

Minutes of Meeting of Long Sutton Parish Council
Held at the Hall on Tuesday 6th February 2018 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors: Mr R W Fry (Chairman), Mr P A F Godfrey, Mr T Brand, Mr T P Shire, Mr G R Cox and Mr J Foy. County Councillor Mr D Ruddle, District Councillor Mr G Tucker and 10 members of the public.

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Mr J A Ellerbeck and Mr M Turpin.

Public Observations/Question Time:

A Parishioner updated the PC on her communications with the Police regarding speeding and said that they are very stretched at the moment and want the PC to consider undertaking Community Speedwatch. It was agreed to find out the requirements for this and put the matter on the next agenda. The Chairman confirmed that the PC is aware that there is a speeding problem throughout the village and will continue exploring ways of dealing with this. The matter of the village shop was raised and the Chairman confirmed this is registered as a community asset.

It was confirmed that planning issues would be dealt with later in the meeting.

1. Casual Vacancy

Mrs Elliott of Knole, who had expressed an interest in the vacancy by email, was present at the meeting. She had asked for information regarding the role of Councillor and was also interested in learning more about local government and how it works. Mr Cox said that he would be happy to visit her to explain what is involved.

There is also a further vacancy on the Council due to the resignation of Mr Godfrey. He will be happy to continue with the website and on the VHC for the time being.

The Chairman thanked Mr Godfrey for his contribution during his time on the Council.

It was agreed that the vacancy should be advertised as soon as possible.

2. Declarations of Interest

The Chairman expressed a personal interest in the Planning Applications regarding The Old Dairy House to be discussed at item 7 on the agenda.

3. Minutes of meeting held on 9th January 2018 - It was resolved that these should be signed by the Chairman as a true record.

Mr Brand said that he had been approached by two Parishioners asking if the draft minutes could be put on the notice board earlier. Following discussion it was decided that the present arrangement should continue and that they should be put on the board at the same time as they are sent to Councillors.

4. Matters Arising - No matters were raised.

5. County Councillor's Report

Mr Ruddle reported on the Library situation. He said that Langport is safe but Somerton could possibly close. They are working hard to try and sort out the issues. Street is also under threat.

Finance has been secured for a new School at Northfields in Somerton.

They have received an Ofsted report on children's services and are improving.

On being questioned regarding speed restrictions, he said that he understood the one from South Hill to Sutton Road in Somerton would be implemented and that they are looking at shortening the speed limit at Catsgore.

There was discussion regarding the speeding problems in the village and the discontinuation of the SID scheme. Mr Foy said he has written to Richard Meads about a possible traffic calming scheme. Mr Ruddle said that he does not know at the present time if the small highways improvement scheme will continue in the next financial year.

6. District Councillor's Report

Mr Tucker reported that at the Area North meeting in January there was a presentation by Chris Cooper of Streetscene. In respect of fly tipping reported incidents for the Turn Hill Ward, there was 1 for LS in the months of May to October last year and 1 for the comparable months the previous year. In Turn Hill there has been a decrease but Area North there were however 116 incidents compared with 88 the previous year.

There were no planning applications for LS considered at that meeting.

At District Executive reports were recently presented on the refurbishment of the Crematorium, expected to start in the spring/summer and whilst there will be some disruption, the Crematorium will remain open.

The Council's forward Plan was presented and he said he fought valiantly to get our rural communities better represented in the report as he considers these are not given the same level of Council input compared to our urban neighbours.

A report will be presented to Full Council later this month showing a balanced budget. SSDC are on track for saving £6m and the transformation programme is on schedule for delivering the savings expected. There is expected to be a £5 rise in the SSDC contribution of the community tax based on a Band D residence.

The Executive has also agreed to continue the support for Citizens Advice, Spark and Access for All with a contribution of £225,000 to the three organisations for the next couple of years.

He once again reminded Councillors of the PACT meeting on the 15th February at the Edgar Hall, Somerton.

7. Planning:

7.1 Applications for consideration:

Application Nos: 17/04940/FUL and 17/04941/LBC The carrying out of internal and external alterations and the erection of an extension to existing outbuilding. The Old Dairy House, Long Load.

Some amended details were received from the applicant's agent by email.

It was proposed Mr Cox, seconded Mr Brand and resolved by a majority, the Chairman abstaining, that the PC support the applications.

Application No: 18/00135/FUL The creation of a new rear roof dormer. Knole Brooks, Knole Causeway

It was proposed Mr Godfrey, seconded Mr Brand and unanimously resolved that the PC do not object to the application.

Application 17/04257/FUL Change of use of land from agricultural to equestrian use, the formation of land from agriculture to equestrian use, the formation of an area of

hardstanding and the erection of a stable/store building (part retrospective). Land at Downslade Quarry OS 4300. Permission granted by SSDC

7.2 Other planning issues

At the last meeting the matter of the development at Crouds Lane was raised. Application 15/05090/FUL was refused and the time for submission of an appeal has now elapsed.

District Councillor Tucker reported that he had a meeting with the Enforcement Planner Mr Waddleton and as no appeal has been submitted, either enforcement action kicks in or the application is formalised. He also spoke with the Planning Officer who confirmed that a letter has been sent to the applicant accordingly. Mr Tucker said that he took it upon himself to contact the applicant and was told that a fresh application is to be submitted.

Following discussion it was proposed Mr Cox, seconded Mr Brand and resolved by a majority (one abstention) that a letter should be written to the Enforcement Officer enquiring how long he would expect to wait for an application to be submitted before taking further action.

8. Village Hall and Recreation Ground:

In Mr Ellerbeck's absence, Mr Godfrey reported that bookings are going well. Current cash in the Bank is around £9,000 and there is some £1,400 of debtors. Whilst this is healthy there are a number of projects in hand. The go ahead has been issued to replace all the strip lights with LED equivalents at a cost of around £1,000. Ways of repairing the soft surfaces in the play park are being investigated and the completion of Broadband is still awaited.

A gang of 8 people (community placements by the Probation service) have been sweeping the car park, cutting back the hedge near the back entrance to the school and litter picking.

Petty Vandalism continues with another broken window at the back of the stage store room. The Police are increasing their presence and sources of funding for a CCTV system, and general refurbishment are being looked at.

Mr. Godfrey then informed the PC of the ongoing saga regarding Broadband. He said that the MP has been very helpful in raising the profile of the job. The latest is that a contractor will be coming on Thursday to install a pole!

Mr Godfrey and Mr Ellerbeck were thanked for all their efforts in this regard.

Security: Mr Foy confirmed that the security work will be commencing the week of Monday 12th February.

Mr Tucker updated the PC regarding an application to SSDC for a grant in respect of security in the sum £3,150 which he believes Mr Ellerbeck may already have submitted.

There was discussion regarding ways of preventing access to the back of the Hall which is to be investigated.

Secretary: A Secretary has been appointed – Mrs Ruby Coombes.

Play Area: Funding is being investigated regarding the surface to the play area.

Steering Group Report: Nothing to report.

9. Finance: Balances and Accounts for Payment

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|---|---------------|--------------------------|
| Unity Trust Account | | 34,450.34 |
| Less Payments made last meeting | 994.32 | |
| Paid to Public Works Loans | 5,319.77 | |
| Paid to CW for pollarding of trees on Green | 380.00 | |
| Clerk's Salary Jan paid by SO | <u>300.00</u> | |
| | | <u>6,994.09</u> |
| | | <u>£27,456.25</u> |

The Clerk reported that the payment agreed at the last meeting to the PCC totalling £510, being a contribution to church expenses of 250.00 and a contribution to the Newsletter of £260.00, has not yet been made as she was awaiting Bank details which are now to hand.

Accounts for Payment:

| | |
|-------------------|--------|
| CW's fee for Jan | 515.96 |
| SALC Subscription | 227.42 |

It was proposed Mr Brand, seconded Mr Godfrey and unanimously resolved that the accounts and the donation to the PCC be made.

It was agreed that the Budget for 2018/19 should be put on the website.

10. Neighbourhood Watch/Community Safety/Civil Contingencies

Police report for Area North for January: 178 investigated crimes, 27 arrests and 22 reports of ASB.

It was agreed that Community Speedwatch should be added to this category next month

There was nothing further to report.

11. Community Warden Scheme

During the last month the CW has opened the requested grips and grids between Bineham and Knole as well as Martock Road. He has been carrying out tree work, including pollarding the lime trees on the Green and removing branches from the verge on Hardings Hill He has also removed a wind blown branch from the golf course hedgerow which was obstructing the highway. He says that Highways have asked that the PC send a letter to the Golf Club asking them to remove the dead wood from this hedgerow because of the risk it poses to motorists. He reminds the PC that his Contract is due for renewal at the end of March.

It was agreed that the matter of the Contract and liaising with the other Parishes regarding any possible pay rise should await Mr Ellerbeck's return.

Mr Cox said that he would visit the Golf Club regarding the matter of the hedgerow which requires attention and also the PC's letter regarding drainage work required at Ilchester Lane, to which there has been no reply.

12. Representative Reports and any other matters regarding:

12.1 Highways:

12.1.1 Traffic Calming/Speed Indicator Device

Mr Foy confirmed that he has written to Richard Meads regarding traffic calming.

An email has been sent to Long Load and Huish Episcopi PC as to whether they would be interested in sharing the cost of a SID. Long Load are not

however interested as they do not feel that a SID deters speeding. Nothing has yet been heard from Huish.

It was felt that the best way forward was to find out the requirements for Community Speedwatch.

12.1.2 Update on any other highways matters

Mr Foy said he would chase up about the sign on Martock Road.

Councillors were asked to keep an eye out regarding any reoccurrence of parking on the pavement at Langport Road.

12.2 Environment: Update on any Environment matters

The Chairman said that concern had been expressed regarding water running down Burnt House Lane/Mundys Court Lane, thought to be due to blocked gulleys. Mr Shire will ask the CW to investigate.

Blocked gulleys are also causing water to run down Back Street.

Mr Foy said that blocked gulleys can be reported on SCC's website.

Mr Shire asked if there could be a Dog waste bin at the top of Ilchester Lane. The problems of getting this emptied were thought to be an issue. It was also felt that dog fouling at Ilchester Lane was not a major problem.

It was reported that big ruts have been created in the ground by a heavy vehicle near the layby at Langport Road. Mr Shire will ask the CW to level these out.

Wall opposite Glebe Yard. The Chairman said that if he got chance, he would have a word with the property owner.

12.3 Footpaths: Proposed new Footpath at Hammocks Drove: The Clerk confirmed that she has recently emailed the Rights of Way Officer asking for a progress report.

13. Correspondence:

Data Protection Regulations: New Regulations come into force in May. Following discussion it was not felt that this was an issue for the PC.

The Local Government Boundary Commission Electoral Review closes on 19 March 2018.

SCC: Somerset Library Services Consultation 29 January to 22 April.

SSDC Streetscene: The Great British Spring Clean over the weekend 2-4 March 2018.

Support North: Langport Community Office – SSDC service withdrawn December 2017 due to more customers accessing services online or over the phone.

An email has been received from a lady who has asked to be put on the waiting list for an allotment. It was agreed that this should be passed to Mr Ellerbeck.

An email was received from a Parishioner regarding the increase in heavy vehicles using Hermitage Road. It was agreed that this should be put on the next agenda under Highways.

14. Date of next meeting – 6th March 2018

15. Any Other Business/Items for next meeting

Mr Godfrey asked who he should pass the meeting recorder on to. It was agreed that this should be the Clerk.

He also said that it had been a pleasure to work with the members of the PC.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm