

**Minutes of Meeting of Long Sutton Parish Council**  
**Held at the Hall on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2018 at 7.15 pm**

**Present:** Councillors: Mr R W Fry (Chairman), Mr T Brand, Mr T P Shire, Mr J A Ellerbeck, Mr M Turpin, Mr G R Cox, Mrs E Elliott and Mr J Foy. District Councillor Mr G Tucker, County Councillor Mr D Ruddle, and 13 members of the public.

**Apologies for Absence:** There were no apologies for absence.

**Public Observations/Question Time:**

A parishioner queried item 5 para 3 of the March minutes. District Councillor Tucker said that in the event that 10% of planning applications for 10 dwellings or more are turned down by the DC and go to appeal, the DC could lose its planning authority. Applications of 10 dwellings or more will therefore automatically be starred to go to the Regulation Committee.

A parishioner also raised the matter of the planning application in respect of LS House and asked if the PC had been given the same date as neighbours, 18<sup>th</sup> April, for delivery of comments and whether an extra-ordinary meeting would be held. The Chairman said that the application has not yet been received by the PC and the Clerk therefore contacted them and an extension for delivery of the PC's comments to the 2nd May has been agreed. The application will therefore be discussed at the PC meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> May.

**1. Casual Vacancy**

A vacancy still remains on the PC but there have been no further expressions of interest. It was agreed that this should be advertised in the Newsletter.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

Mr Turpin declared an interest in the planning application regarding work to trees at his property. The PC is not however consulted on applications of this nature.

**3. Minutes of meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2018** - It was resolved that these should be signed by the Chairman as a true record.

**4. Matters Arising**

**Drainage work Ilchester Lane and Hedge at Martock Road:** Mr Cox said he had made some progress with the owner of the Golf Club but was asked to wait until the autumn, being a more suitable time for digging ditches and cutting hedges.

It was agreed that the District Councillor's report should be taken before the County Councillor's.

**5. District Councillor's Report**

Regarding the date of validation of the planning application referred to above and the date this appeared on the website, Mr Tucker said that he was told that the Planning Service has been through the transformation process.

Mr Tucker reported that at Area North Committee in March two significant reports were presented. Firstly an update on the Citizens Advice South Somerset. In Turn Hill, residents have raised in the last financial year 86 issues between 32 clients. There are two predominant concerns regularly raised, benefit and debt issues. The spectrum of age for all claimants stretches in Turn Hill from age 25-94. In total, CASS has helped obtain almost £20k for residents. The second report was an update on the Affordable Housing

Development Programme. He said that within this report they were informed that in the last financial year 26 homes have been provided in Area North which are considered affordable. However, in 2018, subject to planning, it is anticipated that 98 new affordable homes will be built. There were no disposals of Yarlinton owned homes in 2017/18. Neither of the planning applications considered at the last meeting were from Turn Hill nor has he been asked for any specific input on applications in LS. CASS are currently looking at locations for premises in Langport.

He extended appreciation to Councillors Robert Fry and Tony Ellerbeck who joined other Parish Councillors at a Turn Hill focussed workshop which he led. Through discussion each Parish identified the community assets and the importance each has on the continuity of Parish Life. In LS both the shop and hall were considered the priorities. The second part of the evening encouraged a focus on the services of our market towns – Somerton and Langport. In summary you cannot buy petrol in Somerton but you can Bank which you cannot do in Langport. Should the library close in Somerton, for residents to be able to access the services of a market town, they probably have to visit both or go elsewhere! He said it is hoped by working together it may be possible to achieve more.

He also gave details of the meetings he has attended since the last PC meeting

He was asked if there was any chance of any buses through LS. He said that the answer was no. The workshop did however analyse where transport covered and LS is not well linked. Perhaps those who use the service should be asked where they want to go.

He said that the matter of Halls working together had also been raised, particularly with regard to insurance.

## **6. County Councillor's Report**

Mr Ruddle said that the Citizens Advice in Somerton is a very useful service for residents and his Health & Wellbeing grant was directed towards this.

Regarding market towns, Mr Ruddle said that Somerton is heavily involved in saving their Library and the Town Council has precepted £12,000 in the budget towards the Library which costs around £36,000 a year to run.

He said he would be very surprised if they lose the Bank in view of the size of the Trading Estate and amazed if they do not get a supermarket or petrol station in view of the number of properties being built. Money has been agreed for a new school. They do have a bus service, although the timetables are always changing, whereas some places have none.

On being asked if there was any action to revisit the provision of a railway station in Langport or Somerton. He said he understood the present track cannot take any more trains and it is all to do with computer systems. It does however all boil down to money. There is also the question of where to put the station, Somerton or Langport and parking etc.

Mr Ruddle reported that new improvements to the M25 junction have been approved but will take 3 or 4 years to put in place.

## **7. Planning**

There are no new applications for consideration.

Application No: 18/00891/FUL Change of use of agricultural storage barns to domestic storage and workshop or LS House, change of use of barn to 1 holiday let, change of use of root cellar to 1 dwelling, erection of a swimming pool, siting of tennis court and change of use of agricultural land to domestic use (Part retrospective application). Land OS 5560 Crouds Lane. Although validated by the DC on 16 March, this application did not appear on the

website until the 28<sup>th</sup> March and has yet to be received by the PC. An extension for delivery of the PC's comments until the 2<sup>nd</sup> May has been agreed and the application will therefore be considered at the PC meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> May.

Permissions granted by SSDC:

Application Nos: 18/00154/FUL & 18/00155/FUL The erection of a replacement single storey extension to rear elevation – The Old Mill, Bineham Road, Knole.

Application Nos: 17/04940/FUL & 17/04941/LBC The carrying out of internal and external alterations and the erection of an extension to existing building – The Old Dairy House, Long Load.

## **8. The Village Shop/Post Office**

It was the advert on The Post Office website regarding the LS Post Office and the concerns that were expressed which gave rise to this agenda item.

The Chairman informed the PC of an email received from the owner of the Shop/PO referring to correspondence between himself and David Warburton MP who had communicated with The PO.

The PO say that LS PO is run by a temporary operator which has been the case for several years and their approach for temporary run branches is to advertise this as a vacancy so that they can find a permanent arrangement for the community. Whilst they are seeking a permanent arrangement for the community, they have no plans to change the current service as they understand how much local customers value the important services that it provides.

The owner says, we also confirm that we are committed to a permanent arrangement for the village but we do seek to make some improvements to the premises and restructure the entity long term for the business.

There was discussion in which the Council was updated on information that had been obtained. The concern expressed was concerning the temporary nature of the position and the resultant vulnerability this gives rise to.

It was proposed Mr Ellerbeck, seconded Mr Turpin and resolved that the PC register with Post Office Counters its interest in the continuing presence and business of the PO in LS and to be notified of any changes that may occur.

It was also agreed that a letter should be written to the owner asking if he can see anyway of making this temporary measure permanent.

## **9. Village Hall and Recreation Ground:**

**9.1 Finances:** Mr Ellerbeck reported that the finances are in a good state.

**9.2 Security:** The security system is being completed on the 14<sup>th</sup> April and they are looking into funding CCTV.

**9.3 Play Area:** Mr Ellerbeck said they have applied for a grant of £4,000 from the Laity Trust but are still waiting for a quote to repair the edges of the play area. No work can be commenced until the money has been received.

**9.4 Cricket Club:**

**9.4.1 Pavilion:** Mr Ellerbeck said that the CC have made a brilliant job of painting out the Pavilion. They want to put an area out the front of approximately 5x12 metres for people to be able to sit. They have someone who will surface this gratuitously and everyone is working together regarding this.

**9.4.2 Contract:** The CC still do not have a contract. They have received a grant of £4,000 from the English Cricket Board but would like to apply for more funding towards nets etc. They are the only tenant, they do their grass cutting and pay their water and electricity bills, but they do not have exclusivity. Mr Ellerbeck said he was looking at a 10 year rolling contract and once drafted he would circulate for approval. No objections were raised to this.

Mr Tucker said that the CC had approached Area North for funding and was there any objection to this. Mr Ellerbeck said that he had received a telephone call regarding this and there was no objection providing it did not negate the chances of the VH getting funding towards CCTV. It was confirmed that the PC are supportive of the CC.

Mr Cox, who did not take place in the discussion regarding the CC, said that he would like his interest as a member to be logged.

**9.5 Steering Group Report:** There was nothing to report,

**9.6 Other VH Matters**

Mr Foy said that he is looking into the repairs to the skate park.

Mr Ellerbeck reported that they have a good deal with the offenders who are doing community service. It is up to 8 men for a contribution of £30 a day and they are looking around for jobs for them to do which must be within the bounds of the Hall and Recreation Ground.

The matter of moss on the tennis courts was raised. It was confirmed that the Community Warden is dealing with this and has already applied moss killer.

**10. New Data Protection Regulations**

The District Council are to hold Briefing Sessions for Councillors on the 12<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> April and 3<sup>rd</sup> May (6.00 to 8.00pm) and Q&A Sessions for Clerks on the 24<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> April (5.00 to 8.00pm) and the 30<sup>th</sup> April (2.00 to 5.00pm).

Mr Foy said that he would attend one of the Sessions for Councillors and it was proposed that the Clerk attend the Session convenient to her.

Mr Ellerbeck confirmed that Hallmaster are doing what they can to be totally compliant but it is our data and we are responsible.

**11. Finance:**

<b>Unity Trust Account</b>		26,419.11
<b>Add</b>		
FBT Rents		1,275.00
HMRC VAT Refund		1,757.38
VH Reimbursement for materials used by CW		<u>192.40</u>
		29,643.89
<b>Less</b>		
Payments agreed last meeting	768.29	
VH Share of VAT Refund	464.70	
Service charges	<u>18.00</u>	<u>1,250.99</u>
<b>Balance as at 31 March 2018</b>		<b><u>£28,392.90</u></b>

### **A/cs for payment**

Mr C Howe - Fee for March	528.94
HMRC VAT on Clerk's Salary (final quarter)	125.20
Mrs P Allen - Balance of Clerk's salary (Jan, Feb & March)	99.80

It was proposed Mr Turpin, seconded Mr Ellerbeck and resolved that the accounts be paid.

The Clerk reported that the External Auditors have set the 11<sup>th</sup> June as the audit date. It was agreed that once the accounts are ready, she should approach Pinnacle Accountancy of Martock to carry out the Internal Audit.

She also reported that she had sent off the Change of Signatories Form to Unity Trust but they have not as yet received this.

### **12. Neighbourhood Watch/Community Safety/Civil Contingencies**

Mr Turpin reported that the pads on the defibrillator in Knole need replacing and he has been told that these will cost around £40. Having paid a yearly subscription to Community Heartbeat it was felt these should be replaced free of charge. Mr Turpin will check the position.

Mr Ellerbeck said that there have been the usual thefts of Land Rovers, sheep and lambs

The Police report for Area North for March was 165 investigated crimes, 16 arrests and 11 reports of ASB.

### **13. Community Warden Scheme**

The Community Warden has been carrying out vegetation management.

It was reported that the gully at the bottom of Burnt House Lane needs to be kept clear. It is understood that the gullies in the Parish have in fact been cleaned out.

It was requested that the CW be asked to look at the damage to the Ilchester Lane Triangle. It was also reported that the village signs need cleaning.

### **14. Representative Reports and any other matters regarding:**

#### **14.1 Highways:**

##### **14.1.1 Traffic Calming/Speed Indicator Device and Speedwatch**

**Traffic Calming:** Mr Foy reported that his email regarding funding for traffic calming has been acknowledged and passed to the appropriate department. We will however be bottom of the list.

**Speedwatch:** An advert for volunteers has been placed in the Newsletter and Roundabout with a closing date of 30<sup>th</sup> April. At the present time 3 people have expressed an interest in participating.

**SID:** Mr Brand reported on the meeting which he had attended at Somerton. The scheme has ceased due to high maintenance costs.

The options are:

1. Do nothing.
2. Hire a SID for 2 weeks at a cost of £100 per location. Therefore 4 sites and 3 times a year would cost £1200. These costs could however rise.
3. Purchase a SID, either alone or in partnership. The cost being between £3,000 and £3,500 plus maintenance and repair costs and the training of operatives. Each pole used needs to have the clamps properly fixed.

The only concern raised was that if the SID was shared who would take ownership and responsibility for this.

Following discussion, Mr Tucker said that he would enquire of the Parishes in the Ward if they would be interested in sharing a SID and he will also mentioned this at the Area North meeting.

Regarding speeding, a member of the public reported that the Police had said that there was nowhere suitable to park with their equipment on the Martock Road.

#### **14.1.2 Update on any other highways matters**

Some patching work has taken place at Crouds Lane, although this was not felt to be very successful.

#### **14.2 Environment: Update on any Environment matters**

The flooding at Langport Road has been reported (anyone can however report blocked drains).

The wall at Martock Road has been repaired.

#### **14.3 Footpaths: Proposed new Footpath at Hammocks Drove**

SCC's Rights of Way Officer says there are still one or two issues regarding land ownership on which he has needed to seek legal advice.

### **15 Correspondence:**

An email has been received from BHIB Insurance Brokers who have taken over the PC insurance (due for renewal in June) from AON. They say they have negotiated a fixed price on renewals with Aviva.

All other correspondence had previously been emailed to Councillors.

**16. Date of next meeting** – The Annual Parish Council Meeting 1<sup>st</sup> May 2018.

### **17. Any Other Business/Items for next meeting**

It was reported that following the visit of Seavington Hunt, complaint was received regarding the fouling of the footpaths where children had to walk and the highways. It was proposed Mr Shire, seconded Mr Ellerbeck and resolved by a majority (Voting 6 for 2 against) that a letter of complaint be written to Seavington Hunt.

Mrs Elliott reported that a litter pick had been carried out at Knole and a lot of litter had been removed from the gullies etc.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm