

**Minutes of Meeting of Long Sutton Parish Council**  
**Held at the Hall on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015 at 7.00 pm**

**Present:** Councillors, Mr R W Fry (Chairman) Mr T P Shire, Mr P A F Godfrey, Mr J Foy, Mr D R C Agnew, Mr G Farenden and Mr J A Ellerbeck. District Councillor Mr S Pledger, County Councillor Mr D Ruddle and 7 members of the public.

**Briefing by David Norris, Development Manager SSDC**

The Chairman introduced Mr David Norris the Development Manager at SSDC who District Councillor Pledger had arranged to come along and speak to the PC regarding planning matters.

In terms of South Somerset 15950 new houses have to be built by 2028. The majority of new development is taking place in the towns or larger Parishes. In places like LS in terms of small development, where there is no objection on design or highways issues it is hard to refuse. LS is not however considered an appropriate place for new development. During discussion he confirmed that retrospective planning is not a crime and has to be looked at as a straightforward application.

The Chairman thanked Mr Norris for his attendance.

**Public Observations/Question Time**

The matter of the surveillance camera at Crouds Lane was again raised. District Councillor Pledger said that he had spoken to the Planners regarding this and it was not a planning issue but was a civil matter. The Chairman conveyed the contents of an email received regarding the reasons for the erection of the camera. It was agreed that there was nothing the PC can do about this.

**Apologies for Absence:** Councillor Mr N P Pomeroy

**1. Declarations of Interest**

District Councillor Pledger declared an interest in Planning Application 15/04998/S73A to be discussed at item 7.1 on the agenda.

**2. Casual Vacancy**

An expression of interest in the vacancy was received from Mr Martin Turpin and he was invited to address the Council. District Councillor Pledger had also previously expressed an interest in the vacancy but said that he was happy to withdraw his interest in favour of Mr Turpin.

It was proposed Mr Agnew, seconded Mr Ellerbeck and resolved by a majority (**Voting:** 4 for 1 abstention) that Mr Turpin should be co-opted onto the Council.

Mr Turpin duly completed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office and was invited to join in the meeting.

**3. Minutes of meeting held on 3 November 2015** (previously circulated) Mr Foy said that item 17.1 stated that he had met with Mr Shire but they had in fact not met but had discussed outstanding highways matters. The word "met" was therefore change to "discussed" and it was then proposed by Mr Farenden, seconded Mr Agnew and resolved by a majority (Mr Turpin abstaining) that the minutes should be signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the previous meeting.

**4. Matters Arising:** No matters were raised.

**5. County Councillor's Report**

Mr Ruddle reported that they are only undertaking statutory duties at County Hall. From the 1st April £27 million in cuts have to be made and he said he can envisage the County Council being less effective. Parish Councils are going to have to do a lot more themselves.

Regarding the email which had been received in connection with the 40 mph speed limit which has been introduced at Catsgore, he said that the residents had been desperate for this and it had been backed by Highways. It was reported that the speed limit is already showing an improvement.

**6. District Councillor's Report**

Mr Pledger reported that he had attended a very interesting meeting the previous week regarding a proposal to change the bin collection arrangements in order to save costs.

It is proposed that from February the main bin collection will be weekly with the other recycling being three weekly. This will be confirmed in February. A trial was carried out in Taunton last summer and this led to a saving in costs. Several of the Councillors expressed concerns that this would result in more recyclable material being sent to landfill.

Mr Pledger also reported regarding the Somerset Careline. This is available to the elderly and vulnerable people for a small weekly charge and there is always someone available at the end of the phone.

Regarding planning, he said that a big application for 48 houses at Sparrow Works, Martock had been turned down by Area North.

**7. Planning**

**7.1 Applications for consideration:**

**Application No: 15/04720/FUL Erection of a link extension between dwelling and garage, proposed new windows and doors to barn, conversion of garage to living accommodation and the erection of a detached car port. Batts Barn, Batts Lane.**

The applicants were invited to address the Council and they outlined the details of the application and answered questions raised by Councillors.

It was proposed, seconded and agreed by a majority that there was no objection to the application. (Voting: 8 for 1 abstention).

Application No: 15/05701/FUL regarding The Old Vicarage has just been received and it was agreed this would be discussed at the PC's meeting on 5 January 2016. Dist Councillor Pledger issued an invitation to Councillors to visit the property.

**Application No: 15/04998/S73A To vary condition No.62 (approved plans) of 14/05217/FUL for change in roof material. Land at South Barton, Martock Road.**

It was proposed, seconded and agreed by a majority that the PC had no objection to the application. (Voting: 8 for 1 abstention).

**Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) Order 2015**

**Application No: 15/05179/CPO Section 73 application to vary conditions, 4, 9 and 10 of Planning Permission 09/00033/CPO dated 19 March 2009 to alter the approved restoration scheme. Downslade Quarry, Downslade Lane, Upton.**

It was proposed, seconded and agreed by a majority (Voting 8 for 1 abstention) that the PC had no objection to the application but that the restoration should be closely monitored.

Permissions granted by SSDC:-

Application No: 15/04061/LBC Structural remedial (Helifix) to provide lateral restraint and tie chimney breast to gable; repointing of dwelling where necessary. Greystones, Shute Lane.

Application No: 15/04362/LBC Proposed 'like for like' replacement of The Dower House, Martock Road which burnt down. Proposed modernised interior working within the fabric of the existing structure

**7.2 Appointment of Planning Working Group**

It was proposed that there should be a planning working group in order to review applications before they are presented to the Council at its meetings. It was agreed that the members of the working group would be Mr Ellerbeck, Mr Godfrey and Mr Shire.

The Clerk will pass applications received to Mr Godfrey.

**8. Village Hall:**

**8.1 Contract/Loan Update Re: Solar Panels for VH**

Mr Farenden confirmed that the contractors are to start the work on Monday and he has received an email from them confirming that the work will be finished by the end of the week. The loan money was received from the Public Works Loan Board within 48 hours of their being notified.

He also said that 25% of the cost should have been paid to the contractors on signature of the contract and a further 40% when the work commences and he therefore requested two cheques, one for 60% being £17,637.00 and the other for the balance of £11,758.00 payable on completion.

It was proposed Mr Farenden, seconded Mr Godfrey and unanimously resolved that the two payments be made.

Mr Farenden confirmed that he will be monitoring the work. He also confirmed that Mr Hawkins, the Treasurer of the VH is looking into the insurance aspect of the solar panels.

**8.2 Single Fire Door, rear of stage:** Mr Shire confirmed that he will speak to Mr Pomeroy regarding this.

**8.3 Trustee's Annual Return and Report to Charity Commissioners:** The Clerk said that the Return needs to be completed and the accounts, Trustee's report and scrutiny report filed on line as soon as possible as it is requested that this is received well before the deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> January 2016. The Chairman said that he would attend to this.

**8.4 Any other Village Hall Matters:** It was reported that a new liquor licence was obtained and passed to Mr Pomeroy. The old licence is currently displayed and this should be taken down and replaced with the new one.

**9. Finance:**

**9.1 Balances and Accounts for Payment**

**Business Reserve Alc**

**18171.73**

As previously mentioned, the above sum includes the balance from the rights of way over the Village Green of £4834.46 to be used for capital expenditure and the Tengore Lane Community Benefit of £1809.60.

<b>Current A/c</b>	11,102.20
<b>Less</b> Payments Nov meeting	<u>1,465.69</u>
	9,636.51
<b>Add</b> PWB Loan	<u>32,975.00</u>
	<b><u>42,611.51</u></b>

<b>Lengthsman Alc</b>	13,673.05
<b>Less</b> Pd Nov meeting	<u>1,616.10</u>
	<b><u>12,056.95</u></b>

**A/cs for payment:**

Clerk's Salary		300.00
P Godfrey:-	Canon Printer	99.99
	Cartridges	<u>26.99</u>
		126.98
	Phillips Voice Tracer Meeting Recorder	<u>121.00</u> 247.98
SALC Councillors' Training Fees		40.00
Mr Ellerbeck – Reimbursement for Remembrance Sunday Wreath		20.00
Lengthsman A/C:		
CW's fee for November		1,378.02

It was proposed Mr Agnew, seconded Shire and agreed that the accounts be paid.

**9.2 Wreath Re Remembrance Sunday:** Mr Ellerbeck said that he had been approached regarding the wreath which was obtained for the PC and laid but had not been paid for. The cost of the wreath was £17 and a donation is usually made. He therefore made a payment of £20 as he felt he could not make a larger donation without authorisation from the Council.

Following discussion, it was proposed Mr Agnew, seconded Mr Godfrey and resolved that the PC should lay a wreath every year and make a donation of around £10 in addition to the cost of the wreath.

**9.3 Budget/Precept for 2016/17 - Appointment of Working Group:** The Chairman, Mr Agnew, Mr Ellerbeck and the Clerk will meet to prepare a budget for discussion by the Council. The Chairman said that it will probably be necessary to hold an extra-ordinary meeting in this respect.

**9.4 Allotment/FBT Rents:** There was discussion regarding the allotments following which it was agreed that the Tenants should be informed that rents/agreements are to be reviewed.

**9.5 PC IT Equipment and Recording Equipment:** Mr Godfrey reported that SALC have said that the PC cannot obtain a grant as its annual turnover is more than £25,000. This is due to the Lengthsman account.

It has been suggested that the PC should provide a computer/laptop for use by the Clerk in respect of Council business which the PC concurred with. It was however suggested that as it is the Lengthsman account which the PC holds on behalf of all the Parishes in

the scheme which is preventing the obtaining of a grant could the cost of the laptop not be taken from that account. Mr Ellerbeck said that he would be holding a meeting with the other Parishes in the new year and would discuss this with them.

#### **10. Standing Orders**

Mr Ellerbeck said that he had completed the updating of these today and had intended printing copies to bring this evening but had unfortunately run out of paper. He therefore said that he would send these to Councillors electronically.

#### **11. Community Warden Scheme**

The Chairman confirmed that he had received delivery of the existing grit held at LS House from Craig (the CW) and also this year's allocation obtained from Highways. He felt that it would be a good idea for some of this to be held at various locations in the Parish.

Mr Ellerbeck reported that he had received Craig's hours and report for the month. He said that he is to discuss with the other Parishes as to whether they wish to continue in the scheme or whether they wish to reduce or increase their hours. At the moment LS uses him more than the other Parishes. He also does a lot of work for the Village Hall and it was agreed that he should be asked to stipulate the time spent in that respect separately.

#### **12. Parish Website**

Mr Godfrey reported that he has been generally trying to keep the website up to date and has put on a number of news items. The link to Councillors' Declaration of Interest Forms on the DC's website has also now been provided.

Regarding the Freedom of Information Act, Mr Godfrey said that he has the latest version from SALC and has looked on one or two other Councils' website but it is necessary for one or two people to go through and decide what is appropriate. It was therefore agreed that the Chairman and Clerk would meet with Mr Godfrey regarding this.

Mr Godfrey said that he is now the only trained person left to deal with updating of the website. Mr Ellerbeck and Mr Foy indicated their willingness to assist and Mr Godfrey said that rather than having another training course, he would be able to show them how it works.

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

##### **13.1 Working Group to deal with the above.**

The Parish does not have a Neighbourhood Watch. Mr Ellerbeck said that he is on Farm Watch and would be happy to look after the NW side of things.

It was felt that there should be a group responsible for the distributing of grit etc in bad weather.

Councillors indicated that they would like to see the Parish Emergency Plan which had been prepared by Mr Gould.

**13.2 First Aid Courses and Defibrillators:** Mr Ellerbeck said that he has not done anything about the First Aid Courses as yet and has discovered that in certain circumstances the NHS is prepared to fund defibrillators.

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

**14.1 Highways:** Mr Foy said that he would be meeting with Chris Weeks of Highways tomorrow and went through the matters which were on his list for discussion. Mr Ellerbeck said that he had received complaints regarding mud on the roads which was causing a danger.

**14.2 Footpaths:** Nothing to report.

**14.3 Environment:** Mr Shire asked if something could be put in the Newsletter re dog fouling as this is occurring in Shute Lane. He also reported that school children and some members of the gardening club have planted 1,000 bulbs in the Parish.

**15. Correspondence:**

The Chairman said that he had received a communication from the Chairman of the Cricket Club as to who owns the Recreation Field as they want to apply for a grant and would also like a 5 year security of tenure. The PC are the Sole Managing Trustee. It was felt that this matter should be discussed with the VHC as they are responsible for letting the facilities. There have been problems in the past regarding the state in which the Pavilion has been left and it was felt this might be an opportunity to make a stipulation regarding this.

A request has been received to use the part of the Village Green nearest the Church Gates on 14 May 2016 following a wedding in order to provide refreshment to those attending the ceremony and prior to the invited guests moving on to the main Reception at the Village Hall. Following discussion, it was agreed that this request should be granted but in addition to all normal risk precautions, it should be stipulated that plastic glasses should be used as broken glass could cause serious safety issues to children and members of the public using the Green.

A request has been received under the Freedom of Information Act for the recording of the last meeting and all correspondence/emails regarding the surveillance camera at Crouds Lane. It has also been questioned as to what powers of investigation the PC have. It was confirmed that the PC referred the matter to the DC but is not performing any other investigation. Mr Godfrey will arrange a copy of the appropriate part of the recording of the last meeting and the Clerk will reply to the request accordingly.

**16. Date of next meeting** – 5<sup>th</sup> January 2016

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

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.25 pm