

**Minutes of Long Sutton Parish Council Meeting held at the
Hall on Tuesday 3rd July 2007 at 7.30 pm**

Present: Councillors: Mr. R.G. Sargent (Chairman), Mr. M.J. Willoughby, Mr. R.C. Vaux, Mr. D.C. Paull, Miss P. Jukes Mr. A.D. Jones, Mr. J.A. Ellerbeck, Mr. C.J. Greenfield and Mrs. J.R. Turner. County Councillor Mr. D. Yeomans and 2 members of the public.

Apologies: District Councillor Mr. G.R. Cox

The Chairman welcomed the new co-opted Councillors Mr. Jones, Mr. Ellerbeck and Mrs. Turner to the Council; Declarations of Acceptance of Office having been signed by them.

1. Declarations of Interest -

2. Minutes of last meeting - Agreed and signed as a true record. A letter has however been received from Mr Taylor of Farringdon House who says that the letter from LS Stores to the Planning Dept, referred to under item 7 of the PC's minutes, incorrectly referred to the Highways Dept as having recommended that he should park his vehicles on the B3165 in front of the Shop when in fact it was Mr Venn of the Conservation Dept.

3. Matters Arising

Trees overhanging Crouds Lane: It is understood from Mrs. Hardy of Crouds Farm that she was sent a map by Somerset Highways, South Somerset Area, some 18 months ago showing the trees and shrubs which she should keep cut back and that there is no problem with these. They arranged for the cutting back of the rest of trees. She therefore suggests that the PC contacts them. She also asks that it is mentioned that the stream outside her property which runs down Crouds Lane is in desperate need of cleaning out.

Summer Festival at Bearley: It was reported that three complaints were received from Parishioners regarding the noise from this Festival and this has been passed on to SSDC.

4. County Councillor's Report

Mr. Yeomans reported that 48% voted in the recent referendum regarding a Unitary Council for Somerset of which 82% were against a Unitary Council. The Secretary of State's decision regarding this, which was expected to be made on 19th July, may in fact be delayed.

He said that the big decision regarding the Somerset Waste Board is due to take place during July. There are however certain aspects causing concern and the entire matter has to be presented to the whole Council for a decision. The ratification of Isis will hopefully now take place by the end of September but may be delayed beyond then.

The Devon & Somerset Fire Rescue Service is now up and running but the budget is extremely tight.

He reminded the PC of the fund of £5,000 which he has to award between the Parishes in his area and invited the submission of any project which benefits the Village.

5. District Councillor's Report -

6. Planning

Pitts Farm, Hermitage Road, Upton: Conversion to form 2 holiday lets, a dependent persons unit, formation of new highway access and the erection of a store for straw and hay.

The Chairman closed the meeting to enable Mrs. Edson, one of the applicants, to address the PC.

On resumption of the meeting and following discussion, it was proposed by Mr Willoughby, seconded Mr. Greenfield and agreed that there was no objection to the application.

Land at The Manor, Cross Lane: Erection of 1 dwelling and alterations to existing walls and access drive.

The Chairman closed the meeting to enable Mr Pledger to address the PC.

On resumption of the meeting it was proposed by Mrs. Turner, seconded Mr. Vaux and agreed by a majority that the PC should object to the application on the grounds that the proposed dwelling would not fit into the street scene; it was too large for the size of the plot and would not preserve or enhance the Conservation Area. Car Parking was also considered to be a major problem.

West Knole House: Conversion of barns to form 1 unit of living accommodation for holiday let together with associated garaging, stables and stores. Permission refused by SSDC.

Unit 6 Bridge Barns, Langport Rd: Change of use of premises to dyslexic treatment centre (Use Class D1). Permission granted by SSDC.

Upton Bridge Cottage: Demolition of existing greenhouse and erection of a replacement. Permission granted by SSDC.

7. Election of Vice-Chairman

It was proposed by Mr. Paull, seconded Mr. Willoughby and agreed that Mr. Vaux should be elected as Vice-Chairman.

8. Appointment of Representatives:

Village Hall: Mr. Sargent is at present the only PC representative on the Committee of which there should be three, although Mrs. Turner is an elected member of the Committee. There were however no further volunteers and it was agreed that the matter should be left for the time being.

The representatives for other organisations are as previously appointed:

Somerset Association of Local Councils: Mr. Sargent

LS School Board of Governors: Current Representative Mrs Lieve Cousins

9. Appointment of Working Groups/Officers:

These were agreed as follows:

Planning: Miss Jukes agreed to join Mr. Vaux and Mr. Willoughby, who had previously been appointed, in dealing with planning matters.

Environment/Tree Warden (To include fly tipping, dog fouling etc). Mr. Paull and Mr. Willoughby.

Highways: Mr. Ellerbeck.

The Chairman requested Mr. Ellerbeck to make enquiries regarding the matter of the trees and stream at Crouds Lane which had previously been discussed. (See item 3)

Youth and Police Liaison: Mrs. Turner.

Footpath Officer: Mr. Jones. The Chairman said that Mr. Harding the previous Council's Footpath Officer had offered his assistance if required.

Parish Plan: Mrs. Turner

10. Parish Plan

Mrs. Turner reported that at the Chairman's request she had attended the meeting held on 13th June as the PC's representative together with the Chairman. She said that Mr. Sensier is working hard on collating the information and that they had gone through the questions raised in the survey highlighting the important issues. She felt the question regarding transport had been misinterpreted as from the result of survey this would appear not to be a problem, whereas the matter regarding public transport has in fact been raised by Parishioners with Councillors.

She said that hopefully by September it will be possible to start forming the plan and that Mr. Sensier is talking to a Designer regarding the drawing up of a booklet. He would also like the end product to be put on a CD.

She has applied for funding of £1500 through Defra towards the project and has also applied for £500 from the Parish & Town Councils Somerset Levels Priority Projects although this has strict criteria.

11. Finance

The Clerk reported that, as in the past, the Bank Mandate form had been amended to read that the Bank is requested to accept any two authorised signatories on the account, **but not if** (rather than even if) the account becomes overdrawn as a result of the instruction. A letter had however been received from the Bank's Bristol Office saying that no alterations to the form are permitted and that any words deleted should be reinstated and signed by her or a new mandate completed. The relevant words having been reinstated, the form was sent back by the Yeovil Branch of NatWest but does not appear to have reached Bristol and it is therefore necessary for a new Mandate form to be completed. It was therefore resolved that this should be completed accordingly.

Account Balances:

Current A/C	<u>£5683.57</u>	Business Reserve A/C	<u>£3684.26</u>
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A/cs agreed for Payment last month (not yet paid)

M. J. Willoughby – Gift to P. Ellis	25.00
Clerk's Salary	590.00
Clerk's Travelling	50.40

New A/Cs for payment:

S. Sensier - Photocopying Re Parish Plan	12.60
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R. G. Sargent – Paid to SALC (Training Course for Councillors)	40.00
R. G. Sargent – Photocopying & Postage	4.22
Petty Cash	30.00

Regarding the account of Somerset Landscapes Ltd in the sum of £235 for Resurfacing Work to the footpath at back of Cross Lane (outstanding since March), the Chairman said that he had spoken with Mr. Harding who felt that the account should be paid as the work had been carried out to a restricted budget. The Chairman agreed to explain the matter to Mrs. Barton of 1 Church Walk who had complained regarding the standard of this work.

It was therefore proposed Mrs. Turner, seconded Mr. Willoughby and agreed that all the above accounts should be paid and that a voucher in the sum of £30 should be purchased as a gift to the Internal Auditor, Mrs Sensier, as soon as the new Bank Mandate is in force.

12. Affordable Housing

Mrs. Turner reported that she is in contact with Neil Biffen of Greenslade Taylor Hunt regarding an approach to the owner of the land adjoining West View (opposite the Hall) and also with Mark Dillon, Development Manager for South Somerset Homes. She said that in order for the PC to be able to have any say regarding the occupation of any properties erected the site has to be an exception site.

13. Correspondence

The Secretary of the LS WI: They are celebrating the 90th Anniversary of the foundation of the SCFWI in 2008 and would like to do so by planting a tree and 90 daffodil bulbs in Long Sutton. It was agreed that the PC had no difficulty with this in principle and Mr. Paull and Mr. Willoughby were asked to give consideration as to where these could be planted and report back to the Council.

Derek Waddleton, Administrative Officer, District Rights of Way: Requesting support for or objection to the application to divert footpaths at Plot Dairy Farm and Land Adjoining. These diversions have been agreed with Keith Harding the PC's former Footpath Officer and have taken many years to sort out. It was agreed that a letter in support should be written.

Somerset Highways: Regarding roads in the Parish which will be surface-dressed commencing mid July.

14. Date of next meeting – 4th September 2007. Miss Jukes gave apologies.

15. Any Other Business/Items for next meeting

Mrs. Turner reported that she had also applied for funding under the Parish & Town Councils Somerset Levels Priority Projects of £600 towards the updating of the Parish website and £1,000 to improve the approach road to the village from Long Load.

16. Long Sutton Parish Council's relationship with Hedleys Solicitors

Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 it was proposed by Mr Jones, seconded Mr Ellerbeck and unanimously agreed that because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted (possible legal matters) the Public

and the Press be instructed to leave the meeting during consideration of this Agenda Item i.e. LS PC's relationship with Hedleys Solicitors.

The following decisions were taken:

- (a) The PC will continue to use Hedleys Solicitors of East Horsley until the difficulties with regard to access to Farrington House are resolved;
- (b) All future correspondence regarding Farrington House would be handled by Hedleys consulting the PC where appropriate;
- (c) The Chairman was required to monitor closely Hedleys' costs, and
- (d) It was agreed that the Chairman and Mr. Greenfield would jointly draft a response to Hedleys setting out the views expressed by the PC.

The meeting closed at 9.55 pm