

**Minutes of Long Sutton Parish Council Meeting held at the  
Hall on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008 at 7.30 pm**

**Present:** Councillors: Mrs. J.R. Turner (Madam Chair), Mr. R.G. Sargent, Mr. R.C. Vaux, Mr. M.J. Willoughby, Mr. C G Greenfield and Mr A.D. Jones. County Councillor Mr. D. Yeomans, District Councillor Mr G R Cox and 5 members of the public.

**Apologies for Absence:** Councillors: Mr. J. A. Ellerbeck, Mr. D.C. Paull and Miss P Jukes.

**1. Declarations of Interest** - None

**2. Minutes of meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2008** (copies of which had been previously circulated) were taken as read and were approved as a correct record and signed by Madam Chair.

**3. Matters Arising:**

**Post Office Closures:** Madam Chair reported that a letter had been written to Post Office Ltd emphasising the case for keeping LS Post Office open.

**4. County Councillor's Report**

Mr. Yeomans reported on the following:

ISIS: There are certain matters to be resolved.

The Fire & Rescue Service achieved a balanced budget but primary manning will disappear next year.

The allowance of £15,000 has not yet fully been approved or the system by which this should be distributed. The whole aim is to devolve powers to Parish Councils. As bids come in these have to be evaluated by 13<sup>th</sup> November. Those who hit the criteria with the best backed up plan will be the ones to gain.

The new system for waste collection has started and fines for the depositing of waste not contained within the domestic recycling bins is coming. On being questioned regarding the door to door recycling of plastic, he said that a trial is to take place this year.

**5. District Councillor's Report**

Mr. Cox updated the PC on the progress regarding a Nippy Bus service. He said that Nigel Collins of SSDC is negotiating regarding this and hopefully a service will be routed to cover Long Sutton within six months.

He has awarded from his allowance for the last financial year £800 for the BMX Track and the School garden. In future, as money gets tighter, it will be necessary to review where they spend their money and prioritise need.

He also reported regarding the re-zoned waste collection service of which Parishioners have been notified and said that the DC are having a real challenge to find the money for Bus Passes.

He said that there is an issue regarding the emptying of gullies, some of which are constantly overflowing and the County Council will need to have a rethink regarding this procedure.

With regard to affordable housing, he said that he had been approached by two young couples who are looking for rented accommodation.

He noted the suggestion that Simon Gale, the Head of Development & Building Control at SSDC should be invited to attend a future PC meeting and said that the DC presently holds two meetings a year for PCs with Simon Gale.

Regarding enforcement matters, he said that there is a new procedure in force and only written complaints will be dealt with. Email will suffice. From this month there will be a Monitoring Officer in the Planning Team.

## **6. Planning:**

**Long Acre, Crouds Lane: Conversion of outbuilding to self contained annexe.** There was some confusion with regard to this application. Mr. Vaux reported that it did not require planning permission but in fact the application had already been passed.

**Hanging Storage, Upton Bridge Farm, Langport Rd: Alterations and change of use of existing agricultural barn to use class B1 for display/storage.**

Madam Chair closed the meeting to enable the applicant to speak. On resumption of the meeting and following discussion, it was agreed that there was no objection.

**Woodstock, Martock Road: Demolish & rebuild utility and garage.** It was agreed that the PC objects to the application as it stands and feels that the garage and utility should be finished in natural blue lias stone and not rendering/timber cladding.

**Highbrooks Farm, Langport Road, Catsgore: Conversion of attic space over garage to create additional living accommodation.** It was agreed that there were no objections to this application.

Madam Chair reported that a new application had just been received for the construction of an open fronted agricultural storage building on land off Tengore Lane and it may be necessary to hold a special meeting to discuss this if an extension cannot be agreed.

Permissions granted by SSDC:

West Knole House: The conversion of barn to form one unit of living accommodation for holiday let and associated garages, stabling and stores.

Pitts Farm, Hermitage Rd, Upton: Formation of vehicular access, conversion of buildings to form 2 disabled persons holiday lets and a dependant persons unit/annexe.

Development at Long Sutton House: It is understood that the DC have agreed to open a file regarding this.

## **7. Finance**

<b>Current A/C</b>		7122.09
<b>Less</b> A/cs paid last meeting	2296.75	
Balance of Hedleys A/C re Access to Farringdon House (Hedleys A/C £675.63 less £517.50 pd by Allianz)	158.13	
Transfer to Reserve A/C	4500.00	6954.88
		167.21
<b>Add</b> SCC Grant Re Website		300.00
		<b><u>£467.21</u></b>

**Reserve A/C**

7320.73

**Add** Transfer from Current A/C4500.00**£11820.73**

The Clerk reported that Bank Statements for the end of the financial year having not yet been received it was not yet known what interest had been credit to the Reserve A/C as at 31<sup>st</sup> March and the above balances only represent known transactions on the accounts since the last meeting. She also provided Councillors with a Statement of the Financial Allocations for 2007/8 and an estimate of the amount spent, these figures to be confirmed following completion of the Accounts for 2007/8.

Allianz Insurance has settled the majority of Hedleys' charges relating to the satisfactory conclusion of the Deed of Access involving Farringdon House. The total costs were £1,703.76. Allianz agreed to pay £1,305, thus leaving the PC to pay £398.76. This very satisfactory outcome was a result of patient and persuasive negotiations between Allianz and Mr. Peter Ellis on behalf of the Parish Council. The PC is once again most grateful to Mr. Ellis for his considerable contribution.

**A/cs for payment:**

SALC Subscription £180.46

SALC Training Event Place - Mr Sargent 15.00  
(Audit & Accounting Update and Managing  
Charities as a Sole Trustee)

Proposed Madam Chair, seconded Mr. Jones and agreed that the above accounts be paid.

**8. Parish Plan**

Madam Chair invited Mr. Steve Sensier to update the Council regarding progress of this matter.

He said that the last meeting of the Editorial Team will take place tomorrow. The aim is to take the matter forward as soon as possible and produce a copy for all Team members by the 16<sup>th</sup> April. It is hoped that a copy will then be ready for presentation to the PC by early May.

**9. Affordable Housing**

Madam Chair reported that nothing has yet been heard from Mark Dillon of South Somerset Homes.

The Clerk reported that she had spoken with RHT Developments regarding 3 Knightlands Lane and it would appear that this has been offered to a young couple who live at Pibsbury as this met the criteria recently agreed and the other interested party having withdrawn. They apologised for not having previously informed the Council. None of the sales of the properties at Knightlands Lane have yet been completed but it is hoped that they will all proceed to a satisfactory conclusion.

Madam Chair said that she was disappointed that the young couples interested in rented accommodation, mentioned in our District Councillor's report, had not approached the Parish Council.

## **10. Village Hall**

Mr. Sargent said that he hoped to learn more regarding our operating instructions for the Village Hall at the SALC Training Event to be held on the 10<sup>th</sup> April.

Only one response against the closure of the BMX Track has been received and therefore no case has been made for keeping this open.

Mr. Vaux has agreed to join the Village Hall Committee.

A meeting of the Village Hall Committee will take place at 7 pm on the 7<sup>th</sup> April and it is hoped that as many Councillors as possible will attend.

Mr. Willoughby reported that someone had been seen sitting on the Village Hall roof.

## **11. Representative Reports:**

**Highways:** The road is to be closed at Long Load for 3 days starting from 14<sup>th</sup> April 2008 to enable Wessex Water to carry out a Section 81 Defect.

An update has been received from SCC on the HGV pinch point consultation.

**Environment:** Mr. Willoughby raised the problem once again of small motor bikes being ridden along lanes and undesignated areas.

**Footpaths:** Mr. Jones reported on the meeting of residents interested in walking the footpaths organised by Mr. Harding (Parish Paths Liaison Officer) on 19<sup>th</sup> March. Thirteen people attended the meeting, which was rather disappointing, but it was agreed that a Parish Walk should be organised for 5<sup>th</sup> May. It will be advertised in the Newsletter. He said that now the amendments to the footpaths between Knole and Bineham had been approved it was necessary to erect some new stiles. Volunteers would be required to do this, assuming the landowners did not wish to do it themselves. If there was any problem with getting the work done by volunteers within a reasonable time scale then quotations should be obtained to have the stiles erected professionally. It was agreed that Mr. Jones, Mr. Harding and Mr. Willoughby should look into this matter further.

Madam Chair said that a successful meeting had been held with George Montague of SSDC and the large sign on the Village Green has been removed, to be replaced with something more suitable. Other matters concerning the new finger footpath signposts will hopefully be resolved shortly.

A letter has been received from the Chairman of Long Load PC regarding their plan to develop the public footpaths in their Parish and to invite representatives to attend a meeting in Long Load Village Hall at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April. A copy was passed to Mr. Jones who will speak with Mr. Harding with a view to their attending this meeting.

## **12. Correspondence**

Taunton Deane BC enclosing Newsletter regarding the Strategic Housing Market Assessment and reporting on the consultation meetings held in February. They are hoping to receive the first draft of the Assessment in June and have provisionally earmarked the week commencing 14 July 2008 for consultation meetings with stakeholders.

Madam Chair tabled various other correspondence/literature received for members perusal.

**13. Date of next meeting** - The Annual Parish Meeting will take place at 7 pm on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2008 followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

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

Madam Chair reported that she had received an email from Marjorie Dams with regard to the planting of the tree for the WI. She had met with the Tree Planting Officer from SSDC who suggested suitable sites around the Village Hall and species of trees. Madam Chair will raise this at the Village Hall meeting.

A letter has been received from Mr. Taylor of Farrington House regarding damage to the lower village green. There was further discussion regarding the tidying up of this area, following which it was agreed that this should be made an Agenda item for the Annual Parish Meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm