

**Minutes of Meeting of Long Sutton Parish Council**  
**Held at the Hall on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017 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, Mr G R Cox and Mr M Turpin. County Councillor Mr D Ruddle, District Councillor Mr G Tucker (8.40pm) and 2 members of the public.

**Apologies for Absence:** There were no apologies. District Councillor Mr G Tucker will be arriving later in the meeting.

**Public Observations/Question Time:** No matters were raised.

Cath Holloway, the Village Agent updated the PC on her role and the work she undertakes in order to support people in living efficiently and independently. They go to see people in order to make life more bearable by identifying where the problems exist and then approaching the various agencies. She said that she had been to a coffee morning on a Saturday in LS and enquired if there were any Clubs she could visit who might be receptive. The Tea Dance was suggested.

The Chairman thanked her for attending.

**1. Casual Vacancy**

Following the resignation of Councillor Mrs Helen Ibbotson, a vacancy has now arisen on the Council. The Clerk confirmed that this has been advertised and any requests for an election have to be made to the DC by the 20<sup>th</sup> November. If there are no such requests then the Council will be able to fill the vacancy by co-option.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. Minutes of meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2017** - It was proposed Mr Godfrey, seconded Mr Brand and resolved that the minutes should be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**4. Matters Arising**

**Item 7.1 of the minutes of the last meeting:** Mr Ellerbeck reported that he and Mr Godfrey had met with Geraldine Jones and she does not want to be a co-opted member or be on the VHC, nor does she want to be involved with fundraising. She has however generously taken on promotion of the VH.

**Building work at Crouds Paddock:** Emails have been received from the landowner outlining the work which is being carried out and the reasons for the delay in completion.

**5. County Councillor's Report**

Mr Ruddle said that he had nothing to report.

Mr Shire asked if an up to date photo of himself and Mr Tucker together with contact details could be provided so that this can be put on the Parish Notice Board. It was suggested that Angela Cox at the DC may be able to assist with this.

Mr Cox enquired the position regarding the proposal for a speed limit from Hardings Hill to Sutton Road in Somerton. Mr Ruddle said that this was not one of his schemes and that if there are a lot of people contacting Highways in support of the application there is not a lot he can do about it.

This does not actually affect the Parish of LS. Mr Foy said that any notification is only likely to be via Traffic Regulations advertising in the local Paper. It was therefore suggested keeping an eye on the Western Gazette if people wish to object.

Mr Godfrey said that he was disappointed that South Somerset does not have recycling for plastic cartons etc. Mr Ruddle said that he understood there will be changes in recycling at the end of this year.

**6. District Councillor's Report** - Mr Tucker having not yet arrived, the Chairman his report would be taken later in the meeting.

**7. Planning:**

**7.1. Application for consideration:**

**Application No: 17/03413/FUL – Amended Plans. Proposed rear and side extensions. Pares Cottage, Langport Road.**

The application before the PC at the last meeting did not receive support. Mr Godfrey outlined the details of the amended plans now received. There was a great deal of discussion regarding the lack of information regarding vehicular access and parking and the applicant, who was present, was questioned regarding this. He confirmed that this was a part of the application and also clarified other matters.

Discussion culminated in Mr Godfrey proposing: "We have no objection to the extension but we remain very concerned about the safety aspects of vehicular access on to the A372". This proposal was seconded by Mr Brand and resolved by a majority (Voting: 6 for 2 against).

**7.2 Parish Plan:** Mr Ellerbeck said that he would collate all the information to update the Plan once he had received the contributions from all the team.

**8. Village Hall and Recreation Ground**

**8.1 Formation of Committee/Interim Arrangements**

Mr Ellerbeck reported that he is the Chairman and they now have a very good Treasurer and Booking Clerk but no Secretary. Mr Stoddard-Stones is currently undertaking this role until a Secretary is found. They are therefore one voting member light on the Committee.

PC representatives are himself, Mr Godfrey and Mr Tim Shire who is dealing with maintenance and the Steering Group of Mr Brand and Mr Foy.

**8.2 Finances**

Mr Ellerbeck gave details of the current finances and said that these are looking around the £10,000 mark.

**8.3 Security**

Internet & Broadband: A quote was obtained from Spitfire which included an installation charge of £99, however when their engineer attended he said that a survey (£250) and new telegraph pole (£399) would be required as they could not do anything more than 60 metres. On further enquiry it appeared that the survey had already taken place and would have to be paid for. Other options for the provision of these services were explored. Following discussion, despite the additional costs which will be

incurred, it was proposed Mr Cox, seconded Mr Brand and unanimously resolved to go ahead with Spitfire.

Regarding security, Mr Ellerbeck said that Mr Foy is looking into this. The key code has been changed.

Both Mr Ellerbeck and Mr Brand gave details regarding a random code entry system. It is understood that Charlton Mackrell have one of these.

Mr Foy also gave details regarding a lock with a default setting and other security items and there was a great deal of discussion regarding generally improving the overall security.

#### **8.4 Play Area**

Mr Foy reported that he had contacted Play Dale regarding the play equipment.

Regarding the skate ramps, the original company who did these is no longer in business and he has contacted a company in Blandford who have come back with a quote of just over £1,000 for repair and maintenance work.

He is also looking into the provision of a suitable gate.

#### **8.5 Steering Group Report:** Nothing to report.

#### **8.6 Other VH Matters**

Mr Ellerbeck said that over the next few weeks it would be necessary to spend money on making everything safe and that a lot of the items required would exceed £500. It would therefore be useful to be able to do this without having to revert to the PC. There was discussion regarding this, culminating in Mr Cox proposing that for the next 6 months the VH be given the authority to spend up to £1,000 on any one item without coming back to the PC. The proposal was seconded by Mr Turpin and unanimously agreed.

Mr Turpin said that when the question of installing a security system was raised, various organisations were investigated as a source of funding. The DC have said that LS are eligible for some funding towards a suitable project.

CCTV was felt by several Councillors to be such a project, this having been recommended by the Police and in view of the past history of vandalism.

Mr Ellerbeck reported that there are a lot of bookings coming in and things are looking very good.

Mr Brand reported that he had started looking into the insurance. This is due for renewal in December and he understands from the Broker that this will be with a new Company. On enquiry regarding the effect of recent claims on the renewal premium, he was told that it is likely that the new Company will make an assumption on any incidents that have occurred. Fixtures & Fittings are currently insured for £20,000 and he will be looking into this in more detail to see if that is sufficient.

### **District Councillor's Report**

District Councillor Mr Tucker having now arrived, the Chairman invited him to give his report.

He reported as follows:

The Area North meetings in October had two planning applications to consider, neither of which were in LS or the Turn Hill Ward. He had also not been asked to input on any application since the PC's last meeting.

In October reports were received from the Arts and Culture Department. Whilst there has been enormous focus on Westlands and its refurbishment programme in recent months, he was pleased to learn of the depth of cultural arts and support which continues to be provided

to the rural communities. Langport and Somerton continue to receive small parcels of funding towards various local initiatives.

Discussion to find a solution to the Links service was unsuccessful, resulting in SSVCA closing the service in this area from 31st October. Although they were encouraged to purchase the vehicles for a pound, this offer was only to Langport TC. SSVCA already operate a community car scheme and they are expanding the service in the area. He has also just learnt this evening that one of the vehicles has been purchased by one of the past owners just to transfer people with wheelchairs.

The Boundary Commission review continues. He said that to his knowledge there is no reason to believe that LS will not remain part of the Turn Hill Ward, although there are discussions taking place about changing the boundary of the Ward near Wearne and Huish.

SSDC are undertaking a review of the Local Plan and a full consultation will commence during October through to December. It appears that the revised housing requirement is an additional 13,200 dwellings to be built in South Somerset between 2014 and 2034 and he encouraged the PC to visit the Great Bow Wharf on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November between 4.00pm and 7.00pm where there will be an opportunity to meet with the Planning Policy Team and get an indication of the amendments proposed. He said that personally he remains concerned that there continues to be a focus on housing in Langport and the vicinity, yet industrial and commercial development is not included. There is very limited commercial growth in the Langport area since the original Local Plan was adopted.

Finally, he thanked the PC for its understanding with regard to his covering responsibilities in Langport. He said that the commitment ended this evening as there is an election scheduled in Langport at the end of the month.

## **9. Finance:**

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

<b>Unity Trust Account</b>		43,625.51
<b>Less</b> Payments agreed last meeting	848.52	
Clerk's salary Oct paid by SO 1/11	<u>300.00</u>	<u>1,148.52</u>
		<b><u>£42,476.99</u></b>

### **A/cs for Payment:**

CW's fee for October £577.61 + Grass seed £45, Weed killer £19.95	£642.56
Grant Thornton - External audit fee	240.00
Avalon Surfacing & Construction - Work to Village Green	2,757.60
Total Landcare Ltd Re drain at Ilchester Lane	146.40

It was proposed Mr Shire, seconded Mr Godfrey and unanimously resolved that the accounts be paid.

Mr Shire said that Mike Mitchell had provided top soil for the Village Green free of charge and he felt that a note should be sent thanking him for this.

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

### **10.1 Briefing by Parish Community Safety Officer on Use of VH as a place of safety, Parish Emergency Plan and Community Safety Training and any other Community Safety issues.**

A Community Safety Report has been received from the Parish Community Safety Officer detailing a number of points for discussion. The Chairman said this would be discussed at the next meeting.

## **10.2 Any Other Matters**

Mr Ellerbeck reported that Land Rovers and sheep etc were still being taken. The Police report for October for Area North were 166 investigated crimes, 14 arrests and 26 reports of ASB.

## **11. Community Warden Scheme**

During October the CW has continued with vegetation management; applied weed killer along the kerbs and pavements on the Langport Road and cleared the weeds on the War Memorial. He has also filled in the space behind the new kerbs on the Village Green with top soil and applied grass seed.

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

### **12.1 Highways: Update on any highways matters**

It was felt that the work carried out to the Village Green looks quite successful although it may be necessary for further grass seeding in the Spring.

Mr Foy reported that he had chased Mr Grabham of SCC regarding the SID and pole for Langport Road and also the SID on existing street furniture at Martock Road but has not heard anything back. He will try and ascertain the position from another source.

There were reports of a traffic jam on the A372 at Langport Road this morning due to problems with traffic lights.

A Parishioner was invited to address the PC concerning her letter to the Police regarding speeding vehicles through LS, as a result of which she received a visit from them. She asked if the PC might consider getting a speed warning sign for the village which could be moved around. This had been discussed by the PC in the past but had been found to be expensive. Mr Foy said that he would obtain a price for a stand alone LS speed indicator device.

### **12.2 Environment**

**12.2.1 Water running down Ilchester Lane:** Mr Cox updated the PC regarding the work that had been carried out. He said that the problem lies with the lack of maintenance by the Golf Club. He said that he would like a letter written to the owner asking that they dig the ditch at Ilchester Lane and cut back their hedges at Ilchester Lane and Martock Road. Following discussion it was proposed Mr Ellerbek, seconded Mr Godfrey and resolved that Mr Cox should draft a letter to the owner of the Golf Club and pass this to the Clerk to send.

**12.2.2 Pumping Station Crouds Lane:** It was agreed to await the outcome of the works being carried out by Wessex Water.

#### **12.2.3. Any other Environment matters**

Mr Shire said that the wall opposite Glebe Yard is bulging out and looking rather precarious. Mr Cox will speak to the landowner and the adjoining property owner.

Mr Cox has said that he has had the inside of his field cut and would like it cut outside as well. He asked if it would be of benefit if, at his own expense, he arranged for the person who is doing this. to come into the playing field and cut this back tight to his hedge. It was felt the VHC would be grateful for this.

**12.3 Footpaths: Proposed new Footpath at Hammocks Drove:** Nothing further has been heard from the ROW Officer since providing information requested. The Clerk was asked to contact him.

Mr Turpin confirmed that the stile the other side of the Golf Club was originally reported in June and is ongoing. It is noted that another report has come in against it. Regarding the finger signpost at the end of Church Walk, Mr Turpin said that this matter has been closed on the website. The direction part of the original post is however laid up against the wall. He will get back to them regarding this.

### **13. Correspondence**

Emails previously received and forwarded to Councillors:

Somerset Community Carol Service – Wells Cathedral, Saturday December 16 at 7pm.

Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Draft Integrated Risk Management Plan (2018-2022) Consultation. This has been forwarded to the Parish Community Safety Officer for his observations.

Family Support Services & Children's Centres consultation - Closing date 1st December 2017.

SSDC Review of Local Plan Consultations – Consultation period 26 October 2017 until 12 noon on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

Mr Cox suggested, as had been the case in the past, that a correspondence folder should be passed around each month. It was generally felt however that receiving the correspondence by email was acceptable.

**14. Date of next meeting** - 5<sup>th</sup> December 2017

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

By way of interest, Mr Godfrey reported that there has been an increase in the number of people asking to put information on the Parish website.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm