



## Minutes of the Long Sutton Parish Council Meeting 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023

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, Mr G Stoddart-Stones.

Cllr Ward attended remotely by Zoom.

Members of the public (MOP): 1

The Public Session started at: 7.30pm.

No questions.

The Public Session ended at: 7.30pm.

The meeting opened at: 7.30pm.

### **1 To receive apologies for absence, and to note and approve reason given (LGA 1972 s85(1)).**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Rickards and Wielgus.

It was RESOLVED to accept and approve the apologies as presented.

### **2 Declarations of interest. (Localism Act 2011 s33 (b-e)). None.**

### **3 [Minutes of the last meeting](#) 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023 (LGA 1972 sch12, para 41(1)), and any matters arising.**

It was resolved that the minutes are a true record of the meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

### **3.1 Matters arising. None.**

### **4 Somerset Councillor's report. To receive a short verbal update from the Somerset Councillor if present.**

- Cllr Kerley attended, and Cllr Ruddle is away. Cllr Kerley provided an overview of the financial situation at Somerset Council, and that all expenditure is being scrutinised.
- Work concerning assets and service devolution to City, Town and Parish Councils is ongoing.
- It is felt that smaller councils would benefit from engaging with larger councils to provide some of the non-statutory services that Somerset Council may no longer be providing.
- Town, City and Parish Councils are being advised/encouraged to increase the precept to make a contingency facility within their budgets.
- The role of the Local Community Network is likely to change from what was envisaged.
- An update regarding Bineham Cross: the hedges have been cut back, and there is additional road marking taken place. Somerton Town Council will assume responsibility for hedge cutting at this junction.



Item 12.3 was moved to be heard at this point, as a representative of Society of Friends had attended the meeting to speak about the recent communication forwarded to Parish Councillors, regarding land owned by the Society of Friends.

- A short overview of the Society in the Long Sutton area, and assets held by the Society.
- Two fields were discussed.
- Court House Field was initially considered by the Society, to be purposed as a wild flower meadow, but the soil is too rich. Access to this field could be tricky but could be via a footpath created in the closed graveyard.
- Smarts Field, which is currently used for agriculture, could be used in a recreational capacity.
- The Society members are keen for the fields to be used, but do not have capacity to manage the areas long term.
- The environmental considerations are very important.
- The fields are to be an agenda item on the February 2024 Parish Council meeting.

**5 Casual Vacancy. To consider any applications to fill the casual vacancy on the Parish Council by co-option.** No applications received. The vacancy is to be advertised on social media.

**6 Planning applications: Planning applications can be viewed on the [Somerset Council website](#).**

**6.1 New planning applications received:**

There were no planning applications for consideration.

**6.2 Update on other planning issues.**

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.

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. Awaiting decision.

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. 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.

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.

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.

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.

## **7 To discuss the Somerset Council Asset and Service devolution process and to consider the response and approach from Long Sutton Parish Council.**

- The only piece of land within Long Sutton belonging to Somerset Council, is the green area at Cross Lane and Parsons Court.
- It is prudent approach Somerset Council to express an interest.
- Details of any bin (litter and dog waste) emptying frequency and schedule is required, and a map of bin locations.

It was RESOLVED that the clerk is to approach Somerset Council to express an interest in Somerset Council's assets in the village, and to obtain further details of services such as litter/dog waste bin emptying to garner a better picture of services that may fall to the Parish Council.

It was RESOLVED that a budget figure of £1000 for hedge and verge cutting, gully clearing and items of a similar nature to be considered for the 2024/25 budget.

## **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.**

Grant funding has been received from Tesco's. The Christmas cart is ready to go and will be touring the area. Local businesses are keen to donate towards the play area



refurbishment. The survey, along with information to make donations with gift aid, is ready to be launched. A further application for grant funding is ready to be submitted.

## **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.**

A fundraising meeting is to be held on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2024. There will be a Village Hall and Recreation Ground Trustee meeting, after the Parish Council meeting, in February 2024.

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

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

The resurfacing to the court is complete, and the new access gate has been fitted. The temporary court marking is still required, and the final marking of the courts will take place in the spring. Cllr Pritchard is now DBS checked. Once the safeguarding training is completed, the registration of the venue with the Lawn Tennis Association can be completed, and the payment system can go live. There is further S106 funding available towards the cost of the refurbishment programme, and the clerk is to pursue this with Somerset Council.

## **11 Village Hall and Recreation Ground**

### **11.1 Matters brought forward by the committee.**

The committee was due to meet last night but the meeting was postponed due to the localised flooding.

A new cleaner is required. Cllr Coombes will fill in for the time being, until a replacement is found.

### **11.2 To discuss the Property Access Request from Wessex Internet. To receive a short verbal report about a meeting with the Wessex Internet Representative. To consider the options of a Discount Agreement or a Wayleave Agreement.**

Wessex Internet are contracted by Somerset Council to put in superfast broadband to all rural communities to the door. The initial plan, resulting from a desk top exercise, was viewed. Both the village hall and the pavilion will have a broadband connection free of charge.

## **12 Environment Plan.**

Cllr Ward has stepped down from the Environment Group due to work commitments. Thank you to Cllr Ward for his valuable contribution to the Environment Group.

### **12.1 Actions for consideration and approval. None.**

### **12.2 Allotment field. To consider giving 12 months notice for an allotment field to be vacated, to use the field as a 'rewilding' opportunity.**

- The original agreement needs to be located.
- The notice period for vacating the plot is 12 months from March.
- It is very important that if the rewilding plan is to go ahead, including planting trees, then this needs to be considered.



- The discussion about the agricultural land that the Society of Friends detailed earlier would give an opportunity for the rewilding project to go ahead without the need to give notice for the allotment field to be vacated.

**12.3 To consider the communication from the Society of Friends regarding alternative use of land to benefit of the community in Long Sutton.**

This item was dealt with earlier in the meeting.

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

**13.1 To agree content/priorities for the January newsletters.**

- Photos from Santa Sleigh.
- Short report from the WI coffee morning.
- Speed Indicator device data to be broken down to a more bullet pointed overview to make the information more meaningful, with a photo, and reported quarterly.

**13.2 Councillor email addresses: to agree to use the Councillor name as the email address.**

It was suggested that the councillor emails should be in the following format: [name.surname@longsutton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:name.surname@longsutton-pc.gov.uk).

It was RESOLVED to use this format for the councillor email addresses.

**13.3 Actions for consideration and approval. None.**

**14 Finance.**

**14.1 Approve balances and accounts for payment.**

It was RESOLVED to [approve the list of payments](#) as circulated. The list of payments can be found as an appendix at the end of these minutes.

**14.2 To appoint the current Internal Auditor for a further 3 year period (2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26).**

It was RESOLVED to appoint the current Internal Auditor for a further 3 year period (2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26).

**15 To review the following Parish Council policies: Complaints policy**

It was RESOLVED to approve the Complaints Policy as presented, and to review this policy again in 3 years time (unless a review was deemed necessary before that time). It was requested that when a policy is reviewed, for the clerk to circulate the review document using tracked changes within that document.

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

**16.1 Community Safety.**

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

There was 1 crime reported in the village in October. The Speed Indicator Device was placed outside the school for the whole month. 65% of vehicles were speeding (speeds in excess of 20mph) with the average speed of 27mph, and 34000 movements for the month.



**16.2 Lengthsman. To receive an update of work undertaken in the Parish.**

- The Lengthsman has been busy managing the trees on the village green. One of the lime trees needs to be drastically cut back, and to consider planning a young tree to eventually supersede the existing one. The horse chestnut on the green needs to be addressed.
- The Lengthsman is now qualified to assess trees, which is a huge benefit. He has also been checking gullies.
- The Lengthsman will consider price rises to his contract after March 2025, but will remain at the same rate for the time being.

It was proposed and RESOLVED to keep the Lengthsman in post and review his contract annually.

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

An update was received regarding Bineham Cross earlier in the meeting.

Two sleepers need to be replaced on a footpath.

A notification was received from Somerset Council regarding an appeal for a footpath to be upgraded to a bridleway.

It was RESOLVED that the Parish Council is not providing any comments about this notification.

**17 Other correspondence not previously distributed.**

A letter was received from a resident on Langport road, regarding the speed limit on this stretch of highway, which Cllr Cox read aloud.

A very warm letter of thanks was received from the WI who were granted funds (in the November Meeting of the Parish Council) for the centenary year celebrations next year.

**18 Date of next meeting – Parish Council meeting Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024 in the Village Hall. (Note change of date)**

**19 Agenda items for the next meeting:** A draft budget for 2024/25 with precept considerations.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm

**END OF MINUTES**