

Parish of Long Sutton
Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held at the Hall
on Tuesday 5th May 2015 at 7 pm

Present: Councillors, Mr R W Fry (Chairman), Mr N A Gould, Mr T P Shire, Mr N E Pomeroy, Mr D C Francis and Ms P Jukes. District Councillor Mr S Pledger, County Councillor Mr D Ruddle and 8 members of the public.

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Mr S Hart.

1. Minutes of last APM – previously publicised were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters raised.

3. Report by the Chairman of the Parish Council and any other Councillors/Representatives regarding Parish matters.

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Mr Fry, reported as follows:-

“The past year has been a particularly busy one for the Parish Council, which unfortunately has had to again function with less than a full complement of Councillors.

There were a number of notable events in the village, one of which was the commemoration of the First World War in August. The Council staged a well-attended exhibition on the Village Green, had the Roll of Honour restored and memorial books printed, sales of which enabled the Council to support an ex-service personnel charity.

A much unanticipated event in the summer saw the arrival in Long Sutton of fifteen suspected illegal foreign immigrants. They had travelled via Europe in the back of a lorry, and on discovery by the Police, a ‘place of safety’ had to be provided for them. Long Sutton Parish Council has a reputation for good provision of civil contingencies measures and was able to step in and provide assistance and temporary accommodation in the Village Hall. We were thanked and praised by both the District and County Councils for exhibiting such good community resilience.

Much work continues to be done on the Village Hall and Recreation Ground, thanks to the Village Hall Committee and their supporters. Fundraising events add further financial support to what is clearly a well maintained and well used village facility.

The Community Warden Scheme ensures that our village keeps looking its best at all times, and the Lengthsman should take great credit for doing such good work. Long Sutton Parish Council continues to administer the scheme on behalf of the parishes involved.

The Parish Council has had a great many planning applications to consider in the past year – not all straightforward or non-contentious. The adoption of the Local Plan and appreciating the details of the National Planning Policy Framework may make it clearer for the Council when considering our response to applications but, to coin a phrase, you cannot please all of the people all of the time. In order to further assist the Parish Council in future, the Parish Plan will need to be updated. One aspect of increased development is the strain on infrastructure, and in the case of Long Sutton, the public sewerage system.

Thankfully crime has not been a particular problem in Long Sutton, but the forthcoming closure of Somerton Police Station, and a subsequently reduced Police presence throughout the area, gives cause for concern. The Council is aware of the problem of speeding within the village, especially on the Langport Road and will continue to seek a solution.

Long Sutton now has its own website. After a number of previous attempts over a few years, we have what looks to be a very promising communication tool and we hope that this will develop further to become a key source of information.

As we look to the end of the four year term of the Council, we say goodbye to some Councillors. To all the Councillors, County, District and Parish, thank you all for your contributions, and thank you too, to the Parish Clerk."

There were no further reports.

4. Any Other Business

There being no further questions or business, the meeting was declared closed at 7.07 pm