

**Minutes of Meeting of Long Sutton Parish Council**  
**Held at the Hall on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Councillors: Mr R W Fry (Chairman), Mr J A Ellerbeck, Mr P A F Godfrey, Mr T Brand, Mr T P Shire, Mr J Foy and Mr G R Cox. District Councillor Mr G Tucker, PCSO (Carol) and 5 members of the public.

**Apologies for Absence:** Councillor Mr M Turpin.

**Public Observations/Question Time:** The Chairman said that anything regarding the planning applications on the agenda would be taken under Planning. No other matters were raised.

Carol, the PCSO informed the meeting of scams regarding Bank cards taking place at the moment in the Martock area. These are initially by telephone saying that someone will be calling personally in a few days or you will be receiving a letter.

There are also houses being broken into and Farm equipment, generators and expensive tools being taken.

Mr Godfrey said that he would put the scam on the website.

**1. Casual Vacancy**

The District Council have confirmed that there have been no requests for an election and that the PC may fill the vacancy by co-option. As yet, however, there have been no expressions of interest in the vacancy.

**2. Declarations of Interest** - There were no declarations of interest.

**3. Minutes of meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017** - It was resolved that these should be signed as a true record following the amendment of item 6 District Councillor's Report to read ".....the Chairman **said** his report..."

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

**5. County Councillor's Report** - Mr Ruddle was not present.

**6. District Councillor's Report**

Mr Tucker reported that the Area North meeting in November was postponed as there were no planning applications to consider. As our Ward Member, he was asked to input on the planning application relating to Pares Cottage, Langport Road. On the grounds that there were no adverse comments from neighbours or highways and the PC's concerns seemed to have been addressed, he supported this.

Within Full Council he said that there are a couple of things that may impact on the rural parishes and therefore worthy of mention.

Regarding the pending review of the Boundary Commission, it appears that Turnhill Ward may be reduced in size by reshaping the area around Wearne and Combe. The changes, if implemented, will take effect from May 2019.

The DC has purchased the Wilkinsons retail premises in Yeovil. This is part of the strategy to invest in property and apply a more commercial arm to the way the authority operates.

Consultation for the Local Plan II continues. Locally there was a presentation in Great Bow Wharf last Thursday evening. He said that, if the PC have a concern regarding the absence of employment provision in the area, comments may be submitted via the SSDC website.

Among the many District Executive reports, they are currently reviewing the Business Plan of the Westlands Centre. Other committees he sits on as a Ward member includes the Huish Leisure Board. The steel structure of the swimming pool cover should be erected

prior to Christmas. There is a concern that the pool was never lined which may add to the cost of the project. The expected opening date remains at the end of March 2018. The Langport Town Council are currently undertaking a consultation on the closure of the Hanging Chapel to all vehicles, with the exception of motorcycles. He said this may impact on the travel routes of LS parishioners and a formal response might be considered.

## **7. Planning:**

### **7.1. Applications for consideration:**

**Application No: 17/04257/FUL** - Change of use of land from agricultural to equestrian use, the formation of an area of hardstanding and the erection of a stable/store building (part retrospective). Land at Downslade Quarry OS 4300 Downslade Lane.

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

**Application No: 17/04259/FUL** - Proposed change of use of agricultural building and associated land to business use, proposed extension to building and the extension of existing area of hardstanding. Downslade Quarry, Downslade Lane.

Following discussion, in particular with regard to access and clarification of certain points by the applicant and his agent, it was proposed Mr Godfrey, seconded Mr Ellerbeck and unanimously resolved:

“The Council understands that the application is for personal use. On that basis, Long Sutton Parish Council does not object to the application. However, we are concerned about the suitability of the access roads proposed and note that a temporary access road exists to the west of the site. The Council believes that this would be a more appropriate access.

Application No: 17/03413/FUL Proposed rear and side extensions. Pares Cottage, Langport Road. Permission granted by SSDC.

**7.2 Parish Plan:** There was discussion regarding the updating of the Parish Plan which culminated in Mr Ellerbeck saying that he would revisit this and find out what tasks require to be completed by the March meeting of the PC.

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

**8.1 Secretary:** Mr Ellerbeck reported that they still have no Secretary. A note has been placed in the Newsletter and Roundabout regarding this. The Secretary has a vote on the VHC.

### **8.2 Finances**

Mr Ellerbeck said that there is around £10,000 in hand at present.

### **8.3 Security**

Mr Foy reported that it was agreed to instruct PG Security to carry out the initial installation of an intruder system to include a key pad and some of the work will be carried out before Christmas.

Mr Ellerbeck reported that the door at Charlton Mackrell referred to at the last meeting has been looked at and the automatic generation of access codes could be added to the Hallmaster system.

### **8.4 Play Area**

Refurbishment in part is to take place together with any necessary repairs or refixing of equipment etc.

Mr Foy is also looking into the refitting of a gate which meets safety requirements.

Regarding the repairs to the skate park, although some reservations were expressed regarding this, it was felt that, providing the VHC can make it safe, it is inspected on a regular basis and appropriate signage provided, the repairs should go ahead.

**8.5 Steering Group Report:** Nothing to report

**8.6 Other VH Matters**

Mr Ellerbeck reported that the new filing cabinet and lock have arrived and been installed. They are going to have a clear out of all the rubbish and email current hall users to remove any items they have stored.

Mr Brand was asked to consult with the Treasurer regarding the insurance renewal.

Mr Ellerbeck said that the accident claim is being settled by the insurers who are to chase SSDC to mitigate their loss as a survey had been carried out by them and he is in the process of finalising the claim for the break-in.

Regarding the telephone line/broadband, Mr Godfrey said that Spitfire has reported that the survey has been completed by BT Openreach and he is waiting to hear where they are going to put the poles.

**9. Finance:**

**9.1 Balances and Accounts for Payment**

**Unity Trust Account**

42,476.99

**Less** Payments agreed last meeting 3,786.56

Paid out of meeting:

J A Ellerbeck - Remembrance Wreath 25.00

PWB Loan Repayment by DD 1,793.57

Clerk's Salary Nov paid by SO 1/12 300.00

5,905.13

36,571.86

902.41

**£37,474.27**

**Add** SSE Energy Payment

**A/cs for Payment:**

CW's fee for Nov £590.59 + Chipper Hire £35 625.59

LS Village Hall contribution towards running costs 2,000.00

Mrs P Allen - Printer Cartridges (Admin) 80.34

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

Mr Godfrey reported that the Microsoft Licence for the laptop is due for renewal in January in the sum of £43.99 plus VAT and also the ESET antivirus and internet security at the end of the month. It is significantly cheaper to renew the antivirus for 3 years in the sum of £68 rather than for one or two years. He said that he would arrange payment on his credit card if this is authorised by the PC as it is not possible to set up a direct debit. These payments were authorised by Mr Ellerbeck, seconded Mr Brand and agreed.

**9.2 Budget 2017/18**

Mr Cox agreed to join the Finance team of the Chairman and Mr Ellerbeck who will consider the budget for 2018/19 and put forward recommendations for consideration by the Council at the next meeting.

The Clerk provided Councillors with an estimate of expenditure to the end of the financial year and also a statement regarding the solar panels. The question was raised as to whether a payment should be made to reduce the capital sum owing on the PWB Loan. Mr Ellerbeck proposed that the Finance team should review the repayment regarding the solar panels when considering the budget. This was seconded by Mr Godfrey and agreed.

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

### **10.1 Discussion of Parish Community Safety Officer's Report.**

It was felt that the incident on the Village Green recently was not something which occurred on a regular basis and that no action was required by the PC.

Regarding the Parish Emergency Plan, although this is some years old, there is a Plan and therefore no action need be taken.

It was felt that the registration of the VH as a place of safety should be pursued and Mr Foy agreed to contact the County Council to establish the terms and conditions regarding this.

It was recalled that certain training exercises had taken place in the past when the Hall was utilised for emergency accommodation. This had been undertaken by Councillors and volunteers.

The First Aid Course which had previously been held at the VH was considered to be very useful and Mr Ellerbeck said that he was hoping to arrange another course in the Spring.

Mr Ellerbeck agreed to draft a reply to the Parish Community Safety Officer regarding his report.

### **10.2 Any Other Matters**

Regarding Farmwatch, Mr Ellerbeck said he had nothing to add to that already mentioned by the PCSO.

A supply of salt is now held throughout the Parish.

## **11. Community Warden Scheme**

Mr Ellerbeck reported that the CW's hours have been received and these are as normal. The grass seed on the village green is taking well but he has had to sort out some ruts as some people have driven over this.

He has applied to SSDC for permission to carry out the pruning of the lime trees on the green.

He has also carried out work to the trees on Martock Road.

He has asked permission to purchase the chemical to remove the mould on the tennis courts. This course of action was felt to be a good idea.

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

### **12.1 Highways: Update on any highways matters**

Notification has been received from SCC regarding the termination of the current Speed Indicator Device Programme.

In view of the problems of speeding in the Parish, there was discussion regarding traffic calming that has taken place at Ilchester and also at the back of Somerton. It was felt that this should be put on the agenda for further discussion.

Damage has been caused to the triangle at Shute Lane again.

## **12.2 Environment**

**12.2.1 Ilchester Lane:** A letter has been sent to the owner of the Golf Club.

**12.2.2 Pumping Station Crouds Lane.** It was agreed that this could now be taken off the agenda.

Mr Ellerbeck said that he was impressed by the work carried out by Wessex Water in Knole.

### **12.2.3. Any other Environment matters**

**Wall opposite Glebe Yard:** Mr Cox said that he has spoken to the landowner but that a letter should be sent to the adjoining property owner as the damage is on his boundary.

**Hedge adjoining the playing field:** Mr Cox said that he has given instructions to his contractor who while trimming his hedges will also cut the hedge from the Recreation Filed side to make it tidy, at no cost to the Council.

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

SCC, although having been provided with the Title Numbers of the land, are asking if the PC obtained copies to satisfy themselves regarding ownership.

They are to be informed that the PC is completely satisfied that the land in question is owned by the Walford Partnership.

## **13. Correspondence**

A request has been received from the Rural Services Network to complete their survey "Growing a Rural Community". The PC agreed that it did not wish to participate in this.

**14. Date of next meeting** – It was agreed that the next meeting would be on the 9<sup>th</sup> January 2018 and not the 2<sup>nd</sup> January. Mr Cox gave apologies.

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

Mr Godfrey raised the question of poor mobile signals in parts of the village.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30pm