

Minutes of Meeting of Long Sutton Parish Council
Held at the Hall on Tuesday 4th April 2017 at 7.15pm

Present: Councillors: Mr R W Fry (Chairman), Mr J A Ellerbeck, Mr P A F Godfrey, Mr G Farenden, Mr M Turpin, Mr T P Shire, Mr J Foy and Mrs H Ibbotson. County Councillor Mr D Ruddle, 6 members of the public and PC Mark Bonici.

Apologies for Absence: District Councillor Mr G Tucker will be arriving later in the meeting.

Public Observations/Question Time: No matters were raised. Mr Shire said that he knew of one or two members of the public who would be attending regarding the pumping station and the triangle at Shute Lane and he asked if they would be allowed to speak later in the meeting. It was agreed that they would be allowed to speak when the matter came up for discussion on the agenda.

1. Casual Vacancy

Due to the resignation of Councillor Richard Agnew, following the last PC meeting, a casual vacancy has arisen on the Parish Council. The Clerk confirmed that the vacancy has been advertised and the public have until the end of today to inform the District Council if they require an election to be held to fill the vacancy. If there are no requests for an election, the PC will be able to fill the vacancy by co-option. There have been no expressions of interest in the vacancy as yet.

Mrs Ibbotson left the meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of meeting held on 7th March 2017 - It was unanimously resolved that these be signed by the Chairman as a true record.

4. Matters Arising

2017 Test Census: An email has been received regarding being part of the preparation and the jobs that are available.

5. County Councillor's Report

Mr Ruddle reported that Somerton TC are having a turnover of Councillors and it has been a hard year. They are a Quality Council and it is more of a mini DC now. He said that the County Council is quite dormant at the moment due to the forthcoming elections.

There was discussion with Mr Ruddle regarding Wessex Water and the pumping station at Crouds Lane. Mr Ellerbeck had recorded the noise being generated from the pumps at 9.30pm one evening which he said was completely unacceptable. Mr Shire said that the Environment Agency are also now involved and he has also had discussions with highways and others regarding the triangle at Shute Lane. No satisfactory conclusions were however reached.

An underground drain inspection camera van has been spotted in various areas of the Parish.

There was also discussion regarding the closure of the NatWest Bank in Langport and the consequences should the TSB in Somerton also close and the possible ways in which this could be prevented such as registering it as a community asset. Mr Ruddle said that this

would not stop them closing the Bank and also that he had heard no rumour of the Bank closing.

There being no further questions of Mr Ruddle, he left to attend another meeting.

6. District Councillor's Report

Mr Tucker having to attend a prior meeting, had previously provided a copy of his report which the Chairman read to the Council.

This said that there were no planning applications for LS presented at the Area North meeting in March.

The last AN meeting had a focus on regeneration, particularly after the 2013/14 floods. There was also discussion on the licences pertaining to the Langport to Drayton cycle route (along the old railway line). It was agreed to pay for the licences for one more year, meanwhile taking an overview on usage, maintenance costs etc. There was also a presentation from the Transport Officer on all aspects of travel, including the Langport Links service.

At the last full Council Meeting in March, there was a presentation from the Boundary Commission. Due to changes in density of housing, some wards are now more populated than others and therefore a full review is to start in May concluding with recommendations for changes to boundaries in time for the next DC elections in 2019.

Huish Episcopi PC suggested a meeting of the Parishes involved in the Lengthsman Scheme be called, he acted as messenger and contacted the Parishes, (with the exception of Long Load). Over now to those involved to follow that up.

Since the announcement of the pending closure of the NatWest Bank in Langport, he has received a call from a LS Parishioner. The decision by NatWest is irreversible and the route forward is more likely to identify alternative ways banking can be provided in Langport.

Finally, the next meeting of AN has a focus on the arts and entertainment.

7. Planning

7.1 Planning Applications for consideration:

Mr Walford, the applicant, informed the PC of the reasons for the two applications.

Application No: 17/01119/FUL Erection of new general purpose agricultural building. Upton Bridge Farm, Langport Road.

It was proposed, seconded and unanimously resolved that the PC support the application.

Application No: 17/01189/S73 Application to vary condition 02 and 04 (approved drawings) of 14/03683/FUL to allow the substitution of plans for amendments to the design of dwelling and addition of garden room. Land at Vedal Drove.

It was proposed, seconded and unanimously resolved that the PC have no objections to the application.

Application No: 17/00270/PAMB Notification for prior approval for the change of use of existing agricultural building to a dwelling. Land at Vedal Drove. Permission refused by SSDC.

7.2 Parish Development - Updating of Parish Plan

This is still work in progress as and when team members have time to update their sections of the plan. Disappointment was expressed that there had been no written comments received by the Clerk following the Parish meeting.

The Chairman suspended the meeting to allow discussion to take place with PC Mark Bonici who is a Beat Manager covering another area but had come long to answer any questions the PC might have.

He was appraised of all the mindless vandalism which has recently taken place regarding the Village Hall and Recreation Ground, some having been carried out in broad daylight by the perpetrators. PC Bonici said that he would inform his colleagues of the situation as they are constantly driving past the Hall on their way to and from the Police Station.

He was also told of a white transit van that has been seen on several occasions in the village in suspicious circumstances and given the number of a Parishioner who could give more details regarding this.

He was informed that speeding in the Parish is also of great concern to many residents. He said that there was one van and two bikes covering Somerset and that they can only stop at approved sites.

On the question of Neighbourhood Watch, Mr Ellerbeck said that he would like to know the names of the co-ordinators for LS and Knole as on enquiry he had been refused this information. He is aware of the name of the main co-ordinator for LS.

PC Bonici was thanked for attending the meeting and the Council resumed its normal agenda.

8. Village Hall and Recreation Ground:

Mr Farenden reported that the VH is doing quite well, they have a balance of £6,750, commitments for the year of around £5,000 and a running surplus of around £2,000.

There are 3 functions booked for the year.

They are looking at opening an account with Unity Trust Bank and are also looking into a new online electronic booking system.

Mr Farenden reported that he, together with members of the VHC had a meeting with Sarah Kelly, Neighbourhood Development Officer SSDC and Olivia Bushbury, Area Development Projects Officer regarding the age and state of the Hall, ongoing repair bills and where the VH is going to be in 5/10/15/20 years time.

A company can be employed to do a survey of the Parish regarding what we have at present and what is wanted in the future. The cost of this will be £7,000 and can be raised by way of grants. This has been done in various Parishes in Somerset and Sarah and Olivia are prepared to help with the raising of the money and getting the project off the ground.

Mr Farenden said that this was the intention unless anyone has any objection.

The matter of the Cricket Club Lease was raised and Mr Farenden said it was suggested that the Cricket Club should be included in the project as a joint effort rather than letting them go off on their own.

There was a great deal of discussion regarding this matter, in which grave concerns were expressed and that any approach to the DC should have been made by the PC, as Trustee, in the first place and not the VHC. It was also suggested that perhaps the Hall and the Recreation Ground could be considered as two separate projects.

The Chairman said that the matter required much more discussion and should be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

8.1 Cricket Club Lease

Mr Ellerbeck reported that the CC were desperate for a Lease and that he has precedents of Leases used by other Parishes in the UK which can be adapted. The PC as Trustee has a right to grant a disposal and the Lease would be between the PC and the CC.

Having spoken with Tamlyns, they say that two Solicitors should be involved where as Greenslade Taylor Hunt think only one is required. Mr Ellerbeck said that he has yet to contact Justin of SALC.

Regarding costs, Mr Ellerbeck said that these are not known at the moment but it is thought they will be borne by the PC and the CC.

Discussion took place in which it was suggested that a delay of 6 months or a year would not have a detrimental effect. Some Councillors said that they did not wish to lose the CC and that they had waited a long time for a Lease.

Mr Ellerbeck requested permission to go ahead and look at the Lease as the situation stands at the moment. The Chairman requested that he do so.

8.2 Maintenance

Mr Farenden reported that the present electrical certificate expires in November. The most reasonable quote for carrying out the inside lighting work and an electrical check is £2788. The cost of work to the outside lighting is £674 and the Committee decided to go ahead with this for health and safety reasons.

The sum of £675, to be spent in respect of the outside lighting, was proposed by Mr Ellerbeck, seconded Mr Godfrey and unanimously authorised.

Mr Ellerbeck said that as work to the electrics had been carried out by an unqualified person, an electrical inspection should take place as soon as possible. Mr Farenden asked if the PC would pay for this.

It was proposed Mr Shire, seconded Mr Ellerbeck and unanimously resolved that the PC should pay for the costs of the inspection.

Mr Farenden also reported that work is to be carried out to the driveway drain which is a health and safety concern.

8.3 Any Other Village Hall matters - No other matters were raised.

9. Finance:

9.1 Balances and Accounts for Payment

Unity Trust A/C – Balance B/F		39720.27
Less A/cs paid last meeting:	969.23	
Paid by agreement out of meeting:		
AJM Electrical – Fitting of Defibrillators	204.00	
Community Heartbeat – Defibrillators	4334.00	
Mrs P Allen – Reimbursement for postage and to balance Petty Cash	67.82	
Somerton's Mower Man – Servicing of Lengthsman Scheme Mower	94.00	
Bank Service Charges 5 Dec 16 to 4 March 17	18.00	
Clerk's Salary paid by SO 3 April	<u>300.00</u>	<u>5987.05</u>
		<u>£33733.22</u>

The Balance at 31 March 2017 is £34,033.22. Of that balance, £4826.01 is attributable to the Lengthsman Scheme and £4834.46 to capital expenditure.

A/cs for payment

HMRC Tax on Clerk's Salary (final quarter)	225.00
CW's fee for March	532.75

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

A request for a donation has been received from St Margaret's Hospice. The PC is not however in a position to contribute towards other charities/organisations.

9.2 Audit of accounts for Year ending 31 March 2017

The Clerk reported that the External Auditors have appointed the 16th June as the audit date and that she had contacted the PC's Internal Auditor, Mr Williams of Pinnacle Accountancy who has said that he will carry out his usual inspection once the accounts are completed.

9.3 Workplace Pensions

Mr Foy said that he is waiting to hear from his Accountant regarding the correct procedure, the Clerk having indicated that she does not wish to join a Pension Scheme.

Item 15 was taken next on the agenda.

The Chairman suspended the meeting to allow members of the public to address the PC. Their concerns were regarding the work by Wessex Water at the Pumping Station in Crouds Lane and the nuisance this is causing for a lot of people and the very loud noise caused by the pumps.

Mr Shire said that he had contacted Wessex Water who say that they know they have difficulties in LS and Pitney and the cheapest option was to keep pumping. They are pumping all the way to Huish.

There would appear to be two aspects regarding this 1) the pumping side of it and 2) the actual state of the pipe.

It was suggested that a firm line needs to be taken with WW.

Discussion culminated in the Chairman saying that he would contact Wessex Water.

District Councillor, Mr Tucker joined the meeting at approximately 8.30 pm

15. Representative Reports and any other matters regarding:

15.1 Highways

15.1.1 Triangle Shute Lane: Mr Shire reported that Wessex Water are sending someone out to look at kerbing the triangle at Shute Lane. He did however obtain a quote from M&M of £2,000 for kerbing this.

15.1.2 Work to lower end of Village Green: Mr Foy apologised that he had not had the time to action this but would do so as soon as possible and get in touch with Councillors.

15.1.3 Update on other highways matters.

It appears that a speed monitoring device has been put on a pole at Martock Road.

Mr Foy said he is still chasing the erection of the pole at Upton Bridge Farm.

Mr Godfrey reported that an email has been received from a Parishioner who says that the speeding issue at Langport Road is getting worse. The PC reported this to the Beat Manager who was present earlier in the meeting but it appears there is little that can be done. If sufficient volunteers can however be found to revive the dormant Community Speed Watch, this would receive the support of the PC. Mr Godfrey will respond accordingly.

The matter of the creation of an access and the parking of vehicles at a property at Langport Road was raised. This was reported to the DC by the Clerk from a planning point of view and she had received the reply that an Officer would be appointed to investigate the matter. She had received the same reply on chasing this up recently.

There is a temporary Road Closure for 1 night on the 15th May at Littleton Hill, Compton Dundon

15.2 Footpaths: Proposed new footpath at Hammocks Drove: Mr Turpin reported that Justin of SALC has not come back with any adverse comments. The document has been completed in accordance with SCC's template. The Chairman said that

Mr Walford is happy to proceed if the PC are happy. All that is required now is a sufficient scale map to attach to the document. Mr Ellerbeck suggested contacting SCC who are able to print off OS maps or SSDC.

There is an order for the temporary closure of Footpath L21/50 for 6 months from the 24th April for Bridge repairs.

15.3 Environment: Wessex Water and Pumping Station Crouds Lane:

This was dealt with above and the Chairman is to contact Wessex Water.

Mr Shire reported that he had received a complaint regarding the noise from Cockralls at a property at Langport Road. It is understood the property concerned is owned by Yarlinton and it was therefore suggested that the complainant contacts them.

Chairman invited District Councillor Mr Tucker to address the PC. Mr Tucker said as the PC knows, he works for Glastonbury TC and there are occasions when there are meetings which he has to attend.

Mr Tucker had already provided his report but said that he had been contacted by a Parishioner as to what could be done about the closure of the NatWest in Langport. This is however a done deal. He is consulting with other District Councillors and Langport Business Group on ways to relieve the pressures that the closing of the Bank will cause. Glastonbury recently lost all its Banks but the Nationwide are going to open in Glastonbury.

10. Allotments/Farm Business Tenancies

Mr Ellerbeck reported that he has had a meeting with Greenslade Taylor Hunt and also spoke to them yesterday. They have spoken with the Tenants, with the exception of the Eastments and it has been agreed that Tim Cox will take over his father's allotments and David Crossman will take over his brother's on a 3 year rolling FBT tenancy. They have also agreed to an increased rent of £85 an acre back dated to the 1st January.

11. Community Warden Scheme

Mr Ellerbeck confirmed that he had received the CW's hours. He ran out of hours for the VH back in February. We are however now onto a new Agreement.

Regarding the overall Scheme. All 5 Parishes (Pitney having opted out last year) now have their own separate contracts and ways of dealing with the CW.

The balance in hand amounts to £4826.01 and Mr Ellerbeck said that he has worked out the percentages due to the Councils and the total is £4826.02. These calculations take into account Pitney who were in the Scheme from the start and Huish who have only been in the Scheme for 3 years.

Once the other Parishes have confirmed they are happy with the calculations, this can be paid out. He has also asked if any of the other Parishes are interested in taking over as Leader of the Scheme as LS has done this since the Scheme initially started.

12. Parish Website

Mr Godfrey said that when the PC was setting up the budget, it was agreed to upgrade our hosting package to a business one in order to obtain back up for the website rather than

using Cosmic as they were too expensive. It was agreed that Mr Godfrey should set up a Direct Debit in this regard.

Regarding the Freedom of Information, he said he had sent one email and left two voicemails to Justin at SALC regarding appropriate wording for this.

The Clerk said that the PC adopted the model Freedom of Information Scheme in 2008 and all that was really needed was to decide on the information that would be made available and the cost of providing this, if any, as this was lost when the website was changed. It was however decided to wait until a reply was received from SALC.

13. Neighbourhood Watch/Community Safety/Civil Contingencies

Mr Ellerbeck reported that he is still receiving information regarding Farm Watch and has also had liaison with Martock regarding this.

Nothing has been heard from the Community Safety Officer and it was agreed that a letter should be written to him.

13.1 Defibrillator Training: Mr Ellerbeck said that he is still trying to book a couple of days for the training as his first attempt was unsuccessful. The training is for the whole Parish and lasts a couple of hours. There was discussion as to what days and times might be suitable.

The defibrillators are however up and running.

13.2 Report on any other of the above matters

The vandalism at the VH has been reported to the Police.

A reply has been received from Chief Inspector Mark Edgington, South East Operations Manager, Yeovil in reply to the PC's letter sent to the Chief Constable. The Beat Manager and PCSO responsible for our area is PC Terri Lines and PCSO Fiona Wilson. He says that Sgt Dean Hamilton the local officer responsible for policing in the LS area has advised that his officers attend regular events and pass through the village most days en route to several of their other beats. The team are to be requested to give feedback on the activity and visibility.

He will request PCSO Fiona Wilson to make contact and discuss attendance at meetings.

The Clerk reported that PCSO Fiona Wilson had made contact but was unable to attend tonight's meeting, but had said she would try and arrange for a colleague to attend.

14. Restoration of Parish Pump

Mr Farenden said that he has heard nothing back from the company who have probably received a lot of applications.

16. Correspondence

Houses of Parliament Re their annual festival 13 - 19 November.

17. Date of next meeting – Annual Parish Council Meeting 2nd May 2017. The Chairman gave his apologies.

18. Any Other Business/Items for next meeting

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.30pm