

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

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

South Somerset District (SSDC) Councillor Gerrard Tucker

7 members of the public.

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.

Public session opened at 7:31pm. Those members of the public attending to address planning applications are to contribute at the start of the relevant agenda item

Meeting opened at 7:32 pm

1 To receive apologies for absence

Cllr Turpin, work commitments. It was resolved to accept the apologies.

2 Declarations of Interest

None.

3 Minutes of the meeting 5 May 2020

It was resolved that the minutes are a true record of the meeting held on 2 June 2020 and will be duly signed by Cllr Brand when the Parish Council next meets in person.

4 Matters arising

None.

5 County Councillors Report

No report received.

6 District Councillors Report

The scheduled meeting of Area North committee was cancelled at the last minute recently.

Cllr Tucker has responded to request for input on planning at Little Upton Bridge Farm.

Requested that the application is referred to Area North Committee for determination, re planning policies SS2, EP4 and TA1. If this recommendation is robust, then application may be heard in August (earliest). It would be helpful for the PC and residents to contact the chair of Area North committee to encourage this.

District Executive Scrutiny regarding Housing and Accelerated Housing Delivery, looking to appoint an officer to look at 'land banking' (planning applications permitted that have not followed through but still goes against the number of properties to be built).

The COVID-19 response: SSDC have been supporting and assisting residents across the board, done a great job.

Unitary debate, Cllr Tucker is very surprised it is continuing during the current pandemic, and not happy with the timing. Secretary of State has been contacted regarding Unitary council. There is a counter argument for SSDC and Mendip joining.

Discussion regarding the two longstanding planning applications currently outstanding, and concerns raised regarding non-determination often resulting in the applicant's favour. Concern regarding an approved planning application which states removal of a container unit as part of the conditions.

7 Planning Applications

7.1. New planning applications received

Application SCC/3719/2020: Proposed reopening of former quarry, including proposed temporary processing building and internal access track, **Batts lane Quarry**.

The meeting was suspended at 7:47pm to allow for members of the public to contribute their comments.

The comments raised covered the following points:

Stop the Quarry Action Group leaflet forwarded to councillors to overview the objections.

The previous application had 26 objections and was refused on a ground survey result.

Concerns regarding there being no Somerset County Council (SCC) policy for maximum run off water. Traffic concerns. SMP5 is not met adequately, as only 2 opportunities for employment created. Concern regarding the carcinogenic contaminants in the landfill area. Dust levels and prevailing wind. Samples were taken in August last year, the driest time, mobilising contaminants when the soil is disturbed. Unacceptable landscape alterations. Dangerous for pedestrians passing by. No further acoustic assessment has been commissioned – the temporary processing buildings are in a different position in this application therefore a further assessment is required.

Meeting reopened at 7:58 for the Parish Council (PC) discussion.

Policy SMP5, no benefit to the community, concern regarding lorry movements per day. PC objections to previous application were read out. It was felt after some discussion that SCC needed reminding of some of the points raised during the last planning application. It was resolved to recommend that this application is refused. Cllr Cox to formulate a response to be circulated to the PC and forwarded to SCC.

Appeal APP/R3325/W/20/3253440. Appeal of decision 19/03022/HOU Erection of garden shed (revised application 18/03115/FUL) **Long Sutton Farm House**. It was noted that the applicant is appealing some of the conditions applied when this application was permitted earlier in the year. The PC response is unchanged.

7.2. Update on planning applications received if applicable.

The meeting closed at 8:05pm to allow for a contribution from a member of the public.

Application 19/02460/FUL Erection of 3 detached holiday homes. Land at **Little Upton Bridge Farm**, Langport Road, Long Sutton.

The plans have altered to facilitate a large hedge/shrubbery/tree planting roughly 10 m from the perimeter of the property at the corner with Upton Cross. This means the proposed structures will move inward on the plot accordingly. The proposed development falls outside policy SS1, more traffic movements and noise as residents are encouraged to party within the curtilage. Recommended that it is elevated to Area North committee for determination. Cllr Tucker recommended that persons objecting to the application need to make their view known to Area North chairman, and consider how to present any further information should the opportunity arise.

Meeting reopened at 8:11pm

Cllr Cox commented that planners at SSDC have no local knowledge, and are making decisions based on a two dimensional drawing, which is problematic.

Application 20/0074/FUL change of use of land to station log cabin and shepherd hut as holiday accommodation **Pitts Farm Hermitage Road, Long Sutton**. Permitted with conditions 3 June 2020.

Application 20/00994/HOU installation of a velux roof window to rear of dwelling **Bineham Court Bineham Road Knole** permitted with conditions 17 June 2020.

Application 20/00685/HOU and 20/00686/LBC installation of two dormer windows to rear elevation **Parsons Barn, Martock Road, Long Sutton**. Referred to Area North Committee

Application 19/03433/LBC Erection of two storey rear extension. **Thatch Cottage Hermitage Road**. Awaiting decision

Application 20/00392/HOU Erection of outbuilding in rear garden of dwelling house **Garth cottage Langport Road** awaiting decision

Application 20/00755/FUL Change of use and construction of private manege within curtilage **West Knole House Knole Causeway** awaiting decision.

8 Village Hall and Recreation Ground

8.1 **Matters brought forward by the committee**

Meeting last night with the decision for the play area to remain closed for the time being. A request has been received for a full time booking for childcare provision during the summer holidays. The current regular booking groups are not intending to return before the end of year, therefore it was resolved that the Parish Council support the decision to go ahead with the long term booking. The required cleaning regime is feasible for an all day booking. The village Hall and Recreation Ground Committee do not support any of the recreation ground land being repurposed to provide an allotment facility within the village. From next week every Tuesday there will be a mobile fish and chip van attending the village hall car park. Slight concern that it may affect business for the pizza van which is in the car park on a Wednesday evening.

8.2 **Review of operating document and list of current committee members**

The operating document was provided too close to the parish council meeting and is therefore deferred to the September parish council meeting. A list of current committee members is to be forwarded to the clerk by Cllr Stoddart-Stones.

9 New Village Shop Update

The opening party for the new village shop is on 1 August with full opening on 3 August. It is desired that the shop is fully open on 1 August. The committee is hopeful that a local celebrity will perform an opening ceremony.

The post office application will take some time and will not be in place for the opening.

The water supply for the new unit will be fed from the village hall, which is fully supported by the Parish Council. The electricity supply is somewhat problematic and there is a meeting this week to establish a way forward.

A request has been received from the WI to donate a bench for outside the new shop. There has been consideration regarding both a ramp and steps for the shop, but it was resolved to stick with the ramp only.

10 Allotments within the Parish

Currently the Parish Council holds roughly 13 acres of land on Farm Business Tenancy Agreements. This land is not ideal for parishioner allotments due to the quality of the land and the location. Should six or more parishioners request the provision of an allotment, then it is the duty of the Parish Council to explore providing that amenity.

The location, further into the village, is important. It was resolved to explore the provision of allotments in the village further. This is likely to be in the form of a land purchase, and possibly selling some existing land to finance that purchase.

CLLrs Cox, Stoddart-Stones and Marffy to explore this possibility further.

11 Parish Plan

The current parish plan 2008 is available on the parish website to view. After some discussion, it was recognised that this plan is clearly out of date, but the plan has previously provided the Parish Council with a voice and has been instrumental when responding to consultations. It was resolved that updating the plan would be beneficial to the Parish. The plan reflects the views of the village. Councillors Stoddart-Stones, Dowse and Marffy to explore further.

12 Notice boards

Noticeboards within the parish would benefit from some maintenance. Cllr Cox and Cllr Rounsell are to view the existing noticeboards to establish any maintenance requirements. A new noticeboard is to be arranged to be placed at the site of the new Village Shop. Further discussion about the removal of misleading signs at the premises of the previous shop.

13 One Somerset/ Unitary Council debate

Cllr Stoddart-Stones to attend a virtual presentation provided by Somerset Association of Local Councils.

14 Review of the Parish Council Code of Conduct

The code of conduct was reviewed with no changes.

15 Finance

15.1 Payments to be agreed.

It was resolved to agree the payments as listed below

Details	Credit	Debit	balance
Balance brought forward for July 2020 meeting			£33761.36
VAT refund received	£617.00		£617.00
			£34378.36
Accounts for payment July 2020			
Clerk salary (June)		£333.27	
Howe Tree Surgery (CWS)		£656.25	
HMRC re clerk salary (June)		£83.40	
Timeback accounts payroll (June)		£5.00	
Clerk expenses mobile phone topup		£10.00	
		£1087.92	£1087.92
Balance after payments			£33290.44
Payments due in August 2020			
Clerk salary (July)		£333.27	
Howe tree Surgery (CWS)		£656.25	
HMRC clerk salary (July)		£83.20	
Timeback accounts (July)		£5.00	
Cosmic annual website support		£120.00	
		£1197.72	£1197.72
Balance after August payments			£32092.72

15.2 To appoint an Internal Auditor

Three choices of internal auditor were provided by the clerk, and it was resolved to appoint auditor B to provide Internal Auditor services for a one year period.

16 Representative reports and any other matters regarding

16.1 Community Safety

16.1.1 Monthly police report. In May there were six incidents reported on the Police website. Cllr Fell also reported that a neighbour had experience two windows broken by an air rifle shot which has also been reported to the police.

16.2 Community Warden Scheme. Pathways as reported last meeting have been addressed. The play area requires cutting.

16.3 Highways. The road at Catsgore, between Bineham and Knole, which has only recently been repaired, has potholes developing which is a concern. To be reported on Highways reporting site.

16.3.1 Speed Indicator Device (SID) update. The SID is currently with Aller parish. It is noted that a new pole has been installed on Martock Road at the bottom of the village, at one of the agreed SID sites. The SID to be placed at this location when it is returned to the parish.

16.4 Environment. None

16.5 Footpaths. Knole Causeway has deteriorated over time. A cobbled footpath existed, which has become overgrown and it would be beneficial to reinstate it. Cllr Cox speak with the landowner to agree to cut the hedge.

At the rear of Shute lane there is a stile that needs attention. Cllr Fell to contact the farmer with a view to addressing this issue. If needed, it was resolved that the parish council would contribute towards the cost of materials.

17 Other correspondence not previously distributed. None

18 Date of next meeting. Tuesday 1 September 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.

19 Any other Business to be raised at the next meeting. None.

Meeting closed at 9:13pm.