

Long Stratton Annual Town Meeting

Minutes

Monday 18th May 2026

6.30pm

Long Stratton Pavilion, Manor Road Playing Fields

- 1) Welcome to the meeting from the Town Council
The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 2) Apologies for absence
There were no apologies of absence received.
- 3) To review and adopt the minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting held 19th May 2025
The minutes of the meeting held on 19th May 2025 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.
- 4) To review Town Council's year end accounts and ask any questions.
The Clerk went through the Council's year end finance, there were no questions asked.
(Please see appendix 1)
- 5) To receive a report from the Town Clerk as to the work undertaken in the office.
The Clerk gave a report of the work undertaken in the office. (Please see appendix 1)
- 6) To receive a report from the Town Council Chairman regarding the years events and the aspirations for the upcoming year.
The Chairman gave a report regarding the years events and the aspirations for the upcoming year. (Please see appendix 1)
- 7) To receive a report from Youth Worker.
The Clerk read through a report from the Youth Worker regarding the Youth work completed. (Please see appendix 2)
- 8) To receive a report from District Councillors Georgina Race and Jonathan Carver
The District Councillors were not in attendance.

County Councillor Karl Cathpole was in attendance and he advised that last week he started his induction at County Council. He has already starting meeting with residents that are concerned about the compulsory purchase order which will see East Pye Solar remove residents from their homes by force and will also take verges and residents gardens. Councillor catchpole has reported exposed electrical substation pipework and is keeping a

close eye to ensure remedial work is undertaken. He hasn't been allocated a committee yet but he has asked for planning and infrastructure. He advised that as a party they are fighting the decision on 3 unitary Councils and they are taking legal advice to challenge the decision as their preference is to have 1 unitary council.

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

Girl guides and Brownies, last summer they joined with scouting or the Norfolk Jamboree, the scouts had an international group so there was a large group. On February 22nd of this year they celebrated 100 years of girl guides and they celebrated with campfires and smores.

This July 15th 2026 Brownies celebrate 50 years of being in Long Stratton, which means the Brownies leader is also celebrating 50 years of leading. Rainbows have been running for 20 years and the rangers have been celebrating 10 years. They are celebrating with an event on the 15th July 5-8pm at the congregational church.

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

Councillor Harris asked the Council to consider holding an event to celebrate St George's Day on the 23rd April. Councillor Harris advised that he had a vision of a reenactment of St George slaying the dragon.

2 members of the public spoke about the community Christmas event on 12th December. They advised that the businesses and members of the community have all come together and created a much bigger event than last year with fireworks, a raffle with a car as the prize, a Christmas market, Santa's Grotto, rickshaw rides, live music, school choirs, a parade and much more. The road will be closed for the duration which is being sponsored by TMO. They would like the Council to sponsor a stage, to be agreed at the next Council meeting. The next Christmas meeting is Tuesday 19th at The Queen's Head. Councillor Harris was invited to speak to the businesses regarding the Long Stratton Community Partnership and the Clerk advised that she would be in attendance.

The Council Chairman wanted to thank the members of the public for all their hard work bringing this forward for the community.

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

A member of the public spoke about reconfiguring the high street now that the bypass is open. The Chairman advised that although this is the ultimate goal, it is not something that can be carried out by the Town Council as the land belongs to Highways. We have had discussions with officers from Norfolk County Council about what the possibilities could be however a project of this size would need a good amount of funding and depending what pot it comes from it would need to be budgeted so even if we were ready now it would still be a minimum of 12-18 months. It does remain a long term aspiration of the Town Council to pedestrianise the high street and when the moment comes we would like to engage with the community and business owners to see what they would like.

A member of the public spoke about what are the free things that can be done that could tidy up the village. Those in attendance spoke about cleaning the bus shelters, repainting them, carrying out a litter pick. It was noted that the Council had organised a litter pick however only 1 person had turned up so it was cancelled. It was agreed that the next litter pick would take place outside of normal working hours.

A member of the public asked if we prevent 7.5 tonne lorry's from coming through Long Stratton, instead could we ask them to use the bypass and access Long Stratton from the south which would take the lorry's out of the centre. The Chairman explained that we can make a request to Highways but ultimately it would be their decision. Councillor Dickerson did advise that the lorry's coming through to access Tharston Industrial estate is temporary until the Western Relief Road is completed and then the lorry's would use that as the most direct way.

A member of the public complained that the southern compound used by Octavius still has not been put back to its original condition as per the original plans. The Clerk advised she would chase Octavius.

There was concern about the condition of some of the footpaths in Long Stratton, these again are Highways concerns and Councillor Harris stated that these can be reported directly for them to be entered onto Highways database of faults called Transport Asset Management Plan (TAMP). This can be done through the website and the Clerk was asked if she can share this on social media and website.

County Councillor Karl Catchpole provided a leaflet called 'Help with Living Costs' provided by Norfolk County Council. The Clerk thanked him and advised that we would put it on the Town Council website.

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 20:41

Signed.....

Dated.....

Appendix's.

1. [LSTC presentation](#)
2. [Youth Work presentation](#)