

Minutes of Meeting of Long Sutton Parish Council
Held at the Hall on Tuesday 9th January 2018 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors: Mr R W Fry (Chairman), Mr J A Ellerbeck, Mr P A F Godfrey, Mr T Brand, Mr T P Shire, Mr J Foy and Mr M Turpin. District Councillor Mr G Tucker and 4 members of the public.

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Mr G R Cox and County Councillor Mr D Ruddle.

Public Observations/Question Time:

A member of the public raised the matter of the resignation of Development Manager David Norris and said that Planning Officer Adrian Noon has also left the DC. District Councillor Tucker confirmed that this has taken place due to the Transformation at the DC and the Head of the Planning Team for the Yeovil Area is now Mr Simon Fox.

The matter of development at Crouds Lane was also raised. A planning application was refused and the time for appeal has expired but another application could be submitted. The Chairman said that this was a matter for the DC and not something that could be discussed this evening.

It was asked if there had been any sign of the Police monitoring the speeding in Martock Road. It was not however known if any speeding checks had been undertaken.

1. Casual Vacancy

An expression of interest has been received from a lady at Knole who wished to learn more about what the duties of a Parish Councillor entails. The Clerk said that she had invited her to attend the meeting but had not received a reply. It was agreed that Mr Ellerbeck would speak to her.

2. Declarations of Interest

The Clerk/Proper Officer confirmed that she had granted all Councillors present a dispensation in order to discuss the Budget/Precept for 2018-19.

There were no other declarations.

3. Minutes of meeting held on 5th December 2017 - It was resolved that these should be signed by the Chairman as a true record.

4. Matters Arising

Incident on Village Green: It was confirmed that this had formed part of the Community Safety Officer's report and involved someone being drunk on the Green.

No other matters were raised.

5. County Councillor's Report

In his apology at not being able to attend, Mr Ruddle said that it had been quite a month at County Hall. Budgets will soon be on the horizon and he anticipates the County will put up their part of the rates to cope with ongoing pressure in certain service areas.

6. District Councillor's Report

Mr Tucker reported that since the last PC meeting, Area North has held one meeting in December, There were seven planning applications to consider but none of them from LS or the Turn Hill Ward and he has not been asked for any input on applications in that time. Area North received requests for financial support for two village halls and in the report by

the Development Team provided examples of other small projects supported by the Council, to include the hearing loop in Aller Village Hall, funding a housing needs survey in High Ham and a Bus Shelter in Compton Dundon. He said that the message is that there is a probability of support for LS should the PC need it.

At the next meeting there will be a presentation from Street Scene and he asked the PC to email him with details of any matters which they would like him to raise.

Within the Full Council a few items that he said may be of interest were discussed:

The Transformation programme within SSDC continues and a number of Officers that the PC may have become used to working with are no longer working for the authority, he has already mentioned some.

SSDC is investing in commercial property where it is known the rate of return is a minimum of 7%. Through this process the authority has purchased the M&S building and the Wilkinsons building in Yeovil. The LGA guidance is the discouragement of authorities to borrow money to purchase buildings. SSDC is however investing their reserves to undertake these investments.

The ongoing Boundary review is still under way and he said it is his understanding that the Turn Hill Ward will be slightly changed, losing the area around Huish and Wearne to Huish and Langport.

Regarding the Police, he reminded Councillors of the PACT meeting on the 15th February at the Edgar Hall, Somerton at 6.30pm.

He left leaflets of a play which is going around Village Halls regarding the flooding of 5 years ago. This is being supported by South Somerset.

With regard to the Local Plan, he said that there has been a suggestion within this that the provision of a Garden City/Town might be something to consider. What has happened in the recent past is that a large developer has come forward with the provision of 15,000 houses at Cary Fitzpaine north of the A303. This is only at the consultation stage but he suggested that a watchful eye is kept on this as it would have an enormous impact on the locality.

Mr Tucker then left (7.55 pm) to attend another PC meeting.

7. Planning:

There are no new applications in respect of LS for consideration.

Mr Ellerbeck reported that he has heard from the CW that the work to the trees on the Village Green has been approved.

Notification has been received in respect of amendments of a reduction in height of the digester tanks and the addition of a landscaping scheme in respect of an application at New Spittles Farm, Ilchester Mead. The PC had made no comment in respect of this application.

8. Village Hall and Recreation Ground:

8.1 Secretary: A Secretary is still being sought.

8.2 Finances: Mr Ellerbeck said that these are in fine form with a surplus of around £9,000.

8.3 Security: Mr Foy reported that PG Security have been instructed and are ready to go. It is just a case of working out dates to cause the least disruption. He updated the PC on the work to be carried out. It was confirmed that there would be a separate system for the Pavilion.

Regarding CCTV, Mr Ellerbeck said he thought they would try and get that accelerated particularly as more damage has been caused since the last meeting.

8.4 Play Area: It was confirmed that the latest report has been gone through. A company in Aller has been approached to measure up and give some quotes for repair to the surface.

8.5 Steering Group Report: Mr Brand said that he has been looking into the long term financial viability of the VH and felt that money should be put aside in this respect. Mr Ellerbeck said that the Treasurer is looking at budgeting for the future. He felt that selling the VH to other prospective users and looking into who can be approached in order to obtain grants was of importance.

Mr Brand said he would be sending the Clerk a list of the documents he would like to look at.

8.6 Other VH Matters: The provision of broadband is in hand. The PC were informed of all the difficulties that have been encountered which has resulted in Mr Ellerbeck writing to the MP asking for his help.

9. Finance:

9.1 Balances and Accounts for Payment

Unity Trust Account		37,474.27
Less Payments agreed last meeting	2,705.93	
Service charges	18.00	
Clerk's Salary Dec paid by SO	<u>300.00</u>	<u>3,023.93</u>
		<u>£34,450.34</u>
Accounts for Payment:		
CW's fee for Dec £564.63 + Moss killer £76.80		641.43
HMRC – Tax on Clerk's Salary		124.80
Mrs P Allen - Balance of Clerk's salary for Oct, Nov, & Dec		100.20
Mr P Godfrey – Eset Antivirus (3 years)	67.90	
Microsoft yearly subscription	<u>59.99</u>	127.89
LS PCC – Contribution to church expenses	250.00	
Contribution to Newsletter	<u>260.00</u>	510.00

It was proposed Mr Ellerbeck, seconded Mr Turpin and resolved by a majority, Mr Godfrey abstaining, that the accounts be paid.

9.2 Budget/Precept for 2017/18 and PWB Loan

The Budget of £18,570 put forward by the Finance Team did not include any provision for the purchase/hire of a SID and it was therefore suggested that the Precept should remain as for this financial year in order to include some provision if it is decided to go ahead with this. It was pointed out that there are other implications involved other than just the purchase of a SID such as training, insurance etc.

Mr Ellerbeck proposed the Clerk write to neighbouring parishes informing them that LS is considering the purchase of a SID and would they be interested in sharing the cost. This was seconded by Mr Brand and agreed. The matter will be put on the next agenda.

Regarding the PWB Loan, Mr Ellerbeck said that the outstanding principal is £23,129.33. If the sum of £3,000 was repaid to reduce the loan, including accrued interest and premium discount, this would amount to £3197.50 and would reduce future six monthly payments

from £1793 to £1560 and if £5,000 is repaid the total repayable would be £5329 and future repayments would be £1400. The term of the loan cannot be reduced.

Discussion culminated in it being proposed by Mr Ellerbeck, seconded Mr Brand and unanimously resolved that principal of £5,000 should be repaid off the PWB Loan.

There was further discussion regarding the Budget for 2018/19 and whether the Precept should remain the same as for this financial year namely £18,970. The grant allocated for this year was £160 but is only £50 for 2018/19. It was confirmed that the Budget put forward by the Finance Team was a Budget against expenditure and did not include income. The PC's income being the Precept and FBT rents.

It was proposed Mr Brand, seconded Mr Shire and resolved by a majority (Voting 6 for 1 against) that the Budget of £18,570 for 2018/19 be accepted resulting in a Precept of £18,520 being requested. This gives a decrease in charge of £2.01 (-4.10%) to the Band D Tax Payer.

10. Neighbourhood Watch/Community Safety/Civil Contingencies

The Chairman confirmed he had written to the Community Safety Officer.

Mr Ellerbeck reported that there have been more thefts of Land Rovers, a Quad bike and livestock.

Mr Foy said that he has not yet heard anything regarding the terms and conditions for using the VH as a place of safety and will chase this up.

The Police report for Area North for December is 165 investigated crimes, 25 arrests and 28 reports of ASB.

11. Community Warden Scheme

The CW has carried out some winter maintenance to include hedge trimming around obstructed signs and drainage during wet weather. He has applied moss killer to the tennis courts and crown lifted the trees on Harding's Hill.

Mr Ellerbeck said that the grips at Knole need to be cut back in again. The Chairman confirmed that this was also the case at Sutton Hill. Mr Shire will speak to the CW.

12. Representative Reports and any other matters regarding:

12.1 Highways:

12.1.1 Traffic Calming: Mr Ellerbeck proposed that Mr Foy draft a letter for the Clerk to send to the appropriate person at Highways for a survey to be carried out regarding the need for traffic calming in LS. This proposal was seconded by Mr Brand and agreed by a majority.

12.1.2 Update on any other highways matters: Mr Foy will report the broken sign on the Martock Road.

12.2 Environment: Update on any Environment matters

Regarding a water leak at Crouds Lane Mr Foy said that Wessex Water have been investigating this and he believes this has now been identified.

The Clerk confirmed that she has written to the property owner regarding the wall opposite Glebe Yard.

12.3 Footpaths: Proposed new Footpath at Hammocks Drove

The ROW Officer confirmed by email dated 14 December that he has now obtained copies of the relevant Land Registry documents and with the additional information provided by the PC will try to have a look at this in more detail but this may not be before the New Year.

13. Correspondence

Somerset Scientific Services: Article to raise awareness of asbestos hazards.

SSDC: Following the death of Mr Ian Clarke, the position of Interim Monitoring Officer is to be held by Mrs Angela Watson.

Flood Wessex: Winter 2017/18 Newsletter.

SSDC: Notice of intention to move to paperless/electronic only communication of remittance advice and review of contact details.

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England. Consultation draft recommendations for Ward boundaries in South Somerset.

Email regarding the setting up of an ongoing Parkrun event. It was agreed that LS does not have the facilities for this.

14. Date of next meeting - 6th February 2018. Mr Ellerbeck gave apologies.

15. Any Other Business/Items for next meeting

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.06pm