



## **Minutes of the Long Sutton Parish Council meeting 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

Held in the Committee Room, Long Sutton Village Hall 7.30pm

### **Present**

Councillors: Mr G R Cox (Chairman), Mr N Rousell (Vice Chairman), Mrs R Coombes, Mrs J Pritchard, Mrs G Rickards, Mr B Wielgus.

Cllr Stoddart-Stones attended remotely by Zoom.

Somerset Councillor Cllr Tim Kerley

Members of the public (MOP): 13

### **Public Observations/Question Time started at 7.30pm**

Cllr Cox welcomed all attending to the PC meeting. Cllr Cox shared the sad, shocking news of the recent passing of Somerset Councillor Dean Ruddle, who had represented the parish for a number of years. Long Sutton Parish Councillors wish to convey condolences to Dean's family at this tragic time.

A minute's silence was held.

**Somerset Councillors report.** Cllr Kerley had nothing to report from Somerset Council. Cllr Kerley provided reassurance that representation would continue as normal as possible, and to contact Cllr Kerley directly if there were any issues requiring his attention and support.

The members of the public present were invited to address comments or questions to Councillors.

Questions and comments:

- MOP raised concerns about development taking place in the vicinity of his property, and whether planning permission is in place.
- MOP raised concerns about the volume of traffic, particularly HGV traffic, travelling along Shute Lane, as a result of increased building activity in that area of the village.
- MOP raised concerns about what action to be taken if a planning application has not been submitted, for the Parish Council to discuss. Councillors reinforced the Parish Council cannot comment or observe on issues that have not been received by the Parish Council formally from the Planning Authority. The Parish Council is a Statutory Consultee.



- Members of the public commenting about a planning application on the Somerset Council Planning Portal, to consider material planning considerations. The Parish Council gives balanced observations about planning applications based on material planning considerations.
- The process to follow if planning consent conditions are thought to have been breached was overviewed. Enforcement will not be carried out by the Planning Authority on a planning application that has not been determined, until the determination has been made.
- MOP raised concerns regarding the recent flash flooding in the parish, and the impact of change of use of land from agricultural use. Concerns were also raised regarding the verges in Shute and Crouds Lane, damaged by HGV traffic, and a desire to protect the egress from further deterioration. These are items that can be addressed by the Parish Council.
- MOP raised concerns regarding the navigation about the Somerset Council website. The clerk explained that representations need to be made via the planning portal on Somerset Council website. Individuals may contact the Somerset Councillor and the Constituency MP directly. Councillors overviewed the validation process for a planning application, and where comments can be submitted.
- Cllr Cox responded regarding the verges and gulley maintenance, and spoke of the impact of the Somerset Council financial situation. It is likely that the Parish Council will be discussing supplementing any verge work that is not undertaken by Somerset Council.

The Chairman thanked residents for attending the meeting and contributing during the public session with questions and comments. He also thanked them for their interest in local development, the planning process and also looked forward to their contribution to discussions to future planning consultations within the parish.

**Public Observations/Question Time ended at 8.10pm**

11 Members of the public left at 8.10pm.

The meeting opened at: 8.11pm

**Minutes**

- 1 To receive apologies for absence, and to note and approve reason given (LGA 1972 s85(1)).**  
Apologies were received from Cllr Ward. It was RESOLVED agree and approve the apologies submitted.



- 2 **Declarations of interest (Localism Act 2011 s33 (b-e)).** None.
- 3 **To receive and approve the [Minutes of the last meeting](#) held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023 (LGA 1972 sch12, para 41(1)).**

It was resolved that the minutes are received and approved as a true record of the meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

- 3.1 Matters arising. None.
- 3.2 Update on the new defibrillator in Upton. Cllr Rickards has applied for a grant which was not successful.
- 4 **Casual Vacancy. To consider any applications to fill the casual vacancy on the Parish Council by co-option.** None received.
- 5 **Planning applications: Planning applications can be viewed on the [Somerset Council website](#).**

- 5.1 New planning applications received:

**Application: 23/03075/HOU. Batts Farm, Batts Lane, Long Sutton TA10 9EQ.**  
Proposed rebuilding of domestic store and garage, revised application of 23/03075/HOU.

The application was discussed. The north elevation has been reduced, and discussions between the planning authority and the applicant.

This application was approved and supported by the PC previously, and it was RESOLVED to support the amendments to this application.

- 5.2 Update on other planning issues.

Five applications have been determined by Somerset Council:

Application 22/00002/FUL. Long Sutton House, Shute Lane, Long Sutton. Awaiting decision. Application permitted (05.12.2023).

Application 23/00962/FUL: Long Sutton House, Shute Lane, Long Sutton, TA10 9LZ. Installation of solar panels on the roof of the detached potting shed, car port and stores within the curtilage of Long Sutton House. Application permitted (05.12.2023).

Application 23/00963/LBC: Long Sutton House, Shute Lane, Long Sutton, TA10 9LZ. Installation of solar panels on the roof of the detached potting shed, car port and stores within the curtilage of Long Sutton House. Application withdrawn (05.12.2023)

Application 23/02158/HOU. The Old Forge, Cross Lane, Long Sutton, TA10 9LR. Proposed partial demolition of boundary and the formation of two off-road parking spaces. Application permitted (16.11.2023).

Application 23/02444/FUL. Littlefield Farm, Littlefield Lane, Long Sutton TA10 9NS. Proposed erection of a building to provide for farm office, cider sales and visitor reception. Application permitted (17.11.2023).

Application: 23/02762/HOU: 3 Tavenders Cottages, Langport Road, Long Sutton, TA10 9NE. Proposed demolition of conservatory and erection of a single storey rear extension. Application permitted (24.11.2023).



The remaining outstanding planning applications within the parish remain unchanged.

Application 21/00054/REM. Land South of Bineham City Cottage, Bineham Lane, Long Sutton. Awaiting decision.

Application 21/00137/FUL. Land adjacent to Knightlands, Knole Causeway, Long Sutton. Awaiting decision.

Application 21/03450/FUL: Land South of Greystones, Off Crouds Lane, Long Sutton. Awaiting decision.

Application 22/00873/FUL Long Sutton House Shute Lane Long Sutton: Awaiting decision.

Application 22/00910/OUT: Land OS 1805 adj Ciderpress Barn, Knole, Long Sutton Langport. Awaiting decision.

Application 22/00911/FUL: Barns at Ciderpress Farm, Knole Causeway, Long Sutton. Awaiting decision.

Application 22/01197/LBC: Barns at Ciderpress Farm, Knole Causeway, Long Sutton.

Awaiting decision.

Application 22/02059/FUL: 14 Martock Road, Long Sutton. Awaiting decision.

Application: 22/03261/FUL: 4 Hodgehay, Langport Road, Long Sutton. Erection of a detached self-build dwelling and 2 carports for the proposed and existing dwelling. Awaiting decision.

Application 23/01489/HOU: The Coach House, Shute Lane, Long Sutton TA10 9LZ. The installation of solar pv panels to the roof of the Coach House and Estate Office. Awaiting decision.

Application 23/01490/LBC: The Coach House, Shute Lane, Long Sutton TA10 9LZ. The installation of solar pv panels to the roof of the Coach House and Estate Office. Awaiting decision.

Application 23/02610/FUL: Land at Martock Road, Long Sutton. Erection of a dwelling, garage and residential annexe with associated access and parking. Awaiting decision

## **6 Finance**

### **6.1 Approve balances and [accounts for payment in January 2024](#).**

The payments, previously circulated, were overviewed. It was RESOLVED that the payments are to be approved as listed. The payments list can be found on the parish council website.

### **6.2 To view and approve the spend to budget to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023.**

The spend to budget was overviewed as part of the budget setting process for 2024/25.

Item 7.3 was discussed prior to the budget and precept agenda items. The possibility of asset and service devolution from Somerset Council was discussed. There was no



financial information available from Somerset Council regarding services that may be affected by future budget constraints.

Councillors are concerned about the impact of flooding within the parish, and possible impacts on the budget for next year and future years. An increase in precept will support the proposed capital expenditure now and support the management of the change in the services provided by Somerset Council in future years.

There were three suggested options for a budget and precept, discussed. It was proposed and RESOLVED to set a budget at option three, which is a budget of £66450, with a precept demand of £53120. This means a Band D charge will be £133.22 for 2024/25

## **7 Budget and Precept for 2024-25.**

7.1 To discuss and agree a budget for 2024-25 financial year.

Councillors are in favour of increasing the budget funds for gullies, drainage, ditch clearance, to support managing the flooding that has taken place.

It was proposed and RESOLVED to set a budget at option three, which is a budget of £66450.

7.2 To agree a precept demand for 2024-25 financial year.

It was proposed and RESOLVED to set a precept demand at option three, of £53120, after agreeing the budget at £66450. This means a Band D charge will be £133.22 for 2024/25.

7.3 To discuss the possible devolution of services from Somerset Council. This item discussed after item 6.2.

## **8 Capital infrastructure projects: Play Area.**

8.1 To receive an update regarding the play area refurbishment, and to consider any developments that require a formal decision.

Cllr Coombes provided an update of the play area refurbishment project. The Christmas Cart was very successful. The Play Area survey is now live, along with the just giving page for donations with gift aid. Well done!!

Cllr Coombes agreed to provide an updated budget and proposed income streams at the next Parish Council meeting.

## **9 Capital Infrastructure project: Pavilion Refurbishment.**

9.1 To receive an update regarding the pavilion refurbishment and consider any developments that require a formal decision.

An informal meeting of stakeholders took place recently, with several residents attending. There are two groups, one group will deal review the budget and the building plans, and a second group who will lead the fund raising through grant funding applications.



Councillors thanked Cllr Cox and recognised that the benefit of more people being involved.

## **10 Capital Infrastructure Project: Tennis Courts**

10.1 To receive an update regarding the refurbishment of the tennis courts.

The court surface has been laid along with temporary court markings. Cllr Pritchard has completed safeguarding training to support the process to finalise validation for the tennis courts to be a Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) venue (a condition of the grant funding). The next step is to activate the gate entry system. An information sign is required to signpost court users to the reporting mechanism if required.

There has been a request to mark out a pickle ball court, to widen the potential users of the facility. This will be considered next spring.

10.2 Update of discussion with Somerton Tennis Club.

Informal discussion regarding the use of the tennis courts as an extension of courts available to members, and with the benefit of the court to be available to residents of Long Sutton. This would be a matter for discussion at the Village Hall and Recreation Ground Committee, and subsequently the Trustees to the Village Hall and Recreation Ground Committee.

Councillors welcomed the interest from Somerton Tennis Club and would like to find a working model that suits both parties. Further details of possible usage and revenue would be appreciated to enable a more meaningful discussion. Cllr Rickards is to liaise further with Somerton Tennis Club. Councillors thanked Cllr Rickards for presenting the opportunity to the Parish Council.

## **11 Village Hall and Recreation Ground Matters brought forward by the committee.**

The next meeting due on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024. Agenda items will include the caretaker/cleaner position, which is currently vacant.

## **12 Environment Plan**

The second Environment day is taking place on 17<sup>th</sup> February, and focuses on what anybody can do in their gardens. Speakers from Rewilding Somerset, and also individuals advising on planting in their gardens. It is an opportunity to share and engage.

The Environment team are going to spend some grant funding recently received. The same layout will be employed as last year. Volunteers are required please! There will also be a request to spend some of the grant funding received. Help also required for spreading the word about the event with posters and details.

Thank you to Cllr Wielgus to his company for granting the funding.

Cllr Rickards asked about the parish land and the use for rewilding, and the discussion about the land available within the parish, which is to be an agenda item on the February Parish Council agenda.

12.1 Actions for consideration and approval. None.

**Communication with the Community: website and e-newsletter**

12.2 To agree content/priorities for the February 2024 newsletters.

Playground notification.

Environment day

Reminder of where planning enforcement can be observed.

Drainage and gully clearing. Regulatory information.

Precept demand and budget setting.

Speed indicator device.

12.3 Actions for consideration and approval. None

**13 To review the following Parish Council policies:** None currently due for review.

**14 Representative reports and any other matters regarding:**

14.1 Community Safety.

14.1.1 Monthly crime statistics from the [Police.Uk](https://www.police.uk) website, or a police report if received.

No crimes reported in November on the website.

14.2 Lengthsman. To receive an update of work undertaken in the Parish. To receive a report detailing works required on trees on Martock Road that are the responsibility of the Parish Council.

Some tree work has taken place already. Wood chip mulch has been spread on the pathway on Peace Lane. Grips have been cleared as much as possible.

One of the Lime trees on the village green will be substantially pollarded to remove dead wood, a new tree will need to be planted in the next year or two. The horse chestnut is due to be pollarded.

A tree report has been circulated to councillors detailing the required works, which have been graded priority from high to low, with the high priority works being addressed in the first instance, during the contracted Lengthsman hours.

14.3 Highways and Footpaths. To receive an update on any planned or completed works.

Cllr Pritchard reported items that require consideration – an item reported is to be circulated to councillors. There is a list of works that the volunteer group will undertake when weather conditions improve. There are a couple of stiles in Knole that need some attention and in Upton which require some additional grip being added.

**15 Other correspondence not previously distributed.** None

**16 Date of next meeting** – Parish Council meeting Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024 in the Village Hall. There will be a meeting of the Trustees of the Village Hall and Recreation Ground Charity on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024, via zoom.

**17 Agenda items for the next meeting:**

- Society of Friends field – rewilding opportunity. A continuation of the discussion from the December Parish Council meeting.

Meeting closed 9.42pm.

**END OF MINUTES**