



## **LONG SUTTON PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the meeting of the parish council held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2026 at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Councillors Cox, (Chairman), Rousell (Vice-Chair), Coombes, Fell, Furse-Roberts, Greenfield, Pritchard, Tulk and Wielgus.

**Members of the Public: 8**

**Somerset Councillors:** Cllr Page sent apologies.

**Meeting closed at 7.31pm**

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

#### **Somerset Councillors Report**

Cllr Kerley reported that there had been a delay in receiving the full government settlement and consequently budget meetings have had to be postponed. This is very frustrating as it may cause a knock-on delay in issuing council tax bills. He also addressed the current, very poor state of the roads following the recent spate of winter storms. Almost all Highways teams have been moved from cyclical tasks to emergency works, and the total cost will be nearly £1m once all the work is complete. Residents are urged to report potholes online using the following link:

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/report-a-problem-on-the-road/>

or the website address of [www.somerset.gov.uk](http://www.somerset.gov.uk) and following the steps to 'Roads, Travel and Parking' to 'Report a Problem'. There is also up to date information about flooding in the county on the website.

Meeting re-opened 7.35pm

#### **MINUTES**

##### **25/165: Apologies for absence (LGA 1972 s85(1)).**

None were received.

##### **25/166: Declarations of Interest.**

Cllr Wielgus declared a personal interest in item 25/168.

##### **25/167: Minutes of the last meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026 (LGA 1972sch12 para 41(1)).**

The minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> January had been circulated previously.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the [minutes of the meeting](#) held on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026 as a true & correct record of that meeting. The Chairman duly signed the minutes.



## Matters Arising

None

### **25/168: Village Flooding Issues**

Cllr Tulk said that he had inspected the area during the recent rain and was pleased to report that the preventative work carried out over the last few months had been effective. Apart from one or two blockages, drains and gullies were working well. However, there was some contaminated water in a property in Crouds Lane which was reported to Wessex Water. They arrived quickly, but it is far from ideal that storm water is getting into the sewerage system. Cllr Cox reminded members that Wessex Water have a statutory duty to respond, and asked Cllr Kerley if Somerset Council could help lobby them on behalf of affected residents. Cllr Kerley said that it is always best to report the matter directly online, but individual councillors, rather than Somerset Council, are usually better placed to provide support.

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

Martin Minogue reported on behalf of the Knole Flood Group: they had recently visited Bruton to examine their flood defences and believe that a smaller scale of the bund (which stores water from the River Brue, and then slowly releases it), could be implemented in Knole; FWAG had also visited Knole on 13<sup>th</sup> January and after hearing about the plans for a leaky dam project at Orchard Farm, suggested applying for a grant. They were very positive and up to £25k can be offered. This would be instead of applying to the SRA for a grant and is now the focus. The application will be progressed.

On a positive note, only two properties were affected by the recent rain – Stonemead Lane flooded quite deeply, but the various works carried out, including the ditch clearing at Grove Lane and the drain and gully clearing, helped enormously.

Cllr Cox then read a letter of appreciation from a resident in Shute Lane, thanking the Parish Council for arranging the gully clearing work. Cllr Pritchard said that she had also been approached by at least half a dozen other residents who had expressed the same sentiment.

### **25/169: Planning Matters**

- a. To consider the following new planning applications in the parish:
  - i. 26/00140/OUT – Land at Upton Bridge Farm, Langport Road, Long Sutton

*Proposal: Outline application with all matters reserved except for access, for the erection of 6 No. dwellings with associated drainage, landscaping and access.*

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

The agent for the applicant summarised the outline plans pointing out that much more detail than was required has been included to set some parameters and provide information. The proposed dwellings will be set back from the road, with only one access, and the front boundary hedge retained. He further discussed the drainage strategy, the planned housing design and mix of materials to be used.

Harry Fry thanked the applicant for keeping the neighbours fully informed but wanted to highlight the flooding that happens in Littlefield Road, and consequently his property. A detailed presentation had been previously circulated to members to provide details. The water comes from both surface water running off the A372, and the ditch at the rear.



After careful consideration and discussion, members agreed unanimously to support the application with the following comments:

*Long Sutton Parish Council does not object to this application in principle. However, we are not convinced that the suggested drainage and water attenuation measures are adequate to protect neighbouring properties, and further detail needs to be provided when the full planning application is submitted.*

ii. 25/02709/LBC – The Old Hay Barn, Knole, Long Sutton TA10 9HY

*Proposal: To install a 5.4Kw Solar microgeneration system on the roof of the Old Hay Barn.*

Members had no objections to this application.

