the village that opens up a magnificent view onto the Orwell Estuary, from Levington to Felixstowe, in all seasons and weathers because of its height above the river. From the Shotley side, the Church Meadow allows the view to be opened up across the river to show St Peter’s Church in all its glory.

As various legal documents dating from 1978 make it very clear Church Field was bequeathed to the ‘inhabitants of Levington and of the adjoining or adjacent areas’ as an open space for recreational purposes, ‘for all time’.

There are two previous reports in existence and available for reference:

The Report of the Church Field Management Working Party: 2005, and

The Management of Church Field and Tricker’s wood: 2018

The 2018 document, which adopted the 2005 report, has a section entitled: Management Principles (No 3) and another entitled Maintenance and Development (No 5) which are relevant to the current discussions.

Councillors: John Parrish, Ann Wignall and Chris Yeo when they met on 13th August at 18.30.

The following proposals were made by the current sub-committee after due consideration that the Church Field should be accessible to the public at all times, but at the same time reflecting the need to protect and encourage the related wildlife.

1. The whole of Church Field should be cut three times a year in March, August and October. The cutting times of March, August and October are in line with current management of fields such as Church Field. (This is no change to existing intentions - neither Sections 3 or 5 of the 2018 document specify the number of cuts).
2. Area 1 forms the main triangular area, it is the largest, relatively flat area and includes the 1m strip parallel to Church Lane previously agreed to allow to wild. This should be mowed at regular intervals between March to October, allowing the grass to be kept short and of a type more conducive to recreational activities. It would also allow a clear view out over the field to the Orwell from the Church Yard and also from the pavement. (This is in keeping with Section 3(4) of the Management Principles: 2018. It does change the decision last year in relation to the 1m strip).
3. From March to October all identified paths should also be mown at the same time as Area 1 to allow comfortable transit across the field (this is no change from existing arrangements).
4. Except for the three major cuts (detailed at 1), Areas 2 and 3 should not be cut, but allowed to grow naturally as neither area is particularly conducive to recreational activities as they are both sloping, thus providing natural cover for wildlife and nettle beds (nettles provide a good habitat for butterflies). This would include the '2m area to be left uncut for wildlife, adjacent to Pilot's Way and along the southern boundary' (Section 5(a) of the Maintenance and Development Principle, 2018), and takes into account residents' concerns with regard to climate change and decline in insect and small mammal populations.

Finally, there are other options that should be explored for the field that have not been considered by the sub-committee at this stage (such as improved seating/activity equipment for all ages). These will be considered once:

- a. The new cutting regime has been in operation and the impact can be evaluated.
- b. The development of the Ship has occurred and any associated impact on the village been evaluated.

Cllr N Downing asked about the concerns raised at the last meeting concerning piles of grass cuttings left on Church Field. The Clerk reported that she had contacted Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service who had expressed the view that it was very unlikely that the grass cuttings would spontaneously combust.

The Chairman stated that the Parish Council would vote on each of the proposals individually.

Proposal 1: Cllr J Parrish proposed that Church Field should be cut 3 times a year, seconded Cllr C Yeo – all in favour.

Proposal 2: Cllr A Wignall proposed that Area 1 which forms the main triangular area, it is the largest, relatively flat area and includes the 1m strip parallel to Church Lane previously agreed to allow to wild,

should be mowed at regular intervals between March to October, allowing the grass to be kept short and of a type more conducive to recreational activities, seconded Cllr C Yeo – all in favour.

Proposal 3: Cllr J Parrish proposed that from March to October the identified paths should also be mown at the same time as Area 1 to allow comfortable transit across the field, seconded Cllr C Yeo – all in favour.

Proposal 4: Cllr C Yeo proposed that except for the three major cuts (proposal 1), Areas 2 and 3 should not be cut, but allowed to grow naturally as neither area is particularly conducive to recreational activities as they are both sloping, thus providing natural cover for wildlife and nettle beds (nettles provide a good habitat for butterflies). This would include the '2m area to be left uncut for wildlife, adjacent to Pilot's Way and along the southern boundary', seconded Cllr A Wignall – all in favour.

Proposal 5: Cllr A Wignall proposed that the area immediately around each of the two benches on Church Field is maintained as Area 1, seconded Cllr J Parrish – all in favour.

Cllr J Ross reported that Church Field was one of the areas the Parish Council were asked to consider as part of its 4-Year Plan. The final paragraph of the sub-committee's report proposed that two options be considered once the new cutting regime has been in operation and the impact can be evaluated and the development of the Ship has occurred and any associated impact on the village has been evaluated therefore, I suggest an additional proposal.

Proposal 6: Cllr C Yeo proposed that Proposals 1 –5 should be the first steps in new proposals for the management of Church Field, and that any other options be deferred until the impact of Proposals 1 – 5 have been evaluated, seconded Cllr A Wignall – all in favour.

It was agreed that the Management Plan should reflect Proposals 1 – 5. **Action: Cllr A Wignall / Clerk**

Tom Bixby has agreed to take on the task for cutting Church Field. Tom has agreed to give his time to cut the field and Albert and Marjorie Scardino have agreed to support Tom with covering associated costs (machinery and equipment). The Chairman, Cllr J Ross, offered a vote of thanks to Albert, Marjorie and Tom for their support. Cllr J Ross agreed to update Tom Bixby on the proposals which have been agreed. **Action: Cllr J Ross**

83.24 TO RECEIVE A REPORT AND DISCUSS WHETHER THE PARISH COUNCIL SHOULD MOVE THE WEBSITE AND EMAIL ADDRESSES TO A GOV.UK PLATFORM

Cllr J Ross reported that the Central and Data Office (CDDO) leads the Government's digital and data function; the Government's vision is that by 2025, all levels of Government operate using this more secure and professional way. Our local provider, OneSuffolk can provide the facility at a discounted rate if the Parish Council transitioned the website at the time of taking up the email offer.

The transition would be managed by OneSuffolk, taking approximately two weeks.

The email boxes are 10GB in capacity, so provide plenty of storage for our duties as councillors and Clerk.

Current Position

The Parish Council presently arranged for its website to be hosted on .org via our provider OneSuffolk.

Each of the Councillors, Clerk and Newsletter Editor have their own arrangements for email, a mix of outlook, .org, Gmail, etc. Many of these are owned and controlled by the individual.

The website hosting has a cost of £50 (excl VAT) per annum.

Opportunity

OneSuffolk can provide the PC with dedicated gov.uk domain names for our website and our emails. This provides opportunity to professionalise our IT footprint and provide a level of security that complies with the 2025 vision.

To illustrate, our website could be 'Levingtonandstrattonhall.gov.uk' or 'LSHPC.gov.uk' and our emails could be 'john.ross@LSHPC.gov.uk'.

The PC would 'own' the email accounts, individuals would use them. The content of the email accounts would be secure and private unless a relevant formal investigation occurred, in which case OneSuffolk would provide the investigators with access.

Costs

The pricing for the gov.uk domain name now stands at just £18.00 for the initial first 2 years of having the domain name and then £138.00 for every 2 years after that.

If you are also looking for email addresses to be attached to your own domain name then we can also supply these.

Currently we charge £30.00 per mailbox per year for a 10GB mailbox. However, if you were to order a .gov.uk domain name then we will discount this to £24.00 per mailbox per year.

All prices shown in this email include VAT.

Cost Implications

The Parish Council can reclaim VAT.

Our PC would need:

- 7 email accounts for councillors
- 1 for the Clerk
- 1 for the Newsletter Editor

Total = 9

If the website transitioned also, the cost would be:

Email – 9 x £20 = £180.00 (excl VAT)

Website - £15 (excl VAT) for years 1 and 2 total £115. (excl VAT) every 2 years thereafter

Migration of data from an existing email account to the new would incur a one-off cost of £30 (excl VAT).

To demonstrate predicted costs (excl VAT):

	2025	2026	2027	2028
Email (x9)	£180	£180	£180	£180
Website (2 years)	£15	£0	£0	£0
Data Migration (x1)	£30	£0	£0	£0
Total	£225	£180	£205	£180
Existing website	£50	£50	£50	£50
Additional expenditure	£175	£130	£245	£130

Proposals

Proposal 1: The Parish Council adopted the gov.uk domain name for the website and email accounts for each of its councillors, Clerk and Editor. Proposal 1 was proposed by Cllr N Downing, seconded Cllr A Wignall – all in favour.

Proposal 2 – The Parish Council agrees to migrate the data from the Clerk’s Outlook email account to the new gov.uk account. Proposal 2 was proposed by Cllr A Wignall, seconded Cllr N Downing – all in favour.

84.24 TO DISCUSS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PHASE 2 OF THE WEBSITE

In September 2022 the Parish Council agreed a staged approach to the implementation of the Parish Council website. Stage 1 has been live since January 2023 which is the Parish Council section.

A question has existed for a while in relation to the opportunity for non-Parish Council organisations to have a page on the website for which they will be responsible. This requires each organisation to identify one person as an administrator and for all administrators to be trained. OneSuffolk has agreed to provide the training; the Parish Council has previously approved the budget allocation for this.

Since our last meeting I have offered the opportunity to numerous organisations so that the implementation and the training can be scheduled. The responses are:

- Village Hall – the offer is accepted; an administrator will be identified
- WI – the offer is accepted; an administrator will be identified.
- Gardening Club – no response.
- St Peter’s Church – the offer is accepted; an administrator will be identified.
- Friends of St Peter’s Church – the offer is accepted; the administrator will be the same as for St Peter’s Church.

Training is also required for:

- PC administrator.
- Newsletter Editor.

In total 6 people will be trained and approved by the Parish Council. funding set aside and the changes to the website to activate the new pages and the structural changes required. **Action: Cllr J Ross**

85.24 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE THE STORAGE OF DEFIB EQUIPMENT / PARISH COUNCIL EQUIPMENT

The Clerk reported that the replacement defibrillator pads had been received. It was believed that the pads should be stored in the Parish Council cupboard in the Village Hall to ensure easy access. The Village Hall Trustees each have a key to the VH and there is a list of Trustees which could be made available. **Action: Cllr J Parrish**

Councillors discussed the storage of the Parish Council equipment which appears on the Asset Register. It was agreed to defer this item until the November 2024 meeting when the councillors could go through the Asset Register and decide where items of equipment should be stored and what items on the Asset Register should be written off as they are no longer functional. **Action: Clerk**

86.24 PLANNING

a. Planning Forum for Town and Parish Councils – Planning Update – 25th July 2024

Cllr A Wignall had attended the Planning Update Meeting on the 25th July 2024 which had been held at ESC Office in Melton.

This is a brief report of the items covered during a very detailed Power Point Presentation, which has been brought up to date and published on line <https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/Your-Council/Town-and-Parish-Councils/TPC-Forum-July-24.pdf>

The first session was led by Matt Penicuik who noted the points regarding the new government's announcements with regard to planning.

Chris King spoke about the Quality of Place Awards, annual awards, but awards for 2024 now closed which deal with nominations from heritage to ecology. Further details can be found by searching Quality of Place Awards East Suffolk on the East Suffolk Website. The categories for entry are: Design, Building Conservation, Nature and Landscape and Community.

Andrew MacMillan spoke about Planning Policy updates. The following Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) have been adopted: Rural Development (April 2024), Self-Building and Custom Built Housing (May 2024) and Health Environments (June 2024).

Currently there are 25 Neighbourhood Plans in existence. Neighbourhood planning is a government initiative that enables local communities to influence and take forward planning proposals at a local level. Plans can help determine the location of new development, provide guidance for what new buildings should look like and grant planning permission for particular types of development. They are prepared by Parish and Town Councils and guidance and help can be sought from East Suffolk.

The Local Development Plan was published in March 2024 and the next Local Plan will be based on the beginning Spring/Summer 2025 subject to any planning reforms.

The East Suffolk Authority Monitoring Report will be published in January 2025.

A document entitled 'Engagement with Developers' to be completed by August 2024 and adopted Autumn 2024.

b. To discuss and agree the Parish Council's comments on DC/24/2940/TPO 1x Mixed Group Holly and 1 Hawthorne tree – To fell. Due to high maintenance and allowing more light onto lawn area creating a vista view to the open fields. The Driftway Church Lane Levington Ipswich Suffolk

Cllr A Wignall as Lead Councillor on the Planning Application reported that East Suffolk Council had not published a list of consultees for the application but she had written to two 'near neighbours' making them aware of the application to remove trees which apparently are the subject of TPOs. She reported that only one reply had been received which was from Neil Bixby the Parish Council Tree Warden. Neil had said that although he is generally in favour of trees which are the subject of TPOs not being felled in the case of the holly and hawthorn he saw no reason to object.

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

David and Sally Long gave their views on the application. The area of land where their house now stands was originally part of Trickers Wood. The applicant appeared to be confused that ESC had reported that the trees were the subject of TPOs because both trees were small when they moved in and they were unaware of any TPOs at that time. It appeared that both the trees could have been 'self-seeded' and not planted.

The Chairman reopened the meeting.

Following discussion, Cllr A Wignall proposed that the Parish Council do not object to the planning application, seconded Cllr C Yeo – all in favour. **Action: Clerk**

87.24 CORRESPONDENCE

All relevant correspondence has been forwarded to councillors.

88.24 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

a. Church Field Warden

Report from Cllr Derek Dickerson

As a result of the grass being cut several people use the field to picnic. The piles of grass cuttings have not combusted.

b. Village Hall

Report from Cllr John Parrish

Nothing to report. The next meeting of the Trustees is in October/November.

c. Sir Robert Hitcham's Almshouses

Report from Sue Parrish

Cllr J Parrish reported that the next meeting of the Almshouse Trustees will be on the 17th September 2024. He said he was also pleased to report that a local resident had moved into Almshouse No 1 which had been completely refurbished.

d. Public Transport

Report by Marian Rose

Bus services 79 and 77 continue to provide a good and frequent service along the Old Felixstowe Road, running between Ipswich and Felixstowe. Several villagers use these as well as some workers from the businesses at Levington Park.

The Tour of Britain cycle race will finish in Felixstowe on Sunday, 8th September. The route of the race covers roads from Trimley to Felixstowe and will inevitably mean road closures or

suspensions. I have been trying to find out how our buses will be affected by this but, at the time of writing, I have not received a satisfactory response. I will advertise this as soon as I have an answer.

One issue I would like to raise with the Parish Council, through this report, is the hedgerow growth along a short stretch of Bridge Road, between Red House Walk and White House Farm. This stretch is very difficult for pedestrians, perhaps walking to the bus stops, or just taking a walk as many people do from the local businesses, as it is impossible to walk along the verge. The County or District Council cuts the grass verge low down but the hedge was left untouched. It has grown out at eye height making it dangerous to walk along. I don't know if it is possible to ask the County or District Council to deal with this or if we could ask for village volunteers with suitable equipment to address this problem?

The Parish Council thanked the Marian for her report. The Parish Council said it believed that the hedge is privately owned but would clarify. **Action: Clerk**

e. Footpaths

Report from Cllr John Parrish
Nothing to report.

f. Port Liaison Group

Report by Cllr Derek Dickerson / Cllr John Parrish
Nothing to report.

g. Police / SNT / ASB

Nothing to report.

h. ESPA

Nothing to report.

89.24 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, 4TH NOVEMBER 2024 IN THE VILLAGE HALL

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.20 pm.

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

Warm Room 2024/2025. Sally Long said that she was concerned that the number of volunteers to manage the Warm Room was somewhat depleted and asked whether a notice could be placed in the next Parish Magazine appealing for volunteers to come forward. Cllr A Wignall reported that the next edition of the Parish Magazine would go to print on the 15th September. It was agreed that Cllr J Ross would appeal for volunteers to come forward in his report in the newsletter. **Action: Cllr J Ross / Clerk**

A member of the public expressed concern regarding the tree in the centre of the village adjacent to the Cannon had been damaged in the recent winds and he believed it was a health and safety issue and had removed the damaged tree branches. Cllr J Ross reported Neil Bixby (Tree Warden) will be assessing the tree in the next day or so and the re-mortaring of the bricks/stones of the wall is in hand by the Parish Council. **Action: Cllr J Ross**

Emergency Plan. A member of the public stated that he still had the template questionnaire used to identify vulnerable adults some years ago, which may be of help. Concern was expressed by the Parish Council regarding GDPR. Cllr N Downing agreed to investigate. **Action: Cllr N Downing**

A member of the public asked the question as to whether the Parish Council would look at the wider implications concerning Church Field before the next meeting. Cllr J Ross agreed to write to Suffolk County Council concerned the bogginess over the boardwalk. **Action: Cllr J Ross**

Signed..... Date

Angie Buggs
Clerk to Levington and Stratton Hall Parish Council