

Long Stratton Annual Town Meeting

Minutes

Monday 15th May 2023

6.00pm

Long Stratton Pavilion, Manor Road Playing Fields

- 1) Welcome to the meeting from the Town Council
The Chairman welcomed all that came to the Town Council meeting.
- 2) Apologies for absence
Councillor Mundford and Pochin gave apologies due to a prior commitment.
- 3) To review and adopt the minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting held 23rd May 2022
The minutes of the meeting held 23rd May 2022 were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman as a true record with one minor amendment which was to add Councillor Baker to the 'apologies for non- attendance which were approved by the council'.
- 4) To review Town Council's year end accounts and ask any questions.
The Clerk provided draft end of year figures, these were accepted by those present.
- 5) To receive a report from the Town Council Chairman regarding the years events and the aspirations for the upcoming year.
Councillor Lunness provided a presentation on the years events and aspirations.

Welcome to the Annual Town Meeting for 2023. It has been an interesting year with some major decisions being made that will see change come to Long Stratton. The biggest decision was the planning approval of 1875 homes and a bypass. The Council will now be liaising, where we can, with South Norfolk District Council and Norfolk County Council to represent the Community in trying to ensure Long Stratton grows in a coordinated way. There have been many highlights and challenges some of which are:

- Kings Coronation event 2023
King's Coronation event 2023 was fantastic to see everyone in attendance, Much fun was had by all, we had 44 stalls and plenty of entertainment and the weather held off. A huge thank you to all that sponsored the event and the volunteers that assisted. A huge thank you to the 3 members of the public who joined the committee who with the Town Council officers really pitched in to make it a glorious event.

- **Christmas 2022**
Christmas saw a change in the entertainment which saw a brass band come and play for all, and it was great to see so many people there despite the poor weather. We are now preparing for Christmas 2023
- **Increasing community engagement**
This year we had an objective to increase community engagement, we are now producing a quarterly newsletter. We also operate a community café which gives the opportunity for a cuppa and a chat with one of our council members.
- **Approving Playground equipment**
The playground equipment is being installed as we speak, the last set of equipment was installed 54 years ago and this has been a long term aspiration of the Council come to fruition.
- **Building relationships**
The Council have worked hard on building relationships and through the events have been able to touch base with many businesses and parishioners as well as organisations such as the police on a regular basis. The new defib has now been installed at police station.
- **Vandalism & ASB**
Sadly, we have had a rise in ASB and vandalism but through the work with the police we have been able to undertake some restorative work.

Some of the aspirations that the Council has for the upcoming year is as follows.

- **Supporting Bypass delivery**
We were pleased to see the bypass approved, we will when required consult with Norfolk County Council to see this come to fruition.
- **Improving infrastructure**
With the housing application been approved we will now be looking to how we can improve the infrastructure to support the housing.
- **Community engagement**
We are continuing to engage with the community and look for new ways we can do so successfully.
- **Quality award scheme**
It has been a long term aspiration to be recognised as a Quality Council, the office staff are working towards this achievement and hopefully will be achieved this year.
- **Saving South Norfolk House**
The future of South Norfolk House is uncertain. However we know that there has been a bid submitted which would support the community. As a Council we are opposed to South Norfolk House becoming knocked down and as such as we hoping to be in

communication with the Community bidder to prepare a stronger bid to save this historic building.

A few fun facts and figures by the work carried out by the office staff.

- In the last year, the office staff have received and managed 15,887 emails, 61 a day!
 - Have processed 704 receipts and payments.
 - Have attended 39 Council meetings
 - And much, much more, such as events, newsletters, routine business!
- Thanks to be given to the office staff as well as the maintenance staff for the work that they carry out.

Would you like to be a Councillor?

We currently have 2 vacancies on the Town Council.

Are you interested in supporting your community?

Do you have the time to dedicate to making important decisions regarding where you live?

Would you like more information?

If yes please talk to the Clerk or another Councillor at the end of the meeting.

- 6) To receive a written report from County Councillor Alison Thomas.

The year has been challenging with a change in leadership at County Council with Andrew Proctor stepping down due to ill health and Kay Mason-Billig taking over the role as chairman. I have been awarded the Adult Social Care portfolio which is a massive responsibility and enormous task with expenditure being circa £1.5 million per day. Health and social care integration is progressing with the care board which took over from the CCG. The recent consultation regarding the Walk in Centre has seen the retention of the centre but will be subject to further scrutiny in June.

The bypass plans have been secured subject to the conditions of the planning permission are delivered. Contractors are looking to start on site by April 2024 with completion August 2025.

County Deal will see devolution from Central Government to Norfolk County Council, Members will be voting towards the end of a year.

South Norfolk House was closed before Christmas and officers are currently working out of Thorpe Lodge in Broadland. Councillor Thomas was asked why the officers were moved before the new premises at Horizon building were ready. It was because of the cost of running 2 buildings.

County Councillor Thomas thanked the Council for their support and hard work.

- 7) To hear from local community groups regarding their year and the aspirations for the upcoming year.

A member of the WI gave the following report. The member advised that she had been president of WI for 2 years and they are hoping to gain more members and have more fun. The branch started in 1927 and the ladies were involved with village life, putting on shows and exhibitions and courses that all members could attend. The WI have been able to plant a cherry tree on Swan Lane and provide blood pressure monitors to the local surgery. They also raise money to support the Community. Some members belong to other organisations, an example would be a knitting group that make baby items for the Norfolk & Norwich. Membership has declined but all are welcome.

Councillor Lansdell advised that the Nicholas Porter charity had received an income of £100 and their had been no grants awarded. This was largely due to the loss of an incumbent. There are currently 2 trustees.

- 8) To hear from all parishioners and local community groups about aspirations that they wish the Council to consider for future years.

There were no members of the public present.

- 9) The meeting to be opened for discussions and any other business. Any resolutions may be put forward for consideration.

There was no other business raised.

With there being no further comments, the Chairman thanked all those for coming and contributing and closed the Annual Parish Meeting for Long Stratton at 18:47

Signed.....

Dated.....