

Minutes of the Long Sutton Parish Council Meeting
1 December 2020 7:30pm
via the virtual platform Zoom

Present: Councillors: Mr T Brand (Chairman), Mr G R Cox (Vice -Chairman), Mrs R Coombes, Mr C Dowse, Mr R Fell, Mrs G Marffy, Mr N Rousell, Mr G Stoddart-Stones, Mr M Turpin

South Somerset District (SSDC) Councillor Gerard Tucker
Somerset County Councillor Dean Ruddle

On 4th April 2020, the Government introduced The Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority meetings) (England) Regulations 2020 to allow local councils to meet remotely.

There were two members of the public present.

The public session opened at 7:30 pm

Public Session:

A member of the public attended to comment regarding item 8. They were invited to comment during that agenda item.

There were no further questions or comments.

Public session closed at 7:31 pm.

The meeting opened at 7:30 pm.

1 To receive apologies for absence

All councillors present.

2 Declarations of Interest

None.

3 Minutes of the meeting 3 November 2020

It was resolved that the minutes are a true record of the meeting held on 3 November 2020 and will be duly signed by Cllr Brand when the Parish Council next meets in person.

4 Matters arising from the minutes

None

5 County Councillors Report

Somerset County Council (SCC) had written to the Secretary of State to defer the elections due in May 2021. It is likely that there will be no elections in 2022 or 2023, due to the Unitary process and the likelihood of a shadow authority being required.

£50,000 has been allocated for a feasibility study regarding railway station, possibly in the Somerton area. This is to be discussed at the next Somerton Town Council meeting, all are welcome to attend.

There will no Regulation Committee in December, therefore the Quarry application will not be discussed.

The second tranche of the Climate Emergency Fund is live from 2 December 2020 for a month. Further information available from SCC.

IDDEA (solar panel) is being endorsed (not guaranteed) by some local council. Offer of reasonably priced solar panel installation subject to a large take up.

6 District Councillors Report

Cllr Tucker confirmed that there was input from him required for the Area North meeting, including no input for planning. It was noted that an appeal for the planning at Little Upton Bridge Farm had been lodged with the Planning Department at SSDC. Information had been forwarded regarding tree felling and alleged infringements at a property within the Parish. Concerns have been raised regarding Huish Leisure centre remaining closed, given previously a large injection of public funds, it is a dual use facility to accommodate the Academy as well as the public.

The Unitary debate continues, with SSDC likely to endorse the Stronger Somerset proposal which goes to the District Executive this week and to Secretary of State on 9th December. Planning Reform White Paper is important as it changes a planning application is processed, giving Parish Councils less opportunity to input, due to timescales for comments being strictly imposed. Phosphate/nitrate levels remains an issue, and currently SSDC is not meeting the 5 year land supply (now a 6 year land supply).

SSDC Investment strategy has been halted in the short term, and it is felt that the Authority is led by heart and not head regarding the land debate in Yeovil. Rental income from property portfolio (countrywide) was at 97% investment in South Somerset which is impressive during the current climate.

7 Planning Applications

7.1. **New planning applications received:**

It was noted that an appeal had been lodged for Little Upton Bridge Farm (19/02460/FUL), ref APP/R3325/W/20/3262373. The original response from the Parish Council is to be resubmitted after redrafting.

Application 20/02958/HOU Fairmead, Shute Lane, Long Sutton. The erection of a detached three bay garage.

This application was discussed. Observations: design of the structure met with approval, however but suggestions that the siting of the building to be further north on the plot. It would look better located further away from the listed building. It was resolved that there are no objections, but these observations are to be forwarded to the Planning Department.

Application 20/02988/LBC Thatch Cottage Hermitage Road. Insertion of an upstairs window to the rear of the property, associated internal alterations to include a studwork partition to create a corridor for the second bedroom (re-submission of 19/03433/LBC).

The application was discussed and the challenges with the property recognised.

Observations: The conservation officer seems satisfied with the application, and the works so far look lovely. It was resolved that there are no objections and to support this application.

7.2. **Update on planning applications received if applicable.**

Application: 20/01868/COU Land adj Orchard House, Shute Lane, Long Sutton. Change of use of adjoining land to extension of residential garden. Awaiting decision

Application: 20/01884/S73A Stuckey's House, The Green, Long Sutton TA10 9HS. Vary condition 2 of approval 17/01479/FUL to install smart heritage windows instead of crittal. Awaiting decision

Application: 20/02036/S16 Stuckey's House, The Green, Long Sutton TA10 9HS. Vary condition 2 of approval 17/01489/LBC to install smart heritage windows instead of crittal. Awaiting decision.

7.3. **SSDC Five Year Housing Plan.**

The paper received from SSDC had been previously circulated to Councillors. There is an allocation of 43 houses in a site opposite of the village hall. There has been no consultation with the Parish Council regarding this area. Questions were raised to Cllr Tucker, who will investigate and feed back to the Parish Council. Consultation regarding growth of this nature is crucial, especially given Long Sutton has a Parish Plan. The clerk is to forward the paper to Cllr Tucker.

8 Tree Felling at Long Sutton House

Concerns have been raised by members of the public regarding extensive works and tree felling at a property in the village. A response has been received from the property owner regarding the works. Residents have forwarded complaints to Planning. It is important to use the planning portal to raise concerns and comments rather than sending a letter - this distinction of reporting methods seems absurd.

Discussion regarding the permissions required for felling trees above a minimum diameter.

Concerns regarding excessive movements on and off the property from 06:45 am to 7 pm have also been raised.

A response to the landowner will be to thank them for their clarification regarding the works and tree felling, but given the contradictory information, then the Parish Council will be seeking further clarification from the Planning Authority.

9 Village Hall and Recreation Ground (VH&RGC)

9.1 Matters brought forward by the committee. Further to the recent review of the village hall operating instructions, a second council member is to be added onto the bank account as a signatory, and this action is ongoing.

The village hall will need remain shut coming out of lockdown. It is financially more viable to remain closed as a business grant is received from SSDC. This will be reviewed after the 15th December. It is a difficult situation as the hall is a valuable part of the community and groups would like it to be open, but the administration and preparation is very challenging to support this.

A list of proposed refurbishment works has been forwarded to the Parish Council. Various grant applications have been and are being submitted to support the proposed works. Letters of support are required to enhance the grant applications.

A question regarding the provision of a post office within the village shop was raised. A letter has been sent to the MP from the VH&RCG regarding difficulties experienced in placing a post office in the village shop. It was felt that the Parish Council also needs to write to the Post Office to protest at the lack of post office provision. Comments were made that more prominent signage is required to promote the location of the village shop to assist with increasing the footfall.

The Parish Council thanked the VH&RGC for their hard work and commitment.

10 To review Council policies

It was resolved to approve the reviewed the Complaint Policy as circulated.

11 Finance

11.1 **Payments to be agreed.**

It was resolved to agree the payments as listed below

Details	Credit	Debit	balance
Balance brought forward for December 2020 meeting			£26377.73
CIL payment received re 18/01868/FUL	£1038.24		
SSE Feed in Tarrif – solar panel income	£1436.17		
	£2474.41		£2474.41
Balance agreed to statement 25 November 2020			£28852.14
Accounts for payment December 2020			
Clerk salary (November)		£333.27	
Howe Tree Surgery (CWS)		£656.25	
HMRC re clerk salary (November)		£83.20	
Timeback accounts payroll (November)		£5.00	
SALC training – responding to planning applications		£30.00	
Mindset – chapter 8 training		£234.00	
Parsigns – Village shop signage		£72.00	
Total		£1413.72	-£1413.72
Balance after December payments			£27438.42

It was noted that CIL monies have been received. It was resolved that the CIL monies are earmarked for the village hall.

12 Representative reports and any other matters regarding

12.1 Community Safety

12.1.1 Monthly police report. In October there were three incidents, one in Long Sutton village and two in Upton, as reported on the Police website.

12.2 Community Warden Scheme. Concern regarding various gullies within the parish that need to be cleared to prevent flooding during more severe weather, are not being maintained by Highways. The lengthsman does not have the equipment to clear these areas.

12.3 Highways. The Parish Council needs to take a long term view of the unblocking of gullies, it's important to keep water flowing when there is excessive rain. It was resolved that Cllr Fell to liaise with a local contractor to clear gullies within the parish. It was resolved that Cllr Turpin will liaise with a local contractor in Knole to clear gullies there.

12.4 Footpaths. Further concern regarding the state of various stiles on footpaths, as SCC don't appear to be maintaining them. It is the responsibility of the landowner to ensure that the footpath accessible and safe. If the landowner provides the materials perhaps the lengthsman can maintain them? Cllrs Fell and Brand to work together with a view to stile maintenance.

13 Other correspondence not previously distributed.

None

14 Date of next meeting. Tuesday 5 January 2020 at 7:30 pm via the Zoom platform.

Current guidance remains that the Parish Council will continue to meet remotely. Face to face meetings at the village hall will recommence only when the guidance allows.

15 Any other Business to be raised at the next meeting.

Discussion regarding the provision of allotments

Noticeboards

Great Tree Giveaway.

Meeting closed at 9:06 pm.