

**Minutes of Long Sutton Parish Council Meeting held at the Hall on  
Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2007 at 7.35 p.m.**

**Present:** Councillors: Mrs. J.R. Turner (Madam Chair), Mr. I.P. Eastment, Mr. M.J. Willoughby, Mr. K.O. Harding, Mr. R.G. Sargent, Mr. P.H. Vaughan, Mr. N.F. Laphorn Mr. R.C. Vaux and Mr. G.R. Cox. County Councillor Mr. D. Yeomans and 1 member of the public.

**1. Declarations of Interest** – Mr. G.R. Cox declared an interest (as a friend of the family) regarding the planning application in respect of Littlefield Farm to be discussed at item 5 on the Agenda.

**2. Minutes of meetings held on 6<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> March 2007** – The minutes of the 6<sup>th</sup> March were signed as a true record after the amendment of the second line of paragraph 1 of item 12 Highways to read “.....this will be included in next financial year’s budget as will....”. The minutes of the meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> March were agreed and signed as a true record.

**3. Matters Arising:**

**Access to Farringdon House:**

Madam Chair invited Mr Harding to raise the subject of the letter dated 31<sup>st</sup> March from Mr Taylor of Farringdon House. Mr Harding explained that there were two main thrusts to the letter. First was a repeated claim that Mr Ellis had changed his mind in the advice he had given the PC over the legality of offering the Taylors a vehicular right of way to their property and secondly he made several demands and suggestions concerning any plans the PC might have for the part of the Green in front of his property. His concerns over the latter apparently were that the PC might stop access to his property across the Green before he was able to complete the access to Martock Road for which he had applied and to which the PC had made no objection.

Some Councillors considered that the Council should just acknowledge the letter because any fuller response would only lead to more notices being put up by Mr Taylor and more correspondence. They felt that the Council in the minutes of its meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> March had already made quite clear that it had total confidence in Mr Ellis’s advice and integrity and it had not changed its views. They also felt that the Mr Taylor need have no concerns over any thoughts individual Councillors may currently have about the future of the Green. The minutes of the PC meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> March stated that Councillors currently had in mind making improvements to the appearance of that part of the Green “should an alternative access be constructed”.

Other Councillors felt that, particularly as this was the last meeting of the current Council, its views should be spelt out to Mr Taylor briefly but clearly even though it would probably lead to more notices and letters from Mr Taylor. Mr Harding, seconded by Mr Sargent proposed that the Clerk should write a short letter to Mr Taylor firstly to re-affirm its total confidence in Mr Ellis and secondly to point out the wording of the minute concerning possible future improvements to the Green. This proposal was agreed by a majority vote (5 for the proposal and 4 against).

The Council then considered the statements made by Mr Taylor and Mr Ellis at the Annual Parish Meeting. (These statements are summarised in the unapproved minutes of that Meeting.) Councillors were unanimous in their view that there was nothing more to be said on the subject. The subject matter was, as Mr Ellis had pointed out, largely irrelevant to the present situation. However, as the Council had stated repeatedly, it had total confidence in Mr Ellis and was grateful for his advice which over the last three years had saved the Parish a considerable sum in legal fees.

Mr Sargent said that he wished to make a statement, which he asked to be minuted, because it was the last occasion on which he could do so in the current Council. He considered that Mr Taylor's criticisms of the Council had been intemperate. Amongst other words used by Mr Taylor to describe Councillors and the PC were "liars" and "a farce" both of which he considered were unpleasantly abusive. In fact the PC was a group of volunteers who had tried their best to serve the village conscientiously over the past four years. On the Farringdon House issue the Council had been guided over the last six months by Hedleys Solicitors, a Company acknowledged as very expert in this area of the law. He considered it extremely disappointing that Mr Taylor had not either apologised or withdrawn his comments.

Madam Chair said that she felt the PC should make a gift to Mr Ellis as we owe him a big thank you for all his help and assistance with regard to this matter. This was unanimously agreed and following discussion Mr Willoughby agreed to organise this.

**Trees on the Green:** Mr Cox reported that the person he had asked to tidy up the bottom of the trees on the Village Green and not yet done this. Mr. Vaux and Mr. Willoughby therefore agreed to carry out the necessary work.

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

Mr. Yeomans reported that the County Council have approved IBM as their ISIS partner. Regarding the Somerset Waste Board, ECT are to take over all the collection services and the first new thermal treatment plant has just been approved which will be near Wells. The Government will confirm in July whether the County has been awarded Unitary status and he gave further details regarding progress of this process. It is claimed that a Unitary Council for Somerset will deliver savings in the order of £27 million per year.

#### **5. Planning**

##### **Littlefield Farm: Alterations and the change of use of farm building (part) to Use Class B8 (Storage & Distribution).**

Having previously declared an interest, Mr. Cox left the room while the application was discussed.

Following discussion, it was agreed that there was no objection to the application. However concern was expressed that heavy traffic, in terms of numbers and weight of vehicles, could be a problem in such a narrow lane. It was therefore agreed to request that if approved, a condition is attached requiring a new application should the number of movements ever be planned to rise significantly above the level at the time when the property was a working dairy farm.

A letter has been received from SCC confirming that the Statement of Community Involvement has now been adopted and published. It set out the minimum level of consultation that the County Council must carry out on planning policy documents to do with minerals and waste, and on planning applications determined by the County Council. A copy of the adopted SCI and the binding report received from the Planning Inspector can be seen on their website.

Mr. Cox updated the PC on progress of the following applications at SSDC:

Farringdon House. Formation of new vehicular/pedestrian access: He said that concerns have been expressed in respect of highway safety and issues with the conservation area.

Pitts Farm, Upton. Conversion to form 2 holiday lets, new building dependant persons house, new highway access and new loosebox/garage/barn. He reported that it is expected that this application will be withdrawn.

West Knole House: The conversion of barns to form one unit of living accommodation for holiday let and associated garages, stabling and stores: He said that the development of the “chinchilla” hut has now been taken out of the application. The Planning Officer is happy to approve the application but with a large number of conditions attached. The application will however be going to Committee.

Corner Cottage, Martock Rd: Mr Pledger presented to the PC for information, prior to the commencement of the meeting, amended plans regarding the application in respect of this property, to which there were no objections.

Mr. Laphorn reported that a wind turbine has been erected in Upton. He felt that as more turbines were likely to be erected in future, parishes needed a more comprehensive guide to the relevant planning regulations than was currently available.

Permissions granted by SSDC:

The Stores, Martock Rd: (FUL/LBC) Conversion of store rooms to provide ground floor flat.

OS 5187 Vedal Drove: (AGN) Erection of a feed storage bin.

## **6. Affordable Housing**

Madam Chair said that there was nothing to report and that the next Council would need to make greater efforts to find a suitable site.

## **7. Finance**

<b>Current A/C</b>	259.81
<b>Add</b> Transfer from Business Reserve	2500.00
I.P. Eastment Farm Business Tenancy Rent	<u>140.00</u>
	2899.81
<b>Less</b> A/cs/Donations paid last meeting	<u>2320.43</u>
	<b><u>£579.38</u></b>
<b>Business Reserve A/C</b>	6842.28
<b>Less</b> Transfer to Current A/C	<u>2500.00</u>
	4342.28
<b>Add</b> Interest	<u>41.98</u>
	<b><u>£4384.26</u></b>

**Balance of A/Cs C/F 31.03.07**

**£4963.64**

**A/cs for payment:**

Hedleys Solicitors A/C	1028.13
Less Chq from Allianz Cornhill	<u>787.50</u>
Payable by PC	240.63
Being 153.13 VAT	
87.50 10% Excess	
SALC Subscription	165.18
Community Council Subscription	25.00
Allianz Cornhill Ins Premium	413.50

The Clerk provided the PC with a statement showing the financial allocations for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007, the sums spent and those allocated but not yet spent and which are being carried forward to the next financial year. She also provided Draft Accounts for the year which will be finalised pending receipt of Bank Statements and then delivered to Mrs. Sensier the PC's volunteer Internal Auditor.

A letter has been received from the Audit Commission confirming the appointment of Moore Stephens as the PC's External Auditor and the audit date set by Moore Stephens is the 30<sup>th</sup> June.

It was proposed Mr. Eastment, seconded Madam Chair and agreed that £700 be transferred from the Business Reserve to the Current A/c and that the accounts be paid.

**8. Parish Plan**

Madam Chair said that the processing of the information from the questionnaires is proving to be a very lengthy business and the next Council will have to make some hard decisions on how to proceed. A meeting of the Parish Plan Group is to take place shortly.

The Clerk said that on speaking to SALC recently they had expressed surprise that no application had been made to the Community Council for funding in respect of the Parish Plan which is available through Defra. It was agreed that the Clerk should obtain an application form.

**9. Correspondence**

Land Management Information Service (LAMIS) who say they are able to supply a CD-ROM (at a subscription cost) containing aerial photography and Ordnance Survey mapping of the Parish with map-based data held by public bodies. It was agreed not to subscribe.

SSDC Illegal Advertising Protocol: A meeting will be held in the Main Committee Room, Brympton Way, Yeovil on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> April at 9.30 a.m. Councillor Cox informed the Council that he will Chair the meeting that will be attended by PCs from across the District.

David Heath MP congratulating the LS Village Hall and Recreation Ground Management Committee on being granted an award of £8,000 by the Awards for All Programme to be used to update the facilities of the Pavilion.

SCC: An invitation to discuss SCC's Unitary Proposals. Meetings will be held during April and May at Kingsmead School, Wiveliscombe and the Bath & West Showground, Shepton Mallet.

#### **10. Village Hall**

Mr. Vaughan reported that bookings are going well and takings are considerably up on last year. Mrs Joan Taylor who has been responsible for bookings deserved the committee's gratitude for her work; unfortunately she has recently decided to resign.

The disabled toilet is to be updated and refurbishment of the Pavilion is going well.

It was also reported that there have been recent events of graffiti around the Hall and the School which have been reported to the Police.

#### **11. Highways**

Mr. Laphorn reported that a concerned member of the public had suggested that a pedestrian crossing should be made at the east end of Shute Land mainly for the use of one parishioner with mobility problems. He said that, having made enquiries, before a crossing can be provided the following is taken into consideration: scrutiny as to cost, how many members of the public it will benefit; compliance with strategic local highway planning. It is then entered on a list for inclusion in the existing 400/500 schemes being considered at present. All projects are re-evaluated periodically i.e. they move up or down the priority ladder. The crossing has to be considered to be in a safe location and an Avon & Som Constabulary report is required. The PC appreciated the concern being shown and recognised that it was a difficult corner for pedestrians but felt that a crossing in that location would be of doubtful value and that it was unlikely that it would ever be approved.

A Parish/Town Council Questionnaire on Highways Related Services for the Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007 was passed to Mr. Laphorn for completion.

#### **12. Environment Group Report**

Madam Chair reported that Mrs. Gasson would like to give up the position of Tree Warden.

Mr. Willoughby reported the tyres have been removed from Ilchester Lane. He also said that the trial motorbikes are once again causing problems on the droves around the Parish and it was agreed that a letter should be written to the appropriate Authorities.

In this regard, Madam Chair reported that she had received a letter from Mrs. Janet Walford with regard to the motorbikes using the Hammocks Drove area and she was concerned that the noise would disturb the curlews which are nesting there for the first time in 20 years.

Madam Chair said that there was nothing to report regarding the Nippy Bus.

### **13. Footpath Offer's Report**

Mr Harding reported that he had booked a contractor, Somerset Landscapes Ltd, to lay a surface on the path at the back of the Church Walk car park on 13<sup>th</sup> April. It was agreed that he, Mr Vaux and Mr Willoughby would make arrangements to level the site.

Mr Waddleton of the RoW Department at SSDC had assured Mr Harding that he was working with the landowners on the final details of the footpath diversions between Knole and Bineham.

### **14. Representative Reports:**

**Crime & Safety:** A report has been received from Chief Suptd Nikki Watson, Dist Cdr – Somerset East giving an update regarding performance and community safety developments on Somerset East Policing District and details of neighbourhood policing for the area. The Community Contact vehicle will be at The Green on 5<sup>th</sup> April 1000/Noon

**School Governors:** Madam Chair reported that the Ofsted Inspector's report received was very good. The School will be at full capacity in September.

**Langport Area Development Trust:** Madam Chair said that she had spoken to Mr. Coldicott regarding the Langport International Walking Festival in June and suggested that the walkers should stop at the Hall rather than the Green.

**15. Date of next meeting** – Annual Parish Council Meeting – 15<sup>th</sup> May 2007.

### **16. Any Other Business/Items for next meeting**

Madam Chair said the Church Wardens were holding a social evening on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April at 6 o'clock in the School Hall for the Rev Lionel and Sue Whatley who are leaving the village.

Mr. Cox said that he would not be standing for the PC in the forthcoming elections and hoped that the Council would in future give consideration to a slot on the Agenda for the report of the District Councillor like they have for the County Councillor.

Mr. Sargent gave a report on the recent SALC meeting which he had attended.

The Clerk reported that she had received an email from Mr Cox regarding a Community Speed Watch presentation to be held at High Ham Parish Council on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30 pm at their village hall. Members of adjoining PC's are invited to attend.

At the invitation of Madam Chair, Pam Jukes introduced herself to the PC and said that she was applying to become a Parish Councillor.

Madam Chair wished the new Council good luck and closed the meeting at 9.40pm

