

Minutes of Meeting of Long Sutton Parish Council
Held at the Hall on Tuesday 13th September 2016 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors: Mr R W Fry (Chairman) Mr J A Ellerbeck, Mr P A F Godfrey, Mr G Farenden, Mr T P Shire, Mr J Foy and Mr M Turpin. 7 members of the public.

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Mr D R C Agnew, County Councillor Mr D Ruddle and District Councillor Mr S Pledger.

Public Observations/Question Time:

Mr James Jenkison, Principal Planner with Foresight Group who have taken over responsibility for the solar panels at Tengore Lane addressed the PC regarding their Planning Application to vary condition 3 to extend the previous planning approval to 2050. He said that they are not seeking to change the design or size of the solar farm but simply providing the solar farm to operate for a longer period of time than is stipulated in the condition and at the same time strengthen the clauses to remove the solar farm whenever it ceases to operate and restore the farmland so it can be used for farming. He answered questions raised by the PC, one of which related to whether the payment of the community benefit would therefore be extended for a longer period than the 10 years originally agreed. He said that he would speak to the directors regarding this and get back to the PC.

The Planning Application has just been received and this will therefore be put on the agenda for discussion at the next PC meeting.

The Council then went into meeting

1. Casual Vacancy

Three applications have been received regarding the vacancy but only one applicant was able to be present at the meeting. It was therefore proposed by the Chairman, seconded Mr Ellerbeck and unanimously resolved that a decision regarding the vacancy be delayed until the next meeting when it is hoped that all applicants will be present.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of meeting held on 5th July 2016 (previously circulated) were unanimously approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters Arising:

Parking on the pavement at Langport Road: Concern was expressed that this is still taking place despite it having been reported to the PCSO who attended the previous meeting. This is on a bend in the road which makes it particularly dangerous, as oncoming traffic is forced onto the wrong side of the road and cannot be seen by approaching traffic until too late. It is also dangerous to pedestrians as it prevents them from being able to use the pavement. It was therefore felt that the PC should take the matter further. Mr Foy agreed to contact the Police regarding this.

Land adjoining Farrington House: Nothing further has been received from the Solicitors for the owners of Farrington House.

Notice Boards: Mr Shire said that he understands these are nearly finished.

5. County Councillor's Report - Mr Ruddle was unable to be present as he had another meeting to attend.

6. District Councillor's Report - Mr Pledger was unable to be present.

7. Planning

Application No: 16/03601/CPO Retention of hardstanding for storage of timber. Land adjacent to Downslade Quarry, Downslade Lane, Upton.
This application has now been withdrawn by the applicant.

Application No: 16/03391/FUL Creation of new access to the rear of Little Upton Bridge Farm, Langport Road.

Objections have been raised by two Parishioners regarding the application, one of the Parishioners who was present was invited to address the PC, as were the applicants. Following discussion, it was proposed, seconded and unanimously resolved that the PC cannot support the application until the requirements suggested by SSDC's Highways Consultant are carried out and forwarded

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

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

Notification has been received of Application No: 16/03535/S73. Application to allow variation to Conditions 02 (substitution of plans) (ground floor levels) and 20 (parking and turning area) of approval 16/01819/FUL Land OS 3769 Badgers Cross Lane, Somerton. SSDC are to be informed that LSPC have no observations.

Permissions granted by SSDC:-

Application No: 16/02342/LBC Demolish chimney, repointing of south east gable and repairs to front porch. Thatchover, Knole.

Application No: 15/05701/FUL Conversion of outbuilding for use as an annexe. Spring Villa, New Street.

Application No: 16/02405/FUL Proposed two storey side extension, erection of front porch, replacement roof and internal alterations. Lyncroft, Back Street.

Application No: 16/02881/FUL Change of use of land and erection of storage building, composting toilet and permeable hard standing. Land OS 4300 Downslade Lane.

Application to vary conditions 2 (approved plans) and 4 (surface materials) of approval 13/04297/FUL, with substitution of proposed site plan to allow the exclusion of a turning circle. Burrow Hill View, Martock Road.

In respect of Application No: 16/02817/TEA Upgrade of the existing base station site comprising replacement of the 12m 'telegraph pole' structure with a 15m high monopole with shrouded antenna section and supporting 1 relocated and 1 new 300mm dish on a new base, replacement of 2 equipment cabinets, removal of 1 cabinet, alteration of 1 cabinet and development ancillary thereto within establish compound at Downslade Quarry, Hermitage Road, Upton; SSDC has decided that prior approval is not required. They have however said that in the interest of mitigating the visual impact, the proposed monopole should be finished in a matte grey colour.

8. Village Hall and Recreation Ground:

8.1 VHC Election of Chairman and confirmation of PC representatives: These were confirmed as Mr Farenden, Mr Turpin and Mr Ellerbeck who agreed to continue for a further month.

Mr Ellerbeck outlined the background relating to the Village Hall and Recreation Ground Committee. He said that he felt the VHC should be responsible for the day to day running, consulting with the PC where necessary.

Only one person came forward following the request in the Newsletter for volunteers to join the VHC and she has agreed to act as the secretary.

The Chairman said that he felt that in the absence of a Chairman, one of the PC representatives should undertake this role. Mr Farenden therefore volunteered to act as Chairman of the VHC for 12 months.

8.2 Request to finance Dog Waste Bin at the recreation field the costs of which are expected to be in the region of £125 plus £50 to fit:

It was strongly felt that the VH should budget and be responsible for managing its own finances, the PC already contributing £2,000 a year towards the running costs. Following discussion however, it was proposed Mr Ellerbeck, seconded Mr Farenden and unanimously resolved that subject to appropriate arrangements being made for the regular emptying of the bin, the PC will pay half the costs.

8.3 Village Hall Maintenance/Other Matters: No further matters were raised.

9. Finance:

9.1 Balances and accounts for payment

The Clerk gave details of all financial transactions since the last meeting

NatWest Business Reserve A/C		£18175.53
Add Interest 29 Apr	0.72	
31 May	0.80	
30 June	0.75	
Interest to close	<u>0.32</u>	2.59
Closing balance transferred to Current A/C		<u>18178.12</u>
NatWest Lengthsman A/C		4907.61
Add Village Hall – Reimbursement for materials		<u>40.00</u>
Closing balance transferred to Current A/C		<u>4947.61</u>
Nat West Current A/C		26473.96
Less Pd Unity Trust to open account	500.00	
Transferred to Unity Trust - working capital	10000.00	
Pd CW's account for June	<u>665.92</u>	11165.92
Closing balance		15308.04
Add Closing balance Business Reserve A/C		18178.12
Closing balance Lengthsman A/C		<u>4947.61</u>
Closing balance transferred to Unity Trust A/C		<u>38433.77</u>
<u>Unity Trust A/C opened 22.06.16</u>		
Credited 5 July to open Account		500.00
Credited 8 July - working capital		10000.00
Credited 13 July - Closing balance of NatWest Accounts		<u>38433.77</u>
		48933.77
Less A/Cs pd July		
HMRC Tax on Clerk's Salary	249.80	
Clerk's Salary for June	300.00	

*D. Pearce-Walls balance due Re Fire door at VH	330.00	
*Cosmic annual support fee	144.00	
*CW's account for July inc of weedkiller	19.50	
& mower cables	59.00	
	<u>619.53</u>	<u>1643.33</u>
		47290.44
* Less CW's account for August inc of weedkiller	19.50	
& chipper hire for VH	20.00	
		<u>655.63</u>
		<u>46634.81</u>
*A/cs agreed for payment out of meeting		

A/cs for payment

Clerk's salary for July and August 600.00
 It was proposed Mr Ellerbeck, seconded the Chairman and unanimously agreed that this be paid.

Authorisation was unanimously given for the CW's account to be paid out of meeting when this is necessary.

It was proposed Mr Godfrey, seconded Mr Ellerbeck that the Clerk's salary be set up as a standing order.

The balance that was held in the Lengthsman's account is to be divided up between the Parishes in the scheme.

Advice is to be taken as to the liability for a Parish to pay a Pension for a Clerk.

9.2 Financial Regulations

Mr Ellerbeck said that he had agreed to look at these because they are way out of date but does not have time in the near future. He therefore proposed that the PC continue with the existing arrangements for the time being as there is no breach of any regulations. This proposal was seconded by Mr Godfrey and unanimously agreed.

10. Allotments/Farm Business Tenancies

At the present time there have only been 5 expressions of interest and it is not therefore necessary to do anything until there are 6.

It is necessary for the agreements with the present Tenants to be updated and Mr Ellerbeck said that he would try and meet with those involved. He proposed that the agreements should be drawn up professionally with the costs being split between the PC and the Tenant.

He has spoken with the two tenants of the Dock Hill Land and told them that it may be necessary to use some of that land for allotments.

11. Community Warden Scheme

Mr Ellerbeck reported that the CW has been generally managing vegetation and spraying. Enquiry is to be made as to how many hours he has been spending on work for the Village Hall.

An email had been received requesting that the CW cut a footpath at Knole. The onus is however on the landowner to keep the footpath clear.

12. Parish Website

Mr Godfrey reported that the website is continuing to operate. He requested Councillors to send him an email if there are any specific pages or items which require updating.

He requested Councillors to use the email clerk@longsutton.org.uk and not the Clerk's private one.

13. Neighbourhood Watch/Community Safety/Civil Contingencies

There have been 136 investigated crimes in Area North for August and 23 arrests.

Details have been forwarded of a Watch Scheme Meeting to be held at Somerton on 3rd October. Mr Ellerbeck said that he would attend and will respond accordingly.

Mr Turpin requested that he be added to the contact list for defibrillators as a First Responder.

Mr Ellerbeck reported that there have been a spate of Farm Watch notices; sheep thefts and also cars with keys left in them have had the keys taken but not the car. There has also been a van driving round with bomber signs on the side of it, in suspicious circumstances.

14. Representative Reports and any other matters regarding:

14.1 Highways: Update on all outstanding matters.

Mr Foy said he is waiting to hear further from Dave Grabham of SCC regarding the temporary SID at Langport Road. He will chase him regarding this.

There was discussion regarding the work which was to be undertaken by SCC at the lower end of the Green. It was thought that funding is possibly no longer available for this. Mr Foy will arrange a meeting with Chris Weeks of Highways to ascertain the up to date position and the options available.

Mr Foy reported that he had been sent a copy of an email from a Parishioner requesting the Council to contact SSDC to complain about the noise emanating from car and motor bike racing every two weeks at Brierley Farm between Knole and the A303. Mr Foy will investigate.

14.2 Footpaths

Mr Turpin said that there had been a race across some of the footpaths from Ash last weekend and he had spoken to one of the organisers who had said that some of the signs were looking a bit poorly. He will take a look and make an assessment.

14.3 Environment

Mr Shire said that he had attended an environment meeting in Yeovil back in January but had heard nothing since. On making enquiry regarding this he was told that there was not a lot going on at the moment.

15. Correspondence :

Shared ownership property for sale at Knightlands Lane. An email has been received from Rural Housing Trust Limited. This is an opportunity for a local person to buy a shared ownership home. A poster has been put on the notice board and the website.

Citizens Advice are re-launching their Drop in information service in Somerton in the meeting rooms at the rear of the Church in West Street every Tuesday from 10.00am until 12 noon.

The AGM of SALC is on Saturday 17th September at 11.45 am at the Edgar Hall, Somerton.

A Parishioner at Upton wanted to plant wild flowers on the verge. Permission was given for this. She had previously consulted with Chris Weeks of SCC Highways.

The matter of the email regarding the Neighbourhood Planning Bill was raised. It was decided some while ago that a Neighbourhood Plan was not for Long Sutton. However, Mr Ellerbeck said that the Parish Plan had proved a useful tool on many occasions. It was agreed that it might be a good idea to investigate a Development Plan as an addition to the Parish Plan or as a separate document and that this matter should therefore be kept on the agenda.

16. Date of next meeting - 4th October 2016

17. Any Other Business/Items for next meeting

The matter of the gate at the Children's Play Area which has caused injury to children was discussed. This gate has been looked at by Councillors. It was suggested that a straightforward self-engaging latch might be appropriate.

Mr Godfrey asked if the PC wished him to respond to the email which had been received regarding this matter or whether an official reply should be sent. It was agreed that the Clerk should reply confirming that measures to improve the situation regarding the gate will be taken.

It was reported that the Planning Application in respect of LS House was granted at the Area North Meeting. A condition is to be imposed that the development can only be used for bona fide holiday accommodation. There are still one or two outstanding matters to be finalised.

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm