

Minutes of Meeting of Long Sutton Parish Council
Held at the Hall on Tuesday 2nd June 2015 at 7.30 pm

Present: Councillors, Mr R W Fry (Chairman), Mr N A Gould, Mr T P Shire, Mr J A Ellerbeck, Mr P A F Godfrey, Mr D R C Agnew, and Mr N E Pomeroy. District Councillor Mr S Pledger, County Councillor Mr D Ruddle and 5 members of the public.

Apologies for Absence: There were no apologies.

Public Observations/Question Time: It was reported that the 30 mph sign had been knocked down at Crouds Lane. This had already been reported to SCC Highways by the PC.

1. Casual Vacancies

Mr George Farenden had previously expressed an interest in becoming a Parish Councillor.

It was proposed by Mr Gould, seconded Mr Ellerbeck and unanimously **resolved** that Mr Farenden should be co-opted onto the Council.

Mr Farenden, who was present at the meeting, duly signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office and was invited to join in the meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest

Mr Godfrey, Mr Ellerbeck and Mr Agnew declared an interest as members of the Golf Club, in Planning Application Number 15/00735/FUL regarding the construction of a flood bund and drainage Channel at LS Golf Club to be discussed under item 7 on the agenda.

Mr Agnew declared a personal/prejudicial interest, as the applicant, in Planning Application Number 15/02168/LBC in respect of work to be carried out at Thatchover, Knole also to be discussed under item 7 on the agenda.

3. Minutes of meeting held on 5th and 12th May 2015 (previously circulated)

Minutes of the 5th May:

The Chairman said that under item 6 Planning Application 15/01603/S73A it has been requested that the reference to the annex being two storeys should be amended to 1½ storeys.

A new Councillor who had been present as a member of the public at the last meeting said that the minutes did not contain reference to a member of the public directing inappropriate comments regarding a Councillor. This was again in relation to the above application and following discussion it was agreed that this should be added prior to "Mr Gould then left the room."

Following the above amendment/addition the minutes of the 5th May were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Minutes of the 12th May

These were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters Arising: No matters were raised.

5. County Councillor's Report

Mr Ruddle reported that a reduction in the speed limit from Catsgore on the A372 to the crossroads from 50 to 40 mph is being considered for later this year.

The Chair of the County Council is now Christine Lawrence and the Vice-chair Graham Noel.

Mr Ruddle advised that has been elected to the DC Council and is the Vice-Chair for Area North with Mr Pledger being the Chair.

The PC having had no response to emails from Mr Chris Weeks of Highways regarding the Village Green etc, Mr Ruddle was asked for any assistance he could give in this connection.

Mr Ruddle then left to attend another PC Meeting.

6. District Councillor's Report

Mr Pledger reported that the first Area North meeting of the new Council will take place at the end of the month. There are now several new members.

He reported regarding the Solar application at Aller. He also said he had been to the Golf Club in connection with their recent planning application.

He said that the Somerton & District Beekeepers' Association are seeking support regarding their application to the DC for a grant for an Apiary Building at Upton. It was confirmed that this is on the PC's agenda for discussion later in the meeting.

7. Planning

It was agreed that the following two applications regarding Elmwood Barn and West Knole house would be discussed at an extra-ordinary meeting to be held at the Village Hall on Monday 8th June 2015 at 7.30 pm.

Application No: 15/01901/FUL Conversion of an existing outbuilding at Elmwood Barn, Knole into a 2 bedroom dwelling.

Application No: 15/2248/LBC and 15/02247/FUL Proposed conversion of outbuilding into annex, consisting of 2 bedrooms, office and garden room (associated with West Knole House), the relocation of garden wall and widening of existing vehicular access at West Knole House, Knole Causeway.

Application No: 15/00735/FUL Construction of new flood bund and drainage channel at LS Golf Club

It was reported that the Drainage Board have no objection and that there is one objection from a member of the public. The Environment Agency however require more information. Concern was expressed as to whether there could be any back flow towards Knole. Following discussion in which Mr Gould informed the PC of the contents of the flood report, it was proposed, seconded and agreed that the PC accept the application subject to the provision of emergency flood measures and a flood risk assessment to the satisfaction of the Environment Agency.

Application No: 15/02168/LBC Removal of existing cement render, carry out repairs as necessary, replace pointing and re-render. Investigate chimney stack over kitchen end of building and repair if necessary. Thatchover, Stonemead Lane, Knole.

The applicant, Mr Agnew said that this was a Grade II Listed Building and that the works were necessary as cracking is causing damp. It is proposed to remove the cement render and replace with limestone render. Mr Agnew then left the room.

During discussion, a Councillor raised the question of what would happen should something of architectural and/or historical significance be identified during the removal of the cement render. It was however felt that the Conservation team would no doubt be monitoring the works during this process. It was therefore proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed that the PC support the application.

Permissions granted by SSDC:-

Application No: 15/01252/S73 Section 73 application to amend conditions 2,4,5 and 6 of previously approved application 14/00273/FUL. To simplify construction, amend materials and improve drainage run as shown on substituted plans. Woodland View, Langport Road.

Application No: 15/01054/FUL Erection of a Conservatory at the rear of 2 Charity Cottages, Hermitage Road, Upton.

8. Parish Council Insurance and Review of Assets

Following the recent insurance renewal and the revised Schedule received, it was agreed that Mr Ellerbeck, Mr Agnew and Mr Gould would review the PC's assets and the insurance cover that is in place.

In view of the Schedule of insurance cover now received it was agreed that the Chairman and Mr Pomeroy would look at the Insurance Policy held by the Village Hall in order to ensure that there is no duplication of cover.

9. Finance:

(i) Balances and Accounts for Payment

Business Reserve Alc		<u>£8167.86</u>
Current A/c		25439.51
Less Alcs paid 5 th & 12 th May		<u>1757.07</u>
		<u>£23682.44</u>
Lengthsman Alc		24822.60
Less Pd 5 th May		<u>2076.76</u>
		<u>£22745.84</u>
A/cs for payment:		
SALC Subscription		217.21
Clerk's Salary		300.00
Lengthsman A/c:-		
CW's fee for May	1667.63	
Materials	<u>19.50</u>	1687.13

It was proposed Mr Godfrey, seconded Mr Gould and unanimously agreed that the accounts be paid.

(ii) Bank Mandate and Financial Regulations

Mr Godfrey and Mr Ellerbeck confirmed that they had visited the NatWest in Langport in order to provide their identification to become signatories to the PCs accounts. The form necessary to amend the mandate to include these signatures and to remove the signature of Ms P Jukes was then duly completed and the following resolution passed:

“It was proposed Mr Ellerbeck, seconded Mr Gould and unanimously resolved that: the signing rules in the current mandate, for the accounts detailed in section 2, be replaced in accordance with section 4; and the authorised signatories in the current mandate, for the accounts details in section 2, be changed in accordance with sections 5 and 6 and the current mandate will continue as amended.”

(iii) Tengore Lane Solar Development – Community Benefit

In respect of the Community Benefit of £1809.60 received with regard to the solar development at Tengore Lane it was confirmed that the payment is to be used for charitable, educational, environmental, amenity or other appropriate purposes within the areas of the Community and wherever possible the payment shall be applied towards the promotion of sustainable energy and uses. The community payment is to be made for the first 10 years of the Scheme.

In view of the conditions of the Deed it was agreed that approval should be sought before spending any money.

The Clerk and Mr Gould will in due course look at the PC's Financial Regulations in the light of new legislation etc.

10. Standing Orders

Mr Ellerbeck provided Councillors with new draft Standing Orders for consideration, these having been taken from NALC's model 2013.

11. Village Hall:

(i) Review of Procedures

As agreed at the Trustee's AGM the PC wish to be kept fully informed of all financial transactions and balances held by the VHC.

(ii) Any other Village Hall Matters

Mr Pomeroy's latest report had been forwarded to Councillors. He said that they have the money for the Loop system which is on order. If however a fully operational PA system is added, they have received a quote of £1.7k. It was strongly felt that other avenues should be explored and grants obtained in this regard.

12. Community Warden Scheme

Details of all the co-ordinators of the various Parishes have not yet been received and they are to be chased in this respect.

Mr Ellerbeck said that he had been trying to contact Pam Jukes but so far without success. The Clerk explained that Ms Jukes was away on holiday.

13. Parish Website

Mr Godfrey asked if he could have the draft minutes to put on the website a week before the meeting. The Clerk said that she would try and achieve this but the work commitment required in the last three months had escalated considerably.

She said that she understood from SSDC that the members register of interests forms should go on the website but that this could be achieved by a link to the DC's website.

14. Neighbourhood Watch/Community Safety/Civil Contingencies including:- Localised flooding and surface water management to include foul drainage and BT Outage at telephone exchange.

Mr Gould reported that the problems being suffered regarding the telephone/broadband service have been caused by the contractors in connection with the installation of Superfast Broadband. It would appear that some other Parishes have suffered a similar fate.

The question of surface water management is an ongoing issue. SSDC have suggested that this be flagged up on any planning application where this could be a cause for concern.

Mr Gould will liaise with Mr Farenden and Mr Pomeroy regarding the storage of parish equipment for civil contingencies and generally review procedures and works required for which grant funding should be sought.

It was confirmed that the PCSO for this area is Ben Middleditch.

15. Representative Reports and any other matters regarding:

15.1 Highways:

15.1.1 Village Green: Mr Gould reported that he had asked for a schedule of works and materials from SCC Highways but has not received a reply. He will contact them again.

15.1.2 Highways Reserve: Mr Gould said that he had contacted Highways regarding Crouds Lane but they do not appear to be interested in taking steps to address any issues.

15.1.3 Speeding at Langport Road: Further representation is to be made to the Police regarding this.

There was felt to be a serious visibility issue at the junction of Shute Lane/Martock Road due to the height of the hedge at Hill Crest. Following discussion it was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed that the District and County Councils should be contacted regarding this matter.

15.2 Footpaths: Footpath Hammocks Field: Mr Gould said that he had not heard anything from the County Council and would contact Mr Ruddle to ask him to make enquiries regarding the matter.

It was reported that the Footpath at Knole that runs through Orchard Farm and comes out at Pitt Lane is blocked and there is no footpath sign.

15.3 Environment

Various matters have been raised by a resident at Knole regarding Environment/Highways issues. These include the lack of treatment to the weeds in the kerbsides; that the road sweeper does not appear to visit Knole; that the speed limit at Langport Road should be increased to 50 mph and that at Catsgore to 60 mph and that the dead end road south from Bineham to Bineham City Farm has been top dressed but Knole Causeway remains in poor condition. Street lighting for Knole was also raised. This would of course need the support of the community and from representations to date it is felt this would not be forthcoming.

There was discussion regarding the matters raised following which it was unanimously agreed that these matters should be directed to the appropriate authorities i.e. the District and County Councils and a reply will be sent to the resident accordingly.

16. Correspondence

Somerton Beekeepers Association Re Apiary at Long Sutton: They say that the DC consider their project to be a positive contribution to the community and that the DC would be prepared to help with financing the building providing the PC is on side. The PC acknowledged the benefits of this rural activity and following discussion it was proposed, seconded and unanimously resolved that the PC formally support their grant application to the District Council. A reply will be sent accordingly.

17. Date of next meeting – Extra-ordinary meeting to consider planning applications 8th June 2015. Next full Parish Council Meeting 7th July 2015.

18. Any Other Business/Items for next meeting

Mr Pomeroy reported that the Cycle Club will be using the Village Hall, Pavilion and Car Park on the 7th June.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm