



Long Stratton Town Council

MINUTES OF FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 9TH DECEMBER 2024 @ 7pm IN THE COMMUNITY PAVILION ROOM

In attendance: Councillors, Kelly Lunness, Judith Baker, Louise Mundford (19:08), Andrew Lansdell, David Willis, Robin Ciorra, Helen Dickerson, Katrina Thompson, Florence Morimont, Justin Harris, Fiona Lawrence and Susan Smith

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

2 Members of Public.

1. To receive apologies for absence

Councillor Pochin gave apologies for absence 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 Thomas gave apologies but wished the Council a happy Christmas and New Year.

A member of the public asked what the Council's position was on East Pye Solar, the Chairman advised that new information was required by the Council to make an informed decision however the Council had advised Hempnall Parish Council that they support them in their decision to object to East Pye Solar.

4. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 11th November 2024

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

5. Finance and Governance

a. To note and authorise income and expenditure through Unity Trust Bank since 11th November 2024

All income and expenditure was approved by the Council and the Chairman signed the payment records as a true copy.

b. To note all credit card payments since 11th November 2024

All credit card payments was approved by the Council and the Chairman signed the payment record as a true copy.



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6. To discuss and decide on the budget 2025/26 as recommended by the finance committee.

The budget proposals were discussed at length, it was noted that financially it is a difficult year with costs of utilities, contractors prices and services rising. Following a lengthy conversation the Council agreed the budget.

7. To discuss and decide on the precept for 2025/26 as recommended by the finance committee.

Following a lengthy discussion, it was agreed the precept would be set at £266,074. The Council asked that the Clerk write a newsletter to all residents in March to explain the increase in costs and the steps the Council have made to keep the precept as low as possible.

8. To review, discuss and decide on the charging structure for the pavilion hire.

Following the budget discussions, the Council reviewed the pavilion pricing structure, they decided that they would like to keep the cost the same to the local community at £12.50 per hour for community events such as birthday parties. They introduced a new rate of £15.00 per hour for charities and increased the business rate to £17.50 per hour. The Clerk advised that there will be occasions where an exceptional charge would need to be applied where hirers would require a deep clean before and after an event and where officers will need to be on call which could include an overtime liability. The Council gave delegated authority to the Clerk to make decisions over hire costs.

9. Pump track

a. To note the quotation received.

The quotation was noted by the Council.

b. To discuss and decide on applying for grant funding

Following a lengthy discussion, the Council would like to progress with this project however as there is limited money the Council advised that it the bulk of the cost would need to come from grant funding and they are happy for the Clerk to proceed with applications.

c. To discuss and decide on drawing advanced CIL payments to see the project to fruition.

The Council would like regular updates on grant funding and if the need arises, they may consider draw down of CIL, this will need to be a future agenda item.

10. Skate park

a. To note the quotations received

The quotations received were noted.

b. To discuss and decide on applying for grant funding

Following a lengthy discussion, the Council would like to progress with this project however as there is limited money the Council advised that it the bulk of the cost would need to come from grant funding and they are happy for the Clerk to proceed with applications.



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- c. **To discuss and decide on drawing advanced CIL payments to see the project to fruition.**
The Council would like regular updates on grant funding and if the need arises, they may consider draw down of CIL, this will need to be a future agenda item.

11. To note the following committee minutes and to discuss and decide on recommendations made

a. Finance

Councillor Harris gave a verbal account of the finance committee meeting, the Clerk advised that minutes will follow.

12. Any other business – not for discussion.

The Clerk advised that the pavilion was being used on Christmas Day for a community Christmas meal.

The clerk advised that BikeActive Norfolk would like to hold a community fundraising 24hr event on June and would like to use the pavilion.

13. 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)

The meeting was closed to the press and public.

14. Staffing matters

The Clerk advised that the youth worker was coming to the end of the contract with MTM and advised that the Council had budgeted for her to become employed by the Town Council. It was approved for the Council to appoint her on a 12 month contract at SCP 26 for 16 hours per week. It was agreed that support work will be required and there is a £3000 contingency to potentially hire someone to provide that support.

With there being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 19:42