

Minutes of Meeting of Long Sutton Parish Council
held at the Hall on Tuesday 5th April 2011 at 7.30 pm

Present: Councillors: Mr R C Vaux (Chairman), Mrs Y Aitken, Mr D C Francis, Mr J A Foy, Mr S A Pledger, Mr C J Greenfield. District Councillor Mr G R Cox, County Councillor Mr D Yeomans, PC Terri Lines + PCSO and 9 members of the public.

Apologies: Councillors: Mrs J R Turner, Ms P Jukes and Mr A D Jones.

Public Observations/Question Time

Concern was expressed that there were only 3 nominations for the new Parish Council to take office in May and also regarding the trees/hedge which have been planted on the boundary of Hillcrest, Shute Lane which it was felt would impede the vision for drivers at the crossroads at the top of Shute Lane. The Chairman said that he had not yet spoken to the owner of the property.

Report by PCSO/Police

There were four reported crimes in the Turn Hill Area for the month of March:

02.03.11 Theft. Long Sutton

07.03.11 Burglary in a building other than a dwelling. Petrol strimmer and crow bar stolen. Aller.

28.03.11 Burglary in a building other than a dwelling, nothing was taken from a garden shed. Long Sutton.

PC Lines then answered questions posed by Councillors/members of the public regarding the Thefts from Farms and other matters of concern.

The Chairman thanked her for attending the meeting and for having attended the Parish Community Evening held on the 1st March.

The meeting then proceeded to the agenda.

1. Declarations of Interest

The Chairman declared a personal interest in the planning application regarding the wind turbine on land at Appledoor Barn, Knole to be discussed at item 6 on the agenda.

2. Minutes of meeting held on 1st March 2011 – (previously circulated) were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman following the amendment of the word “residual” to “residential on the last line of the minute regarding Orchard House, Shute Lane under Planning on page 3 and also the amendment of the Current A/C Balance from £442.89 to £442.98 also on page 3 under Finance.

3. Matters Arising - There were no matters arising.

4. County Councillor’s Report

Mr Yeomans reported that the County Council were just about to start implementing the cuts made in the budget agreed in February.

There are new arrangements regarding household waste recycling centres and charges from the 4th April 2011. (Details have been received.) The Crewkerne Centre together with Coleford, Middlezoy, and Dulverton are to become Community Recycling Sites. The Crewkerne Centre will be subsidised from the Precept and there will be a charge of £1.20 while the others will have an entry fee of £2.

He also reported regarding the plans to bring superfast broadband to Somerset and Devon which the County Council is putting money towards.

Mr Francis raised the question of the increase in fly tipping which could occur due to the charges being made by the Recycling Centres. Mr Yeomans said that the County Council will reimburse the DC for dealing with this if there is a lot.

5. District Councillor's Report

Mr Cox said that:

Area North had recently had a report from Sgt Alan Bell regarding crime but unfortunately he does not say how many crimes they solve.

He was appalled that the Parish Housing Survey which had been carried out with the assistance and support of Area North was not acceptable to the Housing Department as it did not contain information regarding income and savings and he would be seeking answers regarding this.

Only 7 out of the 13 District Councillors will be standing for re-election.

He said that he would be happy to support the new Parish Council with the benefit of his knowledge for a few months.

Mr Cox then answered questions tabled by Councillors/Parishioners with regard to affordable housing and the development of exception sites.

6. Planning:

11/00845/FUL Land OS 0001 Appledoor Barn, Knole: Erection of 15kw wind turbine

Mr Francis conducted discussion of the application (the Chairman having previously declared an interest).

The applicant was invited to address the PC. He said that his family had farmed and looked after the land for nearly 100 years and the application was about creating a cleaner environment. Another Parishioner gave support to promoting renewable energy.

The Council then went into meeting and Mr Francis outlined to the PC various errors in the application. Namely:-

That it has been indicated that the site cannot be seen from a public road, footpath or bridleway when it can be clearly seen from the road and a footpath passes within 10m of the base of the mast.

The design and access statement specifies the erection of a C&F Green Energy CF15 turbine. This is incorrect as a hybrid turbine will be erected with the generating capacity of the CF15 and the mast and blades of a CF20. He said that this is an important distinction as the CF15 does not comply with acoustic requirements whereas the CF20 does.

In addition there are no government guidelines regarding wind turbines and the close proximity of public footpaths.

Following discussion Mr Francis proposed that the application should be accepted. This was seconded by Mr Pledger and unanimously **resolved**. It was however agreed that the Planning Officer should be made aware of the errors in the application.

11/00475/FUL The Cider Barn, Little Upton Bridge, Hermitage Road, Upton: Change of use of the Cider Barn to holiday let.

The Chairman invited Parishioners to address the PC.

It was said that the application should be viewed as a conversion rather than a change of use. The Barn had already been converted and the application was therefore retrospective. No-one had been consulted and it looked like certain planning breaches had occurred.

The PC then went into meeting. It was agreed that the application was retrospective, however, there was no history of complaints. The Upton Bourn access is being used and Highways have no objection.

It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded Mr Foy and unanimously **resolved** that the PC have no objection to the application provided it is linked to the main property and not sold away.

West Knole House, Knole 11/00215/FUL: Application for a new planning permission for the conversion of barn to form 1 unit of living accommodation for holiday let together with associated garage and access to replacing existing permission 07/04938/FUL to extend the time limit for implementation. Permission granted by SSDC.

7. Lengthsman Scheme

Mr Foy tabled the Lengthsman's invoice in the sum of £2009.90 for payment. He said that this included clothing items i.e. shirts with Turn Hill Area Parish Lengthsman on them and that the name had also been put on the Lengthsman's van.

A matter raised for the Lengthsman's attention was the clearing of debris and foliage at Langport Road.

Dist Councillor Cox confirmed that application was to be made to the Somerset Community Foundation for £3200 to make up the deficit in funding from SCC.

Mr Foy said that although he was not standing as a Councillor he would be prepared to continue as co-ordinator for the Lengthsman's Scheme if it was the PC's wish.

It was unanimously **resolved** that the PC would like Mr Foy to continue as co-ordinator.

8. Finance

Business Reserve A/C	11150.24
Less Transfer to Current A/C	<u>3000.00</u>
	8150.24
Add Interest (31 March)	<u>1.26</u>
	<u>£8151.50</u>
Current A/C	442.98
Add Transfer from Reserve A/C	3000.00
Allotment Rents	<u>270.00</u>
	3712.98
Less A/cs paid last meeting	<u>1564.09</u>
	<u>£2148.89</u>

Lengthsman A/C		6077.85
Less Pd to Lengthsman last meeting		<u>1584.38</u>
		4493.47
Add Payments received:-		
LSPC	291.67	
High Ham PC	291.67	
Aller PC	83.33	
Pitney PC	83.33	
Long Load PC	<u>584.33</u>	<u>1333.33</u>
		<u>£5826.80</u>

The Clerk reported that the Lengthsman A/C at the end of the financial year showed a balance of £6036.80 which included a Farm Business Tenancy Rent of £210 which had been credited in error and therefore required to be transferred to the PC's Current A/C.

A/cs for payment:-

SALC subscription	194.42
Community Council for Somerset subscription	35.00
50% of annual contribution to Lengthsman Scheme 2011/12	1750.00

It was proposed Mr Greenfield, seconded Mrs Aitken and unanimously **resolved** that the above accounts be paid and also the Lengthsman's invoice in the sum of £2000.90 and that the sum of £210 should be transferred from the Lengthsman A/C to the Current A/C to correct the credit which had been made in error.

Regarding the requirement for the Council to register with HMRC as an Employer and undertake PAYE, the Clerk said that an email had been received from a company offering to undertake this. However Mr Gould said that he would be happy for Joni Waters of his Office to give the Clerk assistance in this respect. His offer was gratefully accepted by the PC.

9. Date of Annual Parish Meeting - It was agreed that this would be held on the 3rd May 2011 at 7 pm.

10. Neighbourhood Watch/Community Safety

Mr Gould said that he felt the Parish Community Evening had been well attended and received. People had been able to converse with the Police and also the Lengthsman and learn more about CS and the website.

The Chairman thanked Mr Gould on behalf of the PC for having organised the evening. Those Councillors who had attended agreeing that this had been very successful.

11. Parish Plan – Nothing to report.

12. Parish Website

Mr Sensier said that he felt the new Council should consider whether to continue with the facility of the website.

It was reported that two requests have been received via the website.

One was a request to advertise two District Liberal Democrat events on the website. After some discussion, it was agreed that this request should be granted.

The other was the use of the Green for the display of Vintage Cars on the 14th May. It was agreed that this should also be granted on condition that any insurance required is the responsibility of the organisation who should also be responsible for the cost of any damage caused to the Green. At their discretion a small donation to the Lengthsman Scheme would be welcomed.

13. Village Display

Mr Sensier reported that 27 people at the Parish Community Evening had felt that a Central Village Display was a good idea.

Following discussion it was proposed by Mr Greenfield, seconded the Chairman and unanimously **resolved** that this would be a suitable use for some of the money received for the right of access over the Green.

It was agreed that this was a matter for the new Council to take forward.

14. Affordable Housing

The Chairman said that there has been a rumour in the Parish that negotiation has been opened up with First Step Homes regarding development in the field opposite the Village Hall. He said that he would like to make it plain that in no way had any correspondence been sent or received by the Parish Council with regard to any development taking place on this land.

In view of the issues surrounding the PC's 2010 Housing Needs Survey, Mr Gould is arranging for SSDC to do a new Survey via the Community Council for Somerset.

15. Village Hall

The Chairman reported that the Village Hall Committee are considering the erection of barriers or placing boulders to prevent cars from parking on the Recreation field. As the cost of this is likely to be over £500 they would therefore like the PC's permission. Permission was unanimously agreed provided the Committee is satisfied that it has sufficient funds for this.

It was also reported that the slides have been stolen from the children's play area and it is believed, unfortunately, that they were not insured.

It was agreed that the PC should request sight of the Village Hall Insurance Policy in order to satisfy itself regarding insurance matters.

16. Representative Reports and matters regarding:

- (a) **Footpaths:** It was felt that these are in a good state.

- (b) **Highways:** Dist Councillor Cox reported that Highways have been contacted regarding the state of the junction at the bottom of Hardings Hill.
- (c) **Environment:** Mr Francis said that he was arranging for an RSPB/English Nature Survey to be put on the website.

17. Correspondence

The Clerk tabled various literature/emails received for Councillors to take if they so wished. These included:-

Dept for Culture Media & Sport Re The Queen's 2012 Diamond Jubilee
Somerset Community Food: Growing Connections in South Somerset – Conference 10th May at Winsham.
News from YDH and Avon & Somerset Police Authority.

The Chairman said that he had received a letter from the Church, asking if the PC could increase the donation which it had recently made (£470) in view of rising costs. The PC's budget for 2011/12 included donations to the Church totalling £470, the same as the last financial year. It was agreed that in view of the PC's own financial commitments and it only being the start of the financial year, it could unfortunately not see its way clear at the present time to increasing the donation. The Chairman will reply accordingly.

18. Date of next meeting - 3rd May 2011 following the APM which will be at 7 pm. Mr Greenfield gave apologies.

19. Any Other Business/Items for next meeting

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20 pm