

**Minutes of Meeting of Long Sutton Parish Council**  
**Held at the Hall on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2016 at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Councillors: Mr J A Ellerbeck, Mr P A F Godfrey, Mr G Farenden, Mr T P Shire, Mr J Foy, Mr M Turpin and Mr D R C Agnew. County Councillor Mr D Ruddle, 2 PCSOs and 4 members of the public.

**Apologies for Absence:** There were no apologies for absence.

Chairman, Mr Fry not having arrived, the Chair was taken by Vice-Chair, Mr Ellerbeck.

**Public Observations/Question Time:**

PCSO Keira Stewart, attending on behalf of Ben Middleditch said that there was nothing in particular to report for Long Sutton/the Langport area.

The matter of speeding in the Parish in the early hours of the morning was raised. The PCSO said there were Speed Enforcement Officers based at Somerton and she would pass this information on.

Mr Ellerbeck said that parking on the pavement on a dangerous bend at Langport Road was still continuing to take place and was a matter of great concern. He understood from a meeting he had attended last night that the procedure was to have a word with the vehicle owner to give them the opportunity to move the vehicle but failing this, ticketing and then removal of the vehicle. The PCSO said that she had spoken to Ben Middleditch regarding this matter and would do so again and also speak to the Beat Manager.

Mr Foy confirmed that he had been told that if anyone sees a vehicle parked in this way they should ring 101 and report it. A warning will then be given, followed by ticketing and possible towing away.

Mr Ellerbeck thanked the PCSOs for attending the meeting.

**1. Casual Vacancy**

It was agreed that as one of the applicants was not available to attend this or the last meeting, he should not on this occasion be taken into consideration. The Clerk reported that another applicant, who, although interested in the vacancy, had felt it fair to withdraw his application as he felt that business commitments may clash with council meetings. Mrs Helen Ibbotson, the other applicant, who was present at the meeting was invited to introduce herself and she informed the Council of the reasons for her interest in becoming a Parish Councillor.

It was proposed Mr Farenden, seconded Mr Godfrey and unanimously resolved that Mrs Ibbotson should be co-opted onto the Council.

A Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed by her.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. Minutes of meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2016** – It was proposed Mr Godfrey, seconded Mr Shire and agreed that these should be signed as a true record.

**4. Matters Arising**

**Fireworks Event:** This will not be proceeding this year due to insufficient volunteers to cover the event.

**Village Hall:** Mr Godfrey confirmed that the sound system is now fully operational.

Mr Agnew left the meeting at 7.50 pm.

## **5. County Councillor's Report**

Mr Ruddle reported regarding the Government consultation on Precept capping. He said that this would not affect the PC but would affect larger Councils. He did however advise that it would be a good idea to respond.

He said that spending will be over budget and money is tight.

The contract with South West One will come to an end on 1<sup>st</sup> November.

The County Council is moving back to 'A' Block which is where the Reception will be.

They are looking at new Highway Contractors.

District Councillor Pledger having now resigned, he reported that there is a lot of restructuring going on within the District Council. There will be a by-election regarding the vacancy if anyone wishes to put their name forward.

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Chairman Mr Fry having now arrived (7.55pm), Mr Ellerbeck handed over the Chair to him.

## **6. District Councillor's Report** -

### **7. Planning**

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

**Application No: 16/03768/S73A Section 73 application to vary condition 3 of approval application 13/03053/FUL relating to extending the length of planning permission to 2050. Land North of Tengore Lane.**

Mr Jenkison on behalf of the applicants and also a Parishioner who was concerned regarding the application were both invited to address the PC.

The PC then went back into meeting.

Mr Godfrey outlined the background of the application and gave details of the objections on the DC's website.

Following extensive discussion, it was proposed, seconded and resolved by a majority (Voting: 6 for 2 against) that in view of the recency of the approval, after appeal, this Council does not support this planning application for an extension to 2050. The PC is not able to predict the future use of the land.

Application No: 16/03725/S73A Section 73a application to vary condition 2 of planning approval 15/05701/FUL. Spring Villa, New Street. Permission granted by SSSC.

Mr Godfrey also informed the PC of other applications on the DC's website which have been granted.

#### **7.2 Parish Development**

Mr Ellerbeck said that the Parish Plan is an excellent document but desperately needs updating. Mr Foy and Mr Shire agreed to assist him with this. A village meeting was provisionally agreed for the 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

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

### **8.1 Gate at Children's Play Area**

Mr Farenden outlined the situation regarding the gate at the Children’s Play Area. He said that he had spoken with the Chair and it was decided to talk to the Officer who had inspected the Play Area. They had an inspection report and risk assessment of the area. He had therefore spoken to The Senior Play & Youth Facilities Officer at the DC who had carried out the inspection and had been given three alternatives. Having further spoken with the Chair it was decided to remove the gate.

It is understood from the Officer however that there are several of these gates still in use with no problems.

There is a notice at the Play Area which states that children must be supervised at all times.

The parents of the two children who had sustained an injury have been informed that the gate has been removed permanently.

**8.2 Village Hall Maintenance/Other Matters**

Mr Farenden, the Chairman of the VHC reported that Martin Hawkins is the Treasurer, Anona Hawkins is the Booking Clerk and Carole Wooding is the Secretary.

He said that they are going to review all processes, prices etc in order to try and make the VH manage its own affairs financially.

Mr Farenden also reported that they are short of signatories and he requested that the Treasurer of the VHC, Mr Hawkins, should become a signatory. Following discussion, it was agreed that this needs to be looked into to ascertain whether it is constitutionally acceptable. It was also agreed that any signatory to the account who is no longer a Parish Councillor should be removed from the Bank’s mandate. Mr Farenden will speak to the Treasurer of the VHC to find out the present signatories to the account.

**9. Finance:**

Unity Trust Bank A/C		46634.81
<b>Less</b> Clerk’s Salary agreed for payment last meeting	600.00	
Langport Glass Company - Windows at VH agreed for payment out of meeting	1117.12	
Bank service charges	<u>18.00</u>	<u>1735.12</u>
		<b><u>44899.69</u></b>

**A/Cs for Payment**

Clerk’s Salary	300.00
HMRC Tax on Clerk’s salary payable quarterly	225.00
CW’s account (Sept) to include Weed killer 19.50 and Moss killer for VH £51.98	631.60
Mrs P Allen – Stationery items 13.47 & Printer cartridges 92.41	105.88

The Clerk reported that the Standing Order in respect of her salary had not as yet been set up. This, together with the direct debit in respect of the loan for the solar panels for the VH and the second feed in tariff payment is to be looked into further.

It was proposed Mr Godfrey, seconded Mr Farenden and unanimously resolved that the accounts be paid.

Consultation on Precept Capping: These proposals were felt to be inappropriate for a PC the size of LS.

Huish Episcopi are looking to raise £20,000 from the local community towards their Swimming Pool Development. It was however felt that there are already various fund raising projects in progress around the area.

The Clerk reported that the external audit for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 has now been completed with no adverse comments from the auditors.

#### **10. Allotments/Farm Business Tenancies**

A sixth person interested in an allotment is required before the process is put into action. Mr Ellerbeck reported that he had spoken to two of the tenants with Farm Business Tenancies and will speak to the other one. He will also contact all the Allotment Tenants.

#### **11. Community Warden Scheme**

Last month the CW continued with the vegetation management in LS and carried out some spraying of the weeds on the pavements and kerbs. Moss killer was purchased to apply to the tennis courts which will be carried out when there are favourable weather conditions. He has also carried out some dead wooding to the ash trees on Martock Road.

It was felt that he is getting close to his allocation of hours for the VH.

#### **12. Parish Website**

Mr Godfrey reported that the website is ongoing. The notice regarding the closure of the audit and the accounts have been uploaded at the Clerk's request.

#### **13 Neighbourhood Watch/Community Safety/Civil Contingencies**

Mr Ellerbeck reported on the meeting he had attended at the Edgar Hall, Somerton yesterday evening at which the Asst. Chief Constable was present.

Among matters raised was educating Parishioners on scams around at the moment. There was also a representative from the Fire Brigade present requesting information for their data base regarding elderly or frail members of the community. There was discussion as to whether this was something the PC can do or the Village Agent. It was however decided that Parishioners should be made aware of this via The Roundabout in order to give them the opportunity to pass on information themselves if they wish.

Mr Ellerbeck also reported that there has been lots of sheep rustling and thefts of Land Rovers around the area.

Mr Farenden agreed to find out the position with regard to the defibrillator which had been proposed for the Village Shop.

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

##### **14.1 Highways: Update on outstanding matters.**

Mr Foy reminded Councillors about reporting any cars parked on the pavement. He said that he has emailed Chris Weeks of Highways for a meeting regarding the lower end of the Village Green but has not yet received a response. He has also chased Dave Grabham of SCC regarding a speed indicator pole for Langport Road.

##### **14.2 Footpaths**

Mr Sheppard, the PPLO, is to be informed of the condition of the stile by the Golf Course and also others on the south side.

##### **14.3 Environment**

Mr Shire reported that the new notice boards for Upton and Road, which are taking longer than anticipated, will hopefully be ready in the next couple of weeks.

The condition of LS Farm Cottage at Martock Road, owned by the Church Commissioners, is giving rise to great concern. Mr Ellerbeck agreed to contact the Church Commissioners regarding this.

**15. Correspondence**

Spark: Invitation to Let's End Loneliness in South Somerset Event on Mon 10 October 9.30am to 1pm at Haselbury Mill.

Somerset Community Justice Partnership: Request for volunteers and donations.

**16. Date of next meeting** - 1<sup>st</sup> November 2016

**17. Any Other Business/Items for next meeting**

Mr Godfrey reminded the Council of the Big Breakfast at the Village Hall on the 9<sup>th</sup> October and the FOLSC last event of the year on 16<sup>th</sup> October.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm