

**Minutes of Meeting of Long Sutton Parish Council**  
**Held at the Hall on Tuesday 6<sup>h</sup> July 2010 at 7.30 pm**

**Present:** Councillors: Mr. R.C. Vaux (Chairman), Mrs. J.R. Turner Mrs. Y. Aitken, Mr. J.A. Foy, Ms P Jukes, Mr. S.A. Pledger and Mr. C.J. Greenfield. District Councillor Mr. G.R. Cox, County Councillor Mr. D. Yeomans (7.45 pm) and 5 members of the public.

**Apologies:** Councillor Mr. A.D. Jones.

The Clerk reported that County Councillor Mr. Yeomans had said that he would come to the meeting if he could but may be late in arriving.

During Public Question Time the PC was thanked for arranging the repair of the dangerous manhole cover at Martock Road.

It was requested that Public Question Time should in future be called Public Observations/Question Time. This was agreed.

A Parishioner asked if anything had been heard from First Step Homes regarding development of the land opposite the Hall. The PC confirmed that there has been no further communication from FSH.

**1. Declarations of Interest** – There were no declarations of interest

**2. Minutes of meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> June** (previously circulated) were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record following the amendment of “Word” to “World” Scout Jamboree under Finance in the final paragraph on page 2.

**3. Matters Arising**

**Affordable House:** Mr. Greenfield asked if the land at Parsons Close was a definite proposal or just an idea which had been put forward. It was confirmed that it was being seriously considered.

**Highways Matters:** Mr. Foy confirmed that the sign at Tengore Lane had been reported on three occasions and that he will keep chasing the Highways Dept. He said that all other matters raised at the last meeting had also been reported. The repair of the manhole cover at Martock Road had taken place swiftly.

**4. Casual Vacancy**

The PC was sorry to learn of the resignation of Councillor David Paull who had always been a hands-on Councillor especially in dealing with environmental matters.

It was agreed that the vacancy should be advertised within the next couple of weeks and a letter of thanks sent to Mr Paull.

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Mr. Yeomans having not yet arrived the Council proceeded with the agenda.

**5. District Councillor’s Report**

Mr. Cox reported that he is a member of the Joint Integration Committee on which there are 5 Councillors from South Somerset and 5 from East Devon. Financially there is a black hole of some £2½ million for 2011/12 and the task is how to do business and maintain services.

He also reported on the proposal put forward by Langport Town Council that Langport and Huish Episcopi should become one Council.

## **6. Planning:**

### **Greenacres, Batts Lane: Alterations and extension to existing dwelling.**

The applicant said that permission had been granted for the property in 1987 and it was not well built and the aim is therefore to try and enhance this.

It was proposed by Mrs. Turner, seconded Ms Jukes and unanimously agreed that there were no objections.

### **1 Cross Lane: Erection of a timber single garage and improvements to vehicular access**

The applicant's wife confirmed that the plans do not show everything else on the site. Following discussion it was proposed by Mrs. Turner, seconded Mr. Pledger and unanimously agreed that the application should be objected to on the grounds that the plans are not to scale and do not therefore show the correct location of the garage and reserve the right to make further comments on construction size and materials when accurate plans are presented.

The following applications have been refused by SSDC:-

Orchard House, Shute Lane (FUL): Demolition of existing dwelling and garage and the erection of a replacement dwelling and garage.

Land Adjoining The Byre, Manor Barns: Erection of a single storey new dwelling.

Regarding Orchard House, it was reported by a Parishioner that there is a loose manhole cover at the entrance to the site and that the site is not secured in anyway and is considered unsafe. The Chairman said that he would take this matter up.

Regarding Little Upton Bridge Farm, it was reported that a fence has been erected. Following talks with the Planners an amended planning application is expected shortly.

## **7. County Councillor's Report**

Mr. Yeomans reported that the final hurdle threatening construction of the Huish Episcopi roundabout has now been overcome.

Sort It +5 should be in operation in the District by the end of the year.

Mr. Yeoman's monthly Newsletter had previously been circulated to Councillors.

## **8. Lengthsman's Scheme**

Mr. Foy reported that interviews are to take place tomorrow of the 6 candidates that have been selected from the 29 applications returned. The level of interest and quality of the candidates has been very good. An offer will hopefully be made to the successful candidate within 24 hours with a view to his starting middle to late August/early September. The Lengthsman will be self-employed.

Permission was sought for the following:-

- (1) Agreement to the setting up of another current account - suggested title "Long Sutton Parish Council Lengthsman Account".
- (2) Agreement to delegating the signing of the Contracts between the Lengthsman and the other Parishes to the Chairman.
- (3) The Clerk to invoice the Parish partners 50% of their annual funding.

It was proposed Mr. Greenfield, seconded Mrs. Turner and **resolved** that permission for the above be granted.

## **9. Finance**

<b>Business Reserve A/C</b>	16845.33
<b>Less</b> Transfer to Current A/C	<u>2500.00</u>
	<u>14345.33</u>

<b>Current A/C</b>	1234.97
<b>Add</b> Transfer from Business Reserve	<u>2500.00</u>
	3734.97

<b>Less</b> A/Cs agreed for payment last meeting	1531.48	
Agreed for payment out of Meeting: Cowling Agriculture - Rotary Topper (Agreed for payment out of monies received for Deed of Easement)	851.88	
Aon Ltd – Ins for Topper	<u>30.78</u>	<u>2414.14</u>
		<b><u>£1320.83</u></b>

The Clerk reported that the invoice agreed for payment to GR & AM Cox last meeting was in fact for £710.88 and not £715.00.

It was also confirmed that the Rotary Topper had been purchased and had been insured (by agreement out of meeting) under the PC's policy at a cost of £30.78.

### **A/Cs for payment:**

Mr J Foy - Reimbursement of expenses Re: Lengthsman's Scheme £36.17

It was proposed Ms Jukes, seconded Mr. Greenfield and agreed that the account be paid.

### **Bank Accounts**

It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded Mr. Greenfield and **resolved** that:

“the Authorised Signatories in the current Mandate, for the Accounts detailed in section 2, be changed in accordance with section 5 and the current Mandate will continue as amended.”

This will mean the removal of Mr. Paull as an authorised signatory from the PC's existing accounts and adding Mr. Foy.

In order to open a new current account in respect of the Parish Lengthsman's Scheme, it was also proposed by the Chairman, seconded Mr. Greenfield and unanimously agreed that the following resolution be passed:

“It was resolved that a banking relationship will be maintained with National Westminster Bank Plc (the **Bank**) in accordance with this Mandate and that:

the individuals identified as **Authorised Signatories** may, in accordance with the **Signing Rules**, sign cheques and give instructions for Standing Orders,

Direct Debits, electronic payments, banker's drafts and other payments on the Accounts even if it causes an Account to be overdrawn or exceed any limit

any **Authorised Signatory** may give other instructions or requests for information to the Bank in relation to the Accounts; opening accounts with the same **Signing Rules** and **Authorised Signatories**; closing accounts; or other banking services or products

the Bank may accept instructions that do not have an original written signature provided the Bank is satisfied that the instruction is genuine and subject to any other agreement the Bank may require for those instructions

the Customer will provide to the Bank a copy of its constitution and any amendment to the constitution, certified as correct by the Clerk

this Mandate will continue until the Customer gives the Bank a replacement mandate or the Customer passes a resolution changing the **Signing Rules** and/or adding or removing an **Authorised Signatory** by completing and returning the Change of Signing Authority form in which case this Mandate will continue as amended."

The signing rules for the new account will be as for the PC's existing accounts namely any two authorised signatories. The authorised signatories being the Chairman, Mr. Vaux, the Clerk Mrs. Allen (for information purposes only), Ms Jukes, Mr. Jones and Mr. Foy

#### **10. Neighbourhood Watch/Community Safety**

**Neighbourhood Watch:** Mr. Gould reported that he and Mr. Vaux had attended a Pitney Neighbourhood Watch meeting to give details of the LS Scheme and how Pitney may benefit from a similar scheme.

A stall was held at the Village Fete to promote NHW in conjunction with PCSO Mel Austin. This was well attended by children and parents.

PC Stewart Brand has now moved on to a new role at Yeovil and PC Iain Selley is now back as the Beat Manager covering Long Sutton.

**Community Speedwatch:** This is progressing and there are potential new volunteers. There have been 5 repeat offenders.

At the request of the PC a short survey was undertaken of traffic movements and speed in Shute Lane and on the junction of Langport Road/Shute by the Friends Meeting House which resulted in 153 vehicle movements, 26 in excess of 20% of the speed limit. Unfortunately during this survey a complaint was made to the Police. **It is therefore stressed that this survey had nothing whatsoever to do with Community Speedwatch and was merely to collect data to present to Highways in support of complaints which have been made over several years by Parishioners in relation to this potentially dangerous stretch of road.**

**Civil Contingencies:** This is proceeding well.

Mr. Gould sought permission from the PC for the issue of a promotional flyer for the website, the services it offers and to promote its community safety function. This to be sent out with the Roundabout. The PC was unanimously in favour of this.

Mr. Gould thanked PCSO Mel Austin for her support at the Village Fete. He said that she had attended for several hours and engaged well with local residents. He also congratulated Mr. Steve Sensier for his support at the fete. Mr. Sensier manned the Community Safety stall and promoted the village website.

#### **11. Parish Plan and Parish Website**

Nothing further to report.

#### **12. Standing Orders**

The Chairman said that he, the Clerk and Ms Jukes had been through the new Standing Orders sent by SALC and had deleted various ones not felt applicable to the PC and amended others. Copies were issued to Councillors with a request that they look through these with a view to giving their comments as to any which they felt should be deleted/reinstated/amended at the September meeting with a view to these being adopted at that meeting.

#### **13. Affordable Housing**

Nothing further has yet been heard from Yarlington.

#### **14. Village Hall**

Nothing to report.

#### **15. Allotments**

The Chairman reported that he had consulted Greenslade Taylor Hunt and a guide rate for similar arable land claiming SPS for Farm Business Tenancy rents is £80 to £90 per acre.

Following discussion it was proposed by Mr. Foy, seconded Mr. Greenfield and **resolved** by a majority that the rents for the Allotments/Farm Business Tenancies should be raised to £60 per acre and that the tenancies should continue under the present Allotment Garden/Farm Business Tenancy Agreements.

A letter is to be sent to the Tenants accordingly. Mrs. Turner agreed to discuss the increase with the Tenants if they should wish to do so.

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

(a) **Footpaths** – Nothing to report.

(b) **Highways**

**Pinch Point at Langport Road:** As previously mentioned under NHW/Community Safety, some monitoring of traffic has taken place. Further monitoring will take place to gain accurate traffic speeds at different times of day in the coming month.

Ms Jukes reported that a local farmer has cut the hedge along the A372 which has resulted in prickly hedge clippings being deposited along the pavement. The Chairman agreed to speak to the landowner.

SCC have notified the following temporary road closures for resurfacing and associated works:

B3151 Lodge Hill; Huish Road to Acre Lane; Lower Somerton to Huish Road; Ashen Cross to Lower Somerton, Somerton for 5 nights from 2<sup>nd</sup> August.

B3151 Sutton Road, Somerton for 4 days from 9<sup>th</sup> August.

**(c) Environment**

The Chairman said that he had spoken to the Parishioner who had reported the dog fouling outside Walnut House but unfortunately he was not willing to sign a statement.

It would appear that for the time being at least the situation seems to have improved in that area.

Nothing further has been heard regarding the fly tipping at the top of Ilchester Lane.

**17. Correspondence**

An invitation has been received to an Open Evening at the Long Sutton Support Centre, Cratt Buildings. The Chairman, Mr. Greenfield, Ms Jukes, Mrs. Turner and Mrs. Aitken hope to attend. Mr. Jones will also be informed of the invitation.

**18. Date of next meeting** - 7<sup>th</sup> September 2010 unless it is necessary to call a meeting before that date for planning or other matters.

**19. Any Other Business/Items for next meeting**

Mrs Turner reported that she is hoping to accompany the Beat Manager on a tour of the area.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm