

**Minutes of Long Sutton Parish Council Meeting held at the
Hall on Tuesday 5th February 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. J.A. Ellerbeck, Miss P. Jukes and Mr. C.J. Greenfield. County Councillor Mr. D. Yeomans, District Councillor Mr G.R. Cox and 7 members of the public.

Apologies: Councillor: Mr. D.C. Paull

1. Declarations of Interest - Madam Chair, Mr. Willoughby and Mr. Vaux all declared an interest in the planning application for the siting of a mobile home at Vedal Farm, Vedal Drove to be discussed at item 6 on the Agenda.

2. Minutes of last meeting – These were agreed and signed as a true record following the amendment of Mr. Ellerbeck's initials to J.A. under apologies.

3. Matters Arising

Village Signs: Madam Chair reported that she and Mr. Willoughby had undertaken the task of cleaning the stone village signs.

Rubbish Bin, Langport Rd: Mr. Ellerbeck reported that this had been removed in the course of a survey being carried out by SSDC.

Hedge Opposite the Hall: Madam Chair said that this has been cut.

4. County Councillor's Report

Mr. Yeomans reported:

The Fire Brigade/Fire Rescue Service is finding it difficult money wise and have some hard decisions to make.

Isis is up and running. The Police, Taunton Deane and County are using IBM soft/hardware.

The budget for District and County is very tight.

The Somerset Waste Board recycling contract is running. Some of the Bring Banks are being withdrawn. There is to be discussion regarding whether to charge for extra waste not contained within the domestic recycling bins.

Planning: A new Park & Ride site has been approved to the east of Taunton but this needs a lot of consideration regarding traffic.

5. District Councillor's Report

Mr. Cox's report included the following:

He had received complaints regarding the muddy parking areas at the bottom end of the Village Green and felt that the PC should consider taking action.

He had also received complaints about vegetation overhanging the railings on the Green.

County Highways are to carry out work to repair potholes at the junction of the A372 and B3165 and also along the A372 between the village and the Lime Kiln.

The Finger signpost has been painted at the bottom of Shute Lane.

The Appeal against the formation of a new vehicular/pedestrian access at Farrington House has been dismissed.

He had agreed to funding to help do up the garden at the School.

CPA Inspection: The examination of SSDC will take place for a whole week. Measures have been put in place to try and improve on the last inspection in 2004.

Youth Facilities/Somerset Rural Youth: There is £6,000 of funding from Area North for youth support in the villages. He asked the PC to give consideration to possible youth projects in the village.

Streetscene are to carry out Parish inspections. If any Parish Councillor wishes to accompany the Officer when this takes place they should contact chris.cooper@southsomerset.gov.uk

6. Planning:

The following applications were considered:

Thatchover, Knole: Alterations to family dining area and the formation of 2 light window in gable end of converted barn. Proposed Mr. Ellerbeck, seconded Madam Chair and unanimously agreed that there was no objection.

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. Proposed Mr. Willoughby, seconded Mr. Ellerbeck and unanimously agreed that there was no objection.

Batts Farm, Batts Lane: Erection of 1st floor extension to rear of dwellinghouse. It was unanimously agreed that there was no objection.

Vedal Farm, Vedal Drove: Use of land as a site for a mobile home. The meeting was closed to enable a representative for the applicant to speak, following which those Councillors who had previously declared an interest (Madam Chair, Mr. Willoughby and Mr. Vaux) having also spoken, left the room.

Discussion was conducted by Mr. Sargent, which resulted in it being proposed by Mr. Ellerbeck, seconded Miss Jukes and unanimously resolved that there was no objection.

Farringdon House, The Green: A copy of the Inspector's Dismissal of the Appeal for the formation of new vehicular/pedestrian access has been received.

7. Finance

Current A/C	£1609.11	Business Reserve A/C	<u>£7260.51</u>
Less A/cs last meeting	<u>686.94</u>		
	922.17		
Add Allotment Rents	<u>198.00</u>		
	<u>£1120.17</u>		

A/cs for payment:

R. Davies – Village Green Grass Cutting		£420.00
Petty Cash		30.00
Mr. S. Sensier :	Parish Website Fees	56.38
	Photocopying Re Parish Plan	<u>11.20</u>
		67.58

It was proposed Madam Chair, seconded Mr. Willoughby and agreed that the above accounts be paid and also the two fees of £15 for the Clerk to attend SALC Training

Events regarding the Freedom of Information Act Document Retention and Auditing and Accounts Update.

It was also unanimously agreed to accept Mr. Robin Davies' quote of £435 for cutting the Village Green during 2008.

The Clerk reported that Moore Stephens have again been appointed as External Auditor to the PC, the appointment being for a 5 year period. Efforts will also need to be made to find a new Internal Auditor.

8. Parish Plan

Mr Sensier was invited to update the PC on progress regarding the Parish Plan.

He said that at the Parish Plan team's meeting on 23rd January all but one of the theme drafts were reviewed and suggested amendments made.

The editorial team was appointed and it was agreed this team would amend all of the drafts to align them in style and presentation. These would be returned to the teams for their comments so that final drafts may be agreed. Those who volunteered to join theme teams will be invited to do so before the next full team meeting.

The next full team meeting will be at 7.30 in the Village Hall on Wednesday 5th March. Subsequent to this a full draft will be presented to the PC for their approval and support.

It was noted that various important issues were raised in the PC meeting; such as Youth Facilities and the response of the Police to reports of anti-social behaviour and vandalism. These matters will be highlighted in the Parish Plan.

Madam Chair thanked Mr. Sensier and Mr. Keith Harding for all their hard work.

9. Affordable Housing

Madam Chair said that there was nothing to report.

It was unanimously agreed that the PC had no objection to RHT Developments offering the applicants proposed the opportunity of purchasing Number 1 Knightlands Lane and they are to be informed accordingly.

Discussion followed regarding the lack of applicants from Long Sutton for the shared equity properties at Knightlands Lane and it was agreed that it should be investigated as to whether the Housing Association could buy back some of the equity.

10. Village Hall

Permission was requested to proceed with the surface cleaning of the Tennis Courts, at a cost of £1,199, which was unanimously agreed and also to replace the heaters in the Kitchen at a cost of £775, this being necessary because the old heaters were continuously being left on. It was agreed that the heaters should be replaced providing the suitability of fitting timers to the existing heaters had been investigated.

Mr. Sargent asked for a further two members from the PC, to join the Village Hall Committee. Miss Jukes was the only volunteer.

He also said that the Committee are looking again at whether work should be carried out to restore/upgrade the BMX track in view of the continuing and costly health and safety issues. A note is to be put in the Newsletter requesting the views of Parishioners.

Vandalism is also causing concern.

11. Representative Reports:

Highways: Mr. Ellerbeck reconfirmed that the rubbish bin on the A372 had been removed as a result of a DC survey. They will deal with anything they have found or any complaints following completion of the survey.

The question of whether logs should be used to prevent people driving onto the grass at the lower end of the Village Green was discussed and also the overhanging vegetation. Councillors agreed to investigate these matters.

Madam Chair reported that she had received a call from Pamela Storey of Knole thanking whoever was responsible for the clearing of ditches which had taken place in Knole. Unfortunately in some places this has resulted in flying tipping becoming even more of a problem. Mr. Ellerbeck agreed to get updated information.

Environment Group: Mr. Willoughby reported that the work to the Trees on the Village Green is to take place on 26th February.

Footpaths: Mr. Willoughby raised the question of the repairs to stiles. Mr. Sargent said that Mr. Harding has the matter in hand.

12. Correspondence

Streetscene Services: Invitation to join them in planting spring bulbs within the parish. It was agreed to pass on this, this year.

Highways: Guide to Winter Services. (Passed to Mr. Ellerbeck.)

SWMP (Somerset Water Management Partnership): Emails from Scott West of SCC regarding meeting dates. (Passed to Mr. Vaux.)

SCC Parish Flood Fairs 21 February (Yeovil Town Football Club) 22 February (North Petherton Community Centre).

SCC Training Event for Adults Planning to work with Youth Parish & Town Councils: 1st March 2008, Ilminster Youth Club.

Strategic Housing Market Assessment in South Somerset: Parish and Town Councils in South Somerset are invited to this first community stakeholder event which will take place on Thursday 14th February at the Council Chamber, Brympton Way at 6.30 pm.

Communities & Local Government Consultation on Orders & Regulations relating to the Conduct of Local Authority Members in England. (Passed to Mr. Sargent.)

Councillors were reminded of the Training Sessions arranged by the DC during February for Councillors and Clerks.

Madam Chair raised the matter of a recent article in the Press regarding the advertising of coffee mornings and jumble sales by placing notices on lamp-posts and that the placing of signs such as this without gaining permission is illegal.

13. Date of next meeting - 4th March 2008

14. Any Other Business/Items for next meeting

The following matters were reported:

The poor condition of Landmoor Lane following work carried out by Wessex Water.

The trees at Lame Hill require tidying up.

The removal of gates in Shute Lane by youths.

The problem of dogs mess being thrown over hedges.

The noise factor from events held at the Village Hall.

Madam Chair proposed that in view of the vandalism in the Parish, PCSO Craig Treasure should be invited to the next meeting and that this should start at 7 pm.

15. Correspondence with Hedleys Solicitors

Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 it was proposed by Madam Chair, seconded Mr. Ellerbeck and unanimously agreed that because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted (legal matters) the Public and the Press be instructed to leave the meeting during consideration of this Agenda Item i.e. Correspondence with Hedleys Solicitors.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Mr Willoughby, seconded Miss Jukes and unanimously **resolved** that having received the advice of Hedleys, the PC is prepared to grant the Deed in respect of access to Farrington House, in the form suggested and the consideration to be in the sum of £6,000. When the engrossed copy Deed is received, Mr Vaux and Mr Sargent are authorised to sign this on behalf of the Council in the presence of the Clerk.

The meeting closed at 9.50 pm