

Minutes of Meeting of Long Sutton Parish Council
Held at the Hall on Tuesday 5th June 2018 at 7.20 pm

Present: Councillors: Mr G R Cox (Chairman), Mr T Brand, Mr T P Shire, Mrs E Elliott, Mr G Stoddart-Stones and Mr J Foy. District Councillor Mr G Tucker, County Councillor Mr D Ruddle, and 12 members of the public.

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Mr M Turpin.

Public Observations/Question Time: The overgrown trees at Stephens Hill which restrict the view when turning right into Shute Lane were again raised. It was confirmed that the Landowner has asked his Tree Surgeon to take a look and sort out the necessary work. Overgrown verges were also generally felt to be a problem.

1. Policy on Recording of Meetings

There was discussion on the recording of the PC meetings, which are carried out for the benefit of the Clerk in drafting the minutes. The majority of Councillors were not in favour of the meetings being recorded. The Clerk said that these assisted with the drafting of the minutes and it was therefore resolved that when the minutes have been signed the recording should be destroyed. This policy to be reviewed in 3 months time.

2. Casual Vacancies

There are two vacancies on the Council which the DC have confirmed may be filled by co-option. There has been one enquiry from Chris Dowse and the Chairman is to make contact with him.

3. Declarations of Interest

Mr Foy declared a personal interest (living opposite the site) in Planning Application 18/00891/FUL to be discussed at item 8 on the agenda.

4. Minutes of meeting held on 1st May 2018 - It was resolved that these be signed by the Chairman as a true record.

5. Matters Arising

The Village Post Office: It was reported by the Clerk that The Post Office website advertising PO's that are for sale says that LS PO is no longer available.

6. County Councillor's Report

Mr Ruddle congratulated Mr Tucker on becoming the Vice-Chairman of Area North.

He reported that £3½ million has been allocated by government towards roadwork projects.

He said that some people may have seen the programme on adult social care. Somerset County Council are not doing too badly. Regarding childrens' care he said that SCC have 54 children in special needs care and this is costing £10.8 million per annum.

He reported that the County Council has a website trafficchoices.co.uk/somerset on which Councillors and the general public can report any issues.

It was felt that some of the work carried out to rectify problems regarding roads was not up to standard. Mr Ruddle said that he has reported this but has not had a reply as yet.

He is trying to get the speed limit from Podimore to the entrance to Somerton (on the blind spot) changed but one of the local residents is opposing the proposal.

7. District Councillor's Report

Mr Tucker reported that the Area North Committee in May was a little light on reports. Barrington PC will be pleased however to have received £1,638 towards outdoor fitness equipment for their playing field. Three planning applications were presented, none of which were located in the Turn Hill Ward.

At the wider district level, at the June District Executive meeting this Thursday there are a couple of reports of interest. A paper setting out the need to set up separate limited companies (or similar) for each of the commercial investments the authority makes and a separate paper informing of the suggested amendments to the Regulatory Investigation Powers. This is linked to the need for total transparency for various authority teams who have need to engage with individuals when pursuing legal redress on issues such as benefit fraud, theft etc.

At Huish Leisure Board recently he learned, among other things, that the swimming pool will re-open on Saturday 30th June. The scheme is behind schedule but he is sure this will be a tremendous asset to the community on completion.

He has received information from a Huish Episcopi resident who is looking to set up a community transport programme. He has not yet engaged with the co-ordinator but will report back after he has. It was confirmed that the PC had received a similar email regarding this.

The Area North Workshop with Town/PCs will be held at the Edgar Hall, Somerton on 26th June. It was confirmed that 4 Parish Councillors are to attend.

8. Planning:

AMENDED PLANS Application No: 18/00891/FUL Change of use of agricultural storage barns to domestic storage and workshop for LS House, change of use of barn to 1 holiday let, change of use of root cellar to 1 dwelling, erection of a swimming pool, siting of tennis court and change of use of agricultural land to domestic use (Part retrospective application). Land OS 5560 Crouds Lane.

It was reported that there has been some representation from Parishioners as to what the site might look like due to the administration of the company who owns some or all of the land. The Chairman said he has been in touch with RSM Restructuring Advisory LLP and Lambert Smith & Hampton to register the Parish Council's interest in Somerset Community Housing Social Enterprises Ltd and in particular the development site at Long Sutton House, The Village Shop and the land to the south of Long Sutton that had been allocated for social housing.

It was confirmed that the administration of this or any other company associated with the development site does not affect the application and the PC proceeded to discussion of the amended plans.

Cllr Brand led the Council through the amendments that included removal of the swimming pool building and the swimming pool itself and the second floor of the proposed dwelling, giving a reduction in height. There is however no amendment to the Business Plan.

Members of the public were then invited to address the Council. The Chairman said that the PC would be considering the plans and re-stating their comments to the DC and he advised

members of the public to do the same if they considered their original objections still applied. The question of the uncompleted dwelling on the adjacent site was raised, but the Chairman said this was a completely different matter.

The meeting then went into discussion regarding the amended plans.

The Chairman read to the Council the comments previously submitted. It was agreed that 1, 2 and 3 were still relevant.

It was felt that 4, the removal of the swimming pool and a floor of the proposed dwelling affects the Business Plan, as the number of bed-spaces had been reduced.

Number 5 remains the same.

Number 6, whilst the PC is pleased the swimming pool building and pool have been removed from the plans, this throws an obstacle in the way of the viability of the Business Plan.

Number 7, whilst the height of the dwelling has been reduced, this still remains intrusive.

Number 8, whilst the PC respects the professional opinion of Wessex Water, with the lack of detail which has been provided, the PC still has concerns regarding surface water and sewage.

Points 9-10 are to remain and Points 11 & 12 are not relevant to these amendments.

It was agreed that the Chairman should make the proposed alterations and circulate to Councillors prior to submission to the DC.

9. New Data Protection Regulations

The Clerk confirmed that she had written to the FBT Tenants and Community Warden regarding the data the PC held and had also registered the PC with the ICO. A direct debit has been set up in respect of the fee payable.

Regarding the Village Hall, it is understood that Hallmaster are compliant.

It was agreed that no further action need be taken and the item will be taken off the agenda.

Mr Tucker confirmed that since the PC's last meeting, at Parish Council level, it has been confirmed that you do not have to appoint a DPO or have a dedicated Protection Officer.

10. Review of delegation arrangements/terms of reference for committees

The only committee is the VHC who have their own operating instructions. It was agreed that these did not need amending at this time.

11. Direction for Review of appropriate standing orders and financial regulations.

It was confirmed that the Financial Regulations are out of date, in view of the fact that the PC now operates online banking. It was agreed that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Mr Stoddart Stones should draft up a recommendation for the revised Financial Regulations and come back to the PC.

The SO's will be revised as necessary once the other items left in abeyance at the last meeting have been dealt with.

12. Village Hall and Recreation Ground:

12.1 Finances: Previously supplied to the PC.

12.2 Security: Now up and running. They are looking into quotes for replacement of the front door and lock required.

12.3 Play Area: All matters are in hand.

12.4 Cricket Club Contract: A meeting is to be held with the CC in order to review and approve a contract.

12.5 Any Other Village Hall matters:

Following a large well-attended event at the Hall there have been problems with the drains not working properly and this is still being investigated.

Minutes of the VHC are to be sent by the Secretary to the Clerk after each meeting.

The Chairman requested that the VHC notify the items which they would like on the agenda every month.

13. Finance:

13.1 Balances and Accounts for Payment

Unity Trust Account		47,418.56
Less Payment agreed last meeting	640.98	
Pd out of meeting:		
BHIB Ltd Insurance Premium	1,124.57	
PWB Loan Repayment (DD)	1,405.84	
1 st June Clerk's Salary for May (SO)	<u>300.00</u>	<u>3,471.39</u>
		43,947.17
Add SSE Energy Solar Payment		<u>30.15</u>
		<u>£43,977.32</u>

A/cs for payment

CW - Fee for May £592.94 + Materials 72.00		664.94
Community Council for Somerset – Subscription		40.00
SALC – Subscription		241.27
Mrs P Allen – Administration charges:		
Envelopes & Paper	13.98	
Printer Cartridges	71.57	
USB Flash Drives	<u>24.99</u>	110.54

The Clerk confirmed that Pinnacle Accountancy (the Internal Auditor's fee) in the sum of £132 should be added to the list of accounts for payment recently furnished to Councillors. It was proposed Mr Shire, seconded Mr Brand and unanimously resolved that all the accounts, to include the one to Pinnacle Accountancy, be paid.

