



## **LONG SUTTON PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the parish council held on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 7.30pm**

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

*The Chairman had sent apologies, and Cllr Rousell chaired the meeting in his absence.*

#### **Members of the Public: 2**

**Somerset Councillors:** Cllr Tim Kerley, Cllr Page sent apologies.

The meeting started at 7.30pm.

#### **Public Questions and Observations**

David Crawshaw updated members on the Knole Flood Group's application to the Heritage Fund. They resubmitted the pre-application advice form 14 days ago and should have a response any day now. He will liaise with the clerk. Four members of the Flood Group are attending the Flood Drop-In event at Ilchester tomorrow (as seen in the newsletter). Cllr Rousell asked them to report back anything useful.

Martin Minogue confirmed that they are quietly optimistic about the SRA Grant application which will be reviewed by the panel on 1<sup>st</sup> April. He reiterated how grateful they were to the parish council for their help. All their endeavours are aimed at slowing the in-flow & speeding up the outflow. They are looking at another major project to slow the flow at Orchard Farm and FWAG are sending a new representative on Friday to advise. He will keep councillors informed.

#### **Somerset Councillors Report**

Cllr Kerley reported on car parks, the budget & boundary reviews. There is a plan to harmonise car parking charges across the county. There was some discussion about keeping Somerton & Langport's free parking, which Cllr Kerley has fought for in Somerton. Langport is slightly different as people often park there all day to walk along the river. There were questions about the latest plans for the suggested transport hub, new train station and cycle routes, but no significant news. The local MP has been pushing for investment in south-west transport infrastructure.

The budget meeting will confirm the 7.5% increase in council tax which will only buy some time. Adult Social Care and council tax banding needs to be looked at again to try and make any real impact.

The boundary review first draft was submitted very recently. Cllr Kerley urged the parish council to comment on the consultation when it is published.

Public session closed at 7.48pm & the meeting opened at 7.48pm



## MINUTES

### **24/171: Apologies for absence (LGA 1972 s85(1)).**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Cox, Coombes and Ward.

It was RESOLVED to receive and accept the apologies for absence and reasons submitted.

### **24/172: Declarations of Interest.**

Cllr Weilgus declared a personal interest as the owner of Orchard Farm (as mentioned in the public session).

### **24/173: Minutes of the last meetings held on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2025 (LGA 1972sch12 para 41(1)).**

To receive and approve the [minutes of the meeting](#) held on 4<sup>th</sup> February as a true and accurate records of that meeting.

It was RESOLVED to agree the minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2025 as a true & correct record of that meeting. The Vice-Chairman duly signed the minutes.

### **24/174: Finance**

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

It was RESOLVED to approve the accounts for payment for March 2025.

- b. To note and approve the payments made on the MultiPay card, and the balance cleared by DD.

It was RESOLVED to approve the MultiPay card statement dated 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

- c. To view and approve the bank reconciliation to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025.

It was RESOLVED to approve the bank reconciliations to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025 as circulated.

- d. To note and approve the spend to budget to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025.

It was RESOLVED to agree the spend to budget to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025 as circulated.

- e. The note the VAT reclaim to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025 of £4,522.40 to help with cashflow. The clerk confirmed that the Village Hall had transferred the Garfield Weston donation (£20,000) together with some additional Just Giving donations (£2,172).

### **24/175: Somerset Council - Enhanced Highways Maintenance Scheme Pilot.**

Cllr Tulk reported that having met with the representative from Kier a month ago, and despite being chased by the clerk, there is still no confirmed date for gully clearing. The council wanted to carry out some clearance work in the current financial year and the delay isn't helpful. Cllr Tulk had sourced an alternative contractor who has a cheaper day rate. The spoil removed will need to be

disposed of, but at almost half the daily rate quoted by Kier and having confirmed a 2 week lead time, Cllr Tulk proposed changing to the new contractor. Members unanimously agreed and the clerk was asked to make the necessary arrangements.

Cllr Kerley asked to be kept informed of how the work goes and offered to chase Kier for the report from 8<sup>th</sup> January when work was carried out in Langport Road. The clerk will copy him in on correspondence.

#### **24/176: Knole Flooding**

- a. The clerk confirmed that the SRA Grants panel will meet on 1<sup>st</sup> April to consider the Knole Flood Group's application. See earlier public comments.
- b. Other flooding issues – the clerk said that only 2 couples have volunteered to date expressing an interest in forming a Long Sutton flood Group. Members asked the clerk to re-run the call for volunteers in the next newsletter.

#### **24/177: Village Hall and Recreation Ground**

There was nothing to report from the most recent committee meeting due to Cllrs Cox & Coombes' absence. Cllr Pritchard confirmed that the W.I spent 5 hours deep cleaning the Village Hall on Sunday as previously arranged. Cllr Roussel thanked the W.I for their efforts. The clerk will write to thank them.

#### **24/178: Pavilion Refurbishment**

Cllr Cox had sent a report with an update on successful funding and how works were progressing. The shipping container is now in place and the modular unit should be in position later this month. To date, works are slightly ahead of schedule.

#### **24/179: Equality & Diversity Policy**

The clerk had previously circulated a draft policy for consideration. This was approved by all members.

Members RESOLVED to adopt the policy.

#### **24/180: Planning Matters**

Before discussing the planning applications, members provided the district councillor with a brief summary of the recent, well-attended Public Meeting about plans for the partially developed land north of Crouds Lane.

- a. The following new planning applications were considered for comment:
  - i. 25/00366/HOU – Kingsmoor Cottage, Long Load



**\*\*NB Previous application 24/02948/HOU for the same property was withdrawn on 28/01/25.**  
*Proposal: Partial demolition and erection of a single storey side extension to main house plus retrospective application for garage building.*

**Members supported this application with no comments or objections.**

- ii. 25/00440/COL – The Recreation Ground, Long Sutton  
*Proposal: Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for the proposed stationing of 1no. container and 1no. modular building.*  
**This was for notification only.**

- iii. 25/00184/S73A – Land OS 1400 South of Southview, Longmarsh Lane, Upton  
*Proposal: Application to vary conditions 2, 4, 5 and 11 to change the design and size of holiday let buildings on plots 1 and 2, in relation to planning approval 18/01981/FUL for Erection of 4 detached holiday lets with associated parking and Landscaping.*

**After discussion, members agreed to submit the following comments:**

***Members neither supported nor objected to this application. They felt that the variations to the conditions are substantial and should have been treated as a new application. However, given the information provided, if Somerset Council are minded granting permission, they would like the holiday let condition to be applied in perpetuity and not allow the 3-bedroom holiday let to be sold as a separate dwelling in the future.***

- iv. SCC/4117/2025 – Land at Downslade Farm, Tengore Lane, Upton, Long Sutton  
*Proposal: Proposed re-grading of land with topsoil*  
This application is part of another application that isn't yet validated. The matter was deferred to the next meeting when both applications can be considered together.
- b. The clerk had previously circulated updates on several recently considered applications which members noted.
- c. The following footpath related matters were considered:
  - i. Reference 821M
  - ii. Reference 554M, 555M & 556MMember noted the details.

## **24/181: WW1 Silhouettes**

After a brief discussion on when and for how long the silhouettes should be installed, the best location was decided as the green, opposite the Devonshire Arms, making them as visible as possible, but also keeping the green accessible for mowing and any events.

The clerk will liaise with Cllr Cox about who would be able to help with the installation and a possible concrete base.

### **24/182: Environment Group**

Cllr Wielgus reported that all is going well. The ground has been prepared ready for the gates into the Nature Reserve. Tree planting day (22<sup>nd</sup> March at 10am) has been advertised and there are a dozen or so volunteers already. There are several kilos of wildflower seeds which will be planted in half of the field nearest the road for the first year, with sheep grazing on the other half. There are a lot of owl boxes up around the village now, one already with a barn owl. The budget allocation for the current year won't be spent, although there is an invoice for some groundworks preparation for the gates. He will pass this on to the clerk in due course.

### **24/183: 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary VE Day Events**

Cllr Pritchard reported that FOLSC have confirmed the details of the celebration event on 10<sup>th</sup> May in the Village Hall. There will be a Big Band and 1945 themed fancy dress. Posters will be going up soon. They will be sandbagging the entrance and will be requesting donations of sandbags from residents who may have some available.

The W.I will be crafting poppies and these will be put up around the village and on the altar.

Cllr Pritchard also mentioned the Community Lunch being organised by the W.I on 21<sup>st</sup> March from 12-2pm. It is a community wide invitation to friends & neighbours, and there is no charge, but there will be a donation box.

### **24/184: Communication: website and e-newsletter**

Members agreed that the next newsletter should include the following matters: promoting the Annual Parish Assembly; re-run the call for volunteers for LS Flood Group; local business mention – the new nail bar next to the hairdresser; tree planting & wildflower sowing; scam warning using councillor details; speed data.

### **24/185: Annual Assembly**

The clerk confirmed that the Village Hall has been booked for 22<sup>nd</sup> May at 7.30pm and the local MP has been invited as a guest speaker, but she hasn't replied yet. Cllr Wielgus offered to send a list of alternative possible speakers in case the MP can't attend. There was a suggestion of introducing a Community Award - it was decided that it was too short notice, but a nice idea for next year. Cllr Rickards offered to arrange refreshments (cakes/scones to go with tea & coffee).

The clerk will liaise with the Chairman about other suggested speakers and club & society invitations.

### **24/186: Representative reports from councillors.**

- a. Community Safety (including the monthly crime statistics from Police.uk and the SID - Speed Indicator Device).



Cllr Roussell reported that there were no crimes in the parish in December. The SID was on Martock Road for the last month and the data gathered was circulated. The average speed was 33.7mph, which is within the parameters not to be prosecuted. Cllr Pritchard asked how long the roadworks on the corner by The Devonshire Arms will be there, although they do slow the traffic. The clerk will endeavour to find out.

b. Lengthsman

The clerk had included the most recent report from the Lengthsman in the newsletter. Cllr Roussell had bumped into him whilst working on the green, and the lengthsman had pointed out the fungus growing on some of the trees on the green. He suggested asking for a formal tree survey report so that council can then consider any recommended remedial work formally. The clerk will ask the Lengthsman to submit a tree survey report at his earliest convenience.

c. Highways and Footpaths

Cllr Pritchard reported that the stiles in the area are being checked by the Footpath Warden this month.

**24/187: Other correspondence not previously distributed & Councillors' Comments**

A grant funding request had been received, but the February deadline had been missed. Members suggested that they re-apply in September, although initial thoughts were that the request wasn't closely related enough to Long Sutton.

**24/188: Date of next meeting.**

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025, at 7.30pm in the Committee Room of the Village Hall.**

**24/189: Agenda items for the next meeting.**

Cllr Greenfield mentioned the mess on Knole Causeway being made by the development work. The verges are being destroyed, and the grassy island was dug up to allow parking for the number of cars that arrive daily. Cllr Tulk said that the work is being carried out by a reputable company, and they should reinstate the area afterwards.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm

**END OF MINUTES**