

Minutes of Meeting of Long Sutton Parish Council Meeting
Held at the Hall on Wednesday 9 October 2019 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillors: Mr G R Cox (Vice Chairman), Mr R Fell, Mr N Rousell, Mr C Dowse, Mr G Stoddard-Stones.

County Councillor Mr D Ruddle
District Councillor Mr G Tucker

14 members of the public

Apologies: Councillor Mr T Brand (Chairman), Councillor Mr M Turpin

Public Session

Request from member of the public (MOP) to have an update regarding the community shop as the commercial interest wishes to expediate matters or consider other options.

The Vice Chairman wished it to be known that the Clerk has passed her Clerk's exams and should be congratulated.

1. To receive apologies for absence:

Cllr Brand submitted apologies for absence, and Cllr Turpin submitted apologies for absence on a work-related matter. It was resolved to receive and approve apologies for absence.

It was further resolved to grant a dispensation for Cllr Brand for prolonged absence due to medical matters. It was further resolved to grant a dispensation to Cllr Dowse for prolonged absence due to military service.

2. Declarations of interest: None

3. Minutes of meeting held on 3 September 2019:

It was resolved that the minutes are a true record of the meeting held on 3 September 2019 and duly signed by the Vice Chairman.

4. Matters arising from the minutes:

None.

5. County Councillor's Report:

Confirmation of the grant to the village hall for the CCTV.

6. District Councillor's Report

Cllr Tucker gave a verbal report:

At Full Council, session regarding the South Somerset District Council (SSDC) investment strategy. SSDC agreed to borrow against majority of its assets, which culminated in a £6m investment in a small animal hospital in Berkshire. Other investments include the premises rented by B& Q in Glastonbury.

District Executive invited members to submit items for scrutiny – planning from validation through to consultation, and the response to the withdrawal of contract with Giga Clear. No input invited for planning applications since the last meeting. Cllr Tucker has been copied in on responses to the Little Upton Bridge Farm planning application, about which he must remain impartial until all consultations have been submitted.

Invitation to attend Area North open evening on 24 October in Norton Sub Hamdon.

Visited the Beat Surgery held by PCSO Josh Weldon on 2 October. Attendance was low, which possibly reflects that there are few concerns in Long Sutton at the present time.

7. Casual Vacancy:

There have been no applications to fill the two casual vacancies on the parish council. Vacancies have been advertised on noticeboards, community website, at the primary school, and in the parish newsletter. Consider changing the start time of the parish council meeting to 7:30 pm?

8 Planning Applications

8.1 New applications received.

Application 19/02302/LBC Thatchover, Stonemead Lane Knole, listed building consent for installation of 2 tie bars. No objections

Application 19/02460/FUL Land at Little Upton Bridge Farm, Langport Road, erection of 3 detached holiday lets.

Written objections have been received from several MOP. Seven MOP spoke during this item, to voice objections which covered:

Operation expanded from 50 to 83 beds, which is 10% of the parish population, making the site a huge development.

Unsustainable development of a rural location. Impact of this application is seen to be more negative than the previous planning application for four large dwellings which was refused at appeal.

Health and safety breach, public interactions with livestock.

Little or no public transport, significant private car use.

Site appeals to hen and stag parties or large groups, not average West Country tourist. This is 24/7 provision not a small business

No sympathy for the setting, amongst Grade II Listed buildings.

Lack of screening of site, by trees etc.

Noise a constant problem, as is litter, not just at weekends but during the week also.

No planning notification on the gate, and few neighbours notified by post.

The parish council debated the issues and resolved to object to the planning application. A response is to be formed, overviewing concerns raised and relate directly to planning policy based on the following issues: precedent set by HM Planning Inspector, development in open countryside, sustainability majoring on the need to travel by car, carbon footprint, management of noise pollution, surface & foul water management and design of proposed structures.

Application 19/02283/OUT land south of Bineham City Cottage, Bineham Lane, erection of a farm workers dwelling. Particulars of planning policy pertaining to permanent agricultural dwellings was discussed and satisfied that the criteria have been met by this application. It was resolved to fully support this application with no objections.

Application 19/02152/FUL Manor Cottage Great Lane TA10 9JB change of use of land from agricultural use to residential use and formation of hard standing – no objections.

8.2 Updates on existing applications:

Application 19/01770/PIP Land adj to 2 Stephens Cottage, Shute Lane, TA10 9LX, erection of minimum of one dwelling and a maximum of two dwellings – updated plan of proposed access received, parish council response unchanged.

9 MOP left at 7:34.

9. Village Hall and Recreation Ground Committee (VH&RGC):

Councillor Stoddart-Stones acknowledged receipt of funds from the parish council by the VH&RGC: £2000 towards running costs and £1000 towards the CCTV. Lots of work completed. The aim of the VH&RGC is to have between £3000 and £5000 as a balance which is just achievable this year. Finances are fine.

10. Community Shop

Cllr Cox has been in email discussion with Chubb Bullied Solicitor regarding the lease for the land. The parish council is a custodian trustee for the village hall. The process that follows disposal or lease when the VH&RGC decide to lease the land, and a public meeting is required with all electors within Long Sutton parish invited to attend and vote.

