

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

Present: Councillors: Ms P Jukes (Chairman), Mr R W Fry, Mr G F Marsh, Mr N A Gould, Dr C J Greenfield, Mr T P Shire and Mr T G Cox. County Councillor Mr D Yeomans, District Councillor Mr S Pledger, PCSO Mel Austin and 6 members of the public.

Apologies for Absence: Councillor: Mr N E Pomeroy

Public Observations/Question Time

An amendment to the PC's minutes was requested in respect of Parish Website. This related to village organisations who had not updated their web pages for some considerable time.

It was reported that a vehicle has been seen driving around the Recreation Ground.

Report by PCSO/Police

There has been no crime or anti social behaviour reported for the area during October. There were no questions for PCSO Mel Austin.

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations.

2. Minutes of meeting held on 4th October 2011 - (previously circulated) were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman following the amendment of the second sentence of item 13 Parish Website to read: "Mr Sensier said that he would remove the relevant pages if these were not updated soon."

3. Matters Arising

Telephone Box at Knole: The Clerk said that she had not as yet contacted BT as having checked email correspondence in 2008 it would appear that the phone had a restriction of 'no cash – card only' at that time when the request had been made to retain the phone due to no reception on all networks. In the event that BT discontinued the service it had been agreed that the box would be adopted for the price of £1.

As the phone is still in place it was agreed that no further action should be taken at this time.

Stream at Crouds Lane: The Clerk reported that despite having telephoned Highways again she had still not received a return call. County Councillor Mr Yeomans said he would look into this.

Hedge overhanging the footpath at Knole: It was reported that this hedge has still not been cut back. District Councillor Mr Pledger will speak to the DC.

Parish Newsletter: It was reported that Mrs Angela Cox is to be the new Editor of the Newsletter.

4. Casual Vacancy

The Clerk reported that there have been no requests for an election and the PC can proceed to fill the vacancy by co-option.

A note has been put in the Newsletter regarding the vacancy and as the Newsletter has only just been distributed it was agreed to wait until the next meeting to see if any interest is expressed.

5. County Councillor's Report

Mr Yeomans reported that there is to be a far greater commitment to electronic communication in the emerging new structures and there will be added costs. South West One is to be responsible for the infra structure.

A lot of the communication between now and 2013 will be done by Councillors and the changes are huge.

6. District Councillor's Report

Mr Pledger reported on the changes by SSDC regarding Playground Inspections.

7. Planning

Complaint Re: Development at Little Upton Bridge Farm: It was reported that a letter has been received expressing concern that some of the conditions have not been complied with regarding certain elements of the development.

The owners of the property were allowed to address the PC. They said that the Planning Officer was fine with everything they have done and the Building Inspector has attended regularly. They expressed distress at the continuing complaints.

The PC agreed that it had a duty to follow up and investigate any complaints which it received and to make a decision based purely upon whether the conditions are being observed.

Permissions granted by SSDC:-

Application 11/03347/LBC Reconstruction of damaged stone wall at Brook Farm, New Street.

Application 11/03499/FUL The installation of a domestic 4KW photovoltaic panel on a south facing roof of an existing barn at St Benedicts Farm, Knole.

8. Lengthsman Scheme

The Chairman reported that she and Mr Shire had attended a meeting with representatives of the other Parishes in the scheme. The only Parish not represented was Aller. Those present expressed the wish to continue with the Scheme on the same terms and for the same amount of hours and would be reporting back to their Councils. A further meeting is to be held the beginning of January.

The Lengthsman Scheme year runs from 1/9/11 to 31/8/12 but SCC and SSDC funding runs from 1/4/12 to 31/3/13. The shortfall in funding to 31/8/12 is £3200. SCC have indicated that they will be unable to contribute to the Scheme for the financial year ending 31/3/13 and the shortfall will therefore be £5,000. In order to continue the Scheme as it is now, LS's additional contribution would be £1750 (35%).

Having recently met with Les Collett of Area North the Chairman said that the DC's contribution towards the Scheme for the year ending 31/3/13 also could not be relied upon.

It was agreed that the matter should be further discussed when considering the Budget and Precept for 2012/13 and in this respect it was agreed that a meeting should be held next Tuesday, 8th November 2011.

Mr Shire presented the Lengthsman's report for October which included clearing overhanging vegetation from the footway in the area of the Pump House at Martock Road and further work to the trees at Sutton Hill.

Planned work for November, in addition to routine maintenance, includes the trees at Hardings Hill and time permitting, he will be starting the widening of the layby at Martock Road.

9. Finance

(i) Balances

Business Reserve A/C	8152.52
Add Interest 30 Sep 11	<u>1.03</u>
	<u>£8153.55</u>

Current A/C	6506.68
Less A/cs last meeting	<u>906.74</u>
	<u>£5599.94</u>

Lengthsman A/C	9531.70
Less Paid Lengthsman last meeting	<u>1706.08</u>
	7825.62
Add Long Load Contribution 01.10.11 to 31.03.11	500.00
High Ham " " "	1750.00
Pitney " " "	500.00
Aller " " "	500.00
Long Sutton - Materials	43.92
High Ham - Materials	143.46
Pitney - Materials	76.57
Aller - Materials	<u>181.71</u>
	<u>£11521.28</u>

Lengthsman A/C	
Lengthsman's Salary	1575.00
Materials	<u>147.70</u>
	1722.70

Current A/C	
Clerk's Salary	281.42

It was proposed, seconded and unanimously resolved that the above accounts be paid.

(iii) Budget for 2012/13 - Meeting to be held 8th November.

10. Village Green – Capital Expenditure

The suggestion is to install electricity and water supplies which would enable temporary lighting for the Green for community events and also the provision of some safety equipment. The project to be funded from money received for the grant of rights of access

over the Green in respect of The Old School. It was agreed that some quotations should be obtained and a budget compiled in order that the matter can be considered further.

11. Possible Location of SID Near Upton Bridge Farm

The Clerk reported that she had received an email from Mr Grabham of SCC clarifying the position regarding the SID locations. LS originally had two SID locations in the programme, one of which (north bound) has recently been removed from the programme. SCC will carry out speed readings on Langport Road at no cost to the PC and if those readings meet the criteria will include the location in the programme at no cost to the PC. He will endeavour to investigate the site (in the area of Upton Bridge Farm/Upton Bridge Cottage) as soon as possible and report back regarding its suitability.

12. Neighbourhood Watch/Community Safety/Civil Contingencies

Mr Gould reported that the Parish is now well stocked with 16 bags of grit. Community speedwatch is going strong and he suggested a Parish Meeting late November/early December at which Police Officers would be present in order to discuss local issues. He will investigate suitable dates, the availability of the hall etc.

13. The Queen's Diamond Jubilee

Mr Gould agreed to head up the celebrations on behalf of the PC, assisted by Mr Shire. They will make contact with representatives from the various village organisations.

14. Parish Plan for 2012 Onwards.

Mr Gould said that there is a call on both County and District to provide more houses and he answered Councillors queries regarding the planning process for the future.

It was agreed that a working group should be formed in January to look into taking the Parish Plan forward, part of which would involve responding to new Parish powers when these are finalised. Dr Greenfield and Mr Fry indicated that they would like to be involved in this respect.

15. Parish Website

Mr Sensier said that he felt the PC should consider the future of the website and who is going to take over as webmaster at some stage.

16. Village Hall

The Chairman reported that it is hoped to install the Kickwall at the end of the month. The skate park has been painted and grants are being investigated for the renovation of the BMX track.

There was further discussion regarding the charges which are to be imposed by SSDC for play area inspections. The Chairman said she would be taking up with the Inspector some of the points which had been raised in the last report received as these were clearly incorrect.

17. Representative Reports and matters regarding:

- (a) **Footpaths:** It was reported that the new stiles/gates at Knole, replacing the broken stiles previously reported, are now in place and favourable reaction has been received.

(b) Highways:

SCC: Consultation on Somerset's Draft Countrywide Parking Strategy. This will run from the 31st October to the 20th January and can be downloaded from their website www.somerset.gov.uk/transportstrategy.

SCC: Replacement of defective paving with tarmacadam. They say that although this has realised savings it has been unwelcome and unpopular in conservation and heritage areas and they are keen to revisit the policy. As there is a shortfall in funding they are enquiring if the PC would be willing to help financially in sharing the cost or topping up the funds required to carry out repairs on a like for like basis in our conservation areas.

The PC could not recall any paving slabs within the Parish conservation areas which could require replacement in the future. Various paving slabs having already been replaced by tarmacadam in the past.

(c) Environment: Nothing to report.

18. Correspondence

SALC: Area Meeting 12 December at 7.30 pm at Donyatt Village Hall, The Chairman said she would attend.

19. Date of next meeting – 8th November 2011 at 7.30 pm to discuss the Budget/Precept for 2012/13. Normal monthly PC Meeting 6th December 2011 at 7.30 pm.

20. Any Other Business/Items for next meeting - No further matters were raised.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm