

**Minutes of Meeting of Long Sutton Parish Council**  
**Held at the Hall on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2011 at 7.30 pm**

**Present:** Councillors: Ms P Jukes (Chairman), Mr G F Marsh, Mr N A Gould, Mr T P Shire, Mr T G Cox and Mr N E Pomeroy. County Councillor Mr D Yeomans, District Councillor Mr S Pledger and 2 members of the public.

**Apologies for Absence:** Councillor: Dr C J Greenfield

**Public Observations/Question Time**

The PC were informed of an impending planning application regarding Tala, Palmers Close.

The matter of the Precept for 2012/13 was also raised and the hope expressed that the public would be kept fully informed of the decisions reached.

**Report by PCSO/Police** - There was no representative present, however, the reported crimes for November and Christmas Crime Prevention Tips have been received.

The reported crimes are:

1 Burglary in a garage. Nothing was stolen

1 Arson to an isolated shed in a field

1 Attempted Burglary – damage to door however no entry gained.

**1. Declarations of Interest**

Mr Gould declared a personal interest in respect of Parsons Close to be discussed under item 7 on the agenda (Planning).

**2. Casual Vacancy**

The Clerk reported that she had received no applications in respect of the vacancy. Councillors also knew of no interest which had been expressed. The DC are to be informed.

**3. Minutes of meetings held on 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> November 2011** - (previously circulated) were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**4. Matters Arising**

**Stream at Crouds Lane:** The Clerk reported that she had today received a telephone call from SCC Highways who say that they will arrange for the stream to be cleared but first require the trees from the adjoining property which overhang the lane to be cut back as these restrict access. A Councillor will speak to the property owner.

**Hedge overhanging the footpath at Knole:** District Councillor Mr Pledger has the matter in hand.

**5. County Councillor's Report**

Mr Yeomans' monthly letter has been received and circulated to Councillors.

He reported that the change programme is moving forward very fast. The County Council will in future be a commissioning agent as opposed to a facilitating agent.

Anyone bidding for land on lease etc for community projects will need to get their act together. Judicial reviews will become more and more prevalent.

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

Mr Pledger reported that the Police have warned that there are a lot of people knocking on doors posing as Utility people. There is a crime increase in the area. Anyone who sees an unmarked van which they are not sure about should take down the number.

## **7. Planning**

### **Application No: 11/04624/FUL – Erection of a porch to the rear of Crown Cottage, Back Street.**

Following discussion it was unanimously **resolved** to object to the application on the grounds that the materials and design are not appropriate for this listed building and would adversely affect the character.

**Final Plan with revised car parking Re: Development at Parsons Close.** This has been received from YHG. It is understood that an application is shortly to be submitted to SSDC. It was agreed that the development would be looked at as a whole when a copy of the application has been received. If this should be received this month a request will be made for the PC's comments to be deferred until January.

### **Complaint Re: Development at Little Upton Bridge Farm:**

Work has been undertaken causing a minor variation from the plans for which retrospective permission is required. A member of the public has complained regarding this. It was however agreed that the PC had carried out its duty in this respect and that this now rested with the District Council to enforce.

## **8. Lengthsman Scheme**

Mr Shire confirmed that the Lengthsman's November report would be put on the main notice board.

The Chairman reported that Area North have confirmed a payment of £2,500 towards the Scheme for 2012/13. The other £2,500 to make up the total of £5,000 comes from Streetscene and it will not be known until February whether any contribution for 2012/13 will be forthcoming from them. A decision therefore has to be made as to whether to cover this sum in the budget for 2012/13 or to cut the Lengthsman's hours.

An enquiry has been received from Huish Episcopi who are interested in joining the Scheme but as they are a large Parish they would require more hours than the present Scheme could provide. The Chairman said that she had put them in direct contact with the Lengthsman but it is understood that he has confirmed that he has no further hours available.

## **9. Finance**

### **(i) Balances**

Business Reserve A/C	<b><u>£8153.55</u></b>
Current A/C	5599.94
<b>Less A/cs Pd 1 Nov meeting</b>	<b><u>281.42</u></b>
	<b><u>£5318.52</u></b>

Lengthsman A/C	11521.28
Less Paid Lengthsman 1 Nov	<u>1722.70</u>
	<b><u>£9798.58</u></b>

**(ii) A/Cs for payment:**

**Lengthsman A/C**

Craig Howe – Lengthsman Salary	1785.00
Men at work sign	62.22
Materials (High Ham £3.79, Aller £25.56)	<u>29.35</u>
	1876.57

**Current A/C**

Clerk's Salary/Travelling	286.42
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It was proposed, seconded and **resolved** that the above accounts be paid.

**(iii) Budget/Precept for 2012/13**

The Chairman reported as follows regarding the Precept and the Lengthsman Scheme.

LS's contribution is 35% of £20,000 pa = £7000 pa.

In 2011/12 LS contributed £3500 being 50% of this. Contributions of £5,000 and £1800 being received from SSDC and SCC respectively for the whole scheme. LS's contribution of £3500 out of this year's Precept of £11,000 pays for 36.5 working days at a cost of £9.43 per household pa.

SSDC will contribute £2500 in 2012/13 (perhaps more) = minus £875 for LS. SCC will not be making a contribution. To cover the shortfall in contributions LS would need to find an additional £2625 which would mean a Precept increase of £6.98 per household for the Lengthsman Scheme in 2012/13 giving a total of £16.29 per household for the Scheme.

Further to the 4% increase on last year's allocations agreed at the PC's meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> November, it was felt that a more realistic figure for the costs of any election for 2012/13 would be £1,000 rather than the £400 previously agreed. It was also agreed that the allocations of £195 for the website and £350 for the BMX track for 2011/12 should be carried forward to 2012/13 if not spent by the end of this financial year.

Following further explanation by the Chairman, it was unanimously resolved that an allocation of £6125 should be made in respect of the Lengthsman Scheme for 2012/13.

This gives total allocations for 2012/13 of £17972.20 – income of £1,000 from allotments = £16972.20. (Copy allocations annexed.)

It was therefore unanimously resolved that a Precept of £16500 should be requested for 2012/13, which is an increase of 50% on last year, at a cost of £43.88 on average per household. Of this £16.29 is for the Lengthsman Scheme and £27.59 for all other services and expenses.

**10. Possible Location of SID Near Upton Bridge Farm**

The Clerk reported that she had not heard anything further yet from Mr Grabham of SCC regarding a SID for Langport Road. An email has however been received saying that the SID for LS (south bound) scheduled for installation during the week commencing 26

December 2011 will not now be installed. The next scheduled installation for this location is 16 April 2012.

#### **11. Neighbourhood Watch/Community Safety/Civil Contingencies**

**Speedwatch** A report was given regarding Community Speedwatch which has taken place at the Village Green and Martock Road and the future programme for this.

**Neighbourhood Watch:** Regarding Neighbourhood Watch, it was reported that there is a general increase in thefts from buildings at the moment. Meetings have taken place with the Police recently on this matter.

**Civil Contingencies:** The PC was asked earlier in the year if it would participate in the Emergency Accommodation Scheme operated by the SCC Civil Contingencies Unit. A County Civil Contingencies Unit exercise is to be held on 26<sup>th</sup> January. This will involve some Parishes, Towns, Emergency Services and Volunteers. LS Village Hall has been booked as one of the venues for this multi-agency exercise. The proposal is that LSPC participates in this exercise and that the Clerk and members of the PC participate in the fictional role-play leading up to the exercise on 26 January subject to their own personal and work commitments. There will be no cost implications.

It was suggested that with the hall booked by the County Council and the resources of County it would also be an ideal opportunity to hold a Community Policing meeting on the 26 January.

#### **12. The Queen's Diamond Jubilee**

It was suggested that the celebrations should take place on the Bank Holiday Monday. Mr Shire reported various village organisations etc who are willing to participate and will liaise with Mr Gould regarding this.

#### **13. Parish Plan for 2012 Onwards.**

This will be discussed at the January meeting.

#### **14. Parish Website**

The Lengthsman's monthly report will be put on the website.

Mr Sensier reported on a request received regarding historical data.

Information regarding the Friendly Society is also now on the website.

#### **15. Village Hall**

The Chairman reported that the Kickwall is now up and running. A grant for 50% of the installation cost of £850 is being applied for.

A letter has been received regarding Annual Playground Inspection fees.

It was reported that a survey of the Pavilion has been carried out on behalf of the Cricket Club and mice infestation has been found. Remedial work is being undertaken.

#### **16. Representative Reports and matters regarding:**

(a) **Footpaths:** Proposed Public Path Diversion Order. Public Footpaths L21/34 and

L25/38 in the Parishes of Long Sutton and Somerton. The PC has no objection to the diversion but a copy of the plan will be sent the PPLO in case he has any observations.

**(b) Highways:** Nothing to report.

**(c) Environment:** Nothing to report.

#### **17. Correspondence**

Came & Co. Re PC Insurance: The PC's Insurance is not due for renewal until 1<sup>st</sup> June and it was agreed that this matter should therefore be looked at further in the New Year. The information received was however passed to the Chairman as the insurance for the Village Hall is pending.

Emails have been received and passed to Councillors regarding SCC Minerals Options Consultation and Somerset Waste Core Strategy Consultation.

#### **18. Date of next meeting** – 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2012

#### **19. Any Other Business/Items for next meeting** - No further matters were raised.

Mr Pomeroy said that the Church had requested a male reader for the Carol Service on 18<sup>th</sup> December. It was agreed that he should undertake this.

It was reported that the path along the Knole Causeway is badly overgrown and unusable by pedestrians.

The Chairman requested that a letter of thanks be sent to Mr Vaux for his work on behalf of the Council/Parish as a Councillor and Chairman.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm