



# Long Stratton Town Council

## MINUTES OF EXTRA ORDINARY FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 30<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2025 @ 7pm IN THE COMMUNITY PAVILION ROOM

In attendance: Councillors Pochin, Baker, Lansdell, Willis, Dickerson, Mundford, Harris, Lawrence and Thompson

Administrative Assistant Molly Hallett

County Councillor Alison Thomas and a good attendance of Members of the Public.

### 1. To receive apologies for absence

Councillors Lunness and Smith gave apologies for absence which were accepted by the Council. In the absence of the chair, Vice Chairman Pochin chaired the meeting.

### 2. To receive disclosures of interest and dispensations

There were no disclosures of interest and dispensation received.

### 3. To allow members of the public to speak

County Councillor Alison Thomas mentioned the following.

The only decision is whether South Norfolk Council do or do not demolish the building.

The demolition of South Norfolk House may be funded directly by taxpayers' money.

The memorial trees will remain untouched.

Alison Thomas had requested that the building be used for the community when SNDC originally moved out of it.

We need planning reasons to object to the demolition of South Norfolk House.

The people who wish to demolish South Norfolk House are the ones who were responsible for maintaining it.

The decision will be determined by planning officers if it is not called in by a District Councillor.

Alison Thomas clarified she used to be a director of BigSky, but no longer holds this position.

Alison Thomas clarified it is not unusual for Councils to apply to their own planning committee for buildings they own.

The new unitary authority is likely to be elected in 2027, with a transition year. This will be South Norfolk District Council will likely not be around in 2028.

1 member of the public mentioned the following.

The decision to sell South Norfolk House was held in front of the Council. There was a rebellion, and the decision was put off.

The decision to sell South Norfolk House in 2023 saw BigSky being made the preferred bidder.

The application to get South Norfolk House Grade II Listed put BigSky off buying South Norfolk House, as they did not want to buy the land with the building still on it. This may be why South Norfolk District Council want to demolish the building.

South Norfolk District Council plan to use £370,000 from the underspend of the previous financial year to demolish the building.

1 member of the public mentioned that Ben Goldsborough had a phone call where he'd been apologised to because he was misled about South Norfolk House.

Signed by the Chairman

Date



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1 member of the public mentioned the following.

The decision over the demolition of South Norfolk House is a planning issue.

If South Norfolk District Council believe they need planning permission, the application will come through to us.

If not, the application will go through and we/the public will have no say.

Criteria A is not met (the building being deemed unfit). They have provided no proof of the building being uninhabitable and are just claiming this.

A license will be needed for South Norfolk District Council to disrupt the bats.

1 member of the public mentioned that South Norfolk House is currently being used by the police to train police dogs, meaning it is not uninhabitable.

*County Councillor Alison Thomas left the meeting at 20:05.*

The South Norfolk District Council meeting on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July will be about the money – whether or not they use the £370,000 to demolish the building.

#### 4. **To discuss and decide on the planning application for the demolition of South Norfolk House**

**[Application number: 2025/1855](#)**

One member of the public in attendance will create a letter template for Long Stratton Town Council and for residents to object to the demolition of South Norfolk House, including the contacts to send it to.

The Town Council administrative assistant is to distribute this on Facebook and the Council's website, or via email for those who request it. This member of the public will put the information on Facebook.

*With no further business to discuss, the Chairman closed the meeting at 20:19.*