- b. Members noted the outcome of the decision notice received since the last meeting, which had been circulated previously.

### **25/170: Grounds Maintenance**

The clerk has sent specification details and associated marked up maps for 3 contracts to several contractors who have been asked to tender for one, two or all three of the works required. Cllr Tulk met with two who had questions, but only one costing has been received to date. The deadline for responses was given as 25<sup>th</sup> February, so this will be considered further at the next meeting.

### **25/171: Finance**

- a. To approve the accounts for payment in February 2026.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the accounts for payment for February 2026.

- b. To view and approve the bank reconciliation to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the bank reconciliations to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026 as circulated.

- c. To consider the current Asset Register and agree any required actions to update the information.

After a brief discussion, members agreed the various elements of the Asset Register with the clerk who will update the register accordingly. Solar panels are cheaper now than they were at the time of installation, so members felt that their sum insured value could reduce from £30k to £20k.

### **25/172: Village Hall and Recreation Ground**

Cllr Cox said that there was nothing to report since the previous meeting.

### **25/173: Petanque Court & Outdoor Table Tennis Table**

Cllr Cox stated that he was keen to complete the project by the year end. The clerk confirmed details of a quote for an outdoor table tennis table and accompanying equipment at a price of £954.98 + VAT. There will be some grass matting or other minor surface preparation required, but members **APPROVED** the purchase and the clerk will place the order and arrange delivery.

Cllr Cox had also spoken with Langport Town Council who had recently installed a pétanque court and had shared useful information and suggestions. Cllrs Cox and Tulk will arrange quotes to carry out any necessary ground preparation and required materials.



The previously awarded grants from SALC and Sport England, together with the money pledged by the Parish Council if required, will be used to organise the project.

### **25/174: Environment Group**

Cllr Wielgus reported that the willow saplings had been received and would be planted in the next week or two. A Duke of Edinburgh student is currently volunteering with the Environment Group and is working on a project to research how to spend the remainder of the Wessex Water grant.

Cllr Greenfield reported that a group from South Petherton are planning to visit the field as they would like to emulate a similar project there.

### **25/175: Annual Parish Meeting 2026 – 14<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm**

Cllr Cox confirmed that Cllr Bill Revans, Leader of Somerset Council, has agreed to be a guest speaker at the Annual Parish Meeting in May. The Clerk will ensure that invitations are sent to the various clubs and societies in the village asking them to take part and make a 'Save the Date' mention in the next newsletter.

### **25/176: Representative reports from councillors.**

- a. Community Safety (including the monthly crime statistics from Police.uk and the SID - Speed Indicator Device).  
Cllr Rousell reported that the SID has been positioned at Bineham crossroads on the main road. It will be there for the whole month, and data gathered will be fed back to Highways who have committed to do the work previously discussed. There was one vehicle crime in December in the vicinity.
- b. Lengthsman – nothing to report.
- c. Highways and Footpaths  
Cllr Pritchard said that given the recent weather, understandably not much work had been done.

### **25/177: Communication: website and e-newsletter**

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

Christmas cart – ask people to mention any defects on footpaths to pass on to volunteers (5 miles of footpaths) and include a link to a map of the footpaths - defib locations – Slinky Bus – Save the date for APM in May - local business (Cllr Wielgus to provide details) – report potholes online. Updating the website – clerk to list the ones that need sorting out.

### **25/178: Correspondence including any not previously distributed & Councillors' Comments**

The clerk mentioned a couple of requests for funding from large national organisations. Members said that their grant policy was reserved for more local ventures.

Cllrs Pritchard and Wielgus will work on a livelier design for the Welcome Letter and prepare something for consideration at the April meeting.

Cllr Cox reported that the turnout for Dave the postie's retirement party had been amazing with over 170 people attending. He was quite overwhelmed, and it was a lovely event.

Cllr Greenfield asked if the flag could be changed which Cllr Cox agreed to arrange.



Somerset Cllr Kerley said how refreshing it was to see a fully functioning Parish Council and he congratulated all members.

**25/179: Date of next meeting.**

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on **Tuesday March 3rd 2026 at 7.30pm** in the Village Hall.

**25/180: Agenda items for the next meeting**

Apologies were given by Cllrs Pritchard and Fell for the next meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.45 pm

**END OF MINUTES**