

Minutes of Meeting of Long Sutton Parish Council
Held at the Hall on Tuesday 8th January 2019 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillors: Mr T Brand (Vice-Chairman in the Chair), Mr T P Shire, Mr C Dowse, Mr R Fell and Mr M Turpin and 2 members of the public.

Public Observations/Question Time: A Parishioner spoke in support of the planning applications regarding 19 and 20 Langport Road to be discussed at item 7 on the agenda.

1. Apologies for Absence: Councillors Mr G R Cox (Chairman), Mr G Stoddart-Stones, Mrs E Elliott and District Councillor Mr G Tucker.

2. Declarations of Interest: The Clerk/RFO said that she had granted Councillors a dispensation to discuss the Precept for 2019/20 at item 9 on the agenda.

3. Minutes of meeting held on 4th December 2018 - It was proposed Mr Shire seconded Mr Dowse and unanimously resolved that these should be signed by the Vice-Chairman as a correct record.

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

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

6. District Councillor's Report

The Vice-Chairman read to the PC the report received from Mr Tucker.

At Area North in December a few items were discussed including a request from Stoke-Sub-Hamdon PC for £11,500 towards an outdoor gym and adventure play area as a contribution towards a £117,000 project. Mr Tucker says that he mentions this as evidence of funding streams which can still be available, providing the project is required and has clear outcomes.

He confirms that the Boundary Commission recommendations have been agreed and that the small part of Turn Hill Ward which is included within Huish Episcopi will from May 2nd no longer be included.

He has not been asked for any input on planning applications within LS since the PC's last meeting.

He says that it is probable that the Community Office facility will be relocated within the Library in Langport.

He has organised a meeting of the Turn Hill Parish Councils for Wednesday 30th January at 7pm in Aller Village Hall and suggests that the invitation is extended beyond the Chair and Vice-Chair in anticipation that more Councillors would like to attend.

7. Planning:

Application No: 18/02543/HOU The creation of a new access driveway and off road parking/turning area to side/rear of dwelling. 19 Langport Road. Amended Plan/Additional Information.

Application No: 18/02925/FUL The formation of an access and driveway. 20 Langport Road. Amended Plan/Additional Information.

Following discussion, it was proposed the Vice-Chairman, seconded Mr Shire and unanimously resolved that the PC has no objection in respect of either of the above applications and indeed fully support these.

Update on other planning applications.

Regarding the application for the quarry at Batts Lane, a groundwater/contamination report was received. The Planning Officer has however been informed that the PC does not feel qualified to make a judgement on this technical report and its comments therefore stand as previously submitted.

8. Village Hall and Recreation Ground:

The Vice-Chairman and Mr Dowse confirmed they had attended the VHC meeting yesterday evening.

Another volunteer has joined the committee who is to deal with all the necessary risk assessments and a new Booking Clerk has also been found.

It was reported that finances are sound. A lot of money has been spent on improvements/repairs and the question of how much they should endeavour to retain as working capital was raised and this was agreed at £3,000 to £5,000.

There is a list of projects that the committee aspire to do which will be provided to Councillors when available, one of which is to erect a partition in the Hall.

The Vice-Chairman asked that the efforts of those members who have kept the VHC going be noted.

9. Finance:

Balances and Accounts for Payment

Unity Trust Account		36,202.79
Less Alcs agreed Dec meeting	757.45	
Pd out of meeting:		
31/12 Bank Service Charges	18.00	
Clerk's Salary (Dec) paid by SO	<u>300.00</u>	<u>1,075.45</u>
		<u>£35,127.34</u>

A/cs for payment

CW's Fee for Dec		636.00
Long Sutton PCC - Contribution to Church expenses	250.00	
Contribution towards cost of Newsletter	260.00	510.00
Timeback Accounts & Payroll		4.50
HMRC - Tax on Clerk's Salary		121.00
Mrs P Allen - Balance of salary due to Clerk for last quarter (£104.00 - 10p overpaid on stationery items last meeting)		103.90

Proposed Mr Shire seconded Mr Fell and unanimously resolved that the above accounts be paid

Budget/Precept 2019/20

The Vice-Chairman went through the Budget which had been prepared for 2019/20. The proposed match funding for the VH security of £1,000 agreed in the Budget for 2018/19 may possibly roll over until 2019/20. Following discussion, the Budget as prepared was accepted by the PC.

It was proposed by Mr Turpin, seconded Mr Shire and unanimously resolved that the Precept to be requested for 2019/20 should remain as for the present financial year, namely £18,520. This will be equivalent to a Band D charge of £46.67 for 2019/20 being a decrease in charge of £0.43 and -0.91% to the tax payer. This financial year a Central Government Grant of £50 was received whereas no grant is payable for 2019/20, hence the slight decrease in the Band D charge.

There was discussion regarding the amount that should be paid to reduce the Public Works Board Loan for the solar panels. It being suggested that the payment be made following receipt of the Precept in April. Those Councillors present were in favour of a 100% repayment but it was agreed that the matter should be put on the agenda for further discussion at the next meeting.

10. Community Warden Scheme

During December the CW has been carrying out drainage works also hedge trimming, clearing around road signs, footpath stiles and removing ivy from the wall on Martock Road and Peace Lane. He has also removed epicormic from the base of the Lime trees on the village green.

It was reported that there is a lot of moss on the tennis courts.

11. Representative Reports and any other matters regarding:

a. **Community Safety** – Nothing to report. It is understood that a member of the Police being able to attend a PC meeting is dependent on their shift pattern.

b. Highways:

i. **Traffic Calming – SID update from High Ham & Aller** – No update available due to the absence of our District Councillor and Councillor Mr Stoddart-Stones.

ii **Triangle at Shute Lane:** Mr Shire reported that he had received a quote from M&M of £1,602 inclusive of VAT to carry out work to the triangle. Another option which had been suggested is that the triangle should be removed.

It was agreed that Options for the Triangle, Shute Lane should be put on the next agenda for further discussion.

iii Update on other highways matters

Regarding parking at the end of Shute Lane, Mr Shire said it was possible Highways would be prepared to put a white line with keep clear. This matter was not however further discussed.

c. **Environment:** Nothing to report.

d. Footpaths

Mr Turpin said that he had not as yet heard further from Mr Saint of SCC regarding the footpath at Hammocks Drove.

He also said he has provided by email the link to SCC's website in order to report matters regarding footpaths.

12. Correspondence not previously distributed

A complaint has been received from a Parishioner expressing concerns regarding the metal barrier surrounding the unfinished building on land opposite her home in Crouds Lane.

The landowner has said that repairs to the fencing panel concerned have been carried out this morning.

The PC decided that no action should therefore be taken at this time and the Vice-Chairman will speak to the Parishioner who made the complaint.

In view of the County Council's decision to close Somerton's Library, the Somerton Library Trust has been set up and will operate as a Charity. It will run the Library from 1st April 2019 and will employ a qualified librarian who will be assisted by volunteers.

It is asked if the PC would be able to consider making a grant toward this valuable service. It was agreed that this should be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

13. Date of next meeting – Tuesday 5th February at 7pm

14. Any Other Business/Items for next meeting

Civil Contingencies Plan is to be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

15. In Committee: Recruitment of Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer

The Clerk was not present during discussion of this item.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm