

**Minutes of Meeting of Long Sutton Parish Council**  
**Held at the Hall on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2016 at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Councillors: Mr R W Fry (Chairman), Mr J A Ellerbeck, Mr P A F Godfrey, Mr T P Shire, Mr J Foy, Mr M Turpin, Mrs H Ibbotson, Mr D R C Agnew and Mr G Farenden. County Councillor Mr D Ruddle, District Councillor Mr G Tucker and 1 member of the public.

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

**Public Observations/Question Time:** No observations or questions were raised.

**1. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**2. Minutes of meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2016** - It was proposed Mr Ellerbeck, seconded Mr Shire and resolved that the minutes should be signed by the Chairman as a true record.

**3. Matters Arising**

**Sign at bottom of Hardings Hill:** Mr Foy said that he did not feel that he could remove the sign personally and has therefore reported it to the Council.

**4. County Councillor's Report**

Mr Ruddle reported on the financial aspects of the County Council. He said that they have a 700 million pound budget. A lot of money is going to be taken up in capital projects like schools, highways etc. They are under pressure with regard to adult services due to the ageing population and also children's services. The DC is also having to find a lot of money as well. There will probably be an overspend at the end of the financial year. He therefore advised PC's to get their Precept right as there will not be the money available in the next few years.

He congratulated Mr Gerard Tucker on winning the DC election.

The Chairman introduced Mr Tucker as our new District Councillor.

Mr Tucker said that he came from an agricultural background and he gave details of the positions he had previously held. He now works for Glastonbury Town Council as Deputy Clerk and is overseeing a Neighbourhood Plan.

He recognises the needs of the community and will do all he can to assist.

He reported that the Somerset Waste collections will be one day later in the fortnight after Christmas.

Among other matters he reported on Community Funding. He said that there is money available but you have to know where to go and get it and he gave details of various organisations from which grants can be obtained, contact details of which were given to the Clerk.

SSDC have a new CEO - Alex Palfrey and there is a programme of transformation under way. The payroll has dropped from 650 5 years ago to 440 now, with more job losses expected.

He gave details of other SSDC matters and promotions including their Careline, the cost of which is £3.81 per person a week.

Regarding the PC's comments on the Planning Application for LS Farm Cottage, he said that it has been confirmed that the applicant intends to re-use existing materials where

possible. However the concerns regarding the size of the curtilage and sub-division of the plot, although noted, is not considered to represent a material consideration, or any reason for refusal of the application.

The application regarding the extension of time for the solar farm at Tengore is to come before the Area North Committee at its meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> December. The length of the extension has now been reduced to 5 years.

The Chairman thanked Mr Tucker for his report.

## **5. Planning**

### **5.1 Applications for consideration:**

#### **Application No: 16/04659/ADV Display of 2 free-standing non-illuminated signs. Friends Meeting House, Shute Lane.**

It was proposed, seconded and unanimously resolved that the PC object to the application on the grounds that two signs of that size back to back, would not be sympathetic to the setting of the Meeting House. The PC supports the views of Historic England with regard to the signs and materials.

It was reported that a resident had commented that she had not been aware of the project for the erection of a garage at Hill Crest, planning permission for which had been granted and it was spoiling her view. A planning notice would however have been put up regarding this application.

A letter has also been received from a resident regarding the application for the new access at Little Upton Bridge which has now been granted by SSDC. He raises his unhappiness that the PC's recommendations appear to have been ignored and that the Planning Department did not come back to the PC.

Following discussion regarding various planning issues it was agreed that the planning sub-committee would consult with the DC.

### **5.2 Parish Development**

It was confirmed that a Parish meeting regarding the updating of the Parish Plan is to take place on the 17<sup>th</sup> January. This has been advertised in the Newsletter and Roundabout.

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

### **6.1 Claim Re Injury at Children's Play Area**

Mr Farenden confirmed that the Insurance Company are dealing with the claim regarding the accident at the children's play area. They say however that the insurance premium which is currently £2,304 can be expected to increase to £3,000 in view of the claim.

### **6.2 Village Hall Maintenance/Other Matters**

Mr Farenden reported that they are working on a few projects at the moment and there are some bills to pay. Their current balance is £7,000. The expenses are going to get more and more in view of the age of the building. He confirmed that they do have a plan in order to prioritise the work required and have a new hiring structure which should bring in extra income.

