

Minutes of Meeting of Long Sutton Parish Council
Held at the Hall on Tuesday 3rd October 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 and Mr M Turpin. County Councillor Mr D Ruddle and 1 member of the public.

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Mr G R Cox and Mrs H Ibbotson and District Councillor Mr G Tucker.

Public Observations/Question Time: It was reported that the stile past the entrance to the Golf Course is still in need of repair. Mr Turpin agreed to report this.

1. Declarations of Interest - There were no Declarations of Interest.

2. Minutes of meeting held on 5th September 2017 - It was proposed Mr Brand, seconded Mr Ellerbeck and resolved that these be signed by the Chairman as a true record.

3. Matters Arising:

Village Agent: As suggested, Cath Holloway has been invited to attend the November meeting.

Building work at Crouds Paddock: It was reported that there is no condition in the planning permission regarding a completion date. The Clerk will make enquiry of the property owner as to when it is anticipated the work will be completed.

4. County Councillor's Report

Mr Ruddle reported that there has been a patching machine around the area trying to rectify some of the potholes.

He is Chairman of the Audit Committee and they had quite a disturbing report. Adult and Children's services are causing a real problem and although they are improving, it is costing a considerable amount of money and they are likely to be well over budget by the end of the financial year. An Ofsted report will also be coming soon. Highways are within budget.

The PC raised with him the work that is still required to be carried out to the ditch at Crouds Lane. He said that if the PC writes to him he will do what he can. Mr Foy said that he will do this.

Mr Ruddle also gave details regarding the Area North Development Plan and the problems being experienced in meeting the housing requirement.

5. District Councillor's Report

Mr Tucker being unable to be present, his report was read to the Council.

The Area North meeting in September had 7 planning applications to consider although none were in LS. Reports were received from Environmental Health and a presentation on the future of SSDC Community Offices. On the former Mr Tucker made the link between rural theft and the possible use of illegal meat being presented in shops and restaurants and was pleased to learn that there is already a multi agency approach looking into this. With regard to the future of the Community Offices he raised the concern that this will put the Langport Information Centre in jeopardy but was told that the cessation of services at this time is not a cost saving, more an opportunity to deploy staff in a more meaningful way.

Within Full Council a couple of matters that were discussed was the recent review of business rates which has resulted in Government making available approximately £900,000 over 3 years to offset hardship cases where the rise was more than 12.5%. There are a couple in Area North who could apply for this relief.

He was also formally accepted as a Langport Town Councillor to cover the period whilst they are unable to field a full quorate Council. This will take him away from attending LSPC for a short period and he thanks the PC for its understanding with this.

Discussion to try and find a solution to the Links service continues.

Various sources of grant funding have been forwarded to representatives of the VHC together with a lead to SSDC's Area North funding pot.

Finally, SSDC are undertaking a review of the Local Plan and a full consultation process will commence during October through to December. The revised requirement is an additional 13,200 dwellings to be built in South Somerset between 2014 and 2034. When the consultation process commences he intends circulating the proposals for Langport and Huish in anticipation of encouraging comments.

He apologised for not being at the PC's meeting and reminded that he is available between meetings if needed.

6. Planning:

6.1. Applications for consideration:

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

It was proposed Mr Godfrey, seconded Mr Ellerbeck and unanimously resolved that the Parish Council objects to the application on the grounds that the design is not in keeping with the street scene nor the character of the existing property.

There is also concern about the safety aspects of the vehicular access on to the A372.

Application 17/03132/S73A Application to vary condition 02 (approved plans) of 13/04297/FUL for alterations to front door, installation of flue and raised decked area in place of approved larger patio. 1 Westview.

It was proposed Mr Ellerbeck, seconded Mr Brand and unanimously resolved that the Parish Council approves the application but would point out that the reference to the location of the property in the application is wrongly stated as Shute Lane and should be Martock Road.

There is another application on the website for the removal of trees in a Conservation Area at Crown Cottage, Back Street. SSDC have said that this is not a matter on which the PC will be consulted.

Application No: 17/02993/FUL Demolition of existing storage buildings and the erection of a replacement building. Avalon Surfacing & Construction, Hermitage Road. Permission granted by SSDC.

Application No: 17/03020/FUL Erection of 4 detached dwelling houses with associated external works. Land at Little Upton Bridge Farm. Permission refused by SSDC.

6.2 Parish Plan: It was agreed that the team dealing with the upgrading of the plan would get together in order to finalise the matter by Christmas.

7. Village Hall and Recreation Ground:

7.1 Formation of Committee/Interim Arrangements: Mr Ellerbeck reported that they now almost have a full Committee with the exception of a Secretary. He will continue as Chairman until Christmas.

Geraldine Jones will be invited to join the VHC as a co-opted member for fund raising. He will be meeting with her and handing over the information and contact details that he has.

Mr Turpin also gave information regarding possible sources of grant funding.

7.2 Finances

Mr Ellerbeck reported that these are in good order and Mr Graham Stoddart-Stones will be taking over as Treasurer shortly.

They have had some bills in and were going to charge the Cricket Club for the water they use. In lieu of this, they have however agreed to paint the Pavilion if the VHC provide the paint.

7.3 Security

Mr Ellerbeck said that the aim had been changed slightly and it has been agreed to spend the money which would have been used for the lighting on a security system. A grant will be sought sometime in the future for upgrading the lighting.

The security system is expected to cost around £2,000 and he proposed that the PC match fund the VHC in the sum of £1,000. This proposal was seconded by Mr Godfrey and unanimously agreed.

Applications for grants are generally looked upon more favourably if the PC makes a donation.

Application has been made for the installation of a telephone line and broadband.

7.4 Play Area

The play area has been inspected by the DC and a report is awaited. There was a great deal of discussion regarding the BMX/Skate Board Park, which was included in the inspection, some Councillors feeling that this should be removed while others felt it should be retained.

Mr Ellerbeck proposed that nothing further be done at this stage regarding the skate park ramps until the report from SSDC is received, whereupon the matter will be reviewed. This proposal was seconded by Mr Godfrey and passed by a majority.

Mr Brand agreed to go through the VH insurance file to ascertain what cover is in place.

7.5 Steering Group Report

Mr Brand said that there was nothing new to report. A list of all the stakeholders was to be obtained from the Booking Clerk and he has had two or three people indicate that they would like to speak with him.

7.6 Other VH Matters

Mr Ellerbeck said that the greatest asset is the car park. At the moment the School are paying £100 a year to use this and the VHC is looking at reviewing this with a view to the School paying a more realistic figure.

Mr Godfrey said that he had made the decision to grant a request from the School to use the field for cross country and was told they normally get this for free.

The Chairman requested that all members of the VHC should be furnished with a copy of the operating instructions.

8. Electoral Review

No-one having any strong-views on the matter, it was agreed that the PC has no response to make.

9. Finance:

Balances and Accounts for Payment

Unity Trust Account		44,644.50
Less Payments agreed last meeting:	700.99	
Service charges	18.00	
Clerk's Salary for Sept paid by SO	<u>300.00</u>	<u>1,018.99</u>
		<u>£43,625.51</u>

A/cs for Payment:

CW's fee for Sept 603.57 + Weedkiller £19.95		£633.52
HMRC Tax on Clerk's salary		25.00
Balance of Salary due to the Clerk (April to Sept) due to incorrect tax deduction		200.00

It was proposed Mr Brand, seconded Mr Ellerbeck and unanimously resolved that the accounts be paid.

The Clerk reported that the external audit has now been completed. The Auditors have said that when the Return for next year is completed the figure for assets should be re-stated to include the cost of the two defibrillators which were purchased. The closure of the audit has been advertised on the website. The Auditors' invoice for £240 is expected to be received shortly.

10. Community Warden Scheme

During September the CW has been continuing with the vegetation management, trimmed back the growth from the hedge by the War Memorial and began working on the trees on the verge on Martock Road; crown lifting and dead wooding.

Mr Shire will speak to the CW regarding the acceptance of his quote for the pollarding of the Lime trees on the Green.

11. Neighbourhood Watch/Community Safety/Civil Contingencies

11.1 Use of VH as a place of safety & 11.2 Parish Emergency Plan and Community Safety Training

It was agreed that the Parish Community Safety Officer should be invited to attend the next meeting in order to update members of the PC and give background information regarding the above matters.

11.3 Any Other Matters

Police Report for Area North for September: 146 investigated crimes, 30 arrests and 30 reports of ASB.

Mr Ellerbeck reported that there has been the theft of a Land Rover and Massey Ferguson tractor within the local area and also sheep.

12. Representative Reports and any other matters regarding:

12.1 Highways

12.1.1 Work to lower end of Village Green: This has not yet been carried out and Mr Shire was asked to contact the Contractor again.

12.1.2 Update on other highways matters.

Mr Foy reported that the SID pole at Little Upton Bridge which was due to have been erected at the end of September is still not in place and he will chase this again. He also reminded that any individual can report a pothole on SCC's website.

SCC have given notice of the following road closures:
Shute Lane from the junction with Crouds Lane to outside the property Shute Lane Cottage from the 13th November, expected to last 5 days.
Crouds Lane from 20th November, expected to last 2 days.
Knole Causeway from 22nd November, expected to last 2 days.
All the above closures are to enable sewer renovation works to be carried out by Wessex Water.

12.2 Environment

12.2.1 Water running down Ilchester Lane: This matter is being dealt with by Mr Cox.

12.2.2 Pumping Station Crouds Lane: The Clerk said that the letter to the MP had not been sent as she had been awaiting confirmation that it was in order to do so following Mr Ellerbeck's email to Councillors circulating a draft for their comments. It was agreed to wait and see the outcome of the works to be carried out by Wessex Water although doubt was expressed as to whether this would resolve the Pumping Station issue.

12.2.3. Any other Environment matters: No other matters were raised.

12.3 Footpaths

12.3.1 Proposed new Footpath at Hammocks Drove: The Clerk reported that she had received an email from Mr Saint ROW Officer SCC requesting proof of the Walfords' ownership of the land and copies of the PC's signed minutes of 4th July and the email from Long Load PC confirming they are happy with the proposed dedication. She confirmed this had all been supplied.

12.3.2 Broken Footpath Post at Cross Lane: Mr Turpin confirmed that this issue has been recorded with SCC and that anyone can report defects on this site <https://roam.somerset.gov.uk/roam/map#>
The Chairman said that he had in fact removed the post.

13. Correspondence

BHIB Insurance Brokers introducing themselves and confirming that the next renewal of the PC's Local Council Insurance Policy will be handled by them.

Emails received regarding Family Support Services & Children's Centres Consultation and SALC's new monthly news bulletin (AGM 28 October at the Edgar Hall, Somerton), had previously been circulated to Councillors.

14. Date of next meeting - 7th November 2017

15. Any Other Business/Items for next meeting

Mr Shire said that he had received a notice advertising for an assistant for the Toybox. He suggested asking the Shop to put this up as there was barely room on the notice boards for the information that needs to be displayed.

The meeting closed at 9.42pm