



# Long Stratton Town Council

## MINUTES OF FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 13<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2025 @ 7pm IN THE COMMUNITY PAVILION ROOM

**In attendance: Councillors, Kelly Lunness, Judith Baker, Louise Mundford (19:07), Andrew Lansdell, David Willis, Robin Ciorra, Helen Dickerson and Mathew Pochin**

**Town Clerk, Becky Buck and Molly Hallett, Town Council administrator.**

**County Councillor Alison Thomas and 9 Members of Public.**

**1. To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors, Morimont, Harris, Thompson, Lawrence and Smith, these were accepted by the Council.

**2. To receive disclosures of interest and dispensations**

There were no disclosures of interest or dispensations received.

**3. To allow members of the public and district and county councillors to speak - max 20 Minutes**

County Councillor Alison Thomas reported the following. The big news to share is the plans for Devolution and Local Authority Reorganisation. Devolution is when Central Government devolve powers to an authority of a particular size with an elected Mayor who will oversee all decisions made. The elected Mayor would then have a seat within central government. Norfolk County Council has expressed an interest and if successful would see them combine with Suffolk County Council. Local Authority Reorganisation will see the District and Borough Councils that come under Norfolk and Suffolk reorganised to create 1, 2 or 3 large authorities which would include the combined Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils. This is a massive reorganisation with a short time frame to come up with a suitable proposal for Central Government to review and either amend or accept. As a result of this, County Council elections have been postponed, this is not to interfere with democratic processes but if Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation progresses it could see the election of a Mayor in 2026 and all Councillors will cease in their roles and will then need to be considered for re-election, the decision to postpone is to save tax payers money as there will be an election once the Mayor is elected.

A member of the public introduced himself and advised that he had recently submitted a planning application within Long Stratton and asked if the Council had any questions about it. Councillor Lansdell informed him that the committee had already met and the planning decision was favourable. Councillor Lunness advised that the Town Council is a consultee only and the final decision will be made by South Norfolk District Council.



# Long Stratton Town Council

A member of the public asked if there was any reason the Clerk didn't print double sided on paper. The Clerk advised there wasn't. She also asked if the Christmas banner could be taken down and if the month could be provided with the bypass updates.

The Chairman of Bike Active Norfolk asked if the Council would consider supporting a fund raising event for a rickshaw that will be used to transport those in need to essential services within Long Stratton. The event will be held in June for 24 hrs and Bike Active Norfolk will need the use of the pavilion and MUGA. The Clerk advised that it will be on the agenda for the events meeting.

#### **4. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

The minutes of the meeting were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

#### **5. Finance and Governance**

##### **a. To note and authorise income and expenditure through Unity Trust Bank since 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

All income and expenditure was noted and approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

##### **b. To note all credit card payments since 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

All credit card payments were noted by the Council and the Chairman signed them as a true record.

#### **6. To discuss and decide on moving/ removing the streetlight outside 65 Francis Road.**

The clerk advised that she had been unable to contact the residents concerned and that the parishioner was needing a response to his request. The Council agreed to delegate the decision to the Finance Committee on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> to allow resident consultation.

#### **7. To discuss and decide on the East Pye Solar application [2024/3366](#)**

Following a lengthy discussion, it was agreed that the Council would wait for the second consultation to garner some more information before passing comment. The Council had previously resolved to support surrounding parishes which were more impacted with the application. The Clerk is also to contact Easy Pye Solar to ask for more information as well as requesting a fire risk assessment for the BESS. The Clerk to highlight the application in local magazines and social media.



# Long Stratton Town Council

**8. To discuss and decide on fitting a baffle on a streetlight as per resident's request.**

Following a lengthy discussion; it was not agreed to put a baffle on the streetlight. The Council were concerned that if there was a problem with the baffle it would become the Council's liability.

**9. To discuss and decide on date for the summer event**

The Council delegated date setting to the Clerk, it would be either May 10<sup>th</sup> for VE day or May 26<sup>th</sup> depending on the field availability by the football club.

**10. Any other business – not for discussion.**

**a. Electricity at Swan Lane toilets.**

The Clerk advised that following an inspection, she would like to ask a plumber to come and have a look at the boiler at the toilets as she believes this is the reason for the high electricity bills.

**b. Parish Partnership Bid**

The Clerk advised that due to her unexpected absence in December the deadline was missed and as a result the parish partnership bid will be postponed until 2026-27.

**c. Key box on pavilion**

The Clerk advised that due to the increase in ad-hoc bookings she had purchased a robust key box that would allow the code for the key to be changed with each booking.

**d. South Norfolk House**

The Clerk advised that South Norfolk House was going back on the agenda at South Norfolk District Council.

**e. Christmas lights**

The Clerk advised that the Christmas lights on the trees had come to the end of the life and comments had been received regarding their inadequacy. It was discussed that we had plug in lights but in previous years the plugs had been cut. It was commented that Harleston Town Council lights were pretty, the Clerk was asked to make some enquiries.

**11. To close the meeting to press and public under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 due to the disclosure of confidential information (land, contracts, staffing matters)**

Members of the public were asked to leave the meeting.



# Long Stratton Town Council

## 12. Staffing matters

The Clerk advised that the youth worker requires a support worker and supervision and that there was money budgeted to provide for this. The Council asked the Clerk to have a conversation with the youth worker to see what this support could look like. The Council delegated the decision to the staffing committee.

*With there being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 20:42*

DRAFT