Mr Ellerbeck expressed concern that electrical work had been carried out at the VH by an unqualified electrician. He said he had taken the liberty of consulting with a qualified electrician who had previously undertaken work at the hall and who would be prepared to inspect the building and sign it off for a sum in the region of £200.

Discussion then moved on to the Cricket Club who are the one permanent tenant. The meeting was suspended to enable Mr Vigar to address the PC.

He gave a brief history of the CC and said that they were the envy of other Clubs. In order to maintain its present position and improve facilities they need grant funding. Sport England have indicated they would be prepared to consider funding but need a guarantee that the club will be there for the next 20 to 30 years and also require security of tenure.

The PC went back into meeting and Mr Ellerbeck referred to the email from the Charity Commission previously circulated to Councillors. If a lease for a period of longer than 7 years is required it will be necessary to go back to the Charity Commission and investigate something in the region of 20 years.

Mr Farenden said that if the PC wishes to do this it should be their responsibility and not the VHC.

It was confirmed that the PC would have to apply for the funding.

Discussion culminated in it being proposed by Mr Ellerbeck that the Charity Commission be approached to explore the possibility of a 20 year lease to LS Cricket Club. This proposal was seconded by Mr Agnew and agreed by a majority, Mr Farenden abstaining.

The conditions of the Lease will be decided once it has been agreed to go ahead.

Discussion then reverted back to the electric works at the VH and it was proposed Mr Ellerbeck that a qualified electrician be asked to check the electrical fittings within the VH. This proposal was seconded by Mr Farenden and unanimously resolved.

It was proposed Mr Godfrey, seconded Mr Ellerbeck and unanimously resolved that the PC grant of £2,000 to the VH should be paid on request.

## **7. Finance**

### **7.1 Balances and Accounts for Payment**

Unity Trust A/C		46815.46
<b>Less</b> Payments last meeting	1140.39	
Pd out of meeting by DD, PWB Loan Repayment Instalment	2033.63	
Pd out of meeting Grant Thornton external audit fee	360.00	
J A Ellerbeck - Wreath for Remembrance		
Sunday	25.00	
Clerk's Salary paid by SO 1 <sup>st</sup> December	<u>300.00</u>	<u>3859.02</u>
		42956.44
<b>Add SSE Payment</b>		<u>684.32</u>
		<b><u>43640.76</u></b>

### **Accounts for Payment:**

CW's fee for Nov £512.38 + materials for notice boards	582.64
Tomsett Joinery Ltd - 2 softwood notice boards	593.58
T Shire – Keys for notice boards	10.26

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

### **7.2 Loan Re Solar Installation at Village Hall**

Mr Ellerbeck reported that he had been in touch with the PWB regarding paying back the surplus funds in hand. If £3500 is paid off the principal there is a penalty of £276. This will however reduce the six monthly payments to £1793 rather than £2033. He therefore

proposed that he ring the PWB tomorrow and tell them we wish to return £3500. This proposal was seconded by the Chairman and resolved by a majority.

### **7.3 Budget/Precept for 2017/18**

The Clerk/Proper Officer confirmed that she had granted all Councillors a dispensation to discuss the Precept at this and the January meeting.

There was discussion regarding the budget allocations for 2017/18 prepared by the financial sub-committee.

Confirmation from the DC of the grant and the Tax Base Rate will not be received until the week commencing the 12<sup>th</sup> December.

It was confirmed that the allocation for Defibrillators was £340 and Contingencies £1,000 and not the other way round.

In addition to the allocation of £2,000 for the VH which has yet to be paid, the PC have paid £670 for a Fire door and have agreed to pay half the cost of a Dog waste bin.

It was also confirmed that the sub-committee had taken into account expenses supplied by Mr Godfrey regarding the Parish website and anti-virus and Microsoft Office for the Parish laptop.

There was discussion regarding the allocation for training but it was pointed out that quite a few of the courses, such as those run by the DC are free.

It was agreed that the Precept would be set at the next meeting.

### **8. Allotments/Farm Business Tenancies**

Mr Ellerbeck confirmed that he had spoken to all the Tenants and they would all like FBT Agreements. The rents will all be taken to the 25<sup>th</sup> March with a pro rata sum being added from January to March for those Tenants currently on Allotment Garden tenancies.

There was discussion regarding the rents payable but it was decided to sort the Agreements out first.

### **9. Community Warden Scheme**

The CW has been doing work towards the erection of the new notice boards at Langport Road and Upton, clearing vegetation around the Parish and work regarding the tennis courts.

He has been asked to annotate how many hours he is working on the Recreation Ground.

A Parishioner has asked if he could remove the leaves from the tennis courts.

### **10. Parish Website**

Mr Godfrey reiterated his concern regarding back up for the website. He said he had consulted with Cosmic who would charge a fee of £175. They had however said that our existing Host Company probably have an existing back-up facility. He confirmed that if the PC upgrade's to the next level it can take advantage of the Host Company's Business package which would be £35 for the first year and £65 thereafter and he recommended the upgrade. It was confirmed that when setting the budget this had been taken into account.

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

The matter was raised regarding the entrance to Farringdon House. The new owners are experiencing problems with their access being blocked by vehicles. It was confirmed that the Green goes right up to the wall of Farringdon House and several years ago the PC granted the owners rights of access. It was confirmed that it is a criminal offence to block anyone's access to the highway but not vice versa. It was suggested that they put up a small green sign saying "This access is in constant use, please do not block", following completion of works to the Green.

There was discussion regarding the works already carried out to the Green. The kerb stones that have been put in cut off a part of the tarmac which means that cars are driving over them. Bollards need to be erected but this is too big a job for the Community Warden. Both Mr Foy and Mr Shire will obtain quotations regarding the work required.

### **11.1 Defibrillators: Housing/Siting to include BT Phone Box at Knole and Application for Funding**

Mr Ellerbeck reported that the Lottery have offered a conditional grant of £5,241 for the project. This has to be accepted within 30 days.

It was also reported that it is understood that a defibrillator has been purchased for the shop and is awaiting planning.

Mr Ellerbeck said that the proposal for which the Lottery grant has been obtained, is to purchase two defibrillators through Community Heartbeat, who work closely with BT and he gave details of these together with the equipment to be supplied and the rules, regulations and maintenance. He also gave details of what is provided by the annual membership.

The VH is proposed for the siting of the defibrillator for LS in view of the electricity supply.

It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded Mr Ellerbeck and unanimously resolved that the PC accept the offer of the grant from the Lottery and go ahead with the project.

### **11.2 Other matters**

The Police report for Area North for November was 155 investigated crimes, 16 arrests and 19 reports of ASB.

There were no other matters raised.

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

### **12.1 Highways: Update on outstanding matters, to include Work to Village Green and Speeding in the Parish**

The sign at Hardings Hill and the Village Green already having been mentioned, Mr Foy reported that he had spoken to Dave Grabham of SCC regarding speed surveys.

Mr Shire reported that the grass triangle at Shute Lane has been badly damaged by lorries accessing the pumping station. Mr Foy agreed to contact Wessex Water requesting that this damage be made good.

Mr Godfrey reported that there is no indication when turning left at the bottom of Stephens Hill that you are accessing Shute Lane. Mr Foy will make enquiry regarding an additional Street name plate for Shute Lane.

### **12.2 Footpaths - Nothing new to report.**

### **12.3 Environment:**

**Dumping of Rubbish at Solar Farm, Landmoor Lane:** It was reported that there has been substantial dumping of rubbish at the site and it is very overgrown. It would appear that this has never been properly cleared from when previous complaint was made. It was agreed that our County Councillor/the County Enforcement Officer should be contacted regarding this.

Details have been received from the DC regarding their scheme for Christmas tree shredding and also their Great British Spring Clean initiative. It was agreed that the Spring Clean should be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

### **13. Correspondence**

SSDC Consultation on New Public Space Consultation Order relating to Dog Control. Mr Farenden will take a look at this with regard to the Recreation Ground.

SSDC Consultation on Street Trading. It was confirmed that this does not affect any charitable events etc held on the Village Green.

Citizens Advice Bureau: They are seeking a grant, which it was confirmed was not included in the PC's budget and also volunteers.

**14. Date of next meeting** - 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2017

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

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.53 pm