



LONG SUTTON

LONG SUTTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Long Sutton Parish Council Meeting 5th March 2024

Present

Councillors: Mr G R Cox (Chairman), Mr N Rousell (Vice Chairman), Mrs J Pritchard, Mrs G Rickards, Mr N Ward, Mr B Wielgus.

Cllrs Coombes and Stoddart-Stones attended remotely by Zoom.

Apologies from Somerset Councillor Tim Kerley.

Members of the Public: 0

Public Observations and Question Time was not required.

Somerset Councillors report: N/A

The Parish Council meeting started at: 7.30pm

Minutes

1. To receive apologies for absence, and to note and approve reason given (LGA 1972 s85(1)).
None.
2. Declarations of interest (Localism Act 2011 s33 (b-e)).
None.
3. To receive and approve the [Minutes of the last meeting](#) held on 6th February 2024 (LGA 1972 sch12, para 41(1)).

It was resolved to approve the minutes from the meeting held on 6th February 2024 and the minutes were signed.

3.1. Matters arising.

There is an expression of interest from a member of the public to purchase Smarts Field, and Cllr Cox has put the member of the public in touch with the Society of Friends to discuss further.

4. Casual Vacancy. To consider any applications to fill the casual vacancy on the Parish Council by co-option.
Cllr Wielgus has reworked the councillor overview, which is now on the website and will be promoted on social media.
5. Planning applications: Planning applications can be viewed on the [Somerset Council website](#).

6. Capital infrastructure projects: Play Area.

- 6.1. To receive an update regarding the play area refurbishment, and to consider any developments that require a formal decision.
- There is a meeting in the middle of March regarding the refurbishment of the play area, a contractor is presenting a design proposal.
 - A further grant has been applied for, Postcode lottery, for £6.5k.
 - The delivery of the project is dependent on the successful grant funding from lottery funding and the post code lottery.
 - Discussion regarding the removal of the existing rubber surfaces. A local contractor will remove the surfaces for the fee of £1.00, which will then remove the waste transfer obligations. Cllr Coombes to check that this is okay with the contractor.
 - Report of moss on the play area surface, and proposed action was discussed.

7. Capital Infrastructure Project: Pavilion Refurbishment.

- 7.1. To receive an update regarding the pavilion refurbishment and consider any developments that require a formal decision.
- A spreadsheet has been circulated with a proposed budget for the entire project, (taking into account a non-refundable VAT status of £20k).
 - The fundraising team are working together. There is a pipeline of grant funding about £230k, with in principle contributions (including an ECB loan) so far of approximately £100k.
 - There will be some fluctuation with the pricing, as the quote for materials is subject to change.
 - This project will spread over 2 financial years for any funding from the Parish Council.
 - There is matched funding available for some of the funding applications.

8. Capital Infrastructure Project: Tennis Courts

- 8.1. To receive an update regarding the refurbishment of the tennis courts.
- A Privacy Policy has been produced for the Club Spark booking pages, and the Parish Council website. This is a separate agenda item. The Safeguarding Policy needs to be reviewed.
 - There are signs to be displayed on the court door, the artwork for which is available from the Lawn Tennis Association website.
 - A short verbal update was received regarding the permanent marking out of the courts, which is also available on the Parish Council website.
 - That the Village Hall and Recreation Ground Committee needs to consider what process is now required to deal with the booking, and the tennis courts need to be removed from the Hall Master booking system.
- 8.2. Update of discussion with Somerton Tennis Club.
Somerton Tennis Club do not wish to proceed with their original proposal.

9. Village Hall and Recreation Ground Committee.

- 9.1. Matters brought forward by the committee.
The meeting scheduled for 4th March was postponed and will be rescheduled. No updates to report.

10. Environment Plan

10.1. Feedback from the Environment Fair on 16th February 2024.

- A fantastic day and well done to the team who supported on the day.
- 150 attendees, evenly spread over the whole period of the fair.
- Thank you to all the members of the community and beyond who helped make the day such a success, but not limited to: all the members of the Women's Institute; Colin Beesley and Jo Chesworth from the Bumblebee Trust; Lou Norman, Kate and the team from Reimagining The Levels; Hannah Paddison from Somerset Wildlife Trust; Penny and Anita Wielgus; Joyce; Hawk and Owl Trust; and Councillors Wielgus, Rickard, Coombes, Stoddart-Stones, Cox and Pritchard.
- Lots of freebees were handed out.
- An annual Environment Fair is achievable, with a different focus each year. Since this is the second event, people were much more aware and had an idea of what to expect.
- There is a vast amount of evidence of community engagement, which will help with grant funding applications.
- The Quakers meeting house keen to do an open day.
- Cllr Rickards has two chestnut whips that are a resistant variety and need to be planted soon. They would be excellent to commemorate the new play area.

