

Minutes of Meeting of Long Sutton Parish Council Meeting
Held at the Hall on 14 January 2020 at 7.30 pm

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

Apologies: County Councillor Mr D Ruddle, District Councillor Mr G Tucker

4 members of the public

Public Session commenced at 7:31 pm

Cllr Cox welcomed Cllr Coombes and Cllr Marffy to the Parish Council. Introductions from the Councillors.

A member of the public spoke regarding planning application 19/03095/LBC on the agenda, providing further details of the proposed secondary glazing on the now Grade II* listed building.

Letter to be sent to Community Heartbeat Trust regarding the challenges experienced after the defibrillator was deployed in November 2019.

Public session closed 7:40pm

Meeting started 7:41 pm

1. To receive apologies for absence:

No apologies.

2. Declarations of interest: A dispensation was completed to permit setting of the precept by the Parish Council.

3. Minutes of meeting held on 3 December 2019:

It was resolved that the minutes are a true record of the meeting held on 3 December 2019 and duly signed by the Cllr Cox.

4. Matters arising from the minutes:

Local Electricity Bill was followed up by the clerk for more details with no response to date.
14.2 Community Warden Scheme. The Section 171 permit has been received to allow for the trees to be addressed at the top and bottom of Martock Road
15.1.2 Winter Warden scheme.

5. County Councillor's Report:

Cllr Ruddle sent details of Network Rail works concerning the railway bridge on Hermitage road, Upton. The road will be closed for six weeks from 19 February to 30 March. Details to be placed on the community website.

6. District Councillor's Report

Cllr Tucker sent a written report:

'At the December meeting of the Full Council we discussed predominately the appointments of the new Section 151 Officer and the new Head of Legal, two positions recently vacated and both have to be legally filled. I understand the appointment process was not easy, having to re-advertise for both positions. Other items up for discussion is the Climate Change strategy, which although agreed by council, has now to conform with the County, regional and national strategies. I sit on the Scrutiny committee of the county wide task and finish group looking at this subject, which is proving very interesting, particularly as most the proposed actions are timebound.

Full Council this month will receive reports on Climate Change and the Somerset Rivers Authority and the SSDC Environmental Strategy.

There was no Area North Committee in December. Purdah got in the way of many committee meetings, so we are looking forward to a 'back to normal' service after the new year, although I have not yet received the agenda for the January meeting. I have not been asked to involve with any planning applications in Long Sutton since you last met.

I have involved a little with the Village Stores group, predominately trying to find a way of speeding up the planning process to allow meaningful discussions to take place with regards to investments.

Councillors have received communication from the Police informing of the successes with Operation Remedy. This has been operating for six months now. Operation Remedy aims to improve performance, satisfaction and public confidence in relation to offences of dwelling burglary, illegal supply of drugs and knife crime. 86 Officers are involved with this programme. Four arrests per day have been made since the introduction (not sure if this is additional arrests). Almost twice as many burglars are being brought to justice with 661 fewer burglaries reported in the same period the year before. £1.3m worth of illegal drugs seized.

7. Casual Vacancies:

It was resolved that Gill Marffy be co-opted to fill the vacant seat on Parish Council.

8 Planning Applications

8.1 New applications received.

19/03095/LBC Friends Meeting House Langport Road, Long Sutton. Internal alterations to install secondary glazing. It was resolved to fully support this application with no objections
19/03022/HOU Long Sutton Farmhouse, Martock Road, Long Sutton erection of a garden shed (revised application 18/03115/FUL). It was resolved that there are no objections to the planning application provided a condition is in place that restricts the use the building to that associated with the private use of Long Sutton Farmhouse and not for business use. Furthermore, the Parish Council insists that the existing shipping container to be removed and the listed wall be reinstated prior to the commencement of the construction of the garden shed as this has been a long-standing enforcement issue that must be resolved.

8.2 Updates on existing applications:

The two current applications outstanding (19/01770/PIP and 19/02460/FUL) are still pending.

3 members of the public left at 7:51 pm.

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

Cllr Cox overviewed the VH&RGC for the new councillors. Three councillors from the Parish Council sit on the VH&RGC: Cllr Stoddart-Stones, Cllr Coombes and Cllr Dowse (on extended leave). Cllr Stoddart-Stones confirmed that all is well and the budget has been set for next year. Any improvements to the VH&RG will need to be grant funded. There will be some fundraising events: a movie night in March, and possibly a car boot sale. The damage from the incident in November has all been rectified, and an invoice is due to be issued.

10. Community Shop

Cllr Cox summarised the progress so far. The village meeting in December approved the change in the Objects of the charity and permit the negotiation of a commercial lease. There are issues with the Charity Commission, but the solicitor working on behalf of the project is working with the Charity Commission to resolve any challenges.

The interested party in Langport has been considering the type of structure and is looking at 2 x 40ft containers side by side. A surface standing structure would reduce cost. A survey of the area has been conducted and received. The question of access to the VH disabled toilets was raised by the interested party, which will not be possible. Currently there is no intention of the Parish Council providing public toilets in Long Sutton.

The risk to the Parish Council was confirmed as legal fees up to £500, planning fee of up to £250 if the structure is on stilts and survey conducted £90+ VAT.

11 Website.

A report was received from the clerk regarding the introduction of Website Accessibility legislation in 2018 which has a compliance deadline of September 2020. A disproportionate burden was considered. The clerk is attending webinar training on 10 and 13 February 2020, which should provide more clarity regarding what is required.

It was resolved:

The clerk to continue ensuring that Parish Council documents for the website are accessibility checked by Microsoft Word before uploading (has been in place since Aug 2019)

The clerk to work with the webmaster using knowledge gained from the training to assess the website in-line with legislation requirements.

To ask the website supporter to provide website visitor numbers.

Report back to the Parish Council at the March meeting.

12 Finance:

12.1 Balances and Accounts for Payment - It was resolved to authorise the payments listed:

Balance b/fwd for Jan 2020 Meeting			£20743.78
			,
Bank charges Oct-Dec 2019		£18.00	
Refund of membership for SLCC	£114.00		
	£114.00	£18.00	£96.00
Balance agreed to bank statement 057 dated 31 Dec 2019			£20,839.78
Accounts for payment January 2020			
HMRC re clerk's salary (Dec)		£75.00	
Mrs L Newby – clerk's salary for December paid SO 1 January 2020		£300.00	
Timeback accounts payroll Dec		£5.00	
Howe Tree Surgery		£590.63	
SALC re VAT training		£60.00	
Renewal subscription office365 (Cllr Cox)		£59.99	
LSPCC – Christmas tree and lights		£250.00	
LSPCC – parish newsletter		£260.00	
Philip Reeder Surveys Ltd		£108.00	
		£1,708.62	£1,708.62
Balance after authorised payments			£19,131.76

12.2 The proposed budget for 2020/21 was presented to Councillors. It was resolved to approve the budget as presented.

12.3 As a result of the approved budget, it was resolved to set a precept for 2020/21 at £18,616.00, which means the precept will remain the same for parishioners for the next fiscal year. A press release confirming this for parishioners is to be issued in the next newsletter.

12.4 As a result of the approved budget, it was resolved to open a reserve account with Unity Trust and transfer £10,000 from the current account as general reserves.

12.5 Request for funding from Somerton Library Trust. A request for support was received. Currently the average monthly use by Long Sutton Parishioners is 15. It was proposed to NOT support this request. A counter proposal was put forward to support this request with a sum of £350. The counter proposal was NOT resolved. It was resolved to NOT support this request as it is felt Long Sutton parishioners have other geographical choices.

13. Representative reports and any other matters regarding:

13.1 Community Safety

13.1.1 Monthly Police report: The PCSO Josh Wheldon is no longer the PCSO allocated to this area. The clerk is to contact the PCSO to invite them to the March Parish Council meeting. Upon accessing the Area North crime figures, there were 9 crimes reported in the Long Sutton Parish in November 2019- 6 incidents (open space related) in the Batts Lane area, and 3 incidents Long Sutton village.

13.1.2 Defibrillator Cllr Turpin has replenished the torch and high viz for the village hall defibrillator. The Knole defibrillator is still without power. The supply has been checked and is fine to the phone box itself. Cllr Turpin is now liaising with BT to resolve.

13.2 Community Warden Scheme (CWS)

The vegetation at the village hall fence has been addressed, the chipper for the waste was not required.

Cllr Fell liaises with the lengthsman monthly regarding issues that require addressing.

Hourly rate to be reviewed. Cllr Fell is to discuss this with the lengthsman directly, to be discussed further at February Parish Council meeting.

13.3 Highways: Speed Indicator Device (SID) update: PC to order the device from Westcotec. The two posts are to be installed in the next 12 weeks. Training from two providers, details of which to be sent to Cllr Cox with a view to book Cllr Rounsell to attend.

A highways issue has been raised a number of times in the past at Langport Road near Burnthouse Lane by a parishioner regarding a grid being blocked which affects the drainage. It was resolved that the Parish Council need to ensure that the grid is kept clear minimising the risk of flooding. It was further resolved to build this task into the CWS program of work. Cllr Cox to draft a reply to send to the parishioner.

13.4. Environment – The Great Parish Tree Giveaway. There are two sites proposed within the parish: one off Batts Lane and one in Bineham, both of which have the landowner's permission. It was resolved to enter the parish into the ballot for the giveaway.

13.5 Footpaths – A parishioner has contacted the parish council as a result of the information placed in the parish newsletter this month. The details were given to Cllr Rounsell to confirm, with a view to reporting to Somerset County Council.

Cllr Stoddart-Stones provided a demonstration of 'Parish Online' mapping facility software, which has a free trial period. Access to this is provided free of charge under certain conditions, with the current insurance provider. The software can be used to overlay the OS map with information such as parish boundaries, Parish Council assets, floodplains, as examples. Councillors to view, and discuss at the next Parish Council meeting.

14. Correspondence not previously distributed

Somerset County Council recently distributed a recommendation for a Unitary council for Somerset. Councillors to be aware of this as the Parish Council will need to respond to this at some stage in the future. Cllr Cox provided an overview of the correspondence. Some services, for example Somerset Waste Partnership, and building regulations have been centralised.

Further correspondence has been received updating the proposals for the Martock Road project. There was no response received to the Parish Council correspondence, therefore there will be no response to this latest item received.

15. Date of next meeting – Tuesday 4 February 2020 at 7:30 pm (please note later time).

16. Any Other Business/Items for next meeting None

The meeting closed at 9:01 pm