



LONG SUTTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

Members of the Public: 3

Somerset Councillors: Cllrs Page and Kerley sent apologies.

Public Questions and Observations

None

Somerset Councillors Report

MINUTES

25/061: Apologies for absence (LGA 1972 s85(1)).

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Coombes.

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

25/062: Declarations of Interest.

Cllr Wielgus declared a personal interest as the owner of Orchard Farm. (Item 25/072)

25/063: Minutes of the last meeting held on 3rd June 2025 (LGA 1972sch12 para 41(1)).

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd June had been circulated previously.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the [minutes of the meeting](#) held on 3rd June 2025 as a true & correct record of that meeting. The Chairman duly signed the minutes.

Matters Arising

None

25/064: Planning Matters

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



To consider the following new planning applications in the parish:

- (i) 25/01195/LBC – Stuckey’s House, The Green, Long Sutton TA10 9HS

Proposal: Replacement of non-authorised UPVC windows for double-glazed Crittall leaded light windows.

Cllr Rousell summarised the application, and the applicant provided further details. The unauthorised windows have had previous planning applications rejected due to the profile depth for double-glazing. The new style windows have the same profile as single glazing, and the application is supported by the local MP, Heritage England and other historic advisory bodies. The applicants have tried to contact the Conservation Officer at Somerset Council on several occasions but received no reply.

Members **AGREED** unanimously to actively support the application especially given the environmental credentials.

- (ii) 25/01196/LBC – Stuckey’s House, The Green, Long Sutton TA10 9HS

Proposal: Erection of a small cedar wood greenhouse incorporating a potting shed.

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

Furthermore, the clerk had previously circulated a recently received notice of tree works:

25/01595/TCA at Rose Cottage, Bineham Road, Knole, Long Sutton TA10 9JA

Proposal: Notification of intent to carry out tree surgery works to No.2 trees with a Conservation Area – T1 Cherry and T2 Silver Birch.

Members noted the details.

25/065: Gully Clearing

Cllr Tulk will be overseeing the root clearing works starting in Knole and Knightlands Lane. The clerk has chased for a date but has yet to receive a response.

The Chairman used Standing Order 2(a) to move agenda item 25/072 forward on the agenda and Standing Order 3(e) to open the floor to members of the public who wished to comment.

Village Flooding Issues

Martin Minogue provided an update from the Knole Flood Group:

- He confirmed that Nick Reed has completed the SRA grant funded work at Bineham Lane to put the pipe across the field which is secured at both ends with some neat walling. It all went very well.
- About 15 volunteers spent last weekend successfully ditch clearing in Knole. The IDB (Internal Drainage Board) are being chased to clear the section for which it has responsibility as it has overgrown again completely since they last cleared it.
- He asked if the lengthsman could please clear the grips in Grove Lane going back towards Bineham, upstream from the new pipe. Cllr Tulk will organise this.



- The next project is at Orchard Farm where two sluice gates need renewing and repairing to keep the water in and a leaky dam is required to hold up the water. They will again, with support from the Parish Council, be making an application to the SRA Grant Fund before the closing date of 26th August.
- He mentioned the land for sale at Mill Farm in respect of the proposed works there. Now having to wait to see if the new owner will sell the corner plot.
- Finally, he mentioned that the Environment Agency has asked the owner of the fishing pond off Knole Pitt Lane to move the fish which aren't getting enough oxygen. There is a concern locally that it may have been due to vandalism, but no other information was known about this.

Cllr Wielgus proposed thanks to the owners of West Knole House who donated topsoil and 3 days of labour – this has been a big help.

25/066: Tree on the Green

The Chairman confirmed that some recent emails and two lengthy texts from a resident had been received following the tragic event in Essex. The Tree Officer at Somerset Council and the lengthsman had confirmed that the tree on the green doesn't have the same disease, is a different variety and is at less risk. The bench has been removed, and a temporary fence is effectively keeping people away. A more permanent wooden fence will be installed after the works are carried out in the autumn, and the grass will be left to grow long to further discourage people not to get close to the tree.

Members **AGREED** that the proposed course of action was still satisfactory, and that the guidance provided will be followed, with regular monitoring, particularly after any stormy weather.

25/067: Finance

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

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

- b. To view and approve the bank reconciliation to 31st May & to 30th June 2025.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the bank reconciliations to 31st May & 30th June 2025 as circulated.

- c. To note that the VAT reclaim for Q1 for an amount of £8,496.20 has been submitted by the clerk.

Members **NOTED** the VAT reclaim amount of £8,496.20 for Q1.

- d. The view and accept the clerk's financial summary report for Q1.

Members **NOTED** the content of the clerk's summary report for Q1.

The Chairman proposed that as the council do not meet in August, authority should be delegated to the Chair, Vicechair and clerk to deal with any payments that may arise.

Members **AGREED** with this proposal.



25/068: Councillor Vacancy

The deadline for electors to request an election for the vacancy is imminent. Thereafter the clerk will advertise the vacancy with a deadline for applications of the August bank holiday weekend, ready to co-opt at the September meeting. Cllrs Tulk and Cox will place notices in the shop, noticeboard and on the Facebook page.

25/069: Village Hall and Recreation Ground

Cllr Rickards has researched the cost to install an outdoor table tennis. It will be approximately £1000 + VAT to include rubber matting, bats & a box to keep everything in. She proposed locating it near the benches. Ongoing maintenance to replace degraded / lost bats and balls will be in the region of £100 per year.

The boules court (pétanque)

For competitive play, 3 lanes are required which needs an area of 14m x 15m. The location of the old nets is ideal and almost the right size. An approximate cost for all materials and the hire of a whacker plate is approximately £3,360 + VAT and once installed, ongoing maintenance is low. She hoped it would be possible to have the use of a digger and some labour from volunteers.

The Chairman asked about possible funding, and she confirmed that the projects meet the criteria for increased mobility across all ages for grants from Sport England and Tesco. The clerk also suggested the recently reopened SALC Community Health and Wellbeing Fund. Cllr Rickards confirmed that she will look at funding for both projects, approximately £4,500 in total and all members were happy to support the projects.

The clerk will liaise with Cllr Rickards about consulting the community and applying for the grants.

25/070: Pavilion Refurbishment

Cllr Cox had previously circulated an updated budget report for the Pavilion refurbishment project now completed. It is very slightly over budget, with the final works of a ramp and some steps to the public toilet being built.

25/071: Environment Group

Cllr Rickards reported that the ever-expanding team of volunteers met recently. There are now 3 picnic benches in use and another survey will be carried out at the weekend. The newly planted trees are surviving despite the drought, and one of the wildflower patches has been successful – the other two less so. FWAG are sending an expert to advise on the suitability of the planned newt pond.

Cllr Wielgus confirmed that plans are progressing for Environment Day on 25th October (not September as mentioned in the newsletter). Various organisations have been invited to exhibit rather than make presentations and both Somerton and Currey Rivel councils have asked for advice on how to carry out similar projects in their areas.

Cllr Greenfield mentioned the parking at the top of Ilchester Lane by builders working locally is a real problem – there were 17 vehicles parked on the verge recently. She also suggested that they should reinstate the grassy island once they finish in July/August. Cllr Cox offered to speak again to the foreman.

Cllr Rickards will organise taping off the areas that are not to be cut when the mowing is arranged later in the summer.



25/072: Village Flooding Issues

This item was brought forward on the agenda.

25/073: Representative reports from councillors.

- a. Community Safety (including the monthly crime statistics from Police.uk and the SID - Speed Indicator Device).
No reports of any vandalism yet, but the latest information is for the month of April. One incidence of anti-social behaviour and one other crime had been reported in the village.
The SID will be back in the village at the end of next month.
- b. Lengthsman
Cllr Tulk confirmed that the lengthsman has been strimming.
- c. Highways and Footpaths
Cllr Pritchard confirmed that repairs to gates, stiles and a footpath behind Upton Bridge Farm had been carried out. The clerk asked for the detailed report and photographs to include in the newsletter.
Cllr Cox will enquire about the broken fingerpost which is proving difficult to get repaired.
Members asked the clerk to enquire about the roadwork barriers outside the Devonshire Arms which have been there for about 3 months, with little sign of any progress. Also, the grid at the entrance to the Village Hall car park needs attention. Cllr Tulk will investigate and make a recommendation to the VH Committee.

25/074: Communication: website and e-newsletter

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

SRA Annual Report – scams warning – Local Transport Plan consultation – Footpaths / Highways – gully clearing – Environment Day - local business – (hairdresser) look on the website – dog waste

25/075: Correspondence including any not previously distributed & Councillors' Comments

Dog fouling on Ilchester Lane – there are advisory signs in the field already, but Cllr Wielgus offered to produce and install a sign for the road also. Cllr Tulk also mentioned that people are leaving bags in the stream in Croud's Lane. He will laminate a sign and pin it to the lamppost in the area.

The suggestion for a dog park on the recreation field – members felt that with the newly improved facilities, the field is used by a lot of people, and the need to keeping dogs on a lead and clear up after them to keep the area clean for all users has generally been a success. It would also be difficult to allocate funds at present to create a dog park. There are several miles of footpaths and other secure dog fields in the area. The clerk will send the information with a response.

George Farrenden on behalf of the Kiosk Klub, had written again about the defib in a telephone box on the green and the clerk had responded – the correspondence having previously been shared with councillors. Cllr Rickards was prompted to install one at Upton Bridge and Cllr Cox had a lengthy conversation with the landlord at the Devonshire Arms who has successfully used the defib at the Village Hall. Members felt that there was nothing further to add.



W.I Cream Tea – 26th July. There was a request to promote the event as much as possible and consider sponsoring an element. The clerk and chairman are doing everything to spread the word about the event but does not have the funds to contribute at present. Donations are requested on the day and will hopefully cover costs.

Cllr Wielgus suggested a ‘thank-you’ to the W.I for the litter picking and deep cleaning of the village hall that they carry out.

25/076: Date of next meeting.

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

25/077: Agenda items for the next meeting.

No items were raised.

Meeting closed at 8.50 pm

END OF MINUTES