



# Long Stratton Parish Council

## MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> MARCH AT 7PM AT THE METHODIST CHURCH OF LONG STRATTON PARISH COUNCIL

**In attendance: Councillors Steve Adcock, Georgina Race, Andrew Lansdell, Diane Woodham, Judith Baker, Matt Pochin, Ian Mortimer, Richard Tompkins & Robert Mackenzie.**

**Members of the Public, District Councillor Fulcher, County Councillor Alison Thomas**

**Becky Buck (Clerk).**

1. To consider apologies for absence  
Apologies were accepted from Councillors Worsley and Francis due to prior arrangements, these were accepted by the Council.
2. To receive disclosures of interest and dispensations  
There were no disclosures of interest or dispensations declared or received.
3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2019  
The minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2019 were signed by the Chairman as a true record.
4. To consider any items arising from the minutes  
The Clerk advised that she had instructed the groundsman to carry out repairs to the fence on the perimeter of the playing fields however if further vandalism occurs the Council will need to re-discuss the matter. The Clerk also advised that until a permanent location for the benches had been decided she had instructed the groundsman to place the benches along the fences to deter vandalism and anti-social behaviour.
5. To allow members of the public and district and county councillors to speak - max 20 Minutes  
County Councillor Alison Thomas reported that Norfolk County Council has agreed the budget, this has included the anticipated changes to Children Services which has seen Long Stratton children centre remain as the hub and a centre in Diss which will operate as an outreach service. Hempnall roundabout is progressing, currently waiting for discharge of the pre-conditions, once approval is received, we will see this progress. There is a meeting at South Norfolk Council offices for Parish Councils that are affected by the proposed bypass where an informal update will be provided. South Norfolk DC cabinet will receive a report regarding the central toilets, the meeting will start 9am Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March and attendance is recommended. A conversation had been had with First Busses and hopefully now the issue on Manor Road should be resolved.

District Councillor Des Fulcher wanted to reiterate the importance of the meeting being held at South Norfolk offices for the proposed bypass, he encouraged all to attend and keep an open mind.

A parishioner commented that the website was not showing relevant and correct information. The Clerk thanked the person for their observation and advised that the website would be updated.

A parishioner requested an update over the toilets, as the item was on the agenda the Chairman advised that he will close the meeting at that point to allow public participation.

6. Financial and Governance items
  - a. To review income and expenditure since the last meeting and consider the authorisation of payments  
The payments were reviewed, noted and approved by the Council.
  - b. To approve application for a savings account with Unity Trust

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The Clerk explained the reasoning for a savings account, the Council approved the application.

- c. To approve an application for a corporate transaction card with Unity Trust  
The Clerk explained the reasoning for a corporate transaction card, the Council approved the application.
- d. To discuss and decide on signatories over election period  
The Clerk explained why the signatories were important over the election period. The Council agreed a process.

7. To consider correspondence received

- a. SNDC – increase in refuse collection  
The Council noted the increase in cost.
- b. Footpath report  
The footpath report was well received, the Council would like to express their thanks to the footpath warden for a comprehensive report.

8. To discuss and decide on participation in the Big Litter Pick 2019

The Council approved participation in the Big Litter Pick and set a date of 13<sup>th</sup> April at 10am to meet at the playing fields. Clerk will contact South Norfolk District Council for equipment and will publicise the details.

9. To discuss and decide on setting up a youth council

The clerk discussed her idea for a youth council. It was well received by the Council and approved the first steps in contacting the local schools and youth groups in Stratton to gauge interest.

10. To discuss and decide on Long Stratton’s protocol for a death of a senior royal

Following a lengthy discussion; it was decided that being in close proximity to the principal authority the majority of condolences will be given to South Norfolk, therefore the Council approved a letter of support to South Norfolk Council and in the event of a death of a senior royal Long Stratton will also send a letter of condolence.

11. To review the petitions and discuss and decide on next course of action regarding the central toilets

*The Chairman temporarily closed the meeting to allow a member of the public to speak.*

The member of the public stated that he had written to MP Richard Bacon and Leader John Fuller and to date had not received a response, he also reported that he had encountered 3 members of the public that had stated that due to personal circumstances relied heavily on the central toilets and would acutely feel their absence. The Chairman thanked him for his support.

*The Chairman reopened the meeting.*

The Clerk reported that no response had been received from MP Richard Bacon. Nearly 400 signatures have been received with more online signatures being received daily. The Council discussed the next course of action and it was resolved that the Clerk would write to the Leader of South Norfolk John Fuller and the managing director of South Norfolk & Broadland Council with copies of the petitions.

*The Chairman temporarily closed the meeting to allow a member of the public to speak.*

District Councillor Fulcher advised that he fully supports Long Stratton Council in their endeavours to retain the toilets.

*The Chairman reopened the meeting.*

12. To discuss and decide on the following

- a. Review of the information received  
The Council reviewed all of the information that had been sourced through the Clerk, the secretary of Long Stratton Bowls Club, an independent valuer and a proposal made by Councillor Tompkins. The information was inconsistent, and it became apparent that there was no steadfast rule where it comes to bowls clubs.
- b. Rent for the Bowls Club to commence 1 April 2019  
The Council reviewed the independent valuation and using Councillor Tompkins proposal the Council resolved to apply an, the rent is reflective of LSBC paying all of their own utilities and maintenance costs and their current level of members. The annual rent is £125.00 which will increase by 3% annually, 3% was

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proposed to mirror the annual increase applied to the football club. The Clerk to write to Long Stratton Bowls Club.

- c. To start a conversation regarding a lease agreement for the Bowls Club drawn up by Solicitors  
The Council resolved to have a 10 year lease with the bowls club. Clerk to contract the Bowls Club and the solicitor who prepared the lease for the other main hirer of the playing fields.

- 13. To discuss and decide on a Salix interest free loan for LED street replacement programme.  
The Council reviewed the figures that the Clerk provided which showed that potentially the savings from converting all street lighting stock to LED's would make an interest free loan a cost neutral exercise. The Council approved the Clerk to take the next steps in applying for a loan.

- 14. To discuss and decide on Orbit proposal of meeting to discuss open space.  
Following a lengthy discussion; the Council would like to invite Orbit to the next meeting to discuss the potential of the open space. It was reiterated that meeting with Orbit does not change the Council's position on the planning application that the Council objected to.

- 15. To receive committee updates.

- a. Neighbourhood Plan Steering group

The Chairman gave an update, it was advised the next consultation is 16/17<sup>th</sup> March at the Methodist Church on Francis Road.

- i. To receive feedback from the Clerk on the feasibility study for a swimming pool

The clerk advised on the feedback received from the Leisure manager at South Norfolk District Council who is responsible for Diss and Wymondham leisure centre. It is reported that without a dry side a pool is not financially viable. Clerk will place a report on the website.

- b. Pavilion

The Clerk advised that the start date for the Pavilion had been pushed back to 8<sup>th</sup> April. It was reported that there were some problems with the funding agreed with South Norfolk and the Clerk advised that she was analysing the terms and conditions and would be producing a report. The clerk advised that if South Norfolk pull their funding that the Council would need to underwrite the amount to satisfy the football foundation, due to the urgency of the situation with the contract commencing 8<sup>th</sup> April the Clerk with the Chairman could authorise proceeding with the decision being ratified at the next meeting (Standing Orders). The Council were happy with this course of action. The clerk advised that South Norfolk have said that even though the project will start on the 8<sup>th</sup> they will still honour the funding if and when the problems are resolved, it was requested that this comment was received in writing to prevent any more problems.

- c. Leisure

- i. To note the minutes from the meeting.

The leisure meeting did not proceed due to there not being enough participation.

- ii. To discuss and decide on request from Long Stratton Football Club

The proposal by the football club had been reviewed and discussed with a representative from the football club with the Clerk and Councillors Baker and Adcock. A recommendation was put to the Council for their consideration however there was some confusion therefore it was resolved to postpone the decision to the next meeting.

- d. Finance- no update to provide.

- e. Events

- i. To note the minutes from the meeting.

The minutes from the meeting were distributed and noted.

- ii. To discuss and decide on putting on a Christmas event for the community

It was resolved to have a Christmas event on 6<sup>th</sup> December 4.30-8pm subject to getting all of the elements for an event in place.

- 16. To note the following meeting dates

- a. Planning meeting – 18<sup>th</sup> March @ 6pm

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It was agreed to amend the planning committee date to the 25<sup>th</sup> March

- b. Events meeting – April 1<sup>st</sup> at 7pm

Noted

17. AOB

- a. Internal Auditor booked for 24<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Noted

- 18. To dismiss members of the public and press to close the meeting for matters relating to staff and Councillors. All those present that were not members of Long Stratton Council left the meeting.

- 19. To discuss and decide on resource for the Council

The Clerk gave a synopsis of the current volume of work. It was resolved the admin assistant be awarded a further 12-month contract on the same terms and conditions as the current contract.

- 20. To discuss and decide on the Clerk's contract – required by Councillors Adcock & Worsley

The Clerk left the meeting, the Chairman called the Clerk back to the meeting and informed her that it had been resolved that the item was postponed until April's meeting.

*With there being no further business, the chairman closed the meeting at 21:39pm*