



Minutes of the Long Sutton Annual Parish Council Meeting

4th May 2021

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.

Apologies from: South Somerset District Council (SSDC) Councillor Gerard Tucker and Somerset County Council (SCC) Councillor Dean Ruddle.

On 4th April 2020, the Government introduced The Local Authorities allow local councils to meet remotely.

There was three members of the public present.

The Public Session opened at 7:30pm

There were no comments or questions from the members of the public present. Those persons present to speak about a planning application would be permitted to do so at that agenda item.

Public session closed at 7:33pm.

The meeting opened at 7:33pm.

1 Election of Chairman.

Cllr G R Cox was nominated as Chairman by Cllr Rousell and seconded by Cllr Brand. It was resolved that Cllr Cox was elected Chairman.

After stepping down from both Chairman and as a councillor, Cllr Brand was thanked for his time and achievements whilst serving on the parish council.

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

All Councillors present.

3 Election of Vice Chairman.

Cllr G Stoddart-Stones was nominated by Cllr Cox as Vice Chairman, and seconded by Cllr Turpin. It was resolved that Cllr Stoddart-Stones was elected as Vice Chairman.



4 Declarations of interest

Cllr Dowse declared a non-pecuniary interest in a planning application in item 9.1. Cllr Cox confirmed that Cllr Dowse was unable to vote in this item but would be able to comment as a member of the public.

5 Minutes of the meeting 6th April 2021 and any matters arising.

A letter to Planning regarding application 21/00687/HDG is to be sent. Cllr Stoddart-Stones has composed the letter to be signed by the Chairman. It is essential that the Parish Council efforts in this application are recognised, and that the Parish Council do take planning applications very seriously.

The car park spaces at the village hall have now been marked out. The bicycle rack has also been installed

It was resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting on 6th April 2021 as a true and accurate record.

6 Exclusion of the press and public.

To agree any items to be dealt with after the public, including the press, have been excluded (a resolution to be passed by councillors).

Agenda item 19 Community Warden Scheme – renewal of annual contract (commercially sensitive).

It was resolved to exclude the press and public to discuss agenda item 19.

7 County Councillors Report

There was nothing to report from the County Councillor.

8 District Councillors report

Cllr Tucker had forwarded a short report to the clerk just prior to this meeting. This has been circulated to councillors, and is detailed at the end of the minutes as an appendix.

9 Planning Applications:

9.1 New Planning Applications received:

Application 21/00399/HOU Erect a garden room/ outbuilding. Orchard House, Shute Lane, Long Sutton TA10 9LU.

The meeting was closed at 7:42pm to permit members of the public to speak. The applicant spoke and confirmed positive engagement with all immediate neighbours. Cllr Dowse spoke as a member of the public to confirm that any concerns will be addressed through proper channels. A further member of the public spoke supporting the application.



The meeting reopened at 7:44pm. This application was discussed at length by councillors. Members spoke confirming no objections to the application, and others spoke regarding the size and scale of the proposed structure was not clear and in keeping with the impression that a garden room would give. The previous planning application to change the use of the land to residential garden space, heard by the Parish Council last year with no objections., may have been queried further if presented with this other application.

It was resolved that the Parish Council objects to this application. The vote was equally split, and the Chairman's casting vote was exercised to give the outcome of an objection, due to the two reasons stated previously.

Application 21/00940/HOU Proposed rear and side extension. Shapcott cottage, Langport Road, Long Sutton TA10 9ND. It was resolved that there are no objections to this application.

9.2 Update on ongoing planning applications:

Batts Lane Quarry: No further update as to when the application is likely to be heard.

Little Upton Bridge Farm: The appeal for the additional three structures as holiday lets was upheld, and therefore the planning permission has been granted. The local community is disappointed with the outcome. Cllr Cox reinforced that South Somerset District Council (SSDC) refused the application, in line with the Parish Council resolution. It was highlighted that no reference has been made to the impact of the recent phosphate legislation on this application, and further enquiries are to be made to SSDC.

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.

Applications 20/01884/S73A & 20/02036/S19 Stuckeys House The Green, Long Sutton, TA10 9HS. Application to vary conditions 2 of 17/01479/FUL and 17/01480/LBC to install a smart heritage window system instead of crittal. Awaiting decision.

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.

Application 21/00525/HOU: Long Acre, Crouds Lane, Long Sutton. The erection of a two storey side extension, single storey rear extension and a replacement detached garage. Application permitted with conditions (12/04/2021).

Mr Brand left the meeting after this item.



10 Appointment of members as officers or to existing committees.

10.1 Village Hall, three members required. Cllrs Stoddart-Stones, Coombes and Dowse were all nominated to remain as the village hall representatives.

It was resolved that the three members as listed will remain as representatives for the ensuing year.

10.2 Other officers:

Planning: Cllr Cox.

Highways and Footpaths Officer: Cllr Rousell.

Accounts/payment scrutiny: Cllrs Cox, Fell and Turpin.

Community Warden/lengthsman co-ordinator: Cllr Fell.

Parish Website: Cllr Coombes.

It was resolved that the officers were appointed as listed above.

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

11.1 Matters brought forward by the committee.

Due to the bank holiday, the VH&RGC have not met since the last Parish Council meeting. A contractor has attended to view the play area and been very constructive regarding the immediate shortcomings highlighted in the last play area annual inspection – a report is due. It is recognised that the large centre apparatus required immediate attention.

12 Finance

12.1 To approve balances and accounts for payment.

Payments May 2021	Credit £	Debit £	Balance £
Balance b/fwd from April meeting			22,393.66
Community Benefits Payment	1809.60		
Precept received	18,616.00		
	20,425.60		20,425.60
Balance agreed to statement 27 April 2021			42,819.26
Accounts for payment May 2021			
Clerk salary (April 2021)		333.27	
Howe Tree Surgery (CWS)		656.25	
HMRC re clerk's salary (April)		83.20	
Timeback accounts payroll (April)		12.50	
Data protection fees		35.00	
BHIB Annual Insurance		605.30	
Solar panels cleaning		300.00	
Car park marking		360.00	
Clerk expenses (ink cartridges and stapler)		42.92	
		2428.44	2428.44
Balance after May payments			40,390.82



It was resolved to approve the payments as listed above.

12.2 To agree the Annual Governance Statement – section 1 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR).

The Annual Governance Statement, section 1, was read out by the clerk, and councillors answered as indicated on the AGAR form. It was resolved to agree the responses to section 1 as indicated on the AGAR form.

12.3 To agree the Accounting statements 2020/2021 – section 2 of the AGAR.

The accounting statement was agreed by the Parish Council. It was resolved to agree section two of the AGAR.

12.4 To agree the confirmation of dates of period for the exercise of public rights.

The recommended period for the exercise of public rights is from 14th June 2021 to 23rd July 2021 inclusive. It was resolved to approve these suggested dates for the exercise of public rights.

12.5 To review bank account signatories.

It was resolved that due to the resignation of Cllr Brand, he is to be removed from the bank account as a signatory. All other signatories to remain the same and in place.

12.6 Parish Council Insurance provision due for renewal.

It was noted that the Parish Council insurance has been renewed. The cover provided was reviewed last year and considered an appropriate level of cover.

13 Remote meetings in local authorities

There is a call for evidence with regards to the continuance of the ability to hold remote meetings after 6th May 2021. It is evident that current legislation is outdated, but the Coronavirus regulations expire on 7th May 2021, which means that the Parish Council need to commence face to face meetings.

After some discussion, the advantages of holding both remote and face to face meetings was recognised. The majority of councillors favoured face to face meetings. Subject to the choice of both being an option once legislation is clarified, a face to face meeting once a quarter would give parishioners the opportunity to engage directly and be more inclusive for all. Hybrid meetings were not considered to be as successful as either completely face to face or remote.

The Parish Council will meet in the village hall on 1st June and review the situation as legislation is clarified.

14 Freedom of Information Request

To note that a freedom of information request has been received, regarding litter and fly tipping. The clerk reported that the bulk of the questions to be answered will be a nil return.



15 Representative reports and any other matters regarding:

15.1 Community Safety

15.1.1 Monthly Crime Statistics from the Police.uk website

The local police provided a report for April which can be found at the end of the minutes in the appendix.

15.2 Community Warden Scheme (CWS).

The lengthsman will be discussed during the In Camera item at the end of the meeting.

15.3 Highways.

The Speed Indicator Device (SID) is back in Long Sutton and currently located on Langport Road.

15.4 Footpaths.

Cllr Stoddart-Stones showed how the photos taken by councillors of stiles and access whilst out walking, have been uploaded onto Parish Online. Cllrs Stoddart-Stones, Fell and Marffy are to work together on an action plan how to move the gradual refurbishment of some stiles and gates in the parish forward. Upkeep is the landowner's liability and responsibility, but the Parish Council want to work with them.

16 Other correspondence not previously distributed:

None

17 Date of next meeting:

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 1st June 2021 at 7:30pm in the main hall at the village hall, after the Long Sutton Village Hall and Recreation Ground Trustees meeting.

18 Items for the next meeting agenda.

Casual vacancy on the Parish Council. An advertisement to go into the village newsletter, inviting applications to the clerk. The vacancy needs to be advertised and the clerk is to contact the Monitoring Officer.

Parish Plan. The clerk is to obtain further information from SSDC and invite an officer to address members at the next meeting. Funding streams will need to be explored, but the process needs to be understood initially. The clerk is to send the website link of the existing parish plan to members.

Meeting closed at 8:43 pm, and the public left the meeting for the in camera item.



In Camera

Meeting opened at 8:43pm

19 Community Warden Scheme.

The community warden scheme started in the Parish about 11 years ago, and the same contractor has been in place for that time. Originally this parish council worked in partnership with other parish councils, but latterly the parish council has worked directly with the contractor.

The contract has more hours in the summer months, with grass cutting and weed control, and winter months see more tree management.

After some discussion, it was recognised that the contracted hours seem to centre in the village, and not further out in Knole and Upton, for example. The Parish Council are really pleased with the contractor and the work he does, but the efforts need to spread over the wider parish.

It was resolved that the clerk, with Cllr Cox and Cllr Fell, review the details and the current in the contract, and return to full council at the next meeting in June.

Meeting closed at 8:58pm.

END OF MINUTES



Appendix

District Councillors report:

'The roll out of the additional recycling continues with an expectation that you will start to receive information on what can be collected and how regular.

Full council: decided last week to support a poll even though the Secretary of State has clearly informed that the consultation period has closed. Advice from counsel was indifferent and the additional advice of a QC suggested that it should be pursued. At an expected cost of £92k to South Somerset, I voted against a poll, although I was in the minority and the motion was passed.

I have been asked for my input to application No 20/01884/S73A Stuckey's House with an Officer recommendation for refusal.

Like so many of you, I was disappointed to learn that the appeal for 3 blocks of additional accommodation was upheld and permission now granted. I have asked the Director with responsibility for planning if there is any recourse, particularly as the Inspector has seemingly ignored the issue of phosphate mitigation.

The Chief Executive Alex Parmley is leaving SSDC to take up a post in New Zealand.'

Police Report:

On 30th April we had two reports of burglaries in the Long Sutton area.

Items such as laptops, jewellery and wallets were stolen.

The suspect(s) has gained access to the property via insecure doors whilst the residents were in the garden.

Please can residents of Long Sutton be vigilant and keep doors and windows secure if distracted in the garden, garages or outbuildings and report anything suspicious to Police via 101 or 999.

Two suspects have been arrested on suspicion of the burglaries.

At this time there is nothing further to report.

END OF APPENDIX