



## **LONG SUTTON PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the meeting of the parish council held on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2025 at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Councillors Cox, (Chairman), Rousell (Vice-Chair), Pritchard, Greenfield, Tulk & Coombes.

**Members of the Public: 1**

**Somerset Councillors:** Cllr Page sent apologies.

**Meeting closed at 7.31pm**

#### **Public Questions and Observations**

There was a question about the flooding on Grove Lane where grips and ditches haven't been maintained and cleared. (See agenda item 25/135)

Martine Minogue reported that he had attended a recent network meeting organised by the SRA to try and encourage flood groups to work together. It was a good meeting, although the Knole Flood Group is way ahead of other groups. They had also recently been visited by a representative from FWAG SW who had spent half a day inspecting the work carried out in Knole. This should prove helpful when re-submitting the grant application in the new year.

#### **Somerset Councillors Report**

Cllr Kerley reported on the re-opened consultation about boundary changes following a misunderstanding about single division ward. He also confirmed that the first council houses had been completed in Charlton Adam, and they are hoping to emulate this new model.

Cllr Cox asked for support on the request for yellow rumble strips at Bineham Cross having copied Cllr Kerley in with Mike O'Dowd at Somerset Council on some recent emails. The local Highways engineer suggested that it is passed back to Somerton Town Council, but the residents of Long Sutton are the ones more affected by it and are offering to fund the work – it just requires the right permissions. Cllr Kerley wasn't sure what he could or would do to support the request.

Meeting re-opened 7.41pm

### **MINUTES**

#### **25/131: Apologies for absence (LGA 1972 s85(1)).**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Wielgus.

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and approve the apologies and reasons submitted.

#### **25/132: Declarations of Interest.**

None.



**25/133: Minutes of the last meeting held on 4th November 2025 (LGA 1972sch12 para 41(1)).**

The minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> November had been circulated previously.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the [minutes of the meeting](#) held on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2025 as a true & correct record of that meeting. The Chairman duly signed the minutes.

Matters Arising

None

**25/134: Councillor Vacancy**

David Furse-Roberts was the only interested applicant who had submitted an expression of interest which had been circulated to all members for consideration. David is very active with the Environment Group and knows the area well. All members agreed to co-opt David as a new councillor, but some would like to have further information about his areas of interest etc. He will be asked to talk about this at his first meeting by way of introduction. The clerk will inform him and organise the required next steps.

Cllr Rickards had resigned last month, so another vacancy has arisen. Councillors thanked her for her service and the clerk confirmed that the notice for electors to request an election had been publicised, and the deadline for this request had just passed (27th November). The casual vacancy would now be advertised in the usual manner.

**25/135: Village Flooding Issues**

Martin Minogue had asked about grip clearing in Grove Lane as the water doesn't reach the newly constructed pipework which would help to alleviate surface water flooding. He had reported it to Highways, but they won't carry out any work to maintain ditches. Cllr Coombes suggested contacting Anthony Reed and the parish council agreed to pay for a few hours work using the Flood Alleviation budget. It could be useful in some other places in the village too.

Cllr Pritchard asked about the recent flooding outside the school. Cllr Tulk confirmed that he and his son had voluntarily overseen some work to remedy the situation and remove some of the silt blockages. The gully emptying contractors would carry out further work in the coming days, and he confirmed that they would be starting in Knightlands Lane and flushing through any debris to ensure free flowing drains throughout the village, including Knole.

**25/136: Planning Matters**

To consider the following new planning applications in the parish:

- i. 25/02732/S73A – Land OS 1400 South of Southview, Longmarsh Lane, Upton, Long Sutton, *Proposal: S73A Application to vary Condition Numbers 01 (approved plans), 02 (holiday let use), 03 (visibility), 04 (access and parking), 06 (drainage), 07 (removal of units) and 10 (landscaping) for the use of Plot 1 as unfettered residential accommodation, relating to planning consent 25/00184/S73A; S73A application to vary conditions 2 ,4, 5 and 11 to change the design and size of holiday let buildings on plots*



*1 and 2, in relation to planning approval 18/01981/FUL for Erection of 4 detached holiday lets with associated parking and landscaping.*

Cllr Rousell provided the background to this application to vary the conditions granted in 2018 and last discussed in March '25. Broadly, the owner is down-sizing into Plot 1 and has requested the condition to use that as a holiday let is removed. After a brief discussion, members felt that they neither supported nor objected to the application.

Members **AGREED** unanimously not to comment on the application.

Decision notices had been circulated previously. Cllr Cox reported that the CIL money for the Crouds Lane development has already been paid to Somerset Council and the clerk confirmed that the proportion for the parish will be paid in April '26.

### **25/137: Grounds Maintenance**

Councillors discussed the pros and cons of using individual contractors on an ad hoc basis compared with a larger contractor. Either way, there is a level of certain manual work required, and these tasks prove harder to find willing operatives. There is a list of local contractors who will be asked to provide quotes for certain maintenance tasks, and there was a suggestion that any hedge cutting should be co-ordinated with regular drain clearing work.

Cllr Cox and Tulk will continue to work on the specification for grass cutting, hedge work and ditch work to obtain quotes, and the clerk will check with local parish councils about who they use for lengthsman type services. It was noted that tree works will have to be treated as one-off contracts.

Cllr Greenfield asked about the planned works for the tree on the green. Cllr Tulk is meeting with AJ Services who will provide a quote, in line with the Tree Preservation Officer's recommendation.

### **25/138: Finance**

- a. To approve the accounts for payment in December 2025.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the accounts for payment for December 2025.

- b. To view and approve the bank reconciliation to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the bank reconciliations to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2025 as circulated.

- c. To review and discuss the first draft of the budget for 2026/'27.

The clerk ran through a presentation to summarise the current and year-end forecast financial position. She then illustrated an inflationary increase of 4% in the precept compared to another year without an increase.

After further discussions, Cllr Rousell proposed the option to increase the precept request by 4% to £52,000 to allow for reserves to be rebuilt and consolidated after the recent significant capital projects. All members agreed and thanked the clerk for the preparatory work and clear proposal.

- d. To note the grant award of £2,071 from Sport England had been received on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2025.



Members **NOTED** receipt of the Sport England grant award and the OVO solar panel payment was credited on 27<sup>th</sup> November of £2,019.35.

### **25/139: Village Hall and Recreation Ground**

Cllr Cox had nothing to report as the next committee meeting is in the new year. He confirmed that the new cleaner is doing an excellent job.

### **25/140: Outdoor Table Tennis & Boules Court Project**

Cllr Cox confirmed that the Parish Council will continue with both of these projects despite the resignation of Cllr Rickards, but not until the spring and better weather conditions. However, they will be carried out within this Financial Year for budgeting purposes.

### **25/141: Environment Group**

Cllr Greenfield reported that there had been a good (if rather wet!) couple of good days with children and parents from the school planting trees donated by the Woodand Trust. Another morning of planting is planned mid-December. The ponds are filling up and all is going to plan.

### **25/142: Representative reports from councillors.**

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

Cllr Rousell ran through the data (a copy is attached to these minutes) The average speed is 33.3mph, so still evidence that further traffic calming isn't required. There were 3 burglaries in the month of September.

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

Cllr Pritchard reported that many volunteers have been away and the weather isn't appropriate for much repair work at the moment. They are awaiting delivery of some stiles.

### **25/143: Communication: website and e-newsletter**

Members agreed that the next newsletter should include the following matters:

Drain clearing coming - New Year's resolution to use the village shop – Christmas cart – coffee morning in January – Christmas tree recycling

Other items for the new year to include: 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 – other item from LD SC report



**25/144: Correspondence including any not previously distributed & Councillors' Comments**

Cllr Tulk had updated a welcome letter for new residents. Councillors were asked to check it for accuracy and send any corrections to the clerk. The finalised copy can then be distributed to any new arrivals to Long Sutton.

Cllr Greenfield suggested marking the retirement of Dave Rowsell, postman to Long Sutton for 30 years. Members agreed that a celebratory tea or similar should be organised in the new year.

**25/145: Date of next meeting.**

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026, at 7.30pm** in the Village Hall.

**25/146: Agenda items for the next meeting.**

None were suggested.

Meeting closed at 9.10pm

**END OF MINUTES**