LONG SUTTON

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 6th October 2026 at 7.30pm

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

Members of the Public: 7

Somerset Councillors: Cllr Page sent apologies

Meeting closed at 7.31pm

Public Questions and Observations

Martin Minogue from the Knole Flood Group gave an update on 3 ongoing projects and 2 possible sources of funding. The first project is the building of a leaky dam and replacements of 2 sluice gates at Orchard Farm – Emma Robertson from Farming Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG SW) has worked to help with the funding application as multiple permissions were required and an engineer's report and they hope that the work will be carried out by the end of the month. The two other 2 projects are more distant – the bridges along Stonemead Lane and the digging of holding ponds higher up the catchment of the Mill Stream.
At a recent event for the Perrett River catchment area, they met with the Flood Operations Committee who will help to deploy the £50m fund from central government. A list is being developed of smaller projects which can be actioned more quickly, so there is real optimism that funds will be granted. Thanks were once again given for the Parish Council's support, and the Chairman praised the work that the group were organising.

Cllr Kerley reported that the main topics were around fairer parking and the harmonisation of charges and app use. Somerton's free parking is unusual because Somerset Council rents that car park and the contract is valid until 2029, so that arrangement will continue until then. Referring to the £50m flood prevention fund, he confirmed the good news that £650k will be made available before Christmas for those smaller parishes. Finally, this month is likely to see the last planning committee meeting as the new scheme of delegation is in place from 31st October, a loss of democratic oversight. More worryingly central government is rolling out the use of an AI driven application for all planning departments to use.

Re-opened 7.47pm

MINUTES

26/077: Apologies for absence (LGA 1972 s85(1)).

No apologies were received.

DRAFT

LONG SUTTON

26/078: Declarations of Interest.

Cllr Wielgus declared a personal interest in Orchard Farm (as mentioned during the public session).

26/079: Minutes of the last meeting held on 8th September 2026 (LGA 1972sch12 para 41(1)).

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th September had been circulated previously.
It was **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 8th September 2026 as a true & correct record of that meeting. The Chairman duly signed the minutes.

Matters Arising

Welcome letter – Cllr Wielgus has discussed this with a local artist and has a quote of £100 for a suitable design with an additional £150 for printing. This was approved and he will advance the project.

Knole Pit Meadow – The Chair stated that it was disappointing not to have heard from the owner who had initially engaged with the Parish Council. The infringements remain of running a business and living on site with no appropriate permissions. Members authorised the Chair and Vice-Chair to work with the clerk on reporting the site to Somerset Council.

26/080: Councillor Vacancy

The Clerk confirmed that there had been an expression of interest unfortunately from a new resident who didn't satisfy the 12-month minimum residency requirement. Hopefully she will reconsider for the elections in 6 months' time.

The vacancy will continue to be advertised until the end of the year, and then if no candidates come forward, await the May election.

26/081: Planning Matters

The Chairman used Standing Order 3(e) to allow public comments on the following agenda items.

a. To consider any new planning applications in the parish:

i. 26/02254/HOU – Langley, Shute Lane, Long Sutton TA10 9LZ
Proposal: Erection of a rear extension to the dwellinghouse.
After a summary from Cllr Rousell, members had no objections to this application.

ii. 26/01252/FUL – Mundays Court Barn, Mundays Court Lane Long Sutton Somerset TA10 9NG
*Proposal: Proposed demolition of barn and erection of replacement dwelling and erection of carport and store building.**
**This application has been amended and/or additional information has been detailed as follows: Red site line reduced*
Members **NOTED** the details of the above amendment which has since been approved.

iii. 26/01997/OUT – Land at 345685 126347, Vedal Drove, Long Sutton TA10 9NJ
Proposal: Outline application with all matters reserved for up to four detached single family dwellings (Class C3)
Cllr Rousell confirmed that as an outline planning application there were no drawings or details about the building materials, design or scale of proposed buildings. The Chair then invited comments.

DRAFT

Members of the public raised concerns that the proposed development lies outside the village settlement boundary and would extend building into open countryside. They considered the scale and density of the proposal disproportionate, particularly in the context of the site's continued expansion, and were concerned that it could set a precedent for further development.
Further concerns included increased traffic, unsafe and inadequate access on narrow local roads and at the junction, additional noise and disturbance from large groups of visitors, and the impact on neighbouring properties and the nearby Grade II listed building. It was also noted that the proposed Class C3 use could allow the properties to be sold as permanent dwellings in future.
Councillors acknowledged the applicant's contribution to local employment and the economy but considered that this did not outweigh the planning concerns. Members objected in principle because the site lies outside the village settlement boundary, the proposed density and development of agricultural land were considered inappropriate, and approval could set a precedent for further building across the field. They also raised concerns about the lack of justification for expansion, the limitations of an outline application, traffic and noise, restricted pedestrian access, the narrow single-track road and junction, effects on neighbouring properties, and the proximity of the listed building. It was agreed that an objection would be prepared based on the relevant material planning considerations.

iv. 26/02117/TCA – Pickering, Knole, Long Sutton Langport Somerset TA10 9HY
Proposal: Notification of intent to fell No.01 tree within a Conservation Area
To Fell one Japanese Red Cedar (T1) and replace with a native variety with less dense foliage (e.g. Silver Birch)
This is for ***notification*** only.
The Clerk summarised two further tree works notices that had arrived very recently for notification only and will include these on the next agenda for formal noting.

v. Members **NOTED** the two decision notices circulated since the last meeting.

26/082: Finance

a. Members **APPROVED** accounts for payment in October 2026. The invoice for the petanque court was larger than expected but The Friendly Society had donated a recent £500 contribution and members thanked them for their generosity.
b. Members **APPROVED** the bank reconciliations to 30th September 2026.
c. Members **CONFIRMED** the appointment of Paul Russell as the new internal auditor and the clerk duly signed the engagement letter.
d. Members **NOTED** the content of the Q2 summary financial report and the VAT reclaim.
e. Members discussed the details of CIL spending for the year 2025/'26 for the CIL Annual Return. The Clerk will complete the form and return it to Somerset Council and publish it according to the requirements.

The Chairman passed the Clerk a cheque from Tim Cox in respect of Hardings Hill FBTA rent.

DRAFT

26/083: Village Hall and Recreation Ground

Cllr Cox reported that the committee had not met since the previous meeting. However, he had met with a sales representative to discuss outdoor adult gym equipment. Details had been shared with other members for information only, as the proposal was at a very early stage and an assessment of the need for such equipment had not yet been carried out.
The Cricket Club had reported that its nets had been stolen and unfortunately the existing CCTV cameras covering the car park did not provide sufficient clarity to identify vehicles after dark. The Village Hall Committee is considering upgrading the CCTV equipment, which would also benefit the shop and the village hall, and will seek advice before reporting further at the next meeting.

26/084: Environment Group

Cllr Wielgus reported that the cut grass at the Nature Reserve was removed free of charge, and the 'bespoke' hedge-cutting had been carried out by a local contractor who had done a good job. There are plans to strim between the trees, plant some more trees and mulch the bases. Cllr Tulk confirmed that the Parish Warden will tip the mulch from the planned tree works at the Nature Reserve this week. Cllr Wielgus asked for approval to purchase an additional 10 tonnes for £300, if required, and this was approved. He is struggling to find the time to plan an Energy efficiency evening, and will provide information for the next issue of the newsletter instead.

26/085: Representative Reports from Councillors

a. Community Safety (including the monthly crime statistics from Police.uk and the Speed Indicator Device).
   Cllr Rousell confirmed that there were no reported crimes in August. The SID will be back in the village in November.
b. Parish Warden
   Cllr Tulk again praised the new contractor. All hedge cutting and verges have been cut and he will begin on the agreed tree work tomorrow. He will also take the top off the tree on the green, and then the seat can hopefully be replaced. Cllr Coombes asked about the low hanging branches on the trees by the play area, and Cllr Tulk confirmed that these would also be dealt with.
   The Clerk confirmed that 2 days of gully clearing at the end of this month has been arranged with S & D Services, but she is awaiting their advice about Knightlands Lane and the appropriate road closure.
c. Highways and Footpaths
   Cllr Fell reported that the volunteers have been busy, there are now 8 in total, and they try to go out every couple of weeks. They have rebuilt stiles and are working on a Bristol gate on land in the west of the parish.
   There is water leaking from Little Upton Bridge Barns onto a footpath adjacent to Upton Bridge Farm. The volunteers have tried to remedy the situation, but their attempts were unsuccessful. The clerk was asked to write to the owner of Upton Bridge Barns to request that they undertake the necessary repairs to rectify the situation.

DRAFT

There had also been correspondence from a resident about a public right of way behind Knole Hill along Ilchester Lane that is currently impassable for horse-riders and very wet underfoot. The Chairman volunteered to arrange for the lane to be topped, however there is nothing that can be done about the water situation as it is from natural springs in Knole Hill.
Finally, the Chairman updated members on an ongoing situation with the bridge at Knole which Somerset Councils bridge's department have agreed to repair, but there has been a long delay. Cllr Kerley asked to be copied in and will chase the relevant personnel.

26/086: Communication: website and e-newsletter

Councillor vacancy – energy efficiency – round up from environment group – item from Quaker Society of Friends

26/087: **Correspondence including any not previously distributed**

Nothing further

26/088: Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be the Parish Council Meeting taking place on **Tuesday 3rd November 2026** at 7.30pm in the Committee Room, Village Hall.

26/089: Suggested agenda items for the next meeting

First stage budget planning for 2026/'27 – Cllr Greenfield sent apologies

Meeting closed at 8.52pm

END OF AGENDA

DRAFT