10.2. Feedback from the Community Land Survey and to discuss next steps.

- Those who took part in the survey were all very interested in the questions, especially the wilding. No negative responses at all.
- A lot of respondents were interested in land for young farmers to plant crops.
- The survey needs to have a wider circulation, and perhaps via the newsletter.
- There have been requests for trees around the tractor shed on the recreation ground, now the conifers have now been removed, with further requests to plant daffodils.
- One of the questions was for volunteers to work on community land; there were 9 people signed up for this.
- A popular response was that they want the land to 'just be'.

10.3. Hedgehogs R Us Highway Project. To discuss the recent correspondence and consider the purchase of a Hedgehogs R Us Highway Box.

- This is a little surround, which will sit on the bottom of a fence, and promote a hedgehog highway. This would be helpful for Environment Day next year. It was



- The clerk is to register an interest, with Somerset Council Devolution team, for the parish price list and the training that may be provided by Somerset Council.

17. Representative reports and any other matters regarding:

17.1. Community Safety.

- 17.1.1. Monthly crime statistics from the [Police.Uk](https://www.police.uk) website, or a police report if received.

There was one crime reported in January, a stolen vehicle in the Village Hall car park.

The Speed Indicator Device was in the parish last month. The data needs to be processed by Cllr Rousell.

17.2. Lengthsman. To receive an update of work undertaken in the Parish.

The Lengthsman has mainly been undertaking tree works, based upon arborist reports. Once the weather improves, grass cutting will be a priority. Tree shredding to be stored and used to improve footpath surfaces, where muddy or waterlogged.

17.3. Highways and Footpaths. To receive an update on any planned or completed works.

- Volunteers have been out and repaired a stile step. Issues reported at Dropping Lane in Upton is not a Right of Way nor a Parish Council issue. Cllr Pritchard is doing a great job of progressing tasks with the volunteer group.
- There was an overgrown hedge near to the village hall, which has been cut back by a contractor for Highways safety, and this did not take place during nesting season.
- Knole Pit Lane is to be reported again, the road is very eroded, and a main flooding concern.

18. Other correspondence not previously distributed. None.

19. To consider a date for the Annual Parish Meeting, and to discuss providing refreshments to encourage attendance by parishioners.

The Annual Parish meeting was discussed and is to take place on Wednesday 1st May at 7.30pm until 9.30pm. There will be refreshments, along with reports from the Chair and the various Parish Council groups. The Annual Parish Council Meeting will take place on 7th May.

20. Date of next meeting – Parish Council meeting Tuesday 2nd April 2024 in the Village Hall.

21. Agenda items for the next meeting:

Cllr Rousell submitted apologies.

The Parish Council meeting closed at 9.18pm.

END OF MINUTES

Long Sutton Parish Council
 PAYMENTS (AWAITING AUTHORISATION) LIST

Voucher Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Cheque No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
111 Payroll provider	05/03/2024	payroll February	Unity Bank Current	PN111	Payroll	Timeback accounts and paym	X	6.00		6.00
114 clerk salary	05/03/2024	clerk salary Feb	Unity Bank Current	PN114	salary	Clerk Salary	X	366.73		366.73
115 Website and communications	05/03/2024	Website support	Unity Bank Current	PN115	website support	Sara R Appleton Marketing	X	40.00		40.00
116 Defibrillators	05/03/2024	emergency phon	Unity Bank Current	PN116	emergency phone annual defit	Community Heartbeat Trust	S	60.00	12.00	72.00
119 Clerks expenses	05/03/2024	refund L Newby	Unity Bank Current	PN119	print cartridges	Cartridge People	S	47.16	9.44	56.60
118 maintenance	05/03/2024	refund L Newby	Unity Bank Current	PN118	robot vacuum	Anker Technology (UK) Ltd	S	203.33	40.67	244.00
117 environment day	05/03/2024	donation for plar	Unity Bank Current	PN117	plants	Reimagining the levels	X	200.00		200.00
112 HMRC	18/03/2024	PAYE Feb 2024	Unity Bank Current	PN112	PAYE	HMRC	X	91.60		91.60
113 Lengthsman	29/03/2024	March Lengthsm	Unity Bank Current	PN113	lengthsman services	Howe Tree Surgery	S	866.25	173.25	1,039.50
Total								1,881.07	235.36	2,116.43

Prepared by: _____ Date: _____
 Name and Role

Approved by: _____ Date: _____
 Name and Role

Approved by: _____ Date: _____
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