

Minutes of Meeting of Long Sutton Parish Council
Held at the Hall on Tuesday 5th February 2019 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillors: Mr G R Cox (Chairman), Mr T Brand, Mr T P Shire, Mr C Dowse, Mrs E Elliott and Mr M Turpin. County Councillor Mr D Ruddle, District Councillor Mr G Gerard and 16 members of the public.

Public Observations/Question Time:

1. Apologies for Absence – Councillors Mr R Fell and Mr G Stoddart-Stones

2. Declarations of Interest - The Chairman, Mr Cox, declared an interest as a neighbour in Planning Application No: 18/04006/S73 to be discussed at item 8 on the agenda.

3. Minutes of meeting held on 8th January 2019 - It was agreed that these should be signed by the Chairman as a correct record,

4. Matters Arising, not covered by the Agenda - No matters were raised

5. Recruitment of Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer

The Chairman introduced Lisa Newby who has been appointed as the new Clerk/RFO of Long Sutton Parish Council, the present Clerk, Paula Allen retiring after 40+ years. The Chairman said that a presentation was made to her on behalf of the Parish last Saturday of a weekend away and he thanked her for her sterling service over the years.

6. County Councillor's Report

Mr Ruddle reported that a Full Council Meeting was held recently. Some further money is to be received from the Government which will help with the financial situation.

He and a group of other Councillors are very concerned regarding the cut down on gritting services especially in view of a recent bad accident and are doing all they can to address this situation.

He said that the Small Highways Improvement Scheme (SHIS) is probably going to come back on the radar.

7. District Councillor's Report

Mr Tucker reported on the following matters:

There have been no planning applications in Long Sutton discussed by committee or requiring his input since the last PC meeting.

A meeting was held with the Chairs of the Parish Councils in Turn Hill last week at which the Police Beat Manager for the Somerton area was present. The Beat Team cover is very large area and the beat team work a system where they are all working for 6 days and off for 4 days. The bulk of their work involves dealing with (1) Domestic incidents and (2) Missing people in the Somerton Beat area..

There is a shortfall in funding of £32,000 for Citizens Advice Somerset for which a request received by SSDC is proposing is met from existing funds.

The revised Local Plan was discussed in some length with a suggestion that the number of houses to be built within SSDC equates to 726 per year until 2036. Interestingly, it is

further recommended to reduce by 58 hectares the amount of commercial development land required in the Local Plan refresh.

With regard to the Corporate Plan, in Area North, it is proposed to bring forward land for small business units. Also within the plan is a priority to review community transport and address rural crime.

Finally, he said that things are now settling down following the transformation process.

8. Planning:

Application No: 18/04006/S73 Application to vary planning conditions 2 (approved plans) of approval 16/04516/FUL. Long Sutton Farm Cottage, Martock Road.

Mr Brand presented this application, the Chairman having declared an interest. He said that the alterations were very minor and perfectly sensible and proposed that there should be no objection to the application. This was unanimously agreed.

Application No: 18/03984/HOU Single Storey oak framed garden room. Long Sutton Farm, Somerton Road.

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

Application No: 19/00016/FUL Erection of a terrace of 3 residential dwellings with associated landscaping and car parking. Land OS 9687 Martock Road.

The Chairman invited members of the public to address the Council, all of whom spoke in objection to the application. The main grounds of objection raised, being that the land is outside the development line; the size and scale of the development in relation to the plot; access to and from the site would be hazardous and also dangerous to pedestrians in view of the absence of a footway.

The Council then went into meeting in which Councillors raised the following matters of objection:

The land no longer meets the criteria of an exception site and is outside the development line in open countryside.

The scale of the development was felt too large for the size of the site and cannot be considered affordable. There is also no identified need.

There is a lack of amenities in respect of gardens and parking is considered inadequate.

Safety issues: There is no footway outside the site making it hazardous for pedestrians and also dangerous for vehicles entering and exiting the site in view of the speed of traffic.

Concerns regarding the water run off and sewage management were also raised.

It was proposed Mr Brand, seconded Mr Turpin and unanimously agreed that the Chairman should draw up a letter setting out the PC's objection and forward to Councillors for approval prior to submission to the DC.

Update on other planning applications.

The application regarding the quarry at Batts Lane has yet to be determined.

9. Village Hall and Recreation Ground

Mr Brand reported on the meeting which he and Mr Dowse attended.

At present the VHC has a working balance of £3542 and wish to keep this between £3,000 to £5,000.

Both he and Gillian Islip have carried out a Healthy & Safety inspection.

He commended Tony Ellerbeck in having done an exceptionally good job in running the committee and also Phil Godfrey who is leaving in four weeks time.

Minor vandalism has taken place outside the Cricket Pavilion.

10. Finance:

i. Balances and Accounts for Payment

Unity Trust Account		35,127.34
Less Alcs agreed Jan meeting	1,375.40	
Pd out of meeting:		
Clerk's salary for Jan paid by SO	<u>300.00</u>	<u>1,675.40</u>
		<u>£33,451.94</u>

A/cs for payment

CW's Fee for Dec	583.00
Timeback Accounts & Payroll	4.50
Mr G R Cox – Reimbursement for Microsoft Annual Subscription	59.99
Mrs P Allen - Printer Cartridges	75.00
VHC Reimbursement for Payment of Pinnacle Accountancy's fee for audit of VH Accounts	144.00

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

ii. Requests for Funding

Somerton Library: Following the County Council's decision to close Somerton's Library, the Somerton Library Trust has been set up. It has been asked if the PC would be able to make a grant towards this valuable service.

It was agreed by a majority of 5 to 1 that on this occasion the PC is unable to make a grant but if they are able to provide information regarding the number of Parishioners who use the Library this may be further considered in the future.

Yeovil Shopmobility: It was agreed that a contribution should not be made to this service.

11. Community Warden Scheme

- i. Future contractual arrangements:** It was agreed that the Contract for 2018/19 should be utilised with the dates being amended. It was also proposed Mr Brand, seconded Mr Shire and unanimously resolved that the hourly rate for 2019/20 should be increased from £13.25 to £13.50 per hour.

During January the CW has been carrying out hedge trimming, drainage work and weed removal along the pavements. He has also removed the dead elm on the verge at Harding's Hill.

12. Representative Reports and any other matters regarding

a. Community Safety

The Police report for Area North for January is 168 investigated crimes, 21 arrests and 20 reports of ASB

i. Civil Contingencies Plan

Mr Turpin said that he wondered what local assistance could be provided in this respect. The Clerk is to provide him with any contacts the PC holds in order that he can make enquiries.

b. Highways:

i. Traffic Calming – SID update from High Ham & Aller

It was reported that some information to proceed has been received. It was confirmed that the PC has allocated funds in its budget for this purpose. Although the CW is trained to work on the road, Mr Meyer of Aller is keen that some other people should also be trained in this respect.

ii Options regarding the triangle at Shute Lane

Mr Shire has received a quote of £1,602 for work to the triangle and proposed that this should go ahead. The Chairman said that the kerbing needs to be of a suitable strength and height in order for this to work. Following discussion, it was agreed by a majority (1 abstention) that this should go ahead provided Mr Shire manages the project.

iii. Update on other highways matters

Mr Turpin raised the matter of the various speed limits on the A372 in particular the 50 mph at Catsgore where you turn off for Somerton.

Mr Shire said that the Police website show that the speed camera should be at Langport Road and near the School this week.

He also reported that the hedge at Crouds Lane has been cut back.

c. Environment – Nothing to report.

d. Footpaths

i. Hammocks Drove progress

The only obstacle remaining relates to the demonstration of ownership, as the route is not registered at the Land Registry. Notices are therefore to be placed on site informing anyone interested of the intention to dedicate the route and if no-one responds the dedication can go ahead.

ii. Other Footpaths

Mrs Elliott said that she has spoken with the Parishioner who has raised concerns regarding the footpath on Knole Hill.

She also reported that the owners had to come up with a proposed diversion by 28 January in respect of the blocked path through Orchard Farm at Knole. Mr Ruddle has paid a site visit. The path actually links with other paths. Mrs Elliott was asked to provide the number of the footpath concerned.,

13. Correspondence not previously distributed - None

14. Date of next meeting – Tuesday 5th March 2019. The Chairman, Councillor Richard Fell and District Councillor Mr Gerard Tucker gave apologies.

15. Any Other Business/Items for next meeting

The Chairman said that the matter of the loan regarding the solar panels would be discussed further at the start of the next financial year.

He also said that the new Clerk has a Pay As You Go phone and it has been agreed that LS will pay for this every other month with Huish paying the other.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm