



# Long Stratton Town Council

## MINUTES OF FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2023 @ 7pm IN THE COMMUNITY PAVILION ROOM

**In attendance: Councillors, Judith Baker, Mathew Pochin, Louise Mundford, Helen Dickerson, Diane Woodham, Susan Smith, Robert Mackenzie, David Willis and Robin Ciorra**

### **1 Members of the Public**

**Clerk Becky Buck, Town Council Apprentice Molly Hallett**

#### **1. To receive apologies for absence**

Councillors Lunness gave apologies for absence due to a prior commitment. Councillor Lansdell gave apologies for absence due to health, these were accepted by the Council. In the absence of the Chair, Councillor Pochin as vice-chair, chaired the meeting.

#### **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 gave apologies.

1 member of the public spoke regarding the plight of hedgehogs in our Country and what in Long Stratton we can do to improve the hedgehog population. With the urban population growing, hedgehogs are frequently being seen in and around houses to find food. Many though are being killed by vehicle movements to the point where there are less than a million left and hedgehogs could be extinct within the next 5 years. In Long Stratton alone it is known that 15 hedgehogs have been killed in the last 2 weeks.

*Councillor Mundford joined the meeting at 19.05.*

The member of the public asked if Government warning signs could be purchased to place around the Town and for temporary signs to be placed for a few days where a hedgehog has been killed to bring awareness.

The Clerk informed the Council that temporary signs should not need further permission as long as they are temporary and placed at a height not to impair drivers eyesight. The permanent sign will need permission from Highways and therefore will contact Highways and will bring back the information to the next meeting. It was discussed that could there be more interaction with the school also the Clerk advised that she would put an article in the next newsletter to raise awareness.



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**4. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

The minutes of the meeting were approved by Council and were signed by the Chairman as a true record with 1 amendment to item 9, to amend 'refs' to 'referees'.

**5. To note the Clerks report.**

The Clerks report was noted by Council.

**6. Finance and Governance**

**a. To note and authorise income and expenditure through Unity Trust Bank since 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

Income and expenditure was approved and noted by the Council and the payment list was signed by the Chairman.

**b. To note all credit card payments since 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

The credit card payments were noted by Council and the payment list was signed by the Chairman.

**c. To discuss and decide on Telephone and broadband provider.**

3 quotes were provided by the Clerk, following a lengthy discussion, the Council approved contractor A to provide telephone and broadband.

**7. To discuss and decide on declaring a climate emergency.**

Following a lengthy discussion, the Council agreed to support reducing the Council's carbon emissions and educating the community in how to improve their green footprint. There was concern raised that declaring a climate emergency would panic the community rather than raise awareness, therefore Councillor Smith gave a counter proposal to declare a climate crisis. The Councillor voted 6/3 against declaring a climate emergency.

*Councillors Mackenzie and Ciorra left the meeting 19:50.*

It was a unanimous decision to declare a climate crisis.

**8. To note the outcome of the Asset of Community Value bid**

The Clerk made the Council aware that once the initial decision was made to not accept South Norfolk House as an Asset of Community Value, this decision was challenged and the Clerk provided more details about the community bid which would see South Norfolk House retained as a community facility. Unfortunately, the original decision made by South Norfolk District Council was upheld and the Town Council were unsuccessful in their bid.



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## 9. To note the outcome of the grant for a community worker and the next steps.

The Clerk informed the Council that they had been successful in their bid for a grant to support a youth worker. Tender documents had been completed with the closing date of the end of November. Start date would be 2<sup>nd</sup> January.

## 10. To note minutes from the following committee meetings.

### a. Events

A verbal report of the meeting was provided to the Council.

### b. Leisure

The minutes were noted by the Council. It was asked that the Clerk contacts the mens shed at Wacton as well as the RSPB for bird boxes.

## 11. AOB (not for discussion)

The following was raised.

- There was a request for a car boot, the Council declined this based on the success of the last one held.
- There are more free trees available, the Council asked the Clerk to look into this to see if there are any fruit trees.
- St Mary's Churchyard has now formally been closed.
- Light at the back of the Pavilion lighting up the entrance to the bowls club.
- At the back of the high school there is an overgrown hedge.

*With there being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 20.08*