



LONG SUTTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the parish council held on Tuesday 3rd March 2026 at 7.30pm

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

Members of the Public: 1

Somerset Councillors: Cllr Page sent apologies.

Meeting closed at 7.31pm

Public Questions and Observations - None

Somerset Councillors Report

Cllr Kerley confirmed that the recent £5m allocation from central government to Highways is being spent on repairs such as re-painting road signs and markings, pavements and cycleways and clearing gullies. It is approximately £100k per division. The funding gap forecast to be over £100m, was at £25m by February, so a much-improved picture, despite the Government's Fair Funding Review hitting rural counties. Councillors agreed a 4.99% Council Tax rise, taking the average Band D bill to £1,950.30 a year (about £1.78 extra per week). To close the remaining gap, the council will use one further year of Exceptional Financial Support via a Capitalisation Direction while seeking further savings through transformation.

The new boundary division has now been finalised and Long Sutton will be part of Langport from the 2027 elections.

Cllr Cox asked if he could liaise with the Highways department about the mud at the Bineham junction which forces vehicles to use the wrong side of the road. Removing the mud and re-surfacing the junction would make it much safer. Furthermore, it had been reported by Cllr Coombes that metalworks in the road surface are currently exposed which are a hazard to users. Cllr Kerley will investigate this as a matter of urgency.

Meeting re-opened 7.35pm

MINUTES

25/181: Apologies for absence (LGA 1972 s85(1)).

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Pritchard, Fell & Coombes.

25/182: Declarations of Interest.

Cllr Wielgus declared a personal interest in Item 25/184 as the owner of Orchard Farm.



25/183: Minutes of the last meeting held on 3rd February 2026 (LGA 1972sch12 para 41(1)).

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

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

Matters Arising

Cllr Cox reported that he had been asked to attend South Petherton PC's recent meeting to talk about the Environment Group model. It was an interesting meeting with 30 members of the public criticising the 9 councillors, and he was left feeling slightly caught in the middle.

25/184: Village Flooding Issues

Cllr Tulk had been monitoring the free-flowing of the drains and gullies in the village and reported that a couple of places could do with some work. Together with Knole he proposed having the contractors back in the village for one day to keep on top of things. Somerset Council contractors had been seen working in the village, including a report of a team being in Knole who cleared the gullies from St Benedict's to the bridge, but not the other side of the bridge. The clerk had written to the Highways department as this was inefficient use of resources following the recent and extensive works undertaken by the Parish Council. Cllr Kerley agreed and had proposed that the new interactive map should be updated more regularly to better inform all parties. The Clerk was asked to obtain a list of the areas that Somerset Council had recently worked on and then arrange an additional day's work with S & D Services in April or May.

Martin Minogue reported on behalf of the Knole Flood Group who had attended a recent event arranged by Sarah Dyke, MP with representatives from the SRA, FWAG, EVAG and the EA. He had been invited to speak to the more than 100 people present about how they successfully applied for a CFAF grant. He detailed that the support from the Parish Council had been pivotal.

He also confirmed that works undertaken had proved effective in the recent incessant rainfall, but this was because there hadn't been a flash flood scenario. They are still keen to install a leaky dam at Orchard Farm which will reduce flooding by 70% and FWAG have expressed support and suggested applying for a grant when the new financial year starts in April. All the information has been passed onto Cllr Wielgus as the landowner.

Members delegated authority to the clerk to work with Cllr Wielgus to complete the application form.

25/185: Planning Matters

- a. To consider the following new planning applications in the parish:
 - i. 26/00140/S73A – 14, Martock Road, Long Sutton, Langport TA10 9JS
Proposal: S73 application to vary condition 2 (approved plans) to allow series of minor design amendments to the approved scheme, primarily involving a reduction in scale, simplification of the roof form, removal of the second floor, and detachment of the garage in relation to planning approval 22/02059/FUL, (description amended by application 26/00251/NMA) for proposed new dwelling and double garage.



Cllr Rousell provided a summary of the amendments proposed in the application. After some discussion, members felt that the amendments to materials used (red-brick) and the new position of the garage forward from the line of neighbouring properties were not in keeping with the locality and the linear nature of the village and were significant enough to require a new application, not a variation of conditions. The clerk was asked to submit the comments online.

- b. Members noted the outcome of the decision notice received since the last meeting, which had been circulated previously.

25/186: Grounds Maintenance

Cllr Cox began by thanking Cllr Tulk for meeting with the contractors and putting together the specifications and marked up maps. Cllr Tulk that there was one contractor who really stood out for his professionalism, courtesy and understanding of the requirements. He provided details of equipment, and nominated staff and members **AGREED** to offer the contract to Parsons Tree and Garden Services.

The clerk was asked to verify references and arrange a final on-site meeting to ensure both parties are happy before issuing the contract.

25/187: Finance

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

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

- b. To view and approve the bank reconciliation to 28th February 2026.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the bank reconciliations to 28th February 2026 as circulated.

- c. The Risk Register had been updated and circulated to members prior to the meeting. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the updated Risk Register with a couple of minor amendments to reflect good budget awareness.
- d. Members **APPROVED** the quotation to update the website to meet the latest accessibility guidelines. The clerk will arrange to get the work carried out before the internal audit in early April.
- e. Members **APPROVED** the increased monthly retainer fee for website support services from March 2026 onwards. Cllr Cox suggested reviewing the need for retained support in 12 months.
- f. The members mandated to act as signatories signed the account management form to add Cllr Furse-Roberts to the banking mandate. The clerk will process the form and associated documentation.

25/188: Village Hall and Recreation Ground

Cllr Cox had previously circulated the minutes from the recent VH Management Committee meeting. The main points to note included: all is currently going well. Tracy Rousell as Treasurer is doing a great job on debtors etc. and they are hoping to make the booking process more efficient and introduce online payment.



The Sports and Activity Showcase on the afternoon of 18th April has 13 different sports and activities confirmed to date. There has only been soft marketing so far, but a leaflet door drop is also planned. Cllr Tulk is arranging for an ice-cream van on the day.

Members **APPROVED** Cllr Fell as the third member of the Village Hall Committee.

25/189: Petanque Court & Outdoor Table Tennis Table

Cllr Cox confirmed that the table tennis table had been delivered earlier that day. A flat area of ground will be chosen near the Sports Pavilion and Cllr Rousell will help to assemble the table. The clerk had sourced some matting to protect the grass from wear and tear where the players stand, and a suitable weatherproof storage box for bats and balls. The SALC grant had been credited to the bank account to cover the associated equipment costs.

Cllr Cox had met with a contractor about some necessary ground preparation work to create the pétanque court. He will report further on this at the next meeting.

25/190: Environment Group

Cllr Wielgus reported that the post-grant reporting form for the Wessex Water grant had been completed and submitted. 600 willow sticks went into the ground which will hopefully provide the opportunity for willow weaving in the future. The DofE student is carrying out some useful research and is very enthusiastic. The group will be attending the Somerton Environment Day and have a stall to promote the Nature Reserve. They are giving some thought to grass cutting for September

25/191: Parish Council Policy Documents

Draft forms of the following policies had been circulated prior to the meeting for members to review.

- a. Reserves Policy
- b. Privacy Policy
- c. Document Retention Policy

Members **APPROVED** the updated policies, and the clerk will update the website.

25/192: Representative reports from councillors.

- a. Community Safety (including the monthly crime statistics from Police.uk and the SID - Speed Indicator Device).

Cllr Rousell reported the data* collected from locating the SID at the Bineham Crossroads for just under 4 weeks. Over 50k vehicles were recorded with the average speed being 38.4 mph. It proves that there isn't really an issue of speeding traffic. The device will be back in the village in 3 months' time.

**Data is published on the website.*

There were no reported crimes in January.



- b. Lengthsman – nothing further to report.
- c. Highways and Footpaths

See earlier item about the mud triangle at the Bineham crossroads. Cllr Kerley to investigate this. Cllr Pritchard had provided the following update from the Footpath Volunteers: the only work completed this month is the repair of the signpost on Littlefields Lane. A lot more work is planned for the coming month.

25/193: Communication: website and e-newsletter

Members agreed that the next newsletter should include the following matters:
Sports & Activity Day – cheque presentation from Jamie Snowden evening – ask people to mention any defects on footpaths to pass on to volunteers (5 miles of footpaths). GG – can we include a link to a map of the footpaths. W.I put together a map of 5 walks – updating website pages for clubs and societies -defib locations – Slinky Bus – report potholes.

25/194: Correspondence including any not previously distributed & Councillors' Comments

Cllr Wielgus reported that oil in the mill stream has been reported to the Environment Agency 6 months ago but is continuing to pollute. He will monitor the situation, and keep members informed.

25/195: Date of next meeting.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on **Tuesday 7th April 2026, at 7.30pm** in the Village Hall.

25/196: Agenda items for the next meeting.

Annual Parish Meeting update.

Meeting closed at 20.35 pm

END OF MINUTES