13.2 Audit of Accounts for Year ending 31st March 2018:

13.2.1 Approval of Annual Governance Statement

The Chairman went through the points in the Annual Governance Statement, all of which received a "Yes" answer. It was therefore proposed Mr Brand, seconded Mr Shire and unanimously resolved that the Annual Governance Statement be approved. This was then signed by the Chairman.

13.2.2 Approval of Statement of Accounts

The Clerk explained that the External Auditor's report requested that the figures for 2017 be Restated as the PC had spent money on defibrillators which had not been included in the Fixed Assets Box. It has been decided that the value of the defibrillators should be stated as £2,000 each. The question of whether a defibrillator could be termed a Fixed Asset was raised but it was decided no action should be taken regarding this.

It was therefore proposed Mr Brand, seconded Mr Foy and unanimously resolved that the Statement of Accounts be approved. This was then signed by the Chairman.

14. Community Warden Scheme

It was reported that the CW has been carrying out general growth management and weeding around the tennis courts. He is concerned about a tree on Martock Road and Mr Shire will meet with him regarding this and obtain a quote for the work to be carried out.

There is no main co-ordinator of the scheme following Mr Ellerbeck's resignation from the PC. The scheme, as a whole, is supported by SSDC who supply the CW's equipment and protective clothing and service his van etc and it was felt that they might not be quite so willing to do this if all the Parishes worked on an individual basis. It was therefore felt that the scheme should continue and there should be a co-ordinator who was prepared to liaise with the other Parishes in the scheme.

Mr Tucker said that he would raise this with High Ham PC at their next meeting.

15. Neighbourhood Watch/Community Safety/Civil Contingencies

There was no report - Mr Turpin not being present.

The Police report for area North for May was 173 investigated crimes, 16 arrests and 37 reports of ASB.

The Chairman said that he thought this agenda item should be reviewed to see what is involved as it could perhaps come under Representative Reports.

16. Representative Reports and any other matters regarding:

16.1 Highways:

16.1.1 Traffic Calming: Nothing to report. Mr Foy is to liaise with Mr Ruddle regarding this.

16.1.2 Speed Indicator Device: The Chairman said that he felt the PC should commit on a rental basis for a trial period of 3 months for each of the 4 locations in the Parish for 2 weeks at a time. It is understood the fee is £100 per location. This was agreed.

16.1.3 Speedwatch: It was agreed a meeting should be held in the Village Hall Committee Room on 17th July at 7pm.

16.1.4 Update on other highways matters

The recent work by Wessex Water appears to have resolved the leak in Crouds Lane.

16.2 Environment:

Mr Shire reported that a resident had reported to Wessex Water the problems being experienced regarding the Pumping Station at Crouds Lane. A senior man from Wessex Water has visited the site and was not happy with the situation. He has promised that this will be rectified without delay and compensation paid.

16.3 Footpaths: Proposed new Footpath at Hammocks Drove

Mrs Elliott said that as she was not on the PC when this matter was first introduced, she could not really contribute. It was agreed that the Clerk should request an update from Mr Turpin prior to the next meeting. Regarding other footpaths, Mr Shire agreed to furnish Mrs Elliott with the contact details of the Parish Paths Liaison Officer who he had previously dealt with on occasions and Dist Cllr Tucker would give her the contact details of George Montague, the Council's Footpath Officer.

17. Correspondence

The final recommendations regarding the Electoral Review have been received.

An email has been received regarding community transport, this was previously mentioned by Mr Tucker in his report. The Chairman said a watching brief should be kept on this.

18. Date of next meeting - 3rd July 2018

19. Any Other Business/Items for next meeting

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm