

Minutes of Meeting of Long Sutton Parish Council
Held at the School on Tuesday 1st March 2016 at 7.30 pm

Present: Councillors, Mr R W Fry (Chairman) Mr T P Shire, Mr P A F Godfrey, Mr J Foy, Mr D R C Agnew, Mr J A Ellerbeck and Mr M Turpin. County Councillor Mr D Ruddle, District Councillor Mr S Pledger and 46 members of the public.

Public Observations/Question Time: There were no other matters other than those to be raised at item 6 on the agenda – Nomination of Assets of Community Value.

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Mr G Farenden and Mr N E Pomeroy

The Chairman informed the public of the exits from the building and that the meeting was being recorded.

1. Declarations of Interest

Mr Ellerbeck declared a personal interest in Planning Application 16/00431/FUL to be discussed at item 7 on the agenda.

2. Minutes of meetings held on 2nd and 9th February 2016 (previously circulated). It was proposed Mr Shire, seconded Mr Ellerbeck and unanimously agreed that the minutes should be signed by the Chairman as a true record.

3. Matters Arising – There were no matters arising.

4. County Councillor's Report

Mr Ruddle reported that there is a new website and telephone number for reporting pot holes.

He said that the County Council budget has been set but there is a big deficit He also mentioned the topic of devolution.

At the Area North Meeting last Wednesday the Affordable Housing Officer for South Somerset was present and he and District Councillor Pledger raised the matter of the sale of the affordable house on Langport Road which they do not feel should have been sold when more affordable housing is required.

5. District Councillor's Report

Mr Pledger reported that he had attended a meeting regarding Aller Solar Farm at which a lot of local people were present and also one regarding looking at ways of saving and making money for South Somerset.

He said that there were six planning applications at Area North last month and a grant of £10,000 was made to Chilthorne Domer for toilets and an extension on their Village Hall. He also said that the District Council still has some money available for grants.

6. Nomination of Assets of Community Value

Approximately 75 representations have been received from members of the public requesting that the PC nominate the village shop as an asset of community value.

The Chairman suspended the meeting and opened the floor to members of the public.

Mr Rupert Cox put the case for the nomination of the shop as a community asset on behalf of the public and this was responded to by Mr Nicholas Gould.

The PC then went into meeting and Councillors gave their views regarding the matter.

Councillors were in agreement that the shop was an asset of community value and that it was essential that it be kept open. It was also felt that there were other assets of community value within the Parish. It was however agreed that this was something for discussion at a later date.

Mr Ellerbeck reminded Councillors that one of the key issues from a survey carried out in 2007/8 in connection with the LS Parish Plan was supporting the Village Shop and Post Office. The actions of the Council then, were that it would ensure that its policies and actions support the continued provision of the shop as a vital community asset.

Mr Ellerbeck said that the shop cannot exist without a full infrastructure supporting it. It needs its storage rooms, accommodation etc in order to make it attractive to future owners.

It was confirmed that registering the shop does not safeguard the future of the shop but it does help safeguard the shop as a shop. The question was raised as to how to make the shop a viable business and what the village want the shop to be. It was not sure however where the PC fits into drawing the business and the community together but was felt it was something for the business and the community to get together and discuss.

The Chairman stressed that the question before the PC was if it would nominate the shop as a community asset.

Mr Ellerbeck moved that the PC registers the building containing Long Sutton Shop as a community asset. This was seconded by the Chairman and unanimously resolved.

Mr Ellerbeck then ran through completion of the appropriate nomination form.

7. Planning

Applications for consideration:

Application No: 16/00431/FUL Erection of rural workers dwelling. Land OS 0097 Part Longmarsh Lane Upton.

It was proposed, seconded and unanimously resolved that the PC has no objection to the application.

Application No: 15/00482/FUL Erection of a two storey side extension and raising of eaves level at rear of dwellinghouse. 1 Rowley Cottages, Hermitage Road, Upton.

It was proposed, seconded and unanimously resolved that the PC has no objection to the application.

Application No: 16/00068/FUL Replacement of four fixed pane windows with aluminium opening casements. Old Stables Cottage, Knole. (Amended Plans).

It was proposed, seconded and unanimously resolved that the PC has no objection to the proposed amendments.

Application No: 16/00091/FUL Proposed single storey courtyard infill extension. Lower Mondays, Mondays Court Lane. Permission granted by SSDC

Application No: 15/05733/CPO Deposit of inert waste materials for restoration of former quarry land to agricultural and formation of access track. Downslade Quarry, Downslade Lane. SSDC have raised no objections.

8. Parish Foul Drainage Arrangements

Correspondence has taken place with Wessex Water. They have given details of their availability. As no satisfactory result is being achieved it was agreed that Mr Ellerbeck and Mr Godfrey would speak with Wessex Water and try and arrange their attendance at a public meeting.

9. Village Hall and Recreation Ground:

9.1 Cricket Club Project Funding

The Chairman said that the Cricket Club are desperate to hear from the VHC regarding a Lease which has been drafted for their attention as they cannot source funding without the Lease. They are looking for a 15 year Lease.

Mr Ellerbeck said that he agreed at the last meeting to sit on the VHC but has not as yet been informed of a meeting. The Clerk said she understood that the last VHC meeting was cancelled. It is understood that the Treasurer of the VHC has answered some of the questions raised by the Cricket Club and it was therefore felt that he would be the best person to contact.

9.2 Single Fire Door, rear of stage: No information is available.

9.3 Any other Village Hall Matters

Mr Godfrey reported that he was approached by Mrs Pringle regarding permission for a helicopter to land on the recreation field to collect someone who was staying at the Devonshire Arms. He said that he replied that he felt it was a VH matter as they are responsible for the field but the area should be kept free of people for safety reasons. It was enquired as to what the fee would be for this and as the VH are a charity it was said that any donation would be gratefully received. A few days later a cheque for £1.000 was received by the Treasurer of the VH.

Mr Ellerbeck said that he felt that the surplus money from the solar panel project which is in the PC's Bank account should be returned to reduce the amount of borrowing. It is understood that some of this money was earmarked for upgrading of the hall windows. It was felt however that this should still leave an excess sum. Mr Ellerbeck therefore proposed in principle that the excess money from the loan is returned as soon as practical. This proposal was seconded by Mr Agnew and passed by a majority.

It was felt that the PC required more up to date positive information.

The Chairman agreed to contact the Treasurer of the VH to find out what progress has been made regarding up to date quotations for the hall windows.

10. Finance:

10.1 Balances and Accounts for Payment

Business Reserve A/c	18,173.27
Add Interest 29 Jan	<u>0.72</u>
	<u>£18173.99</u>
Current A/c	11,425.53
Less Payments Feb	<u>809.82</u>
	10,615.71
Add Allotment rents	<u>180.00</u>
	<u>£10,795.71</u>

Lengthsman A/c	9,173.15
Less Pd Feb meeting	<u>1,670.25</u>
	<u>£7,502.90</u>

A/cs for payment:

Mr P Godfrey - Web hosting fee	50.40
Clerk's Salary	300.00
Mrs P Allen - Printer Cartridges	49.73
To reimburse postage & telephone & keep a small float	137.00
Transfer to Lengthsman A/c materials purchased for LS	245.06
Transfer from Lengthsman A/c Internal Audit Fee	30.00

Lengthsman A/C:	
CW's fee for February	1,702.64
Chipper hire - LS	20.00
Chipper hire - Hall	40.00
Chipper hire - Huish	30.00
Materials - Aller	<u>6.00</u>
	1,798.64

It was proposed Mr Ellerbeck, seconded Mr Agnew and agreed by a majority, Mr Godfrey abstaining, that the accounts be paid and transfers made.

10.2 Financial Regulations

In order to make BACS payments it would be necessary to do online banking. Mr Ellerbeck said that he felt this was the way forward and this will therefore be put on the agenda for the next meeting. It will however be necessary to review the PC's Financial Regulations to make sure that adequate internal controls are in place.

11. Allotment/FBT Agreements and Rents

The Tenants have been advised of the up to date position. Mr Ellerbeck reported that he has put a notice in the Newsletter and Roundabout to ascertain the interest regarding allotments. When this is known the matter can be taken forward.

12. Community Warden Scheme

Mr Ellerbeck reported that Pitney have withdrawn from the Community Warden Scheme and their hours will be taken up by High Ham. The draft contract which he has prepared has been passed through SSDC's Legal Department and they have no problems with it. This contract can therefore be utilised by the other Parishes. It has been queried by the CW that the contract does not provide for an increase in salary. He will be receiving considerable benefits from the DC in the form of the servicing and replacement of his equipment, the servicing of his van and all his clothing and training etc and it was unanimously agreed that this is equivalent of a pay rise.

13. Members Code of Conduct

The updating the Code of Conduct has not yet taken place.

14. Parish Website

The attempt to set up a direct debit for the web hosting fees failed. Mr Godfrey has paid from his own funds to keep continuity of the hosting contract. He has submitted an invoice to the Clerk.

The training schedule for last month had to be postponed and will now take place tomorrow morning.

The Freedom of Information Policy has still to be put on the website.

15. Neighbourhood Watch/Community Safety/Civil Contingencies

The latest edition of the Parish Emergency Plan has been received from Mr Gould and distributed to Councillors. Mr Godfrey will query whether there is any other paper work to be handed over.

First Aid Courses and Defibrillators: Mr Ellerbeck reported that he now has 13 volunteers for the First Aid Course and some have indicated that they are willing to pay the £10 for their registration and certification lasting 3 years. The course is free. He is in contact with various organisations to see if a free defibrillator can be obtained. SW Ambulance have said they will register it with them if we obtain one. Mr Shire asked if some more Neighbourhood Watch signs could be obtained.

16. Representative Reports and any other matters regarding:

16.1 Highways:

Mr Foy updated the PC on various highway matters to include the ditch adjoining Crouds Farm, parking in Shute Lane and the hedge at Crouds Farm.

Missing finger post Hardings Hill: SCC are looking to see if this is in their yard. Finger posts are no longer dealt with by Highways and they have passed responsibility for these to the Parish Councils.

Due to other pressures the funding for the work on the Village Green, to have taken place in this financial year, has been taken away. It is understood this will not now take place until around August.

Flooding on Langport Road: The gulleys are not due to be cleaned until the next financial year. This takes place on a two yearly cycle.

16.2 Footpaths: Nothing to report.

16.3 Environment: Nothing to report.

17. Correspondence:

SSDC are trying to promote their garden waste collections.

A sample of a coin to commemorate the Queen's 90th birthday has been received. It is understood from the Newsletter that the WI and all the other village organisations are to hold a picnic on the Village Green on Saturday 11th June to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday.

18. Date of next meeting - 5th April 2016.

19. Any Other Business/Items for next meeting

Assets of community value and online banking will be put on the next agenda.

The meeting closed at 9.50 pm