

**Minutes of Meeting of Long Sutton Parish Council**  
**Held at the Hall on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2017 at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Councillors: Mr R W Fry (Chairman), Mr J A Ellerbeck, Mr P A F Godfrey, Mr M Turpin, Mr T P Shire, Mr G R Cox, Mr T Brand, Mrs H Ibbotson and Mr J Foy. County Councillor Mr D Ruddle, District Councillor Mr G Tucker and 2 members of the public.

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

**Public Observations/Question Time:** No items were raised.

**1. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**2. Minutes of meeting held on 4th July 2017** - It was resolved that these be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**3. Matters Arising**

**Access at 20 Langport Road:** The Clerk said that if photographic evidence could be provided of parking, she would contact the DC again.

**Water running down Ilchester Lane:** The Chairman said that he had spoken to the Tenants of the land at Ilchester Lane/Dock Hill Lane and they in turn have spoken to Wessex Water who have said that the water is not theirs. Mr Cox said that there is a metal pipe, almost on ground level which he thinks could be blocked. This takes water from the PC's land. He said that he felt a digger was required in order to investigate this and he agreed to explore the matter further.

**4. County Councillor's Report**

Mr Ruddle reported that a notice will be coming shortly regarding the proposal for a 30 mph speed limit from Hardings Hill/South Hill along Sutton Road in Somerton. He said that there will be a consultation. Quite a lot of discussion ensued regarding this, the problem seeming to be localised around Sutton Hill.

Mr Ruddle said that he had the pleasure of going to Hinkley Point and he was extremely impressed with the engineering and works taking place. There are already around 1800 people working there and this is likely to rise considerably.

He is on the Audit Committee and gave details of financial matters which he said resulted in 99 pages of accounts being signed off.

They are pushing for health and wellbeing funds to be put back in place.

Mr Godfrey raised the question of a notice recently received regarding unauthorised signage. This was however received from the DC.

**5. District Councillor's Report**

Mr Tucker reported that the Area North Meeting in July did not have any reports from Officers the bulk of the meeting being taken up with planning applications, none of which were for LS.

Since the last meeting of the PC he was asked for input to the planning application at Orchard Farm, Knole and recommended conditions which enhanced the landscaping and recognised the existing Rights of Way. The application having been subsequently approved.

At Full Council the authority's response to the Boundary Commission was debated, unanimously recommending that the number of Councillors across the District remains at 60.

He reported that the SSVCA have unfortunately announced the closure of the Links service from 31<sup>st</sup> October. It is understood the service has been losing approximately £12,000 p.a. The reason for the closure has been identified as insufficient passengers; VAT recently being charged on fares; competition from the Community Car Scheme; reduction in the number of zero hours contracted paid drivers and drivers carrying passengers without charging.

A meeting has been called for Monday 14<sup>th</sup> August at 7.00pm in Langport Town Hall, to which the Chairman and Clerk have been invited.

43 passengers carried last year were from LS.

Huish Leisure have requested additional funding to complete the swimming pool cover project which is now a £1.2m programme. 36% of the funding has come from SSDC funding pots. He has expressed concern that the project has had so many false starts and revised budget forecasts. It is understood the project is now soon underway and will provide a much needed facility for many parishes.

Area North awarded 21 grants last year spending £21,500. The total budget for grant support across South Somerset was £158,000. He said that his mission is to support parishes in his ward to bring projects forward and in seeking funding.

Mr Cox and the Chairman enquired regarding the Community Infrastructure Levy. Mr Tucker said this commenced in April this year and they have been told that 15% should come back locally. It is based on the square meterage of every property and applications approved since 1<sup>st</sup> April. No money has come through yet but should start to come through by early next year, if not sooner.

Mr Godfrey raised again the question of the DC's proposal to clamp down on fly posting, referring to the recent email received from them and requested clarification regarding the rules. Mr Tucker said he would make enquiries.

## **6. Planning**

**Application No: 17/02993/FUL Demolition of existing storage buildings and the erection of a replacement building. Avalon Surfacing & Construction Ltd, Hermitage Road, Upton.**

It was proposed Mr Ellerbeck, seconded Mr Godfrey and unanimously resolved that there was no objection to the application.

**Application No: 17/03030/LBC 1 Sunpipe and 2 casement windows. The Stables, Martock Road.**

It was proposed Mr Godfrey, seconded Mr Ellerbeck and unanimously resolved that there was no objection to the application.

The Full Application relating to this property, to which there was no objection, was discussed at the last meeting.

### **Permissions Granted by SSDC:**

Applications No: 17/02099/FUL and 17/02100/LBC Alterations and conversion of barn into 1 No. holiday let. West Knole House, Knole.

Application No. 17/02010/FUL Change of use of land to residential, demolition of stables and erection of domestic outbuilding to be used in connection with existing dwelling (Orchard Farm). Orchard Farm, Knole.

**Permission Refused by SSDC:**

Application No: 15/05090/FUL Change of use of agricultural storage barns to domestic storage and workshop for LS House. Change of use of barn to holiday/ancillary cottage. Change of use of root cellar to Laundry, domestic store, home office and holiday/ancillary cottage with basement. Erection of 2 holiday let/ancillary cottages. Change of use of barn to holiday let/ancillary cottage with store and potting shed. Change of use of agricultural land to domestic use. Land OS 5560 Crouds Lane.

Mr Brand and Mrs Ibbotson said they would like to attend the Planning Training to be held by SSDC on Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> October.

The Chairman read to Councillors a letter he had prepared to be sent to David Norris the DC's Development Manager regarding the conduct of the Planning Officers at the last Area North Meeting and also the lack of notice being given on significant amendments to applications. It was resolved that this letter should be sent.

**7. Village Hall and Recreation Ground:**

**7.1 Formation of Committee**

Mr Ellerbeck reported that a meeting was held on Friday evening. One volunteer came forward as the Booking Clerk but none for the other outstanding positions of Chair, Treasurer and Secretary.

The present honorarium for the Booking Clerk is £500 and he proposed it be increased to £750 in view of the work involved. Following discussion regarding the sum that should be payable, it was proposed Mr Cox, seconded Mr Shire and resolved that the matter should be delegated to Mr Ellerbeck and Mr Godfrey to carry out to the best of their ability.

**7.2 Interim Arrangements**

Mr Ellerbeck said that he will carry on as Treasurer but only up until Christmas.

If a committee cannot be formed this will impact on the Village Hall and it could be necessary to close this.

Mr Ellerbeck and Mr Godfrey are managing matters at present and this is taking up a considerable amount of their time.

It was felt that a Parish meeting should be held.

The Chairman suspended the meeting to allow the two members of the public present to speak. One of whom said that she was Hon Secretary of the WEA and booked the Hall on regular occasions. She had however experienced difficulties regarding the new online booking system. She had been in touch with Mr Godfrey who had sorted the matter out for her. Both members of the public felt that there desperately needed to be someone to be able to assist if difficulties were encountered.

It was confirmed that this would form part of the role of the Booking Clerk.

The meeting continued and there was discussion regarding consulting with regular users of the Hall/Groups.

**7.3 Finances**

Mr Ellerbeck reported that there is currently £7,900 in the VH fund.

AJM are to carry out the immediate electrical rectification work.

He said that there had been discussion regarding the replacement of the Hall lighting but it had been decided to wait and see if the survey, which is to take place this Friday, reveals anything major to do with the building itself.

#### **7.4 Steering Group Report**

Mr Foy said that once the survey has been carried out he and Mr Brand will review the situation.

It was agreed that a Parish Meeting should be held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September (**now to be Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September**) 2017 at 7pm. Mr Tucker said that he would be unable to attend but would be happy to give any assistance he could.

There will be a brief introduction giving details of the present status and the relationship between the PC and VHC.

The meeting will then be handed over to the Steering Group who are looking into all the problems and gathering information. The public being invited to give their views.

#### **7.5 Other VH Matters**

A letter had been received from the Company who submitted the claim regarding the accident at the children's play area last year, saying that they had not received a reply to their letter dated 11<sup>th</sup> July to the VH Insurers. Mr Ellerbeck said that he had spoken to them and had rung the Insurers who, having heard nothing since their letter of November last year to the Company had closed their file. The matter will however be dealt with between the Company and the VH Insurers and Mr Ellerbeck confirmed the PC need take no action.

Mr Brand expressed concern regarding the Skate Board Area and said he would like to see it removed. Discussion however resulted in it being preferred that this should be looked at first.

Mr Ellerbeck said that it is a requirement for SSDC to carry out an inspection of the play facilities and he will get an inspection carried out as soon as possible.

A request has been received from the Cricket Club to put up signs to show visiting teams where the ground is. It was agreed that there would be no objection to the one on the gable end of the Pavilion.

There are in fact no direction signs to indicate LSVH.

One could be added to the finger signpost and Mr Foy agreed to contact Highways. There was also discussion regarding the type of sign preferred at the entrance to the Hall and the possible siting of other direction signs. It was however agreed that this should wait until after the Parish meeting.

### **8. Finance:**

#### **8.1 Balances and Accounts for Payment**

<b>Unity Trust Account</b>		44,698.88
<b>Less</b> Payments agreed last meeting:		
CW's fee for June £545.16 + Weedkiller £19.95 & materials		
for signpost restoration £30.00	595.11	
HMRC Tax on Clerk's Salary	225.00	
Cotness Associates - Hallmaster system	180.00	
Mrs P Allen - Admin costs	94.74	
Clerk's Salary paid by SO	<u>300.00</u>	<u>1,394.85</u>
		43,304.03

<b>Add</b> FBT Rent	255.00
	<b><u>£43,559.03</u></b>

**A/cs for Payment:**

CW's fee for July	548.41
Cosmic - Annual website support	144.00

It was proposed Mr Godfrey seconded Mr Shire and unanimously resolved that the accounts be paid.

**8.2 Solar Generation/PWB Loan**

The Clerk confirmed that the FIT Account in respect of the solar panels had now been transferred to her. She had contacted the Company who had said a reading had been added to the account on 6<sup>th</sup> July giving a payment due of £1896.12 which is awaiting approval and which they say should be paid in the next week.

She also confirmed that the principal owing on the loan as at the end of the last financial year (31 March 2017) was £26,150. The Tengore Solar Community Payment of £1809.60 was received on the 15 May and a Loan repayment of £1793.57 consisting of £1502 principal and £269.02 interest was made on the 25<sup>th</sup> May. No payments from SSE have been received since the payment of £243.43 on the 17<sup>th</sup> February 2017 as it is understood the May quarterly reading was missed.

An up to date meter reading will be taken and telephoned through tomorrow.

There was a great deal of discussion regarding the solar panel system and the lack of clarity regarding this to both the Council and members of the public. It was felt that it is needed to wait until the year end in order to get a clearer picture.

**9. Community Warden Scheme**

During July the CW has continued with vegetation management including strimming some footpaths. At the beginning of the month while it was still mainly dry he has watered the copper beech near the Pavilion. He has also trimmed back the encroaching hedge near the phone box in Shute Lane and laid scalplings in the lay-by containing the notice board at Upton.

The matter of a blocked drain at Knole was raised. This has been a problem in the past.

Mr Shire said that he had raised the question of the pollarding of the trees on the Village Green with the CW and asked him for a quote.

**10. Parish Website**

Mr Godfrey said that there was nothing to report.

**11. Neighbourhood Watch/Community Safety/Civil Contingencies**

Mr Ellerbeck said that there was nothing to report on Farmwatch other than a stolen trailer and sheep stealing.

There was no report from the Community Safety Officer.

Mr Ellerbeck said that his attempt to find out the names of the registered co-ordinators of Neighbourhood Watch through the PCSO has had little success.

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

### **12.1 Highways**

#### **12.1.1 Work to lower end of Village Green**

Mr Shire asked if Mr Fry and Mr Ellerbeck had been in contact with the Contractor. On referring to the last sentence of 15.1.2 of the minutes of 4<sup>th</sup> July the Clerk said that this should have read "The Chairman and Mr Shire will meet the Contractor...". It was unanimously agreed that this should be altered accordingly. Mr Shire said he would get in touch with the Contractor and tell him the quote is accepted and then arrange the meeting on the Green.

Mr Foy confirmed that Chris Weeks of Highways has confirmed there is no funding available.

Mr Ellerbeck said that the triangle that goes out to Knole Causeway has got marker stakes on it and perhaps something like this might be suitable for the triangle at Shute Lane.

Mr Foy said he had raised the matter of the grass cutting with Highways as mentioned by Mr Cox at the last meeting but has not yet received a reply. He will chase this up.

He will also raise the matter of a VH sign on the finger signpost. There may possibly be a charge for this.

#### **15.1.2 Junction of Shute Lane/B3165**

Mrs Ibbotson said that she had spoken with the adjoining property owner but this was not unfortunately well received.

The problem is a planning issue and Mr Foy will make enquiries.

#### **15.1.3 Update on other highways matters.**

Mr Foy reported that although he had previously been told the speed restriction pole for Little Upton Bridge Farm had been ordered, this is not the case due to budget restraints. He is to try and bring further pressure to bear regarding this.

Mr Shire asked that he contact the property owner regarding the overhanging trees and brambles at Crouds Lane.

### **12.2 Environment**

Mr Shire said that the water at Ilchester Lane which was raised earlier in the meeting is fresh water coming up from a spring.

### **12.3 Footpaths:**

#### **12.3.1. Proposed new Footpath at Hammocks Drove**

The Clerk confirmed that the signed Agreement had been sent off to SCC but she had not yet received an acknowledgement.

The signs will be provided free of charge by the DC once the footpath is approved.

#### **12.3.2 Bridle Path around Knole/Ilchester Lane**

The Chairman said that he had driven down there and had spoken with the landowner's daughter-in-law. The path is a Restricted Byway not a Bridleway. The gate has been put there in order to direct cows into a field. The gate has been re-hung and can be opened. It was agreed to leave the matter to see if any further problems are reported.

**13. Correspondence**

AON - They have decided to cease involvement in the Local Councils market in line with changes to their UK strategy and will not be offering renewal terms for the PC's policy at its next renewal date.

Ash School - Notifying the PC that together with Yeovil Town Road Running Club they will be holding their annual Ash Excellent Eight running races on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September. The main race is mainly off road including the footpaths around LS Golf Course, Ilchester Lane Track, Knole Hill and Driveway Drive.

Letter from Langport TC regarding the closure of the Links Transport System and inviting the Chairman and Clerk to a meeting at Langport Town Hall on the 14<sup>th</sup> August. As the Clerk and Chairman are unable to attend, Mr Godfrey said that he would go.

Email from the DC's Senior Environmental Protection Officer who had received a request from a local resident of LS asking if it would be possible for an article regarding bonfires to be included in our Newsletter and attaching some text in this respect. The text supplied was 1 ½ pages long. Following discussion, it was decided no action should be taken.

**14. Date of next meeting** - 5<sup>th</sup> September 2017. Mr Shire gave apologies.

**15. Any Other Business/Items for next meeting**

Mrs Ibbotson enquired the position regarding the Parish Plan. It was agreed this should be put on the next agenda.

The meeting closed at 9.55 pm