

**Minutes of Long Sutton Parish Council Meeting held at the  
Hall on Tuesday 2<sup>ND</sup> October 2007 at 7.15 pm**

**Present:** Councillors: Mr. R.G. Sargent (Chairman), Mr. M.J. Willoughby, Mr. D.C. Paull, Mr. C.J. Greenfield, Miss P. Jukes, Mr J.A. Ellerbeck, Mr. R.C. Vaux, Mrs. J.R. Turner and Mr. A.D. Jones. County Councillor Mr. D. Yeomans and 3 members of the public.

**Apologies:** -

**Discussion with PCSO Craig Treasure:** A helpful and informative discussion was held with PCSO Craig Treasure who works from Somerton Police Station. He is part of their Neighbourhood Police Team and is responsible for Long Sutton. The Chairman thanked him for attending the meeting.

**1. Declarations of Interest** -

**2. County Councillor's Report** (As Mr. Yeomans had another meeting to go to it was agreed that this item should be brought forward on the Agenda.)

Mr. Yeomans reported on the new Notaro Home which has opened in Langport and the proposal regarding the building of affordable houses. He said that Isis is now up and running. The Somerset Waste Board's new contract will be up and running by the 14<sup>th</sup> October. Consideration is also being given to a minerals and waste plant to deal with residual waste.

He also informed the Council of the proposal for the building of 180 houses on land at Field Rd/Kelways Corner, Huish Episcopi and the highways issues which this will involve.

Mrs. Turner thanked Mr. Yeomans for his support regarding the Parish Plan.

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**The Chairman closed the meeting to allow Public Question Time to take place, following which the Council proceeded with the Agenda.**

**3. Minutes of last meeting** - Agreed and signed as a true record.

**4. Matters Arising:**

**Overhanging Trees and Clearance of Stream at Crouds Lane:** Mr. Ellerbeck reported that he had met with Mrs Hardy the owner of Crouds Farm and it would appear that the trees in question do not belong to her. There was discussion regarding this and Mr. Ellerbeck will look into the matter further.

The problem of overhanging trees at Little Thatch was also raised.

Other matters raised during discussion and in Public Question Time covered the rubbish bin in the layby at Langport Road which has been knocked out of position and certain street lights which are not working.

**LS WI Planting of a Tree & Daffodil Bulbs:** No suggestion as to a possible site has been received from the WI. The Chairman suggested the section of the Village Green opposite the shop. The matter remains ongoing.

**Trees on the Village Green:** Mr. Willoughby said that the work required to the trees would appear to be far greater than originally anticipated and he had therefore obtained two quotations, one from Arbor Tech and the other from Arboricare Ltd. It was agreed that an application to carry out the works should be submitted to SSDC and that the contract be awarded to Arbor Tech who recommended that the work be carried out in February 2008.

The Chairman said that he had in fact already applied to Mr Yeomans (SCC) in respect of possible funding towards the pollarding of the trees rather than for the BMX track as he had previously suggested.

**BMX Track:** The Chairman had now applied to Dist Councillor Rupert Cox in respect of funding towards the BMX track, the refurbishment of which will cost approximately £5,405. Applications for additional funding will be considered in due course.

## **5. District Councillor's Report** -

### **6. Planning**

**Zephyrs, Martock Rd: Loft Conversion (Amended Plans).** It was agreed that there was no objection.

**Charris, Shute Lane: (Outline) Formation of vehicular access and erection of a dwelling and double garage.** Amended plans have been received regarding highways matters to which it was agreed there was no objection.

Pitts Farm, Upton: The applications regarding this property have now been withdrawn.

### **7. Finance**

<b>Current A/C</b>	1,455.06	<b>Business Reserve A/C</b>	<b><u>£7,210.69</u></b>
<b>Less A/cs pd last meeting</b>	<u>789.39</u>		
	<b><u>£665.67</u></b>		

Mrs. Turner proposed that the £258.71 from the Railway Centenary Fund should go towards the pollarding of the trees on the Green. This was seconded by Mr. Ellerbeck and agreed.

### **8. Parish Plan**

Mrs. Turner reported that as requested by Katy Calvert of the Community Council, she had obtained letters in support from the School, the Village Hall and other organisations using the Hall and the Church. She had also received a positive response from County Councillor Mr Yeomans but nothing as yet from our District Councillor. She said that she had also been to see Les Collett of SSDC who has given her advice.

The next meeting will be on the 24<sup>th</sup> October at 7 o'clock in the Village Hall.

### **9. Affordable Housing**

Mrs. Turner reported that discussion has taken place between the landowners of the site adjoining West View and Mark Dillon of South Somerset Homes and it is hoped that the land will be available at an affordable price. A feasibility study is now to be commissioned. Depending on the outcome of this, it will have to be decided how to take the matter forward. Parishioner Mr. Tim Shire raised during Public Question Time the problems regarding drainage on this site, which had been a problem in the past. If this is not satisfactorily overcome it could result in the flooding of properties along Shute Lane. Mrs Turner said that this matter would be dealt with in the feasibility study. As a number of sites had been considered and rejected in the recent past, the PC agreed in principle that it was happy with the site providing the problems regarding drainage were highlighted.

The Chairman reported that he had attended the Joint Strategy Day for Mendip and South Somerset District Councils held on 25<sup>th</sup> September and debriefed matters of interest to the PC.

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

The Chairman reported on the current financial position. He also said that a request had been received to hold a Humanist Funeral in the Village Hall on Friday for one hour. It was agreed that there was no objection.

#### **11. Correspondence**

Somerton & Langport Ladies FC regarding funding. The PC felt that it could not assist in this respect.

The Chairman said that the Remembrance Sunday Service was on 11<sup>th</sup> November and the PCC wondered if the PC would like to produce a wreath on behalf of the Parish. The PC felt that the current arrangement was satisfactory.

SSDC: Dog Waste Bin Sponsorship Scheme: The Chairman said Long Sutton has two bins and would like to participate in the scheme.

SCC: Re Foot & Mouth Outbreak.

SCC: HGV Pinch Point Consultation. This requests a list of any places on the roads in our area which are impassable by HGVs without causing damage or endangering lives. Mr Ellerbeck agreed to consider the matter.

SSDC Streetscene Services: Withdrawal of of Non Strategic Bring Banks. The Chairman reported that the Recycling Banks had already been removed from the Hall and he proposed registering a complaint in respect of the lack of notice which was given.

Ramblers Association: Rights of Way Issues in Somerset. Re Consultation paper recently sent to PCs by SCC to prioritise rights of way as either priority 1, 2 or 3 depending on use. This was passed to Mr. Jones.

Neighbourhood Watch: Mrs Turner said that she had received a calendar and competition although she was no longer the Co-ordinator. This matter will be discussed further at the next PC meeting.

SSDC Re Bearley Farm Festival: The PC's letter regarding noise complaints has been noted.

**12. Date of next meeting** – 6<sup>th</sup> November 2007. Mr. Greenfield gave apologies for the next two meetings due to work commitments.

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

Mrs Turner reported the sad death of Mr. John Shire who had been a valued member of the Parish Council. She said that he had done a lot of good work for the Parish over the years and would be sadly missed. She was asked by the Chairman to send a card to Mrs Shirley Shire on behalf of the PC.

It was reported that damage has been caused to the road from Bineham to the A372 due to a vehicle going off the road.

Miss Jukes reported on the very good SALC AGM which she had attended on 29<sup>th</sup> September.

Mr. Jones asked permission to organise a Parish Walk on the weekend of the May Day Bank Holiday (3 – 5 May 2008) to introduce members of the public to footpaths in the area.

Best Rural Retailer Competition: The Chairman said that he would write in support of the Village Shop.

Nippy Bus: The Chairman reported that he had been in contact with Gary Parsons of County Hall regarding a service for LS.

The Chairman said that he and Mr. Willoughby would investigate the various matters in the Parish which had been raised during the meeting, to include the flooding in Shute Lane, failed Street Lights and the damage to the public litter bin.

#### **14. Correspondence with Hedleys Solicitors**

Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 it was proposed by Mrs. Turner, seconded Mr. Greenfield 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 Ellerbeck, seconded Miss Jukes and unanimously **resolved** by the Parish Council:

That if Mr. Taylor of Farringdon House does not accept the present offer that has been made by the 16<sup>th</sup> October, the Parish Council instruct Hedleys to enter into no further correspondence with him and the matter is considered closed by the Parish Council. In that event, any further communication the Parish Council receives from Mr. Taylor of Farringdon House is met with an acknowledgement only by the Clerk.

**(Subsequent to the meeting the deadline of 16<sup>th</sup> October has been met and the two Solicitors involved have been in touch with each other. As a result discussions continue.)**

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm