



LONG SUTTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 7th April 2026 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors Cox, (Chairman), Rousell (Vice-Chair), Coombes, Furse-Roberts, Greenfield, Pritchard, Tulk and Wielgus.

Members of the Public: 2

Somerset Councillors: Cllrs Page and Kerley sent apologies.

Meeting closed at 7.31pm

Public Questions and Observations

The owner of Knole Pit Meadow wanted to provide some background to the 14-acre site (agenda item 26/004/c). She has permitted development having bought it as a market garden and does not believe that she requires change of use to continue to grow food and for livestock grazing. She confirmed that she stays there a lot of the time and has had support from the SRA who helped with pond digging. She has planted 1600 trees and plans to plant many more. The Chairman thanked her and invited her to stay for the agenda item discussion which was there as several residents had been lobbying parish councillors.

A second member of the public wanted to complain about the increasing dog mess in the playing field. He shared a photograph of a sign situated on the Pavilion wall which states "No Dogs Allowed" and would like to see that reinstated at least through the summer months during the cricket season. He feels that it is a health hazard especially when industrial mowers spread any mess over a wide area. The Chairman thanked him for bringing the matter to the Council's attention and asked the Clerk to include it on the next meeting agenda for further consideration.

There was also a question about keeping the stream in New Street clear of vegetation so that it flows well like the other gullies and ditches that have recently been cleared. The Chairman confirmed that this would be monitored and the newly appointed Parish Warden tasked with clearing it when necessary.

Somerset Councillors Report

No report had been shared.

Meeting re-opened 7.39pm

MINUTES

26/001: Apologies for absence (LGA 1972 s85(1)).

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Fell.



26/002: Declarations of Interest.

None were made.

26/003: Minutes of the last meeting held on 3rd March 2026 (LGA 1972sch12 para 41(1)).

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd March had been circulated previously.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the [minutes of the meeting](#) held on 3rd March 2026 as a true & correct record of that meeting. The Chairman duly signed the minutes.

Matters Arising

The Chairman confirmed that the tyres recently dumped at Bineham junction and the issue of road marking was now with Highways who have confirmed that they will take the necessary actions. Cllr Wielgus mentioned that it was already much improved by having the hedges cut.

Cllrs Pritchard and Wielgus confirmed that they have finalised a draft of the welcome letter for approval. (See later item, 26/010).

The Chairman further confirmed that the outdoor table tennis table has now been installed, and a selection of bats and balls provided in a storage box fixed underneath. The pétanque court is almost finished and sets of balls for both adults and children have been purchased and will be made similarly available for residents to use.

26/004: Planning Matters

a. To consider any new planning applications in the parish:

i. 26/00501/HOU – Old Stables Cottage, Knole, Long Sutton TA10 9HZ

Proposal: Proposed summer house

After a brief discussion and summary from Cllr Roussell, members had no objections to this application.

ii. 26/00423/HOU – The Old Hay Barn, Knole, Long Sutton TA10 9HY

Proposal: The installation of 5.4Kw solar system on South facing cottage roof.

Cllr Roussell confirmed that the Listed Building Consent recently discussed had been approved on 23rd March. It was not clear why the associated planning application had arrived a month later.

Members had no comments regarding the application.

b. Members **NOTED** the decision notices circulated since the last meeting.

c. Land at Knole Pit Meadow, Knole Pit Lane TA10 9JD

The Chairman restated why the matter was on the agenda – there had been sufficient concerns raised by residents to discuss and agree any next steps. Cllr Roussell then summarised the site, showing some photographs taken from the road. There are several former shipping containers now clad with wood and various poly tunnels. He surmised that various permissions such as Change of Use should be sought to run a Forest School business and to live almost permanently on-site as there are strictly defined conditions around temporary living accommodation e.g limited to 28 days.



Members then discussed their concerns which included: shared concerns about the impact on visual amenity in the countryside which is clearly visible from the road and could set a precedent for others to do the same; some councillors supported the aims of the site, but everyone needs to be treated equally when it comes to planning - rules need to apply to everyone, and proper permissions should be in place; residents have reported the matter online to the Enforcement Department as did the Parish Council some time ago, and this hasn't prompted any action; insurance requirements to run a business need appropriate lawful endorsement.

The owner offered to contact a planning consultant and the planning department to investigate permissions required. The Chairman thanked her, but felt that as residents have expressed strong concerns, the Parish Council should also make a formal comment to the Planning Department.

Cllr Roussel proposed writing to Somerset Council to make them aware of concerns raised and note that there has been positive engagement with the landowner, but it is unclear about which permissions are required. Cllr Tulk seconded the motion, and it was carried by majority vote (4 in support, 1 against and 2 abstentions).

The Clerk and the Chairman will follow up with the Planning Department.

26/005: Finance

- a. To approve the accounts for payment in April 2026.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the accounts for payment for April 2026.

- b. To view and approve the bank reconciliation to 31st March 2026 and note the closing balances for the year 2025/'26.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the bank reconciliations to 31st March 2026 as circulated and the closing balances for 2025/'26 were **NOTED** as £27,617.63.

- c. Members **NOTED** the content of the Q4 Financial Summary Report.
- d. Members **NOTED** the amount of £547.97 for the Q4 VAT reclaim.
- e. The clerk confirmed the appointment with the Internal Auditor as Friday 10th April at 9.30am.
- f. Members **NOTED** the reduction in the Clerk's hours from 10 to 8 per week with effect from 1st April. This will be monitored in the coming months.

26/006: Village Hall and Recreation Ground

Cllr Cox reported that the arrangements for the Sports Showcase Day taking place on 18th April are all in place. Flyers had been distributed to every household - Cllr Wielgus complimented the flyers which were eye-catching and well designed.

26/007: Environment Group

Cllr Wielgus reported that the Nature Reserve has been popular with lots of visitors. There is a small problem with dogs because of the nesting birds, and that situation will be monitored. A recent



volunteer meeting had highlighted 25 tasks ranging in size for the coming year. They are aiming to organise 2 or 3 public engagements but may not hold Nature Day this year. There was a brief discussion about an Environment Day event rather than Nature Day, to include advice on home insulation and similar matters and this could be held one evening, rather than during the day.

The Chairman commented that the Nature Reserve is looking fantastic and suggested a family picnic day as an event over the summer. He asked if the Environment Group had given any thought to becoming their own entity which would be advantageous for certain grant applications for example, but Cllr Wielgus felt that this was not something they had the time to pursue currently. He was happy to keep it as a consideration in the future.

Cllr Furse-Roberts mentioned that the lower pond at the Nature Reserve is still leaking, and he is meeting with a representative from FWAG who will provide some advice.

26/008: Annual Parish Meeting

The Clerk confirmed that the various clubs and societies in the village had been invited to make contributions at the Annual Village Meeting. The Chairman asked her to liaise with Cllr Bill Revans' office and ensure any requirements that he may have are organised. The Clerk reminded members that she will be away on holiday mid-May and of the requirement for a locum clerk to officially record the meeting. Members agreed to this and asked her to arrange cover.

26/009: Representative reports from councillors.

- a. Community Safety (including the monthly crime statistics from Police.uk and the SID - Speed Indicator Device). The Clerk has spoken to the website support agent about putting the SID data on the website. Cllr Rousell confirmed that there had been no crime in January. The Clerk was asked to write to Abri about a car on blocks on the highway at Langport Road.
- b. Parish Warden – Cllr Tulk reported that the new contractor had started work on the 1st April and the grass had been cut twice already as it was long. He's made a good impression so far. Members **APPROVED** a full pollard of the lime trees on the green. Cllr Tulk will instruct the Warden accordingly.
- c. Highways and Footpaths – Cllr Pritchard had nothing to report from The Stile Council as some of the volunteers have been away. The Clerk had included an item about footpaths in the recent newsletter asking residents to report any defects they may notice.

26/010: Communication: website and e-newsletter

Members agreed that the next newsletter should include the following matters:
New Parish Warden introduction – May APM – photos of the sports day – transport (slinky bus)

Cllrs Pritchard and Wielgus passed around a draft of the newly designed Welcome Letter for newcomers to the village. They would like members approval and then intend to produce a brochure style version and publish it on the website.

There was a question about how to identify new residents – Cllr Tulk suggested giving some copies to local estate agents and using the newsletter distributors. This can be discussed further at the next meeting.



26/011: Correspondence including any not previously distributed & Councillors' Comments

Cllr Wielgus confirmed that the flood defence application to FWAG will be submitted in the next couple of weeks.

Cllr Cox asked Cllr Pritchard to put together a pétanque team to demonstrate at the Sports Showcase on 18th April. He had also received a match challenge from the teams at Langport, Shapwick and High Ham.

26/012: Date of next meeting.

The Annual Parish Council meeting will take place on **Tuesday 5th May 2026, at 7.30pm** in the Village Hall.

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on **Thursday 14th May 2026 at 7.30pm** in the Village Hall.

26/013: Agenda items for the next meeting.

No additional items were suggested.

Meeting closed at 8.47pm

END OF MINUTES