

Minutes of Meeting of Long Sutton Parish Council
Held at the Hall on Tuesday 7th February 2017 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors: Mr R W Fry (Chairman), Mr P A F Godfrey, Mr M Turpin, Mr D R C Agnew, Mr T P Shire, Mr J Foy, Mrs H Ibbotson and Mr G Farenden. County Councillor Mr D Ruddle, District Councillor Mr G Tucker and 4 members of the public.

Apologies for Absence: Councillor: Mr J A Ellerbeck.

Public Observations/Question Time:

A member of the public informed the PC that the pumps at the pumping station in Crouds Lane had ceased to work. Wessex Water had put in a different set of pumps and a generator, presumably pending work being carried out to the original pumps. The last 4 weeks have been the wettest in a long time and the problems regarding the overflow of water have not been experienced. It was therefore questioned, if the present pumps are working so efficiently why do the normal ones not work? It was however mentioned that Wessex Water have, of late, been pumping from Upton.

Mr Foy said that he had a number for the Assistant Pumping Station Manager and would contact him to ask the question raised.

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Minutes of meeting held on 3rd January 2017 - It was unanimously resolved that these be signed by the Chairman as a true record.

3. Matters Arising

Triangle at Shute Lane: It was reported that Wessex Water have carried out some remedial work but someone has already driven over this. There was discussion regarding the options to prevent this happening.

4. County Councillor's Report

Mr Ruddle reported that there is a full County Council meeting at 10 o'clock on the 15th February when the Council's financial plan and increases in Council Tax will be discussed, if anyone wishes to attend.

He gave details regarding increases in Council Tax which will result in a Band D charge of £1024.79.

He said that there has been a lot of talk regarding the County Council being broke. Their reserves are however the same as they were at this time last year.

He said that the Highways budget is quite good. If Councils can come up with some funding towards a project this is more likely to get the job done. The local Highways Office is very good and will do what they can. It is therefore well worth talking with them if there is an issue.

5. District Councillor's Report

Mr Tucker reported that since the last PC meeting he has not directly been asked to comment on anything connected to LS and there were no planning applications presented for LS at the last Area North Meeting.

The Area North meeting focused at some length on affordable and social housing.

On a submission prior to the meeting to Colin MacDonald the Strategic Housing Manager regarding High Ham and Pitney, his reply drew attention specifically to a shortfall in affordable housing provision for LS. Mr MacDonald said that a survey completed in 2013 identified a need for 8 houses in total. Yarlington completed 3 new homes and exception planning permission was obtained on a private site which was originally thought would

provide for the remainder. However the owner of the site has not progressed it, so there remains an identified shortfall and he suggested it might be worth having a chat with Lisa Kelly, the Rural Housing Development Officer. Mr Tucker therefore asked if the PC would like him to do this.

Mr Tucker also gave details of the WH Smith Community Grants which are small grants offering funding up to £500 for charities, schools and community groups involved in education and lifelong learning - application deadline 31 March 2017 and The Postcode Local Trust 2017 - Funding for local projects which support wildlife areas, sustainability initiatives, volunteer citizenship and indoor and outdoor spaces in England, Scotland and Wales. Applications to be submitted by Friday.

He confirmed that the Area North open forum on Thursday is now to be held at Compton Dundon Village Hall. Mr Godfrey has said that he will attend.

Returning to the subject of affordable housing. It was said that more affordable housing is essential for the community. It is understood that numbers are dropping at the School and more children are definitely needed. There was discussion as to what is considered affordable housing which culminated in it being agreed that Mr Tucker should speak to Lisa regarding the matter and report back.

6. Planning

6.1 Applications for consideration:

Application No: 17/00132/FUL Replacement of 3 wooden windows with aluminium windows. The Old Stables Cottage, Knole

The Chairman suspended the meeting to allow a member of the public to address the PC. Objection was made regarding the visual effect aluminium windows would have on the courtyard.

On resumption of the meeting and after discussion, it was proposed Mr Godfrey, seconded Mr Shire and agreed by a majority vote (the Chairman using his casting vote), that the PC objects to the application as it is not consistent with the Conservation Officer's original intentions and it will harm the visual amenity of the courtyard.

Application No: 17/00054/FUL Proposed creation of new vehicular access. Land adjacent to Langport Road.

Following discussion, it was proposed Mr Godfrey, seconded the Chairman and unanimously resolved that the PC has no objection to the application.

It was reported that there is an application on the DC website regarding notification for prior approval for the change of use of existing agricultural building to a dwelling on land at Vedal Drove. The Clerk said that she had been in touch with the Case Officer and the PC is not consulted on this type of application.

6.2 Parish Development - Updating of Parish Plan

It was confirmed by the members of the team present that this is still a work in progress. Mrs Ibbotson said she would be grateful for any comments or suggestions about enhancing the community of the village or supporting the local economy.

The Clerk confirmed that she had received no emails from members of the public following the Parish meeting.

7. Village Hall and Recreation Ground: Maintenance/Other Matters

Mr Farenden reported that he is having trouble getting an electrician to undertake a safety inspection and carry out outside work. He has asked several for a quote but has not yet heard from any of them.

He also reported that it is necessary to replace the cooker and requested permission to spend up to £750. This was proposed Mr Godfrey, seconded Mr Agnew and unanimously agreed.

Regarding the Cricket Club, Mr Farenden reported that as far as he knew, the Cricket Club have been asked to meet all the legal costs regarding a lease, but they are not in a position to do so. It is understood that Mr Ellerbeck is in contact with them regarding this.

A deal has been made with the hedge layer who will carry out the work when time permits.

The Chairman requested, with the permission of the Council, that item 14.2 should be discussed next on the agenda.

14.2 Footpaths: Potential new footpath at Hammocks Drove

Mr Walford was invited to address the Council. He said that there is a path down on the moor which is used but is not formally a footpath. It goes down Hammocks Drove. In order to dedicate the route, it is necessary for the landowner and the PC to sign an agreement and it eventually gets put on the definitive map. He said that he felt two finger posts indicating the path were required. The route has two bridges, one of which is in good condition, but the gate adjoining is not so good and if the PC so wished this could be replaced with a Bristol Gate for which he would be willing to pay half the cost. The other bridge is not in such good condition.

There was discussion regarding the placing of the finger posts and it was agreed that the funding for these should be investigated.

Mr Turpin said that the Agreement required to be signed is under the Highways Act 1980 Section 30.

The Chairman asked if the PC was happy to go ahead and for him to sign the Agreement.

It was proposed Mr Agnew, seconded Mr Turpin and unanimously resolved that the PC should go ahead.

Mr Turpin will prepare the Agreement for signature by the Chairman and himself at the next meeting.

The meeting then reverted back to the normal order of the agenda.

8. Finance: Balances and Accounts for Payment

| | | |
|--|---------------|------------------------|
| Unity Trust Bank A/c | | 36352.99 |
| Less A/cs paid last meeting | 711.92 | |
| Pd to CW out of mtg for materials for notice board | 43.22 | |
| Clerk's Salary paid by SO 1 Feb | <u>300.00</u> | <u>1055.14</u> |
| | | 35297.85 |
| Add Lottery Grant for Defibrillators | | <u>5241.00</u> |
| | | <u>40538.85</u> |
| A/cs for payment | | |
| CW.s fee for Jan to include Chipper hire of £50 for VH | | 575.12 |

| | | | |
|---------------|--------------------------|--------------|--------|
| P Godfrey - | ESET Internet Security | 39.99 | |
| | Microsoft Office | 59.99 | |
| | Postage Re PC Microphone | <u>7.25</u> | 107.23 |
| Mrs P Allen - | Stationery Items | 17.49 | |
| | Printer cartridges | <u>62.17</u> | 79.66 |

It was proposed Mr Foy, seconded Mr Farenden and resolved by a majority (Mr Godfrey abstaining) that the accounts be paid.

9. Allotments/Farm Business Tenancies

Mr Ellerbeck is meeting with Tamlyns regarding the FBT Agreements.

10. Community Warden Scheme

During January, the CW has continued with some hedge trimming, including sign clearance and tree work.

He has said that one of the other Parishes in the scheme ordered some native trees for planting in their Parish and there will probably be some left over if any of the other Parishes would be interested in having some. Mr Shire will speak to him as to whether there is any cost involved etc.

He has also said that the mower purchased by the scheme requires servicing. Councillors thought that this would probably be between £100 to £150. Following discussion, it was proposed Mr Agnew, seconded Mr Farenden and unanimously agreed that the cost of servicing the mower should be taken out of the remaining scheme funds before final distribution between the Parishes. Mr Shire will contact the CW regarding the servicing of the mower.

It was reported that the stream at Crouds Lane gets overgrown very quickly and requires cleaning out. Mr Shire will enquire of the CW as to whether this is something he can undertake and then contact the landowner.

It was also reported that the gully opposite the Post Box in Knole needs clearing out and Mr Shire will also mention this to the CW.

11. Parish Website

Mr Godfrey reported that he has been doing some updating of the website. The PC's Freedom of Information Policy has still to be added.

12. Neighbourhood Watch/Community Safety/Civil Contingencies:

12.1 Update Regarding Defibrillators and Funding.

It was confirmed that Mr Ellerbeck has matters in hand and the defibrillators are to be delivered to him later this month. Quotations have been received for the electrical work required and it was proposed Mr Farenden, seconded Mr Agnew and resolved that the quote of £204 from AJM Electrical should be accepted.

12.2 Other matters

The Police Report for Area North for January is 121 investigated crimes, 15 arrests and 15 reports of ASB.

13. Restoration of Parish Pump

Following an email received regarding a new television show called "The repair shop" Mr Farenden said that he would like to put forward the village pump as a project for restoration. Following discussion, it was agreed that Mr Farenden should approach the team concerned.

14. Representative Reports and any other matters regarding:

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

A quotation of £4024 has been received for completion of the work to the lower end of the Village Green. There was discussion regarding the work required and the type of bollards, following which it was agreed that Mr Foy and Mr Shire will investigate an additional quotation. There was also discussion regarding the work being carried out as two separate projects, namely the work to the actual Green being carried out first and the work to the Highway later. This is also to be investigated.

Mr Foy reported that he is still waiting to hear from Dave Grabham of SCC, who is away at present, regarding the SID for Langport Road and he has also not heard anything regarding the post to be erected. There was discussion regarding the latest speed information available on the B3165 both north and south bound. Mr Foy has also requested a speed survey near the shop, somewhere between Knole Causeway and Back Street.

Mr Foy said he has not yet collected the finial for the finger post but he has someone who will 3d print the finials and Mr Godfrey has sent details of a company that reproduces the actual finger posts.

Mr Farenden reported that when the buses meet near his property in Shute Lane, rather than one backing up, they are now driving on the footpath in order to pass. It was agreed that a photograph should be taken. Mr Foy will then contact the Bus Operators and other relevant Authorities.

14.2 Footpaths: This subject was dealt with earlier in the meeting.

14.3 Environment: The Great British Spring Clean Initiative

Mr Shire said that he had tried contacting Chris Cooper of Streetscene for more information but has not had any success.

The subject of Avian Flu was raised as it was reported that there are some loose chickens in the Parish.

15. Correspondence

Yeovil ShopMobility giving details of their scheme. As a local charity, they are dependent on grants and donations to continue their work.

Regional Conference SW Town & Parish Councils 16th March at Taunton Rugby Club.

16. Date of next meeting 7th March 2017

17. Any Other Business/Items for next meeting

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.35pm