

Minutes of Meeting of Long Sutton Parish Council
held at the Hall on Tuesday 1st February 2011 at 7.30 pm

Present: Councillors: Mr R C Vaux (Chairman), Mrs Y Aitken, Mrs J R Turner, Mr J A Foy, Mr A D Jones and Ms P Jukes. District Councillor Mr G R Cox, County Councillor Mr D Yeomans and 17 members of the public.

Apologies: Councillors: Mr D C Francis, Mr S A Pledger and Mr C J Greenfield. PCSO Mel Austin and PC Iain Selley.

Public Observations/ Question Time

Orchard House, Shute Lane: It was reported that the floor level is to be raised and that there is to be a dormer window in the garage roof which it was thought did not feature on the plans.

The Chairman will contact the Planning Officer regarding the garage window.

Report by PCSO/Police (if present)

The PC was informed of the monthly report as supplied by PCSO Mel Austin.

There were two reported crimes for the month of January:

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

Attempted theft from a motor vehicle, nothing was taken, a caution was given.

Crime prevention advice was given due to several incidents of fuel oil theft in the area of High Ham.

1. Declarations of Interest

Mr Vaux declared a private interest in respect of the planning application for the erection of 5 residential units on land at Martock Road to be discussed at item 6 on the agenda.

2. Minutes of meeting held on 11th January 2011 - (previously circulated) were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters Arising

Orchard House, Shute Lane: The Chairman confirmed that he had contacted Highways in respect of the pavement outside Orchard House and they are to investigate.

Allotments: Nothing to report.

4. County Councillor's Report

Mr Yeomans reported that the full Council meet to set the Budget on 16th February.

He confirmed the loss of funding to the Lengthsman Scheme and said that much is being written and discussed in the towns and villages affected by the cuts in Libraries, Social Services, Transport and Waste Recycling Centres and petitions have been presented to the Council.

The roundabout at Huish Episcopi has now been completed.

5. District Councillor's Report

Mr Cox also reported that the SCC funding for the Lengthsman Scheme has now ceased.

The all weather cricket mat stolen from the Recreation Field was found in two pieces in Kingsbury Episcopi.

6. Planning

Upton Bourn, Langport Road 10/05156/FUL: Removal of existing conservatory and front porch and construction of single storey extensions, one with dormer window and first floor accommodation.

The meeting was closed to allow Parishioners and the Applicant to address the PC. The Parishioners expressed concern regarding the future development of the whole site. The style was felt to be inappropriate for a period setting and access also a concern. The applicants said that they were trying to improve the look of the building which would be rented. Traditional stone was suggested for the extension as opposed to the materials stated on the application; the roofline would not be raised and highways were happy regarding access.

The Council then went back into meeting.

The Chairman said that the PC could only comment on the application that was before them and not speculate on future plans for the site as a whole. Concern was however expressed regarding the resultant overall size of the building. Following discussion it was proposed by the Chairman that the PC do not object to the application on condition that if the materials stated on the plans are to be changed in any way then the PC should be given the opportunity to comment on these. This proposal was seconded by Mr Foy/Mr Jones and unanimously **resolved**.

Land OS 9687 Martock Road 10/05132/FUL : Erection of 5 residential units.

Discussion of the application was conducted by Mrs Turner (Vice-Chair), Chairman, Mr Vaux, having previously declared an interest.

The Agent for the applicant was invited to address the PC. He said that an affordable housing need had been identified in the Parish. If there is a need then all sites should be considered. The scheme is ready to go and could be delivered by the end of the year. The houses cannot be sold now or in the future at normal market rates and would always be less than market value. They have tried to meet all the criteria. Upgrading of the footpath on the other side of the road will take place.

The applicant said that the scheme is to be covered by a 106 Agreement and is not one for profit. The properties will be either to rent or purchase with a stipulation that the Tenants/Purchasers must have lived 10 years in the village or work there. A Trust will be formed. The properties cannot be sold on at an enhanced value and the rents will always remain affordable.

Parishioners were then invited to comment on the application. One said that it was an exception policy site on a very busy road only a short distance from the brow of Sutton Hill, giving rise to serious safety issues. It was a sensitive site in a prominent position; the density of the scheme, the design and the materials were inappropriate.

On resumption of the meeting, serious concern was expressed regard visibility, also the density of the development having regard to the size of the site, car parking and the choice

of materials. It was also pointed out that the housing needs survey which had been carried out did not indicate a need for 5 units.

Discussion culminated in a proposal by Mrs Turner that the PC should object to the application on the following grounds:-

1. Visibility. The Council question whether there would be enough visibility for a vehicle to leave the access point safely especially in looking up the road in a southerly direction.
2. Size. The size of the development, on a small site.
3. Car Parking. Car parking and overflow parking. There is no provision for extra parking for visitors and given the position of the site this is felt to be an important safety issue e.g. cars parking outside on the road.
4. Materials. It is felt traditional blue lias stone would be a more preferable choice of building material.

This proposal was **resolved** by a majority, Mr Vaux abstaining.

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 garaging and access to replace existing permission 07/04938/FUL to extend the time limit for implementation.

Mrs Turner reported that a revised plan had not been supplied and she has therefore contacted the Planning Officer requesting this and for an extension of time for the PC's comments until after its March meeting.

The Clerk reported that she had received an email from The Green Company (Europe) Ltd regarding a Proposed Solar PV Farm at Tengore Lane. They wish to consult with adjoining Parishes in advance of submitting a planning application. The Clerk will forward this email to all Councillors.

Permissions granted by SSDC:-

Little Owls, Upton: Erection of single storey extension.

3 Knightlands Lane: Erection of UPVC double-glazed conservatory to rear.

7. Lengthsman's Scheme

It was confirmed that County funding towards the Scheme has ceased. This will necessitate adjustment to the Scheme and Mr Foy will consult with the other Parishes involved.

Mr Foy reported on work completed in the Parish over the last month which included the trees at Lame Hill, guttering to the Sports Pavilion and the tidying of the layby at Littlefield Lane.

It was requested that the Lengthsman be asked to clear the Church Path from the War Memorial to Church Walk. This is a public footpath and therefore falls within the remit of the Lengthsman's tasks.

8. Finance

Business Reserve

£11148.72

Current A/C		£709.78
Less Accounts/Donations paid January		<u>482.97</u>
		226.81
Add Reimbursement of Expenses		36.17
Paid to J Foy from Lengthsman A/c		
Allotment Rents		<u>180.00</u>
		<u>£442.98</u>

Lengthsman A/C		9173.76
Less Pd to Lengthsman last meeting	1187.48	
LSPC Reimbursement of Expenses paid to J Foy	<u>36.17</u>	<u>1223.65</u>
		<u>£7950.11</u>

A/Cs for payment

Lengthsman's invoice £1872.26. It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded Mr Jones and **resolved** that this be paid.

9. Neighbourhood Watch/Community Safety

Mr Gould reported that speed watch is still active. Volunteers are requested.

On 19th February there is to be an alcohol free Youth Party at the Village Hall organised by Rural Youth. The Police will be present. (This event was also mentioned by PCSO Mel Austin in her monthly report.)

It was agreed that a Community social evening should take place on 1st April at which Community Safety, Neighbourhood Watch, the Website, the Parish Plan and the Lengthsman Scheme should be promoted.

Mr. Gould will make the arrangements.

10. Affordable Housing

It was reported that there is no movement on the Yarlinton front as they have no money available.

The Chairman asked if the PC still felt that there was a requirement for Affordable Housing in the Parish. This resulted in a vote of 5 to 1 in favour. He therefore said that the PC would take this on board and look at an alternative scheme.

11. Parish Plan

Mr Sensier said he had carried out a review on what has not been achieved. He felt there were a handful of good things to keep and others to discard.

The PC however felt that quite a lot had been achieved and the Chairman invited Mrs Turner to give a report on the Plan. This was as follows:

Community

The PC continue to support the Shop and Post Office as a vital community facility.

No young person's representative has yet been appointed.

The Village Hall is well supported and promoted by the PC as this is now under its jurisdiction. The 40th anniversary celebrations were well received and completed.

Community Safety

Residents continue to report all crime through the Police, especially our PCSO Mel Austin.

There is no increase of Police but regular visits in and around the Parish are provided am and pm.

Neighbourhood Watch continues and Farm Watch has been included.

Regular visits and reports continue from our PCSO with updated numbers. This is also on the website and reported at the APCM.

Environment

The Lengthsman Scheme is up and running and has been well received. Job completed and ongoing.

Dog fouling continues to be an issue.

We now have cardboard and plastic bottle recycling. Job completed.

Economy

No outcome regarding a local services directory but some businesses have been added to the website. At present this seems unrealistic.

Development Control & Housing

Planning is ongoing and all applications are looked at carefully and responded to accordingly.

Transport

The Community Bus is well used. The public bus service has been cut again and given the economic climate there is realistically no prospect of increasing services.

Highways

Community speed watch is up and running. This is ongoing with support from local residents and from the Police.

We continue to work closely with Highways - Ongoing.

Footpaths

The Newsletter is well received within the community and works well.

We now have a new updated website. This is ongoing.

The Central Village Display will have to go on hold until funding is sought.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Turner for her report.

Further discussion took place regarding the Plan and the achievements.

The question of a Village Display on the Green was again raised and whether there should be a poll of the Parish; it being felt that the PC did have funds which could be used for this. It was decided that a poll will be taken at the Community evening on 1st April and the matter will then be put on the agenda if the result is positive.

12. Parish Website

Mr Sensier said he would look at what people are searching for on site and report back to the PC.

13. Village Hall

Ms Jukes thanked the Lengthsman for the work he has carried out.

It was agreed that the cost of any materials used by the Lengthsman for work on behalf of the VH should be borne by them.

She said that the all weather mat which had been stolen had not been insured by the Cricket Club and it had therefore been agreed that a joint fundraising event would be held in the Spring.

Vandalism had taken place at the Pavilion and one of the shutters had been broken. This had now been repaired and a new padlock fitted.

A copy of SSDC's latest Play Area Inspection Report was passed to Ms Jukes by the Clerk.

14. Representative Reports and matters regarding:

- (a) **Footpaths:** Nothing to report.
- (b) **Highways:** A list of SID installation dates for LS has been received.
- (c) **Environment:** Nothing to report.

15. Correspondence:

SSDC Re The Royal Wedding Celebrations. The Chairman asked if the PC was interested in organising anything. The response was negative.

SALC: Diary Dates for Training Sessions for Chairmanship and Councillors following the Elections which are on Thursday 5th May.

District Councillor Cox explained the procedure regarding the Elections in that anyone interested in becoming a Councillor needs to apply by the date for the close of nominations. All existing Councillors who wish to stand for re-election also need to complete the appropriate form. A notice for posting in the Parish will be sent to the Clerk together with nomination forms which can also be obtained from the DC.

16. Date of next meeting – 1st March 2011

17. Any Other Business/Items for next meeting

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.38 pm