



## **LONG SUTTON PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the meeting of the parish council held on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 7.30pm**

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

**Members of the Public:** 3

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

Meeting closed at 7.31pm

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

Two members of the public were observing only with a view to expressing an interest in the current casual vacancy.

#### **Somerset Councillors Report**

*\*Cllr Page had sent a report which is published on the website under Supporting Papers.*

Cllr Kerley reported on the following matters:

a new interactive map is now available from Highways showing a great deal of useful information about the cycles of routine maintenance, roadworks etc. It can be found at the following link:

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/somerset-highways-annual-works-map/>

the possibility of a train station in Somerton & Langport requires support. Further details can be found locally or by emailing [comms@langporttransportgroup.org](mailto:comms@langporttransportgroup.org)

plans for social housing just over the border in Charlton Adam, provided by Somerset Council not a housing association

finally, as budget time approaches, the strains will be on the education budget this time with investment from central government postponed for another year.

Councillors asked a few questions around social housing quantity and stock but then there were no further questions.

Meeting re-opened at 7.41pm

### **MINUTES**

#### **25/114: Apologies for absence (LGA 1972 s85(1)).**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Wielgus. Cllr Greenfield would be late arriving.

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



### **25/115: Declarations of Interest.**

None.

### **25/116: Minutes of the last meeting held on 7th October 2025 (LGA 1972sch12 para 41(1)).**

The minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> October had been circulated previously.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the [minutes of the meeting](#) held on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2025 as a true & correct record of that meeting. The Chairman duly signed the minutes.

#### Matters Arising

Possible breach of works requiring Listed Building Consent at a property in Knole - no further action at present after a councillor has spoken to the resident.

The clerk has chased the contractor for the final 3 days of gully flushing in the village, but no date is confirmed yet.

### **25/117: Councillor Vacancy**

There were two possible interested applicants – they were asked to contact the clerk if they are still interested after the meeting.

*The Chairman used Standing Order 3(e) to open the floor to members of the public who wished to comment on the following agenda item.*

### **25/118: Village Flooding Issues**

Martin Minogue reported that he had held a workshop on how to get flood prevention work going in your local community at the recent resilience event in Taunton. There he had met with David Mitchell, CEO of the SRA and they discussed the failure of the recent grant application for works at Orchard Farm. Running through the reasons why, it was felt that with a few minor amendments and better explanations, the application could be re-submitted and hopefully successful a second time around. He further reported that representatives from FWAG and the SRA are coming to have a look at the existing works in Knole later this month, and that the Knole Flood Group got an award presented by the Lord Lieutenant of Somerset.

Members confirmed that they were **SUPPORTIVE** of the re-submission of the grant application, and the clerk will liaise with the group on this.

In an unrelated matter, a question was asked about the Bineham cross-roads markings on behalf of a neighbour. There has been a lot of progress, but if rumble strips are required at the junction, Cllr Kerley confirmed that this would be at a cost to the parish council. He offered to find out if that would be permitted and if so, which licences and permissions would need to be in place. He will liaise with the clerk and Mike O'Dowd, the key Somerset Council Highways Officer, and provide his contact details.

### **25/119: Planning Matters**

- a. Members considered the following new planning applications in the parish:
  - i. 25/02535/FUL – Land at Martock Road, Long Sutton, Langport

*Proposal: The erection of a dwelling with associated access and parking.*



Cllr Rousell presented the minor changes to the previous application which had been supported by the Parish Council. There was no reason to object to these.

Members **AGREED** to support this application.

- ii. 25/02161/HOU – Battle Farm, Pitney Hill, Pitney, Langport TA10 9ES

*Proposal: Demolition of the existing corrugated iron garage with ancillary singe storey outbuildings to facilitate the erection of a double garage and a single storey extension.*

The Parish Council had been notified of the application as it adjoins the parish boundary, but Cllr Rousell outlined the details and there was nothing contentious. He proposed no comment be made, and members agreed not to comment on this occasion.

- iii. 25/02568/TCA – Mill Cottage, Knole, Long Sutton TA10 9HY

Notification to intent to fell No.2 trees within a Conservation Area – Lawson Cypress and Acer. This was for **notification** only.

- iv. 25/02563/HOU – Old Stables Cottage, Knole, Long Sutton TA10 9HZ

*Proposal: Proposed porch / sitting area*

Cllr Rousell summarised the plans for a small front porch and internal alterations and had no objections to the application.

Members **AGREED** unanimously to support the application.

- b. Decision notices had been circulated previously.

The Chairman drew attention to the fact that the outline application at Crouds Lane had recently been refused due to visibility lines from the proposed new entrance, the absence of affordable housing and the under-development of a site of this size. He felt this was one to watch in the future. He had shared with councillors some correspondence from the finance company and asked if they felt it should be shared more widely on social media. Cllr Tulk agreed to distribute by hand some copies to residents in Shute Lane and Crouds Lane who have been most affected by the development for information.

## **25/120: Lengthsman**

Cllr Tulk has been overseeing the felling of the trees by the Village Hall and shop – the one nearest the shop was completely rotten, and the other two also needed to be felled. The lengthsman has provided a quote to continue with the grass cutting next year, and this will form the basis for further discussions around how best to deal with the variety of tasks around the village that the lengthsman was dealing with under contract. There are various task such as grip clearing and verge cutting which could be dealt with task by task and month by month. Cllr Rousell felt that would give the council flexibility provided there were contractors that they could call upon.

Cllrs Tulk and Cox will continue to explore options and report further at the next meeting. The council will obtain further quotes for the work required to the tree on the green which the lengthsman was going to carry out.

## **25/121: Finance**

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

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

- b. To view and approve the bank reconciliation to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025.



It was **RESOLVED** to approve the bank reconciliations to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025 as circulated.

- c. To note the plans for the budget setting process for 2026/'27.

After a brief discussion, it was **AGREED** that Cllrs Coombes and Rousell would meet with the clerk to draft a budget proposal to present at the December meeting for comment, with a view to the final budget and precept request being presented at the January meeting. The clerk will ask all members to make any suggestions for consideration in the first instance.

Members **NOTED** the planned process.

- d. To note the amount of £3,929.16 CIL money had been received on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2025.

Members **NOTED** receipt of the CIL payment and the amount of £3,929.16.

### **25/122: Village Hall and Recreation Ground**

The minutes from the most recent committee meeting had been circulated and are attached as a Supporting Paper. The Chairman confirmed that the repairs to the car park drainage channel and the tree felling works are now complete and were carried out during half-term to minimise disruption.

### **25/123: Outdoor Table Tennis & Boules Court Project**

Cllr Rickards confirmed that the boules court plans continue at pace and when the weather improves the area will be marked out and agreed. Hopefully work will then commence in the coming weeks. There are further details about this project in the Village Hall Management Committee Meeting minutes – see previous item.

### **25/124: Environment Group**

Cllr Rickards provided a report which is attached as a Supporting Paper. The recent “Environment Day” was again a big success with the local MP joining about 150 people from the Parish. There are 3 new volunteers who have joined the group and a winner was announced in the competition to design a logo for the Nature Reserve – well done to Ruby May.

Cllrs Wielgus and Rickards made a presentation at the “Wilder” event held at the Red Brick Building about how the group’s work which was very well received. Cllr Rickards ran through the presentation and the steps that were taken to create the Nature Reserve which included dealing with some complaints about tidiness, several different types of survey carried out in the parish and various means of support from the Parish Council. Several people wanted to know how the Parish Council had been mobilised. They have also been asked to join the committee on the South Somerset Environment Forum.

In other news, the field has been cut and the bales should be taken away this weekend; the Nature Reserve has been registered with Somerset Wildlife Trust - this will lead to various modes of support as is given to other Community Nature Reserves; a meeting with John Dickson was held regarding advice on what to do around the pond to encourage reptiles/ amphibians; later this month there will be a meeting with Somerton Gardening Club to discuss growing plug plants for the field and pond and more tree planting with the school; a Cornish hedge is going to be built near the pond and a stone seat placed on the viewpoint.



Cllrs Cox and Pritchard commended the recent Environment Day which was excellent, better than ever and they were impressed with the turnout. A leak has been reported so the water supply is currently turned off, and it will be investigated.

#### **25/125: Parish Council Policy Review**

The clerk had circulated a draft IT Policy for review. This will form part of the new Assertion 10 on the AGAR form for 2025/'26.

Members **APPROVED** and **ADOPTED** the policy, and the clerk will update the website accordingly.

#### **25/126: Representative reports from councillors.**

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

The SID is in Long Sutton this month. There was only one crime reported during August 2025 – a burglary in Crouds Lane.

- b. Lengthsman – nothing more to add.

- c. Highways and Footpaths

Cllr Pritchard reported on the recent awards evening at Taunton Rugby Club when Dick Sheppard who leads the volunteers who repair footpaths in the village was presented with a Service to the Community Award. It was a heartening evening & good to see the large number of volunteers that do good work in many parishes. More volunteers have joined the group, and they have spoken to the Environment Group about the donated fingerposts which will be used around the village.

Councillors were asked to check their nearest footpath to help the volunteers prioritise work for the winter. The Clerk would also put something in the e-newsletter

#### **25/127: Communication: website and e-newsletter**

Members agreed that the next newsletter should include the following matters: ask residents to report any defects on footpaths to the clerk to pass on to volunteers (5 miles of footpaths) – Cllr Greenfield suggested including a link to a map of the footpaths (investigate a map put together by the W.I of 5 walks in the village?) - defib locations — Slinky Bus and Somerton & Langport Train station – Cricket club awards night – Somerset Art Week had good footfall - drain clearing coming

#### **25/128: Correspondence including any not previously distributed & Councillors' Comments**

There had been a letter from a resident in Knole about the state of Ilchester Lane. The Chairman had been out and cleared it and replied to let her know. The same resident had also made a FOI request about the recent tree felling at the Village Hall car park which the clerk and the Chairman will respond to accordingly.

#### **25/129: Date of next meeting.**

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on **Tuesday 2nd December 2025, at 7.30pm** in the Village Hall.



**25/130: Agenda items for the next meeting**

Draft budget; welcome letter to new residents; identify website pages that require updating; co-option.

Meeting closed at 8.54pm

**END OF MINUTES**