

**Minutes of Meeting of Long Sutton Parish Council Meeting  
Held at the Hall on Tuesday 3 September 2019 at 7.00 pm**

**Present:** Councillors: Mr T Brand (Chairman), Mr R Fell, Mr N Rousell, Mr C Dowse, Mr G Stoddard-Stones, Mr M Turpin.

District Councillor Mr G Tucker

5 members of the public (including 2 members of the Community Shop Steering Group)

PCSO Josh Weldon arrived at 7:44

**Apologies:** Councillor Mr G R Cox (Vice Chairman), County Councillor Mr D Ruddle

**Public Session**

Update regarding Hammocks Drove footpath from the landowner. The gate has been ordered but not yet arrived, chased again. Cllr Turpin updated regarding the signage for the footpath, South Somerset District Council (SSDC). Cllr Brand thanked the landowner for his patience and assistance with the gate.

Speed Indicator Device (SID). It was strongly suggested to use the existing SID pole that is situated roughly opposite Little Upton Farmhouse on the A372. Councillor Brand confirmed that this is a preferred location.

A few parishioners attended the Regulation Committee meeting in June regarding the planning application to reopen the quarry in Batts Lane. This application was refused on only one point; that a trial bore into the ground to determine contamination levels (if any) had not been performed. It appears there is investigation work now occurring. Any further attempt to reopen the quarry would be via a completely new planning application, and the parishioners hoped that the parish council would continue to support refusal.

Two members of the Community Shop were invited by the chairman to speak during the agenda item further on in the meeting.

An update was requested regarding the enforcement notice and Long Sutton House. The clerk read an extract from the July (draft) minutes, 'SSDC Planning visited the property and found no evidence of the building being used for accommodation without permission but did establish a breach of planning regarding non-agricultural item storage. No lawful change of use case can be made. A response should be received by the parish council in due course'

Meeting opened at 7:09 pm

**1. To receive apologies for absence:**

Cllr Cox submitted apologies for absence. It was resolved to receive and approve apologies for absence.

**2. Declarations of interest:** None

### **3. Minutes of meeting held on 2 July 2019:**

It was resolved that the minutes are a true record of the meeting held on 2 July 2019 and duly signed by the Chairman.

### **4. Matters arising from the minutes:**

None.

### **5. County Councillor's Report:**

None

### **6. District Councillor's Report**

Cllr Tucker gave a verbal report:

Cllr Tucker has troubled the Planning Committee in recent months as in July; he presented on the application at Long Sutton Farmhouse for the building of a large garden store and workshop. This application was refused with the predominant reason being the height and location of the proposed structure. In August, the parcel of land on Martock Road was brought forward for determination by the Planning Committee. This application was approved, even though a valiant attempt was made with Dean Ruddle to overturn the Officers recommendation. Our stance was not helped by the distribution of a letter to councillors which putting it mildly – was quite shocking!

Long Sutton benefitted from a decision to support from the Community Grants programme the Village Hall. £4,347 was awarded for the installation of security and surveillance equipment.

There was no full council meeting in August. District Executive this week will receive reports on the Climate Emergency Strategy, which has focussed the attention of Officers for a few months. A report on the investments of the authority will also be made, which not breaking a confidence, are performing not better than predicted, but quicker. The level of income predicted by March 2021 is being achieved now which is encouraging. Other investments confirmed since the parish council last met is the B&Q site in Glastonbury and a distribution depot in Newport.

### **7. Casual Vacancy:**

There have been no applications to fill the two casual vacancies on the parish council. It was resolved to further advertise the vacancies, and to contact the primary school to advertise the vacancies there to try and encourage a wider demographic to consider being a councillor

### **8 Planning Applications**

**8.1 New 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.

The parish council acknowledge receipt of the amended plan intended to clarify how access to the property would be achieved. That aside, it was felt that there is still insufficient information to allow a decision to be made.

It was further resolved to refuse, as per the previous discussion in July. There is still no evidence from Highways that access to the entire site is safe, as demonstrated back in 1990. Currently there is still insufficient detail/evidence with the application to support it, which means there is insufficient detail/evidence to make a decision.

## **8.2 Updates on existing applications:**

**Application 18/03115/FUL** erection of garden shed Long Sutton Farmhouse- refused at Area Committee

**Application 19/00016/FUL** Single dwelling and garage, Land OS9867 Martock Road Long Sutton – permitted with conditions (see comments District Councillor report)

**Application 19/01096/HOU** erection of single storey timber garden room, Upton Farm Hermitage Road – permitted with conditions.

**Update on Enforcement notice** (see Public Session notes).

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

Councillor Stoddart-Stones gave a short verbal report acknowledging the receipt of the £4,347 grant from SSDC towards the CCTV, and extended thanks for receipt of the funds in one payment rather instalments. A safety report about the playground has been received highlighting repair work that is required. Looking to the future, the VH&RGC intend to apply to County for funds (c. £20,000) towards 'green' improvements – ground heat source pump and insulation.

It was resolved to pay to the VH&RGC the £1000 allocated in the parish council budget towards the CCTV, and the £2000 grant provided by the parish council annually.

## **10. Community Shop**

The Charitable deed has been located, and the land title is still to be located. A solicitor has been consulted, initially, regarding the community shop proposal. The consideration is to provide a plot of land near the village hall, on a lease basis (possibly 25 years) Since the last parish council meeting, a local commercial interest has expressed an interest in providing the shop. At a village meeting, the benefits of a commercial interest managing the provision is advantageous from a continuity aspect. That aside, this development makes the proposal very different to the original one, a community based solution, presented at the village meeting and if it is practical it is likely that parishioners will need to be consulted thoroughly on the new proposal

The two members of the steering group provided an update so far. Currently pledges of funding of around £12,000, but further pledges are required, to the value of £30,000 in total. Around 40 volunteers would be needed to get the project started, and then running. A 25 year lease would be required

A discussion followed that explored the benefits of commercial against community run. A commercially run venture would allow for newspapers and a post office facility (aimed at within 12 of start-up). Several questions arose regarding ownership of any shop buildings, provision of a contract to run the shop only, and how further developments be affected (a coffee shop for instance).

That aside, this development makes the proposal very different to the original one, a community based solution, presented at the village meeting and if it is practical it is likely that parishioners will need to be consulted thoroughly on the new proposal.

It was suggested that the owner of the Devonshire Arms Hotel be approached to see if he would be prepared to allow the "old skittle alley" to be used as a shop. He most politely declined.

It was resolved to ensure that compliance with the charity commission and legislation was the priority. A solicitor is to be consulted regarding the compliance and legislation. Once this has been clarified, then a further village meeting will be required to present the developments. Subject to the outcome of that meeting, further steps can be taken.

The steering group members did confirm that should a commercial venture route be decided, (which would mean the steering group standing aside), then they would step in and continue if the commercial proposal did not succeed.

PCSO Josh Weldon arrived at 7:44. It was resolved to move to item 13.1 Community Safety, to allow him to speak.

### **13.1 Community Safety**

A verbal report regarding crime in the parish – very low – PCSO has no concerns. Cllr Brand welcomed police presence in the parish of an evening. Possibility of poachers operating in the area, anything suspicious please report via 101, the non-emergency number. Any signs of a firearm then use 999. Do not approach under any circumstances.

Very little Anti Social Behaviour in the parish.

A letter has been received regarding parking in Shute lane causing a near miss collision. Discussion followed, and it was resolved to send a letter to Highways to request a visit to the area and view with a parish councillor.

PCSO would like to set up a beat surgery – proposed date is Wednesday 2 October 4 until 5 pm – with either the mobile police unit or using the committee room in the village hall.

### **11 Review the Parish Council Publication Scheme**

After discussion it was agreed that the printing cost for any information not available electronically would be 10p per sheet. The costs had not been reviewed since 2008. It was resolved to adopt the reviewed scheme as circulated, but with the charges raised from 5p to 10p per sheet, and any postage costs (2<sup>nd</sup> class).

## **12 Finance:**

### **12.1 Balances and Accounts for Payment**

It was resolved to authorise the payments listed:

Balance 01/07/2019			
<b>Unity Trust account 01/07/2019</b>			£47,378.22
<b>less</b>			
Payments July meeting		908.63	
PWLB loan		15,279.64	
Bank charges (payment fee)		28.00	16,216.27
			31,161.95
<b>Less payments August 2019</b>			
Howe Tree Surgery (SO 25 August)		£590.63	
Payroll June & July		10.00	
HMRC June & July		150.00	
Clerk salary (July 2019)		300.00	
Howe Tree surgery weedkiller		20.00	
SALC (planning training)		90.00	
Cosmic web support		144.00	£1304.63
			£29,857.32
PKF LittleJohn external audit		240.00	£240.00
<b>Balance agreed to bank statement 28 August 2019</b>			<b>£29,617.32</b>
<b>Accounts for payment September 2019</b>			
HMRC re clerk's salary (August)		£75.00	
Mrs L Newby – clerk's salary for August paid SO 1 Sept 2019		£300.00	
Timeback accounts payroll Aug		£5.00	
Howe Tree Surgery		£590.63	
Community Heartbeat line rental defibrillator Knole		£52.00	
Community Heartbeat annual support for both defibrillators		£230.00	
SALC training (councillor essentials)		£25.00	
SALC training (successful chairman)		£30.00	£1307.63
<b>Balance after authorised payments</b>			<b>£28,309.69</b>

**12.2 Notification of conclusion of audit** The conclusion of audit report from the External Auditors was received, and no further actions noted.

**12.3 Notification of PWLB loan settled.** It was noted that the settlement payment was received, and the loan closed.

**13. Representative reports and any other matters regarding:**

**13.1 Community Safety**

**13.1.1 Monthly Police report:** In July 253 investigated crimes with 27 arrests. 33 reports of ASB for Area North.

**13.2 Community Warden Scheme**

The key cannot be located therefore the lock will be removed to allow the lengthsman into the area to cut grass unhindered. It was further clarified that the lengthsman needs to stick to the allocated hours for the village hall, and the VH&RGC will need to make alternative arrangements for further maintenance outside of these hours.

The trees on the edge of the sports field (top of Martock Road) and those at the opposite end of the village (these originally planted by the parish council) require attention. The costs will be £350 for traffic management, with a further £100 for the shredder hire. It was resolved to go ahead with the trees at the edge of the sports field.

**13.3 Highways:**

**13.3.1 Speed Indicator Device –** Cllr Brand and the clerk met with SSDC highways in July to discuss locations for the SID. Four were discussed and it was resolved to adopt the four proposed locations: opposite Little Upton Farmhouse (existing post), opposite Long Sutton Support Centre (post required), opposite the primary school on Martock Road (existing post) and the far end of Martock Road behind the small Long Sutton village sign (post required. Highways have confirmed the verge is Highways property). The agreement needs to be completed.

**13.4. Environment –None**

**13.5 Footpaths**

**13.5.1. Hammocks Drove progress –** See previous comments in Public Session

**14. Correspondence not previously distributed**

**15. Date of next meeting** – It should be Tuesday 1 October 2019, 7 pm. Currently three councillors including the chairman and vice chairman are unable to attend, therefore it was resolved to change the meeting date to Wednesday 9 October 2019 at the Village Hall at 7pm

**15. Any Other Business/Items for next meeting** –Cllr Dowse gave apologies for the October meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.29 pm