



Minutes of the Long Sutton Parish Council Meeting

6th June 2023

Held in the Committee Room, Long Sutton Village Hall after the close of the Long Sutton Village Hall and Recreation Ground AGM.

Present:

Councillors: Mr G R Cox (Chairman), Mrs R Coombes, Mrs A Ledger, Mr G Stoddart-Stones, Mr B Wielgus.

There was one members of the public present.

The Public Session opened at 7:43pm.

Public session closed at 7:43pm.

The Parish Council meeting opened at 7.43pm

- 1 To receive apologies for absence (LGA 1972 S85 (1))**
Cllrs Ward, Rousell and Rickards submitted apologies.
- 2 Declarations of interest (Localism Act 2011 s33 (b-e)).**
Cllr Cox declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 6.1, planning application 23/01160/FUL, as Chairman of Parish Council and Chairman of cricket club.
- 3 Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting 2nd May 2023 and any matters arising.**
It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting 2nd May 2023 as a true and accurate record. The minutes were signed by Cllr Cox.

3.1 Matters arising.

Cllr Cox overviewed the informal Local Community Network meeting on 22nd May 2023, that he attended with the Clerk.

The Clerk confirmed that the correspondence regarding speeding on Langport Road had been responded to and the required request made to Highways.

The Clerk also provided an update regarding the letter sent to Parliament in April 2023, and the following actions. It was agreed that the communications should be shared with the community via the website and e-newsletter due to its interest from some parishioners. The Clerk has contacted Parliament's Independent Complaints and Grievance Scheme (ICGS) as suggested in the response received.



4 Co-Option onto Long Sutton Parish Council.

An application to fill the casual vacancy on the Parish Council has been received from Joyce Pritchard applied. It was RESOLVED that Joyce is now the new member of the Parish Council. Cllr Pritchard signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and joined the meeting as a Councillor.

5 Unitary Councillors report

Cllr Ruddle gave a brief verbal update.

- Thank you for attendance at the LCN.
- Apologies from Tim Kerley.
- There is possible funding available for Electric Charging (EC) points, write to Mickey Green at Somerset Council if the Parish Council is interested.
- Area South has started, and Tim Kerley is a member. There is further funding available for Highways, recommended to lobby Tim for remedial Highways measures.
- Finances are tight for the Unitary Council, with a massive overspend predicted this year.

Cllr Cox asked if there any funding for community projects, which is unlikely. Cllr Ruddle is to provide the contact details of the corporate director at Somerset Council for further enquiries to be made.

6 Planning Applications:

6.1 New Planning Applications received:

Application 23/00983/FUL: Orchard View, Crouds Lane, Long Sutton, TA10 9NR.

Proposed replacement dwelling. (response required by 07/06/2023).

- Incremental change to the build. Quite a large building that is squeezed between two existing adjacent properties.
- Situated quite far forward on the plot, with a large 2m high wall along the frontage. The front garden will be reduced by half and will change the character of the lane.
- Disappointed at the orientation of the proposed property and surprised that there are no objections registered from the public. The proposed property overlooks both adjacent properties via the east and west elevations, as the orientation of the proposed building is completely changed.
- Appears to be insufficient parking for four vehicles, which does not support 'one bedroom, one parking space'
- Encroaches on the road. This proposed build is more like an urban build – large building in small plot, rather than in a rural setting with very modern characteristics.



- The Parish Council would support a revised plan on this site that takes account of the observations above. The Parish Council also supports the sustainability measures on the property.

It was RESOLVED that the Parish Council objects to this planning application, for the reasons stated.

Application 23/01160/FUL: The Recreation Ground, Martock Road, Long Sutton, TA10 9NT. Proposed refurbishment and extension of sports pavilion. (extension for response 09/06/2023).

Councillors were in support of the proposed refurbishment of the pavilion, and that it would be a great enhancement for an intergeneration facility in the village.

It was RESOLVED that the Parish Council supports this planning application.

Application 23/01099/COL: Pittsmoor, Martock Road, Long Sutton, TA10 9LW.

Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for proposed single storey extension to rear of the dwelling and installation of VELUX rooflights in existing roof.

Notification only.

6.2 Update on ongoing planning applications:

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 22/00002/FUL. Long Sutton House, Shute 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.

7 Capital Infrastructure Update

Funding group met on 4th June to update on the projects.

An article is to be written for the newsletter regarding the increase of council tax and the reasoning behind it. To be considered once the tennis courts tender has closed.

Tennis Courts:

The specification for the refurbishment is out to tender now, due to come back in on 10th June. The outcome will be shared with Councillors, with the question of whether LSPC should be investing or not, to be addressed at the July PC meeting.

Play Area:

Nothing further to report. Survey to go out parents and children.

Agreed that the Village Hall charity and Cricket Club will organise fund raising nights. A standard template created for grant funding applications is to be created, Cllr Rickards to lead this.

Pavilion:

Planning application submitted, one further bat survey to be conducted. The indicative price for the pavilion rebuild was received, and is much larger than expected. Concern regarding effective procurement and using local contractors for targeted parts of the work.

Fundraising was discussed at length.

8 Village Hall and Recreation Ground Committee (VH&RGC)

8.1 Matters brought forward by the committee.

- Cllr Coombes has organised a team to run the church coffee morning next month.
- Parish Council support required for replacing the rear fire door and a window. Cllr Cox to speak with Clerk.

9 Environment Plan

9.1 Actions for consideration and approval.

Slow month for the Environment Group, as members have been diverted elsewhere. Question regarding no-mow-May area, and can it now be cut. Consider cutting down to 8cm as per the recommendations.



Cllr Pritchard wished to thank you to the contractor who cut the verge back at the junction at Martock Road and Langport Road.

10 Communication with the Community: website and newsletter

10.1 Upgrading the subscription for the newsletter platform to provide easier access for editing and producing.

It was RESOLVED to upgrade to an annual subscription, which allows up to 3 users. The clerk will arrange payment for the subscription. It was RESOLVED that the subscription be upgraded, and that the Clerk uses a personal credit card to make the payment and reclaim as expenses.

10.2 To agree content/priorities for the July newsletter.

Friendly Society march is to be mentioned. A play area photo on the front to highlight the fundraising morning on 1st July. It would be useful to know about events before they occur, rather than afterwards.

The letter received about the closure of the Acute Stroke Ward at Yeovil is to be uploaded to the website and highlighted in the newsletter.

The school fete is also to be mentioned in the next newsletter, along with the Cricket Festival in July.

10.3 Video content on the website to be limited or not uploaded to ensuring compliance with accessibility regulations.

Video not to be uploaded onto the website, but available on social media then a link can be published rather than the video itself.

Concern regarding the Parish Councillor email addresses displayed on the website, perhaps cover with a link, to reduce the opportunity for phishing. Suggestion of a 'contact us' form to be completed.

Parish councillor specific email addresses are very important, and it is crucial that all councillors have a specific email address from a security and a convenience point of view. Cllr Ledger is to explore this further.



11 Finance

11.1 To approve balances and accounts for payment.

Payments June 2023	Credit £	Debit £	Balance £
Balance b/fwd from May 2023 meeting			14315.43
BHIB insurance renewal		694.68	
Planning fee for pavilion planning application		494.20	
Somerset Council precept	28795.00		
PCC Coronation mugs	381.55		
VAT refund	2889.20		
	32075.75	1188.88	30886.87
			45202.30
Payments July 2023			
Clerk salary (May 2023)		366.73	
HMRC (May 2023)		91.60	
Howe Tree Surgery (May)		892.50	
Timeback accounts payroll (May)		5.00	
Timeback Accounts payroll end of year and P60		7.50	
Refund G Marffy expenses Coronation		114.11	
Parish Online		72.00	
S Appleton website ongoing support		280.00	
Howe Tree Surgery		54.00	
		1883.44	-1883.44
Balance after June 2023 payments			43318.86

It was RESOLVED to approve the payments as listed above for payment.

11.2 To consider transferring funds from the Parish Council current account to the deposit account.

It was proposed and RESOLVED that £30000 is transferred into the savings account.

11.3 To consider using a sector specific accounts package, Scribe, and to consider the annual cost.

It was RESOLVED that the above subscription be taken out with immediate effect.

12 To review the Parish Council Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

The financial regulations and standing orders are unaltered apart from the increase in the contractual value in point 18 of both documents from £25,000 up to £30,000.

It was RESOLVED as approved as circulated, with the amendments to the contractual value as stated.



13 To review the Parish Council Code of Conduct.

The Code of Conduct, as adopted in 2012, remains unchanged.

It was RESOLVED to approve the Code of Conduct as previously circulated.

14 Representative reports and any other matters regarding:

14.1 Community Safety

14.1.1 Monthly Crime Statistics from the Police.uk website.

None available.

14.2 Lengthsman.

To receive an update of works undertaken within the Parish in the past month.

Cllr Cox wanted to discuss management of weeds along our pavements and road. Please notify Cllr Cox of any areas that are looking shabby, please do not use weedkiller. Try to encourage being weedkiller free. Consider using a roofing torch as this will burn the weeds off without using chemicals.

14.3 Highways and footpaths.

Highways out on Knole Pit lane, which has been patched. The current works are not considered adequate to last for any length of time. The Clerk is to contact Highways to request them to make a more robust attempt at mending the surface. Also encourage Knole residents to report the surface condition to Highways via the 'report it' mechanism.

Footpaths, no further update but invite volunteers to the July meeting.

15 Other correspondence not previously distributed

To consider a response to the closure of the Hyper Acute and Acute Stroke Care at Yeovil (retrospective). To be published on the website with the link highlighted.

AL highlighted the demographic of the village, and the concern that the closure of the nearest stroke care unit. The next geographical stroke care is in Taunton, which is much further away.

It was RESOLVED for Cllr Ledger to draft a response from the PC to share and approve.

16 Date of next meeting:

The Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 4th July 2023, in the Village Hall Committee room.

17 Items for the next meeting agenda.

Cllr Weilgus sent apologies for the July meeting. Cllr Rousell will chair the Parish Council meeting in September as Cllr Cox is unable to attend.



18 Exclusion of the Press and Public

To consider the exclusion of press and public for the remainder of the meeting under the *Public Bodies Admissions to Meetings Act 1960*, Section 1(2) on the grounds that discussion of agenda item 19: Lengthsman contract, is commercially sensitive.

It was RESOLVED that the item is heard in confidential session.

Meeting closed at 8.46 pm.

Confidential Item: discussion opened at 8.46pm

19 Lengthsman Contract. To consider an amendment to the extended contract for Lengthsman services up to June 2024.

The lengthsman has requested an increase in hourly rate for the current contract.

The proposed raise was discussed at length, with comparison with other sectors. The proposal was to approve the hourly rate requested, and then the contract to terminate on 31st March 2024. The contract will go out to tender, to start on 1st April 2024.

It was resolved to approve the hourly rate requested, and then the contract to terminate on 31st March 2024, at which point the contract is then put out to tender.

New contract to be issued to terminate on 31st March 2024.

Meeting closed at 8.52pm

END OF MINUTES