



# Long Stratton Town Council

## MINUTES OF FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 12<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2026 @ 7pm IN THE COMMUNITY PAVILION ROOM

**In attendance: Councillors, Louise Mundford, Kelly Lunness, David Willis, Justin Harris, Florence Morimont, Helen Dickerson, Susan Smith, Katrina Thompson, Judith Baker.**

**Town Clerk, Becky Buck**

**5 Members of Public.**

**County Councillor Alison Thomas**

**1. To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Lansdell, Lawrence and Ciorra these were accepted by the Council.

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

There were no disclosures of interest or dispensation received.

**3. To allow district and county councillors to speak - max 10 minutes**

County Councillor Alison Thomas reported the following.

Councils are currently awaiting the decision on Local Government Reorganisation proposals. There is currently no decision on local elections from Central Government, the decision has to be made by the last week of February otherwise they will have to go ahead. Elections for a combined Mayor has been delayed until 2028, however Norfolk Fire & Rescue are due to be transferred to the combined Mayor in 2027 so not sure how this will impact the service in the interim between 2027-2028. The financial report from Central Government was received 17<sup>th</sup> December 2025 and the financial settlement has decreased and will impact the budget of this year and future years, Central Government has the assumption that Council's will increase the Council tax to the maximum to cover the deficit.

At local level, I met with the Town Clerk and representatives from Norfolk County Council to discuss High Street Matters, it is a long-term project looking at regeneration of the High Street, not just for retail but for all businesses operating, there is lots of support available for businesses.

**4. To allow members of the public to speak**

A member of the public stated that since the opening of the bypass, the footpath map on Norfolk County Council website has not been updated with the new routes. County Councillor Thomas advised that she would take this forward.

A member of the public asked if the proposed meeting between the Town Council and MP Ben Goldsborough was open to the public. The Clerk advised that she would ask the question.

A member of the public advised there had been a road traffic accident on the new Parkers Lane where the road sign had been hit. This will be reported to Highways.



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A member of the public advised that the new woodland near Woodgreen has been proposed to be devolved to the community. It is proposed to be 2/3 acres. There are lots of things to think about regarding this therefore it is proposed that a meeting is held on site to discuss further.

A member of the public in her capacity of working for a wildlife trust would like to discuss how Green Infrastructure can be utilised within the new housing developments. It was discussed that only the initial phase of 200 properties had detailed planning permission so green infrastructure can be discussed when detailed planning applications are brought forward.

## **5. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 8th December 2025**

The minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2025 were approved by the Council and were signed by the Chairman as a true record.

## **6. Finance and Governance**

### **a. To note and authorise income and expenditure through Unity Trust Bank since 8th December 2025**

### **b. To note all credit card payments since 8<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

The Clerk advised that due to the office PC which has the accounting software on there the income and expenditure was not available, the Clerk advised that the payments will be circulated once completed and will be brought to the next meeting for Council approval and transparency.

## **7. To discuss and decide on promoting [GoodSAM](#) within Long Stratton.**

Following a lengthy discussion, it was acknowledged that First Responders are still operating in Long Stratton as well as Norfolk Accident and Rescue Service, therefore it was agreed to support these ventures. It was also agreed to highlight and promote the Defibrillators that we have in Long Stratton and links to First Aid on the website.

## **8. To discuss and decide on adopting the budget for 2026/27**

Following a lengthy discussion, the budget was adopted by the Council.

## **9. To discuss and decide on the precept for 2026/27**

Following a lengthy discussion, the Precept was agreed at £312,155. The Council asked the Clerk to provide a financial information leaflet for members of the public.

## **10. To discuss and decide on writing off debt from Headway Norfolk following liquidation.**

Following a lengthy discussion, the Council agreed there was minimal action they could take. They asked the Clerk to investigate whether any of the debt could be recovered.

## **11. To note the results from phase 1 of the skatepark consultation.**

The Council noted the results of phase 1 of the skatepark consultation and agreed to move to phase 2. It was mentioned that Norwich City Council are currently renovating 2 of their skateparks, the Clerk was asked to investigate this further to see if it could be of benefit to the Town Council.

## **12. Future agenda items**

Future agenda items include, Long Stratton Enterprise Partnership and whether this should be rebranded to Long Stratton Community Partnership and whether it could achieve charity status.



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Night Skies and the next steps and Solar Farms and the impact it has on Long Stratton.

**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 member of the press and public

**14. Staffing matters**

**a. Recruitment**

Following a lengthy conversation, it was agreed to recruit 2 new members of staff, a youth support worker for 22 hours per month from 1 April 2026 and an groundsman apprentice full time from 1 April or from end of school term whichever is more appropriate.

**b. Contracts**

The Clerk made the Council aware that 2 members of staff who were put on temporary contracts were coming to the end of their term. The Council approved to offer permanent contracts following the success of the work they were carrying out.

***With there being no further business to discuss the Chairman closed the meeting at 20:20.***