The commercial interest in the community shop is keen to proceed as soon as possible. The process needs to be correct and will take time. The way forward is leasehold, and not releasing any freehold. The position of the building is still open for discussion.

The VH&RGC and the custodian trustees have agreed that the community shop is a good idea. A letter is now required from the custodian trustees to confirm this is the case.

Further discussion followed regarding the legalities, issues of funding the progress of the entire process. It was resolved to formally engage Chubb Bullied to go ahead and act on behalf of the parish council, and to give an idea of the costs involved.

It was further resolved to establish a group with two member each from the parish council (Cllr Cox and Cllr Fell), the steering group (Nigel Stone and Tom?) and the VH&RGC (Tony Ellerbeck and one other) to work together to make progress.

Cllr Tucker insisted that the group approached the Local Authority for financial assistance when at a stage to do so. He also mentioned that if a planning application submitted for this project then it would be favourably received by Planning.

Cllrs Tucker and Ruddle, and 4 MOP left at 8:02.

11 Policies

11.1 It was resolved to adopt a Press and Media Policy.

11.2 It was resolved to publish the parish council governing documents – Standing Orders and Financial Regulations – onto the website.

12 Finance:

12.1 Balances and Accounts for Payment

It was resolved to authorise the payments listed:

Balance 01/10/2019			
Unity Trust account 01/10/2019			£28,309.69
receipts			
SSE FITS- solar panels	£2,055.73		£2,055.73
			£30,365.42
Less payments August 2019			
Village Hall CCTV contribution		£1,000.00	
Village Hall Grant		£2,000.00	
		£3,000.00	£3,000.00
Balance agreed to bank statement 27 September 2019			£27,365.42
Accounts for payment October 2019			
HMRC re clerk's salary (Sept)		£75.00	
Mrs L Newby – clerk's salary for August paid SO 1 Oct 2019		£300.00	
Timeback accounts payroll Sept		£5.00	
Clerk expenses- print cartridges		67.00	
Howe Tree Surgery		£590.63	
Community Heartbeat line rental defibrillator Knoke year 3		£60.00	
Plunkett Foundation (authorised April 2019 meeting)		£240.00	
Bankcharges 4 June to 30 Sept		£18.00	
Langport Group of Churches		£13.75	
Lengthsman weedkiller		£80.00	
MGM Contractors (kerbs at Shute Lane island)		£1,602.00	
		£3,051.38	
Balance after authorised payments			£24,314.04

12.2 To receive an up to date spend to budget report Current spend to budget year to date report was received with one date amendment. Councillors were content that they are on course to stick to the proposed budget.

12.3 Change of signatories on parish council bank account. It was resolved to add Cllr Fell as an additional signatory onto the parish council bank account.

13. Representative reports and any other matters regarding:

13.1 Community Safety

13.1.1 Monthly Police report: No report received. It was noted that the current Area Beat Manager is on three months detachment.

13.1.2 The Beat Surgery took place last week with Josh Weldon (PCSO) attending. One member of the public attended.

13.1.3 Community Heartbeat It was resolved to accept the emergency telephone agreement as received and sign it.

13.2 Community Warden Scheme

The lengthsman is to complete his hours in the village, and the VH&RGC need to make direct arrangements for any further work at the village hall and grounds. The trees at the top of Martock road need attention, as agreed last month. The lengthsman is concerned about the trees at the lower end of the village. The parish council resolved that the trees at the top of Martock Road need addressing in the first instance as agreed, after which consideration can be given to the other area.

13.3 Highways:

13.3.1 Speed Indicator Device – It was resolved to sign the SID agreement with Somerset County Council. Discussion regarding the installation of the two required posts, and it was resolved to instruct Somerset County Council to install them.

13.4. Environment –Update from young parishioner litter picking weekly as part of Duke of Edinburgh, including cable tie issue at cricket field dealt with. The parish council are really pleased with the difference this has made

13.5 Footpaths

13.5.1. Hammocks Drove progress – Footpath signposts are in place. Still waiting for the gate to be installed

13.5.2 L21/32 footpath update. Rights of Way responded to the regular request for an update on the situation from the clerk, by stating that reaching a resolution is still ongoing, and will be addressed when workloads permit.

14. Correspondence not previously distributed - none. Agenda item to be removed as correspondence is circulated when received

15. Date of next meeting – Tuesday 5 November at **7:30** (please note later time). Discussion regarding the date of the meeting in January 2020. It was resolved, unless planning applications received necessitated otherwise, to hold the January 2020 meeting on 14 January rather than 7 January.

15. Any Other Business/Items for next meeting –Due to the clerk taking annual leave, the agenda for the next meeting will be circulated earlier than normal, with the list of payments for approval either being circulated the night before or tabled at the meeting. There will be no bank reconciliation presented at this meeting.

The poppy wreath for Remembrance Sunday needs to be ordered. The Vice Chairman will contact Cllr Turpin to arrange as usual.

The meeting closed at 8.31 pm