

Minutes of Meeting of Long Sutton Parish Council Meeting
Held at the Hall on Tuesday 2 July 2019 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillors: Mr T Brand (Chairman), Mr G R Cox (Vice Chairman) Mr R Fell, Mr N Rousell, Mr C Dowse, Mr G Stoddard-Stones

2 members of the public.

County Councillor Mr D Ruddle

District Councillor Mr G Tucker

Public Observations/Question Time:

No questions. Thank you to Cllr Ruddle from member of the public for contribution at the Somerset County Council referral committee regarding the planning application for reopening the Batts Lane Quarry.

Meeting opened at 7:01 pm

1. To receive apologies for absence:

Cllr Turpin submitted apologies due to family illness. It was resolved to receive and approve apologies for absence.

2. Declarations of interest: None

3. Minutes of meeting held on 4 June 2019:

It was resolved that the minutes are a true record of the meeting held on 4 June 2019 and duly signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising from the minutes:

Hammock Drove. Cllr Turpin is awaiting responses to his communications and will chase accordingly. The new gate (as previously discussed) has been ordered.

5. County Councillor's Report:

Cllr Ruddle updated the PC regarding waste collections and from April 2020, waste collections will be every three weeks. Recycling kerb side collections will increase to include plastic containers (currently only available at recycling centres).

From September, a Health and Wellbeing grant will be reinstated. Further details from Cllr Ruddle.

Cllr Ruddle also spoke on behalf of Cllr Tucker (away from office) at District regarding a grant application from the Village Hall & Recreational Ground Committee (VH&RCG) for CCTV. This application will be heard at the next Committee meeting.

6. District Councillor's Report

Cllr Tucker gave a verbal report: No planning applications for Turn Hill or Long Sutton heard at Area North. Planning application for Long Sutton Farmhouse – proposals detailed by Cllr Tucker at the last council meeting were subject to the applicant's agreement, which was not given and will now be called into committee to be considered, in July. Seven were proposed, not counting the enforcement of the wall replacement which will not commence as there is a container to be removed. Applicant disagreed therefore application will go to District. Possible conditions to be applied regarding materials, location of proposed structure and height.

Martock road planning application, no progress to date.

The District Executive committee reported £500,000 pledged this year and £250,000 next year to support the transformation programme, which will address two specific areas. Planning processing speed is slipping, as is the planning outcome performance figures which means that the planning team needs strengthening. Call response times, currently 38% of all incoming calls are abandoned, with an average answering time of four and a half minutes, also needs addressing.

12 July 2019 (Great Bow Wharf Langport, 4pm until 7pm) there is a review of the South Somerset District Council (SSDC) Local Plan. Cllr Tucker encouraged attendance and comments to SSDC, with particular attention to addressing the shortage of employment sites.

Scrutiny committee undertaking two reviews: The council tax relief grant and climate emergency response- where does it fit in? Cllr Tucker welcomes responses from parish councils.

Cllr Tucker has received an update regarding concerns raised about Long Sutton House and building used for accommodation without permission. SSDC planning visited and found no evidence of this but have established a breach of planning regarding non agricultural item storage. No lawful change of use case can be made. There should be a response received by the parish council in due course.

Cllr Tucker also confirmed that the grant application by the VH&RGC will be considered by Area North committee on 24 July.

7. Casual Vacancy:

The clerk confirmed that there has been no request at SSDC for an election to fill the two vacancies that have been advertised. The parish council can now go ahead and try to fill the vacancies, and it was noted that a gender balance would be advantageous.

8 Planning Applications

8.1 New application 19/01770/PIP Land adj to 2 Stephens Cottage, Shute Lane, TA10 9LX, erection of minimum of one dwelling and a maximum of two dwellings.

This application was received 27 June, after agenda published. It was resolved to discuss at this meeting. Cllr Cox gave some background to the application: In 1990 garage erected, and subsequent outline permission for garage and a dwelling was refused and dismissed at appeal. In 2000 there was an application permitted with conditions. The previous refusal was due to very poor access on the main road.

It was resolved to refuse on principle. There is no evidence from Highways that access to the entire site is safe, as demonstrated back in 1990. Currently there is insufficient detail/evidence with the application to support it, which means there is insufficient detail/evidence to make a decision.

8.2 Updates on existing applications:

Application 18/03115/FUL erection of garden shed Long Sutton Farmhouse, likely to be heard at Area North committee in July.

Application 19/00016/FUL Single dwelling and garage, Land OS9867 Martock Road Long Sutton, awaiting decision.

Application 19/01096/HOU erection of single storey timber garden room, Upton Farm Hermitage Road, awaiting decision.

Quarry Batts Lane went to Regulation Committee at Somerset County Council (SCC) and was refused.

Update on Enforcement notice see District Councillor report.

9. Request from Shop Steering Group for the use of land by Village Hall.:

A survey has been conducted by the Steering Group with an overwhelming response (2:1) for the location of the proposed community shop to be sited near the village hall, creating a 'Hub'. The proposed site is in between the village hall and the pavilion.

The suggestion is to explore engaging a local solicitor for advice on the best way forward (perhaps a long-term lease, 25 years), and it was resolved that expenditure up to £500 was available.

It was resolved that the parish council would be responsible to establish the planning process and any associated fees.

The project will be registering for community benefit in due course for donations/pledges and issue of a share prospectus.

The parish council will ensure that the VH&RGC are on board with any decisions.

Cllr Stoddard-Stones mentioned other avenues for funding.

10. Review of Parish Council Standing Orders

It was resolved to adopt the updated version of the standing orders as circulated.

11. Village Hall and Recreation Ground:

Cllr Brand reported that the VH&RGC are intending to put 5% of all letting income into a reserve account, to build up general reserves. The committee are planning for climate change, and green solutions and are looking to raise £40,000 for long term improvements.

Currently the income and expenditure account shows a net income of £3000, the income is healthy and increasing as expected. The VH&RGC are doing a great job.

12 Finance:

12.1 Balances and Accounts for Payment

It was resolved to authorise the payments listed:

Balance 01/07/2019			
Unity Trust account 01/06/2019 received			£49,804.73
Tengore solar LTD	£1,809.60		£1,809.60
			£48,614.33
Less			
Howe Tree Surgery SO paid 25 June		£590.63	
Reimbursement Cllr Turpin re phone box		£30.00	
accounts paid last meeting		£615.48	£1,236.11
Balance agreed to bank statement 30/06/2019			£47,378.22
Accounts for payment July 2019			
HMRC re clerk's salary (June)		£75.00	
Mrs L Newby – clerks salary for June paid SO 1 July 2019		£300.00	
Timeback accounts payroll May		£5.00	
Bank charges 5/3/2019 to 3/6/2019		£18.00	£398.00
Balance after authorised payments			£46,980.22
Payments for August			
Howe Tree Surgery		£590.63	
Mrs L D Newby salary		£300.00	
HMRC re clerks salary		£75.00	
Timeback accounts payroll		£5.00	
PWLB settlement (may differ slightly)		£15,274.19	
		£16,244.82	

12.2 Settlement of PWLB loan. It was resolved that the loan is to be repaid as soon as possible. The figure of £15274.19 will differ slightly by pence, due to the delay in reporting the settlement figure to the council meeting. The clerk is to repay the loan as soon as possible.

13. Representative reports and any other matters regarding:

13.1 Community Safety

i Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue – Service Delivery operating model proposal. The proposal (as per the website) was discussed. It is vital to protect Somerton Fire Station at all cost. Keep a view of the need of buildings in place/infrastructure for police and fire service. A representative has been invited to address the parish council.

ii Monthly Police report: In May 188 investigated crimes with 32 arrests. 29 reports of ASB for Area North.

13.2 Community Warden Scheme

A key is required to access the play area -the lengthsman is losing time not being able to use a ride on mower. It has been highlighted that the monthly hours are not sufficient to complete parish work and also the VH&RGC requirements (an increase in hours and tasks since April). Cllr Brand to speak with VH&RGC chairman and to suggest the VH&RGC finding an alternative solution to meet their requirements.

13.3 Highways:

i Speed Indicator Device – it was noted that Aller PC are unable to provide the necessary volunteers to complete the chapter 8 training required and may be unable to continue with the project. Cllr Tucker to speak with Aller PC with a solution and report back.

ii Other highways update - The recent complaint reported by Cllr Cox regarding highways visibility on Langport Road – the property is now up for sale, so any action is unlikely.

iii Upton Cross – A resident has reported poor visibility due to overgrown verges and trees. Recent action taken (unsure by whom) has resulted in trees cropped and vegetation now reduced.

There is a concern regarding vegetation on verges overgrown in general

13.4. Environment –Response to SSDC environment strategy is to take appropriate and cost effective action to make delivery of services for residents a priority.

13.5 Footpaths

i. Hammocks Drove progress – Cllr Turpin is contacting relevant people to bring the matter to a successful conclusion but with no response. Will continue to persist.

ii. Footpath L21/32 Knole from Orchard Farm – no update to report

iii Footpaths officer – with the resignation of a councillor last month, the position of footpath officer is now filled by Cllr Rounsell.

14. Correspondence not previously distributed None

15. Date of next meeting – Tuesday 3 September 2019, 7 pm.

15. Any Other Business/Items for next meeting –None

The meeting closed at 8.10 pm