



Minutes of the Long Sutton Parish Council Meeting

6th July 2021

Held in Long Sutton Village Hall, 7:30pm

Present:

Councillors Mr G R Cox (Chairman), Mr G Stoddart-Stones (Vice Chairman) Mr C Dowse, Mrs R Coombes, Mr R Fell, Mrs G Marffy, Mr M Turpin.

Somerset County Council (SCC) Councillor Dean Ruddle.

South Somerset District Council (SSDC) Councillor Gerard Tucker

There were 2 members of the public present.

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

The Public Session opened at 7:30pm

A member of the public attended to update regarding the experience of using the SSDC planning portal to report an enforcement issue. After a substantial volume of issues, the concerns have now been raised. Customer care at SSDC became involved and have assisted with the concerns of the resident being redirected.

Cllr Tucker reinforced that reporting issues to enforcement must be via the planning portal, as other methods are not recognised. SSDC Enforcement team is reduced in members, with recruitment of new officers proving difficult.

Cllr Cox encouraged members of the public to continue to report issues, but to ensure that any supporting evidence is gained without trespass.

Cllr Stoddart-Stones offered to assist with accessing the planning portal to those having difficulties.

Public session closed at 7:38pm.

The meeting opened at 7:38pm.

1 To receive apologies for absence (LGA 1972 S85 (1))

Apologies were received from Councillor Rousell (self-isolating). It was resolved to receive and approve the apologies and the reasons provided.



2 Co-option to fill a Casual Vacancy.

An application has been received from Mr Neal Ward, to fill the vacant seat on the Parish Council. The vacancy has been advertised in accordance with legislation. It was resolved to appoint Mr Ward as a councillor for Long Sutton Parish Council. The clerk arranged for Mr Ward to sign the declaration of office and allow him to join the meeting as a councillor.

The chairman invited Cllr Tucker to give a District Council report, item 6 on the agenda, whilst the declaration was signed.

3 District Councillor Report

There are some teething problems with the 'Recycle More' initiative introduced at the end of June. The issues are concerning staffing – lack of HGV drivers, and new contractor operatives to the area who are unfamiliar with the routes. The issues are being addressed. Recyclable waste is also of a much higher volume than anticipated. A question was raised regarding the statistics of how much of the recycling is actually recycled. The clerk responded that there is usually a regular briefing and would ensure that this is circulated in a timely fashion.

There has been a new Chief Executive appointed to SSDC, Jane Portman, on an 18-month contract.

There is a Regeneration Project which is focused on Wincanton, Chard and Yeovil. There is no conurbation in Area North that is attracting growth.

Long Sutton Cricket Club have a grant application to be heard at the Area North meeting next week, and Cllr Tucker is hopeful it will be approved. The project is approximately £38000, the grant application is for £12500.

Planning Department is still struggling. The number of planning applications is up 400 in the same quarter year on year. There are more applications and less officers to administer them, whilst the phosphate situation remains unresolved. The rate that planning applications are completed in the local area has slowed down, due to the sewage treatment facility near Long Sutton already under strain. Phosphate mitigation is the responsibility of the water authority, but the planning department is having to deal with it.

The Parish Council must be delighted that the Quarry application has been refused for a second time.

It is vital that Enforcement issues are reported via the Planning portal on the SSDC website.

Planning application 21/00137/FUL currently has a recommendation for refusal, but for the application to be referred to the Area North Committee.



4 Declarations of interest

None declared.

5 Minutes of the meeting 8th June 2021 and any matters arising.

It was resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting on 8th June 2021 as a true and accurate record. The minutes were signed by Cllr Cox.

The County Councillor arrived during item and was invited to provide a report previously item 5 on the agenda, once the planning item had concluded.

6 Planning Applications:

6.1 New Planning Applications received:

Application 21/01849/HOU Rear single storey extension. Two Hoots, Shute Lane, Long Sutton.

This is a small extension in a new property, possibly with permitted development rights removed. It was resolved that there are no objections to this planning application.

Application 21/01951/HOU demolition of existing front porch and rear extensions. Erection of a two storey extension to the front and a two storey with single storey extension to the rear. 14 Martock Road, Long Sutton, Langport TA10 9JS.

The planning application was discussed, and it was felt the planned extension would be an improvement to the property. It was resolved to support the application.

6.2 Update on ongoing planning applications:

Batts Lane Quarry. This application was heard at the Regulation Committee on 24th June, which the clerk attended on behalf of the Parish Council. This application was refused.

Application 21/00054/REM: Land South of Bineham City Cottage, Bineham Lane, Long Sutton. Reserved Matters application following Outline approval of 19/02283/OUT. Awaiting decision. Details to be sent to District Councillor Tucker who will make further enquiries to try and progress the application.

Application 21/00069/HOU The Old Forge, Cross Lane, Long Sutton TA10 9LR. Erection of Detached Oak Framed Garage. Awaiting decision.

Application 21/00137/FUL: Land adjacent to Knightlands, Knole Causeway, Long Sutton. The erection of a new dwelling, car port and vehicle access. Awaiting decision. Possible referral to Area North Committee, to be advised.

Applications 21/01456/COU 10 Bridge Barns, Langport Road, Long Sutton TA10 9PZ. Change of Use of business units to Use Class E (retail). Awaiting decision.



Application 21/00399/HOU Orchard House, Shute Lane, Long Sutton. Erect garden room/outbuilding. Awaiting decision.

7 County Councillor's Report.

Cllr Cox thanked Cllr Ruddle for representing the views of the Parish Council at the recent Regulation Committee meeting.

Cllr Ruddle gave a short verbal report. The outcome of the Unitary debate, according to a Somerset County Council representative, is likely to be the One Somerset proposal, but possibly with elements of the Stronger Somerset proposal incorporated. Membership of partnership boards will include District Council, Somerset Association of Local Councils (SALC), and larger Town Councils. The elections due in 2022 will have two representatives of unitary authority for each ward, with this amount possibly reducing in future elections.

8 Parish/Neighbourhood Plan.

The clerk circulated a report detailing a briefing attended about Neighbourhood Plans. A Neighbourhood Plan needs to complement a Local Plan implemented by District Council. Neighbourhood plans are here to stay, but the focus of such a plan could change to be more of a Design Code, which is somewhat different. This focus change would not be clear until the Planning Reforms, started in 2020, have been concluded. The objectives of a Neighbourhood Plan would be taken into consideration if a planning application was being agreed that is in direct opposition to the principles established in the Neighbourhood Plan, which had been agreed by District Council.

It was recognised that Enforcement is under resourced and needs to be stronger. Single Infrastructure Levy will replace Community Infrastructure Levy.

The Design Code seems to be aimed more at urban rather than rural settings. Cllr Stoddart-Stones has liaised with Martock PC, and the Neighbourhood Plan works hand in hand with a Local Plan.

It was resolved to defer any further action until the planning reforms, and additionally the Unitary Council outcome are both concluded, and the role of the Neighbourhood Plan is clearer.

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

9.1 Matters brought forward by the committee.

Cllr Stoddart-Stones provided a short verbal report. The tennis courts are now bookable via Hallmaster on the Village website and will soon be payable by smartphone using a QR code. The fire doors replacement is to go ahead, but a revised specification is required.

Cllr Cox thanked the committee for the work with the refurbishment, the village hall looks amazing.



9.2 Play area update.

The clerk had previously circulated a report which detailed the meeting with an SSDC officer and the chairman of the VH&RGC. There are two clear areas to be addressed: the maintenance work required, and new equipment installation. The priority is the maintenance/repair work. Any installation of completely new equipment will not to be addressed in the short term. The clerk has obtained quotes from the current play equipment providers, for supply of replacement parts only, and supply and fit replacement parts. An additional quote is being sought from an alternative play equipment provider for the same specification, to allow a reasonable comparison.

It was proposed that the three council representatives on the VH&RGC, and the clerk, have delegated authority to progress the repair and replacement of play equipment. It was resolved to delegate to the three council representatives and the clerk to progress the project to a satisfactory close.

10 Finance

10.1 To approve balances and accounts for payment.

Payments July 2021	Credit £	Debit £	Balance £
Balance b/fwd from June meeting			41,041.78
Bank charges 1 April to 30 June 2021		18.00	
Village shop rent	300.00		
	300.00	18.00	282.00
Balance agreed to statement 30 June 2021			41,323.78
Accounts for payment July 2021			
Clerk salary (June 2021)		333.27	
Howe Tree Surgery (CWS)		656.25	
HMRC re clerk's salary (June)		83.20	
Timeback accounts payroll (June)		5.00	
SLCC regional training day		54.00	
WEA Long Sutton		250.00	
Deposit for fire exit door village hall		2,186.75	
Matched funding for village hall refurbishment		2,000.00	
		5962.22	5962.22
Balance after July payments			35,361.56
Accounts for payment in August			
Clerk salary (July)		333.27	
How Tree Surgery (CWS) new rate TBC		656.25	
HMRC re clerks salary (July)		83.20	
Timeback accounts payroll (July)		5.00	
Cosmic annual support for the website		144.00	
		1221.72	

It was resolved to approve the payments as listed above.



Cllr Cox commented that there is no formal agreement to purpose the rental income received for the village shop. The rent is £750 per quarter in advance. Cllr Cox proposed that the rent received is earmarked for the benefit of the outside areas of the village hall and recreation ground. The intention is that the Parish Council will commission any larger project works required on outside areas, (which includes the play area) to benefit from being able to reclaim VAT paid.

It was resolved that the rental income from the village shop is earmarked for the outside areas of the village hall and recreation ground, to be purposed for larger project works when required.

11 Review of Parish Council Code of Conduct

The Code of Conduct had been previously circulated to councillors, with no proposed amendments. It was resolved that the Code of Conduct is reviewed with no amendments.

12 Representative reports and any other matters regarding:

12.1 Community Safety

12.1.1 Monthly Crime Statistics from the Police.uk website

No updates available and no report received.

12.2 Community Warden Scheme (CWS).

The new contract is ready for the lengthsman to sign. Cllr Cox signed on behalf of the Parish Council. The lengthsman has invoiced for the first quarter of the year, including VAT. The new contract is for 2 years, and invoicing will be for the entire year but paid in twelve equal monthly payments. The clerk is to arrange for the contract to be signed by the lengthsman.

12.3 Highways.

None to report.

12.4 Footpaths.

12.4.1 Cllr Rousell attended footpath working group meeting. SCC now only have one footpath officer. Stiles need to be replaced and it is clear that the parish council need to work with landowners to start addressing this. A priority list of stiles is to be drawn up, with a view to maintaining/replacing 10 per year. Meeting with the landowners is key, and advisable to meet them on their land rather than a group meeting in the village hall.

A list is to be collated for the September Parish Council meeting, of priority lists, costs and which farmers to speak with. There is a financial implication over several years to consider.



The condition of the bridle way at Mill Stream Lane/Ilchester Lane was raised by a member of the public prior to the parish council meeting. The clerk had successfully reported this to SCC Rights of Way via the 'Report it' map on the SCC website. The stiles in this area will be addressed as part of the stiles review, and the bridleway itself will be looked at in the autumn after the nesting season has concluded.

13 Other correspondence not previously distributed:

A letter of thanks from the WEA Long Sutton has been received and circulated to councillors.

An email has been received regarding a Bus Improvement Plan, and Cllr Cox has circulated his response.

14 Date of next meeting:

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 7th September at 7:30pm in the main hall at the village hall. Subject to restrictions being lifted, the meeting may take place in the conference room. Please check the agenda for the location closer to the meeting date.

The Parish Council may meet in the meantime should a planning application be received that requires a face to face meeting

15 Items for the next meeting agenda.

Footpath update from councillors.

Update on the play area regarding the maintenance work proposed.

Meeting closed at 8:52pm.

END OF MINUTES