

**Minutes of Meeting of Long Sutton Parish Council**  
**held at the Hall on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2010 at 7.30 pm**

**Present:** Councillors: Mr. R.C. Vaux (Chairman), Mrs. J.R. Turner, Mr. J.A. Foy, Ms P. Jukes, Mr. D.C. Francis, Mr. C.J. Greenfield and Mr. A.D. Jones. County Councillor Mr. D. Yeomans, PC Iain Selley and 3 members of the public.

**Apologies:** Councillors: Mr. S.A. Pledger and Mrs. Y. Aitken. District Councillor Mr. G.R. Cox, PCSO Mel Austin, Mr. N. Gould and Mr. S. Sensier.

**Report by PCSO/Police**

Prior to commencement of the meeting discussion took place with PC Iain Selley the Beat Manager for the area. He said that a local individual was in custody regarding crimes in the area. He also said that he felt the recent lead crimes were not new but a continuation of those which had previously been attempted.

The Clerk read out a report recently received from PCSO Mel Austin regarding crimes for the month of September, in which she said that there have been 3 thefts in LS, one was a cattle crusher from a field at The Manor on the 18<sup>th</sup>, one was the theft of 2 JCB buckets on the 9<sup>th</sup> and the other was the theft of an orange pedal cycle from Martock Road on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> there was an attempted theft of the donation box from Holy Trinity Church and on the 18<sup>th</sup> arson to Harding Barn at Knole. They are still seeking information on any of these crimes.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> a male was charged with possession of cannabis at LS Village Hall and a local male is assisting Police with enquiries in relation to several crimes of fraud in the area.

The Chairman said that he had written to Inspector Gold regarding recent crimes and policing in LS. The majority of the crimes both past and present have been targeted at the farming and small holding community who have been intimidated if they dare speak out.

In response to issues raised by the public and the Council, PC Selley said that the Police only act or deal with offenders when they have direct evidence. He said that Farm Watch had been set up and he had packs which could be distributed. He also said that the crime solving rate has increased by 200%, they still have 10 PCSOs on board and the Police work 7 days a week. They do not publish every time someone is arrested.

He urged everyone to report crimes no matter how trivial.

**Public Observations/question Time**

No further matters were raised.

The Council then proceeded with the agenda.

**1. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest

**2. Minutes of meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> September** (previously circulated) were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**3. Matters Arising**

No matters were raised.

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

Mr. Yeomans' monthly newsletter had previously been circulated to Councillors.

He said that the budget has to be balanced in February of next year and there will be huge draconian cuts everywhere as there is still an enormous shortfall. Everyone is in for an extremely difficult and unpleasant time. There will be many things that have to go.

He also reported on the thousands of pounds which have to be spent when matters go to Enquiry, such as Rights of Way applications, as there is a statutory requirement that all these have to be investigated.

**5. District Councillor's Report** - Apologies for absence by Mr. Cox were previously recorded.

#### **6. Planning**

There were no new planning applications for consideration.

Mrs. Turner reported that she had attended the Area North meeting when the application regarding Little Upton Bridge Farm, Langport Road was approved, subject to the access being amended, by a majority of 7 to 6. She said that on reviewing the situation she felt that the PC should have objected more strongly to the proposals regarding the access as the gradient etc just will not be right.

Regarding the application for a single timber garage at 1 Cross Lane Cottages, Mrs. Turner reported that she had received an email from the Planning Officer shortly prior to the meeting indicating that the applicant has now agreed to use materials to match the roof of the house and in view of this she has recommended the application be approved.

Mr. Jones declared a personal interest in respect of this application but said that he was very unhappy with the PC's stance regarding this.

The following Permissions have been granted by SSDC:

Orchard House, Shute Lane: Application to vary Condition 03 of Permission 09/04205/FUL

Charris, Shute Lane, FUL: Erection of dwelling & double garage and the formation of a new vehicular access (Alternative Scheme).

1 Cross Lane Cottages: Application for a non-material amendment to Permission 09/02364/FUL.

Land at East Lodge, Bineham Rd, Knole: Erection of an agricultural building for the storage of fodder and agricultural machinery. As far as T&CP legislation is concerned, no objections are raised and thus prior approval is not required.

#### **7. Lengthsman's Scheme**

Mr. Foy reported on the Lengthsman's first month's work.

He said that had set up an email purely for communicating with him regarding the Lengthsman.

The website will be updated with the Lengthsman, Mr Craig Howe's details.

It was agreed that Mr Foy will speak to the Lengthsman regarding the Horse Chestnut Trees which are giving rise to concern.  
It was reported that the trees at Peace Lane require cutting back.

## 8. Finance:

### (i) Balances/Accounts for Payment

<b>Business Reserve</b>	£14346.96
<b>Less</b> Transfer to Current A/C	<u>2000.00</u>
	<b><u>£12346.96</u></b>

The above balance includes £6,000 for Deed of Easement Less Price of Topper £851.88 = £5148.12, leaving a balance for general expenditure of £7198.84.

The Clerk enquired the position regarding the anonymous donation of £100 which was to have been made towards the purchase of the Topper. Ms Jukes will speak to the Village Hall Treasurer regarding this.

<b>Current A/C</b>	£1013.24
<b>Add</b> Transfer from Reserve	2000.00
SSDC Contribution to Lengthsman Scheme	<u>5000.00</u>
	8013.24
<b>Less</b> A/Cs & Transfer to Lengthsman A/C agreed last meeting	<u>2707.24</u>
	<b><u>£5306.00</u></b>

<b>Lengthsman A/c</b>	2750.00
<b>Add</b> contribution to the scheme by:	
Long Sutton PC	1750.00
Aller PC	500.00
Somerset County Council	<u>5000.00</u>
	<b><u>£10000.00</u></b>

<b>A/cs for payment:</b>	
Petty Cash	50.00
Highways Markings Re: Village Hall Car Park	260.00
Parish Lengthsman (Mr Craig Howe) - Salary/materials	1870.89

It was proposed Mr. Jones, seconded Mr. Foy and unanimously **resolved** that:

- (a) the accounts be paid;
- (b) £200 be transferred from the Business Reserve to the Current A/C;
- (c) the sum of £5000 paid by SSDC into the Current A/C be transferred to the Lengthsman A/C;
- (d) LSPC be refunded the £710.88 for the advertisement fee for the Lengthsman from the Lengthsman A/c.

### (ii) Clerk's Salary

It was proposed by Mr. Greenfield, seconded Ms Jukes and unanimously **resolved** that the Clerk should be paid for 8 hours per week at the recommended rate. Such increase to take place as from today's date.

### (iii) Precept 2011/12

Ms Jukes said that she requested this be put on the agenda in view of the recent correspondence regarding Precept Capping.

The Clerk produced a statement of the agreed allocations for 2010/11 and the amount spent to date.

It was agreed that the additional £750 required for the Lengthsman Scheme this year, over and above the £1,000 allocated from the Parish Plan grant money, should be taken from the Parish Maintenance/Enhancement allocation.

General discussion ensued with regard to allocations which had been made for this year and those required for next year. Some Councillors felt that Village Green Grass Cutting could be a job for the Lengthsman next year, however Mrs. Turner was strongly against this suggestion. The Chairman agreed to speak to Mr. Robin Davies, who currently cuts the Green.

It was agreed that Councillors would give consideration to the question of the allocations required for next year and further discussion would take place at the next meeting.

Consideration will also be given regarding work carried out by the Lengthsman for the Village Hall and whether this will be in addition to or instead of any other aid from the PC.

#### **9. Notice Board at Langport Road**

Mr. Francis offered to attend to the repair of this and was thanked by the Chairman.

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

An email has been received from Mr. Gould in which he says that Community Speedwatch is progressing well and is well supported.

He and Mr. Sensier attended Area North and did a presentation for the Parishes which was well received. The subject was Community Resilience. They will submit a paper next month on how to raise public awareness of the new websites.

Neighbourhood Watch alerts have been going out via email to those persons who have registered and this appears to be working.

The PC expressed its gratitude to Mr. Gould and Mr. Sensier for the ongoing work which they do and for attending meetings.

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

Mrs Turner reported the following regarding Community Safety:

That she has requested updated numbers and information for residents from our PCSO for contacting the Police and reporting crime.

Although crime level is low, the fear of crime is still high and more PCSO or Police presence is required.

Neighbourhood watch needs more volunteers but the help of the website and text messaging will hopefully get the messages out to more residents.

She said that she will continue to liaise with PCSO Mel Austin and PC Iain Selley, incorporating regular Police ride along sessions. The next session is on Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> October with PC Selley.

Residents are advised to report all crime.

## **12. Matters Arising Following Adoption of New Standing Orders**

**PC's Policy with the media:** It was **resolved** that any communication with the media should take place through the Chair of the Council.

**Financial Regulations:** The Clerk provided Councillors with copies of the present Financial Regulations.

## **13. Affordable Housing**

Mrs. Turner reported that she had been in touch with Charlotte Jones of SSDC who will contact Yarlington.

Mr. Gould has said that there will be an application for affordable housing at some point on the Martock Road. However it has not been submitted as yet and they are in contact with various consultees during this pre-application process.

## **14. Village Hall**

Ms Jukes reported that the Hallmark process is continuing which will enable them to obtain more grants etc.

The play equipment is definitely being inspected on a regular basis.

They are looking to install timers regarding the heating in the Hall as this has been left on, on several occasions.

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

### **(a) Footpaths**

The walks are continuing to go well.

There has been no report from the PPLO for some time and Mr. Jones was asked to contact him.

### **(b) Highways**

**(i) Pinch Point at Langport Road:** The Chairman will try and ascertain if any further data has been collected.

**(ii) Problems caused by branches from trees overhanging the highway.** A letter is to be written to the owners of Little Thatch. There was also mention of other overgrown hedges in the Parish.

### **(c) Environment**

**Securing Allotments to prevent fly tipping:** The Chairman said that he felt the PC should contribute towards some sort of security to prevent further fly tipping on the allotments at Hardings Hill. He will speak to the allotment tenant to see what he suggests.

## **16. Correspondence**

A request has been received from LS House under the Data Protection/Freedom of Information Act for any information held by the PC, in view of anonymous complaints

that have been made. The Clerk reported that she had replied stating that she held no such information on behalf of the PC.  
PC members also confirmed they had no involvement in such complaints.

Other correspondence which will be placed in a folder for Councillors' perusal included:

Flourish Homes – Annual Review  
Community Policing Awards Launch 2010  
Yeovil District Hospital Annual Report 2009/10 & Summary of Annual Plan 2010/11  
South West Ambulance Service – Summer Edition 12  
Thatch

**17. Date of next meeting** – 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2010 at 7.30 pm

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

A photograph of the Lengthsman is to be placed on the Notice Board.

The problem regarding the lack of Public Transport was raised, there now only being a workers' bus which comes through the village. It was however felt that there was little that could be done about this in the present economic climate although the PC will press for a better service at every opportunity.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm