

Parish of Long Sutton
Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held at the Hall
on Tuesday 5th April 2016 at 7 pm

Present: Councillors, Mr R W Fry (Chairman) Mr T P Shire, Mr P A F Godfrey, Mr G Farenden, Mr J Foy, Mr D R C Agnew, Mr J A Ellerbeck, Mr M Turpin and Mr N E Pomeroy. Village Agent, Cath Holloway, District Councillor Mr S Pledger and County Councillor Mr D Ruddle (7.15pm). There were no members of the public.

Apologies for Absence: There were no apologies.

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

2. Matters Arising - There were no matters raised.

3. Talk by Cath Holloway - Village Agent

The Chairman introduced Cath Holloway, Village Agent, to the meeting. She apologised that she had not originally been sure whether she covered Long Sutton or not.

She said that Village Agents support people living in rural areas of Somerset and are able to offer help or support face to face. They are part of the Community Council for Somerset. They help people get in touch with the appropriate agencies necessary to help maintain well-being and support their quality of life. They primarily support older people and the most vulnerable, doing things they find tricky. They also help people coming out of hospital, allowing them to be independent and receive the care they need. This is confidential and it is all free as it is charity supported. Funding coming from the Lottery and other organisations.

There was discussion regarding the publication of this service. She said that they sometimes attend organised events in the village such as coffee mornings etc.

The Chairman thanked her for attending.

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

The Chairman of the Parish Council reported as follows:

“ In May 2015 a new Parish Council was formed, when seven Councillors were elected uncontested. One Councillor has since resigned but three new members have been co-opted, so thankfully for the most part we have functioned as a full Council in the past year. We have made some changes in the way that the Council operates, such as the formation of a planning working group, the recording of Council meetings and a revision of the Standing Orders.

I reported last year on the many planning applications that came before the Council for consideration, but this year has far exceeded that number. This does take up a lot of Council time and indeed a lot of Councillors’ time, but I believe that we give every application a thorough and fair assessment before giving our views.

The Village hall continues to be very well used and this is testimony to the work of the Village Hall Committee and its supporters in maintaining the hall and recreation ground to such a high standard together with the improvements to the sports pavilion. A major project has seen the installation of solar panels to the roof of the hall. This has been funded by a loan which will be financed by the money received from the Community Benefit payment

from the Solar Farm at Tengore Lane and by the income generated from the panels themselves. This should also provide a healthy income stream to the Council for many years to come.

Through the dedicated work of the Parish Lengthsman, the Community Warden Scheme continues to ensure that the village looks as good as it does. The Parish Council (still the Lead Council) has recently ceased to administer the financial aspect of the Scheme, since the Lengthsman is now contracted separately by each Council within the Scheme. This has the obvious benefit of relieving the Council of that burden and at the same time allows the Lengthsman, through SSDC, to access equipment and training.

The Parish website has now become an established means of communication for the village and I am sure will continue to develop further.

The Parish Council still has some unresolved issues to address namely, the problem with the public sewerage system, speeding and other highways matters. We have seen a low level of crime committed within the village such as theft from sheds and outbuildings and some vandalism; but it is very sad to report a fatality following a house fire in the centre of the village.

On concluding my report of the last year I would like to thank all Councillors, Parish, District and County and the Parish Clerk for all their contributions. ”

Mr Ellerbeck confirmed that the Community Warden Scheme continues as before with Long Sutton PC still being the lead co-ordinator but each of the Parishes now has a separate contract with the Lengthsman.

There were no further reports.

5. Any Other Business

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 7.22 pm