



LONG SUTTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the parish council held on Tuesday 1st April 2025 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors Cox, (Chairman), Rousell (Vice Chairman), Coombes, Pritchard, Greenfield, Rickards, Tulk & Ward.

Members of the Public: 5

Somerset Councillors: Cllr Tim Kerley, Cllr Page sent apologies.

The meeting started at 7.30pm.

Public Questions and Observations

None

Somerset Councillors Report

Cllr Kerley reported some good news that the ruling about phosphates had recently been overturned which will allow Somerset Council to regain the 5-year land supply, and release the 4000 or so houses that are held up in planning. The policy still needs to go through Scrutiny and Legal processes, but the back log should be signed off which includes about 15 in Long Sutton and approximately 150 across the division.

The less good news was the increase of 7.5% to Council Tax. The council accounts were audited by CITFA who concluded that the poor decision to freeze council tax over the previous 6 years had largely been to blame for the current financial crisis. However, as previously stated, with the increasing costs of Adult Social Care (ASC) and the current council tax banding based on 1991 data, Cllr Kerley feels that it remains a broken system.

The recent flooding meeting was successful with the Knole Flood Group being used as an example of good practice and what can be achieved by a small group. He also congratulated the council on the recent gully-clearing work and noted the content of the circulated report.

Some members expressed their disappointment with the service received to date from Somerset Council and the management of their contractors, proven to be ineffective by the recent gully clearing work carried out by an outside contractor. Cllr Cox asked Cllr Kerley to report back to the Highways department that residents are getting a lesser service for more money.

Public session closed at 7.44pm & the meeting opened at 7.44pm

Cllr Kerley left the meeting.

MINUTES

25/001: Apologies for absence (LGA 1972 s85(1)).

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Wielgus.

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

25/002: Declarations of Interest.

Cllr Rickards declared a personal interest in item 25/009 (a) i.

25/003: Minutes of the last meetings held on 4th March 2025 (LGA 1972sch12 para 41(1)).

To receive and approve the [minutes of the meeting](#) held on 4th March as a true and accurate records of that meeting.

It was RESOLVED to agree the minutes of the meeting held on 4th March 2025 as a true & correct record of that meeting. The Chairman duly signed the minutes.

Matters Arising

Cllr Greenfield's comments about the mess and nuisance caused by construction traffic parking at Knightlands had led Cllr Cox to speak to the foreman who confirmed that once the scaffolding is removed, if it remains dry enough, they will endeavour to park in the orchard at the rear of the property.

25/004: Finance

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

It was RESOLVED to approve the accounts for payment for April 2025. Additional payments for Footpath volunteers' expenses (£14.13) and the clerk's mileage expenses from November '24 to March '25 (£58.05) were also approved.

- b. To note and approve the payments made on the MultiPay card, and the balance cleared by DD on 24th February.

It was RESOLVED to approve the MultiPay card statement dated 10th February 2025.

- c. To view and approve the bank reconciliation to 28th February 2025.

It was RESOLVED to approve the bank reconciliations to 28th February 2025 as circulated.

- d. To note and approve the spend to budget to 28th February 2025.

It was RESOLVED to agree the spend to budget to 28th February 2025 as circulated.

- e. To note the VAT reclaim to 31st March 2025 of £7,067.65.

25/005: Gully Clearing

The Chairman thanked Cllr Tulk for his report and efforts with the recent gully clearing operation. The scale of debris including roots and other blockages was impressive. There had been many compliments from residents. Cllr Tulk proposed engaging the same team for another 3 days, as they need to return with a root cutter and complete certain areas including Knole.



Members **AGREED** unanimously to re-engage S & D Services for 3 days at a cost of £720 + VAT per day and the clerk and Cllr Tulk will make the necessary arrangements.

25/006: Village Flooding Issues

The chairman invited members of the public to contribute in accordance with Standing Order 3(h): The chair of the meeting may direct that a written or oral response be given.

- a. Martin Minogue reported that the SRA Grants panel would have met earlier on in the day to consider the Knole Flood Group's application, and they await the outcome. The clerk will share the news as soon as she is notified.
He further reported that the Heritage Lottery fund application did not succeed which was for the bridge raising project. There are other outstanding projects, and the Internal Drainage Board (IDB) have done a good job clearing Mill Stream below the village. The group are in touch with a new contact there who is proving helpful, as well as Highways who are organising a camera survey of the drains. He once again thanked the council for their support.
- b. Other flooding issues
Cllr Cox will mention the LS Flood Group call for volunteers at the Annual Assembly with the aim of identifying certain projects within the village and keeping the gullies clear.

25/007: Village Hall and Recreation Ground

Cllr Cox thanked Cllr Rickards for her help in arranging to get the solar panel inverter fixed. Nothing further to report.

25/008: Pavilion Refurbishment

Cllr Cox reported that the work is going well and the recent dry weather has helped. The completion date of 25th April is on track. All grant funds have now been received, and the project is largely within budget. The official opening will take place on Friday 23rd May, not 26th as stated in the e-newsletter. The new facility will include an accessible public toilet available for use by users of the play area, tennis courts and Recreation Ground.

25/009: Planning Matters

The chairman invited members of the public to contribute in accordance with Standing Order 3(h): The chair of the meeting may direct that a written or oral response be given.

- a. To consider the following new planning applications in the parish:
 - (i) 25/00572/S73A – Little Upton Bridge Farm, Langport Road, Long Sutton

Proposal: S73A application to remove condition 03 to allow the two units yet to be erected to be used as unfettered residential accommodation relating to Planning Consent 19/02460/FUL: the erection of 3No. detached holiday letting units with parking and associated works allowed on appeal, subject to conditions 09/04/2021.



After a lengthy discussion, and contribution from the applicant, members agreed to submit the following comments:

Long Sutton Parish Council objects to the removal of condition 03 relating to relating to Planning Consent 19/02460/FUL: the erection of 3No. detached holiday letting units with parking and associated works allowed on appeal, subject to conditions 09/04/2021.

While recognising that the business supports a range of other businesses local area and provides employment, it was felt that the removal of the condition goes against the is wishes of HM Inspector when approving permission for 3 tourist business premises.

Members ask that if permission be granted by the LPA that they would out in a place a condition that maintains the units being tied to the Little Upton Bridge business, thereby not allowing them to be sold off on the open market which is contrary to HM Inspector's and the Parish Council's wishes when 19/02460/FUL was first determined.

(ii) 25/00248/FUL – Land at Downslade Farm, Tengore Lane, Upton, Long Sutton

Proposal: Change of use of land for the erection of two commercial buildings, associated car parking and landscaping works.

Also, the associated application deferred from the last meeting:

SCC/4117/2025 – Land at Downslade Farm, Tengore Lane, Upton, Long Sutton TA10 9NW

Proposal: Proposed re-grading of land with topsoil

After some discussion when the two applications were considered together, and a summary from the applicant's agent, members agreed to support the application with no comments.

b. To note the following update on a recent application:

22/02585/TCA – Stream Cottage, Knole, Long Sutton TA10 9HZ – Notification of intent to fell no.2 trees within a Conservation Area

Application permitted – 07/03/25

25/011: WW1 Silhouettes

Cllr Cox clarified exactly where the silhouettes should be positioned, and Cllr Ward offered to help. A position somewhere along the route walked between the pub and the church was agreed for visibility. The installation will be in time for VE Day celebrations in early May.

25/012: Environment Group

In Cllr Wielgus' absence, Cllr Ward reported on the very successful tree planting recently carried out. Aside from the fact that 800 trees were planted, so many people volunteered and really enjoyed the community experience. He thanked Cllr Rickards and the W.I for fantastic cakes and refreshments. The pedestrian gate has been put in & woodchips need spreading around the base of each tree, but given the current dry spell the main concern is watering the newly planted trees. Cllr Cox and Cllr Coombes offered to help with bowsers and pipelines.



In other news, the spring event has been postponed to the autumn (Cllr Coombes will cancel the VH booking) as has the wildflower planting as they will wait to see what comes up this spring. Cllr Greenfield confirmed that the school is involved with the project with children building bug hotels & entering a competition to design a sign.

25/013: 80th Anniversary VE Day Events

Cllr Cox asked Cllr Pritchard how best to promote the various events including the informal beacon lighting on the 8th May which people can see from the footpath. The W.I are crafting poppies and plan to loop the poppies from the bench to the silhouettes and perhaps around the war memorial too. Cllr Tulk is in the process of cleaning it and it is already improved. The clerk will update the website and the newsletter with the latest information.

25/014: Communication: website and e-newsletter

Members agreed that the next newsletter should include the following matters: promoting the Annual Parish Assembly; final pics of the Pavilion & a list of sponsors; local business mention – reformer pilates; the W.I report & photos of recent Community Lunch (£151 raised) & litter pick; and news about the tree on the village green.

25/015: Annual Assembly

The clerk reported that the local MP is confirmed as a guest speaker and will formally notify other clubs and societies, inviting them to make representations. Cllr Rickards confirmed arrangements for tea & coffee & cakes and suggested A4 posters for the event be put up in the Village shop etc. The clerk will action this.

25/016: Representative reports from councillors.

- a. Community Safety (including the monthly crime statistics from Police.uk and the SID - Speed Indicator Device).
There were only 2 crime incidents in the village in January and the SID is currently elsewhere, so nothing to report this month.
- b. Lengthsman
Cllr Cox has asked the Lengthsman to look at clearing the ditch in Munday's Lane where badgers have dug in. It is also grass cutting time. The tree report submitted on the horse chestnut tree in the middle of the Village Green made worrying reading. After some discussion, members agreed to act on the recommendation of the report and to obtain 3 quotes for the necessary work. Members **RESOLVED** to remove the tree within the recommended 90 days.
- c. Highways and Footpaths
Cllr Pritchard had circulated the recent report from the footpath group and said they'd done a good job on the many stiles & footpaths. Cllr Cox suggested meeting in the autumn to prioritise further tasks.



25/017: Other correspondence not previously distributed & Councillors' Comments

The Chairman had recently circulated two emails concerning the development at Crouds Lane confirming that the planning applications will be available soon on the website. It appears that they will include measures to improve the problems associated with sewerage & surface water.

25/018: Date of next meeting.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on **Tuesday 6th May 2025, at 7.30pm in the Committee Room of the Village Hall.**

25/019: Agenda items for the next meeting.

Planting a new replacement tree.

Meeting closed at 9.28pm

END OF MINUTES