

**Minutes of Meeting of Long Sutton Parish Council**  
**Held at the Hall on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Councillors: Mr R W Fry (Chairman), Mr T Brand, Mr T P Shire, Mr J A Ellerbeck, Mr M Turpin and Mr G R Cox. County Councillor Mr D Ruddle, and 5 members of the public.

**Apologies for Absence:** Councillor Mr J Foy and District Councillor Mr G Tucker.

**Public Observations/Question Time:**

The condition of the wall opposite Glebe Yard was raised. The Chairman said that this had previously been brought to the PC's attention and he had spoken to the adjoining property owner who says that it is not his wall. The problem is on the boundary between his property and the adjoining land. There was discussion regarding how the matter should be dealt with, culminating in the Chairman agreeing to speak to the parties concerned and feed back to the PC.

The matter of the pole which had been erected at Langport Road to hold a Speed Indicator Device (SID) was raised. It was explained that the County Council is to cease its SID programme. If the PC wishes to have a County Council owned SID then it has to pay for it. It was suggested that in view of the speeding problem on the Langport Road, it might be worth the PC looking into how this could be funded.

The PC are to investigate restarting Community Speedwatch if any volunteers come forward.

**1. Casual Vacancy**

It was proposed Mr Cox, seconded Mr Turpin and resolved by a majority that Mrs Elaine Elliott should be co-opted onto the Council. Mrs Elliott being present, signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office and was invited to join in the meeting.

The DC have also now confirmed that the further vacancy that has arisen on the Council may also be filled by co-option. There have so far been no further expressions of interest.

**2. Declarations of Interest** - There were no declarations of interest.

**3. Minutes of meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2018** - It was resolved that these should be signed by the Chairman as a true record.

**4. Matters Arising**

**Village Shop:** The Chairman said that at the last meeting a Parishioner asked if the PC had any contingency plans should the shop close and he felt that his response was not as clear as it could have been. He therefore read a statement to the PC and following discussion, it was proposed Mr Ellerbeck, seconded Mr Brand and unanimously resolved that the statement be minuted. This was as follows:

"Prior to our last Parish Council meeting concerns were raised about the future of the Long Sutton Village Stores and Post Office.

At that meeting those present were reminded that the premises had been listed by SSDC as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) as long ago as March 2016 and this may give the PC an opportunity to intervene if the property were to be brought to the market.

It is agreed that the Council has not changed its policy of preserving this valuable community asset, which is pivotal, not only to the village of Long Sutton but also the wider community. This is consistent with the present owner's public statements on the matter.

As the property is a Community asset, the Parish Council has certain options should the property come to the market unexpectedly. The Council intends to keep all options under review so that any necessary response can be brought forward promptly as circumstances demand.”

It was agreed that the matter should become an agenda item for the future and reviewed on a regular basis.

**New Data Protection Regulations:** Further information has been received from SALC/NALC It is not yet known whether the Clerk can become the DPO. SALC say that once matters have been clarified they will be offering training during the coming months. External organisations are already approaching Parish/Town Councils to fulfil the role of DPO and Councils are advised not to sign up to anything until news of the final decision is known. It was felt that most of the regulations will not apply to the PC

**Drainage Work, Ilchester Lane & Hedgerow Martock Road:** Mr Cox said he had been tasked with visiting the owner of the Golf Club, but he has been away for some while. He has however registered the problem regarding the Hedgerow on the County Council’s report site and received a call from a member of Highways who has said he is logging it, as it is an issue for them as well.

**Website:** The Budget, Notice Re Speedwatch and the PC Vacancy Notice have been put on the website.

#### **5. County Councillor’s Report**

Mr Ruddle reported that there is a meeting being held by Dave Grabham of SCC at the Edgar Hall, Somerton on 14<sup>th</sup> March between 2-4 pm regarding SIDs and it might be worth one or two Councillors attending.

He received a letter about our speeding issues in the village but he is not going to respond until he knows if he can get a Small Highways Improvement Scheme. He said that if he does get one, nothing will happen overnight as they are 2 to 3 years in arrears.

In Mr Tucker’s absence he said that the Area North meeting last Wednesday was for the first time 2 stars. What this means is that they are losing a lot of planning appeals and getting close to their quota. If the Committee go against the Planning Officer’s recommendations it will in future go to Regulations. If applications go to appeal and the Inspector feels a wrong decision has been made it costs the Local Authority a lot of money.

Mr Ruddle then left to attend another meeting.

#### **6. District Councillor’s Report**

Mr Tucker who was unable to be present at the meeting, provided the following report:

At the Area North in February, they received a report from the Neighbourhood Policing team. This was similar to the PACT meeting earlier in the month. He had not been asked for any input on planning for LS since the PC last met.

The Council’s Forward Plan was presented at Full Council and Agriculture does now feature as an economic priority.

A report presented at a workshop prior to Full Council provided a vision for the future of Area working. To be called Area +, the consultation is suggesting that the areas are to be supported by an area team, centrally located, although a presence locally is to

be encouraged. When he has the full presentation in detail, he may be suggesting the use of the Libraries in Langport, Somerton and Martock as a shared space.

Those who attended the PACT workshop in Somerton last week would have learned that here is an enormous pressure on Police services. Providing support for speed-watch will continue, we are not to expect an enhanced service. One suggestion put forward by the new Inspector is that of the parish purchasing a road legal vehicle and placing it in strategic points through the parish to slow traffic down!

He has inputted to a debate at Scrutiny on Yeovil Innovation Centre – seeking clarity on the innovative part, as to the casual observer, the facility is serviced office accommodation.

District Executive has approved a total of £27,000 in support of the following organisations who all undertake sterling work for our rural communities: Somerset Rural Youth Project, Action Track, Take Art, Somerset Arts Week, and Somerset Film. The review of car parking policy was discussed in detail, with a suggested rise of 10% across all chargeable car parks. (First price rise since 2012)

A request for an endorsement of the work of Key4Life was presented. This organisation works with vulnerable males aged between 18 and 25 providing support, empowerment and work experience in attempt to keep them out of the judicial system. He received a request from Tony Ellerbeck asking if Long Sutton can be included on the list of facilities that can be let to the public. The list to which he refers focussed on Area South (Yeovil) and does not reach the wider district area. Area North does not hold similar information (as yet). Somerset Rural Community Council does hold a full list of facilities across the County known as a Community Facilities Locator and Long Sutton is featured.

He also provided a list of meetings he had attended since the PC's last meeting.

## **7. Planning:**

### **7.1 Applications for consideration:**

Mr Ellerbeck who was presenting the applications to the PC said that this would be the last time that he will be doing this.

**Application Nos: 18/00155/LBC & 18/00154/FUL. The erection of a replacement single storey extension to rear elevation. The Old Mill, Bineham Road, Knole.**

It was proposed Mr Ellerbeck, seconded Mr Cox and unanimously resolved that the PC have no objections to the applications.

**Application No: 18/00515/LBC. Replace ground windows to match first floor windows, replace wooden lintel over windows using hardwood. Repointing of façade using lime mortar to match existing and the repair of stonework at the right of the façade. Erection of new thatched porch supported by stone dwarf walls to replace existing porch. Fairmead, Shute Lane.**

It was proposed Mr Cox, seconded Mr Shire and unanimously resolved that the PC have no objection to the application.

**Application Nos: 18/00358/FUL & 18/00359/LBC. The carrying out of internal and external alterations to include demolition of outbuildings, erection of single storey and part two storey rear extension and erection of a replacement porch. Thatch Cottage, Hermitage Road, Upton.**

The applicant appears to have worked closely with the Conservation Officer.

There was discussion, in particular regarding the development at the back of the property. This culminated in it being proposed by Mr Ellerbeck, seconded Mr Brand and resolved by a majority that the PC has no objection to the application.

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

There are two other applications on the website which have been permitted namely Application No: 18/0041/3/HDG Removal of a total of 80.0 metre section of hedgerow to allow for water mains improvement works. Land between Stapleton and Sutton Hill and Application No 18/00401/TCA Application to fell and carry out tree surgery works at School House, Martock Road. The PC were not consulted on these applications.

## **7.2 Appointment of member to the Planning Team**

Mr Ellerbeck said that he will remain on the Planning Team together with Mr Shire. Mr Cox said he would be happy to join the team but has limited time available with regard to the presentation of the applications. There was a great deal of discussion regarding this and members were encouraged to look at the plans on line. It was confirmed that the PC has strict rules laid down regarding site visits which must be adhered to. It was agreed that if applications are contentious it may be necessary to draw in more members. Mr Cox said that he will take the application plans for the next couple of months.

## **7.3 Other planning issues**

Vehicular access 20 Langport Road: SSDC say that use of the access has ceased and on the basis that the use does not resume, they are closing the enforcement file.

## **8. Village Hall and Recreation Ground:**

**8.1 Finances:** Mr Ellerbeck reported that the finances are extremely good at the moment. £16,000 in and £10,000 expenses. They have lots of bookings and are not going to change their charges.

**8.2 Security:** The security system is being installed. It was however necessary for an asbestos survey to be carried out and this has been done and a report received. The results will not affect the installation of the security system.

**8.3 Play Area:** An application was going to be put in for a grant from SSDC for £6,000 as quotes to repair the surface of the area were in the region of £6,000, but the Officer at the DC in charge of Play Areas asked if alternatives had been explored. He said that the problem at the moment was the edging and suggested ways of rectifying this. Quotes are therefore to be obtained in this respect.

**8.4 Steering Group Report:** Mr Brand said that no further progress has been made. He explained that the sort of things they are looking into are who owns all the boundaries and setting up a long term finance plan.

## **8.5 Other VH Matters**

Mr Ellerbeck updated the PC on various other matters such as trying to find a Football Club interested in using the field.

Regarding security around the back of the Hall, Mr Cox said that he could obtain a quote for the installation of double gates. He was asked to do this.

## **9. Finance:**

### **9.1 Balances and Accounts for Payment**

<b>Unity Trust Account</b>		27,456.25
<b>Less</b> Payments agreed last meeting	1,253.38	
Clerk's Salary Feb paid by SO	<u>300.00</u>	<u>1,553.38</u>
		25,902.87
<b>Add</b> FBT Rent		255.00
SSE Energy		<u>261.24</u>
		<b><u>£26,419.11</u></b>

#### **A/cs for payment**

C Howe - Fee for Feb + £20.99 Grass seed		546.68
P Godfrey – Website registration (2 years)		50.40
Mrs P Allen:		
Stationery – Paper, envelopes & files	30.15	
Printer Cartridges	53.02	
*Postage – April 17 to March 18	<u>88.96</u>	
		172.13

It was proposed Mr Cox, seconded the Chairman and agreed that the PC no longer need to maintain a Petty Cash Account and also that the accounts be paid. The amount due to the Clerk to be paid less the 92p Petty Cash in hand.

**9.2 Martock Job Centre - Request for funding contribution.** It was agreed that the PC should not contribute to this.

#### **9.3 Appointment of new signatory to Bank account.**

Following the resignation of Mr Godfrey, it was resolved that Mr Brand should become an additional signatory to the Bank account.

It was proposed by Mr Ellerbeck, seconded the Chairman and resolved as follows:

that the people named in the Bank Changing Signatories Form (The Chairman, the Clerk, Mr Ellerbeck, Mr Foy and Mr Brand) will be authorised signatories on all accounts.

that instructions and changes will be given in line with the mandate

that the PC is aware Unity Trust Bank may not make enquiries before acting on instructions given by any authorised signatory

the PC will notify Unity Trust Bank of any changes to the organisation in writing.

#### **10. Neighbourhood Watch/Community Safety/Civil Contingencies/Speedwatch**

**NHW:** Mr Ellerbeck reported that there are still Farm thefts taking place all around the area.

**Community Safety/Civil Contingencies:** The Community Safety Officer kept the PC informed with emails from the Police in the recent snow crisis.

Councillors delivered and spread salt in the village and Knole.

**Speedwatch:** The County Council's SID programme will cease at the end of the month. If the Council wish to continue having a SID the cost is expected to be £100 per location each time a SID is used.

There was discussion in which it was proposed Mr Ellerbeck seconded Mr Brand and agreed that the PC is in favour of obtaining a SID for use in LS subject to the cost being investigated.

The Chairman and Mr Brand will attend the meeting to be held at the Edgar Hall, Somerton on the 14<sup>th</sup> March in order to ascertain if this would be favourable in terms of costs.

Regarding Speedwatch, there is no outlay in terms of costs as all equipment is provided. It is however necessary to have a Co-ordinator for the watches and a Communicator who will

complete a spreadsheet and forward the information obtained to the Police and other organisations involved. So far two people have expressed an interest. It was agreed that a notice would be put in the Newsletter and Roundabout with a closing date of 30<sup>th</sup> April, seeking volunteers to participate in Community Speedwatch.

A Parishioner had suggested making enquiries regarding funding for a flashing road sign but it was agreed not to pursue this at the present time.

## **11. Community Warden Scheme**

It was confirmed that the gulleys at Burnt House Lane have been cleared and it is thought the County Council have been clearing other gulleys in the village.

Mr Cox said that he had reported the gulley near Corner Cottage/entrance to New Street and had been told this should be dealt with, within a fortnight.

Mr Ellerbeck said that he had prepared the Contract for the CW for the coming year commencing 1<sup>st</sup> April. We are presently paying him £12.98 an hour and he does 525 hours a year. Discussion took place as to whether an increase should be awarded. This culminated in Mr Ellerbeck proposing that the PC increase the annual spend by raising the wage to £13.25 per hour for the forthcoming contract year. This proposal was second by Mr Brand and passed by a majority. (Voting 4 for, 2 against and 1 abstention)

## **12. Allotments**

A further enquiry has been received regarding an allotment by someone who will be moving to the village in the Spring. The Clerk said that she had enquired of the other 5 Parishioners on the waiting list and so far 4 had replied indicating that they still wished to remain on the list.

Mr Ellerbeck gave the PC the background regarding allotments. If 6 people come forward then it is the duty of a PC to provide allotments but they have 2 years in which to put this into effect.

## **13. Representative Reports and any other matters regarding:**

### **13.1 Highways:**

**13.1.1 Traffic Calming/Speed Indicator Device/Flashing Sign.** This has been dealt with earlier in the meeting.

**13.1.2 Increase in heavy vehicles using Hermitage Road.** It was agreed that if there is a weight restriction which is being flouted then the authorities need to be informed. Traffic from Downslade Lane is directed via Tengore Lane.

### **13.1.2 Update on any other highways matters**

Mr Shire said that regarding heavy vehicles using the verge at Langport Road rather than the layby, he has told the CW not to do anything at present until the building work opposite is completed.

The Chairman said that a letter has been received from a Parishioner regarding flooding at Langport Road and also the debris from hedge trimming left on the pavements. It is thought that the gulleys have been cleared. Mr Shire will however ask Mr Foy to contact Highways and will also check with the CW that the gulley at the bottom of Burnt House Lane is clear. The Chairman will speak to the contractor regarding the hedge trimming.

**13.2 Environment: Update on any Environment matters.** There were no other matters.

**13.3 Footpaths: Proposed new Footpath at Hammocks Drove.** The SCC Rights of Way Officer has said that there are still one or two ownership issues he needs to take legal advice on.

**14. Correspondence:**

**Request to hold BSA Car Rally on the Green 19<sup>th</sup> May 2018.** It was agreed that this request should be granted with the proviso that if it is wet the cars are parked around the Green rather than on it. Alternatively the Village Hall could be used.

Draft Somerset Strategic Housing Framework & Consultation Questionnaire, previously forwarded to Councillors.

**15. Date of next meeting** - 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2018 - The Annual Parish Meeting at 7pm followed by the normal PC meeting.

**16. Any Other Business/Items for next meeting**

The matter of the house at Martock Road owned by the Church Commissioners was raised. A planning permission has however been granted and the site will no doubt be developed in due course.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.40pm