



LONG SUTTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the parish council held on Tuesday 5th November 2024 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors Cox (Chairman), Rousell (Vice Chairman), Greenfield, Pritchard, Rickards & Tulk. Cllr Ward joined remotely in a non-voting capacity.

Members of the Public: 9

Somerset Councillors: Cllr Page sent apologies.

The meeting started at 7.30pm.

The chairman began by welcoming the new clerk, Gilly Lowe, and councillors present introduced themselves.

Public Questions and Observations

Somerset Councillors Report

There was no report in the absence of both councillors.

Public questions

Matters raised during the open session included the continuing problem of dogs fouling the recreation ground, the felling of trees in Knole and a comment about residents clearing out streams in front of their properties.

In response, the Chairman confirmed that signs about keeping dogs on leads will be going up soon – a total ban is hard to police, but the situation will be closely monitored. Tree felling information is for notification only, but members of the public can make the planning department aware of their dissatisfaction online. However, there is little that the parish council can do.

Public session closed at 7.45pm & meeting opened at 7.45pm

24/100: Apologies for absence (LGA 1972 s85(1)).

To receive and approve apologies for absence.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Weilgus and Coombes.

24/101: Declarations of Interest.

Members to declare any interests, including disclosable pecuniary interests they may have in agenda items that accord with the requirements of the Parish Council's Code of Conduct and to



consider any written requests for dispensations that accord with the Localism Act 2011 s33 (b-e) (this does not preclude any later declaration).

There were no declarations of interest.

24/102: Minutes of the last meeting held on 1st October 2024 (LGA 1972sch12 para 41(1)).

To receive and approve the [minutes of the meeting](#) held on 1st October 2024 as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

The minutes had not been circulated to all members due to the clerk's holiday leave.

It was RESOLVED to defer this item to the next meeting.

24/103: Planning applications. Planning applications can be viewed on the Somerset Council website.

a. **Planning application: 24/02395/TCA.** Notification of intent to carry out tree surgery works to No.2 trees within a conservation area. Orchard Cottage, Knole, Long Sutton TA10 9HY. Notification only.

Members noted the details.

Planning application: 24/01977/FUL. Extension to existing agricultural storage building used for the storage of beekeeping equipment. Somerset Beekeepers, Downslade Lane, Long Sutton, TA10 9NY.

NR summarised that this is simple 50% increase of one of the storage sheds which sits amongst other development. Members had no objections to this application.

Planning application: 24/01928/COU. Change of use to allow for the adjacent farm shop to extend into unit 6 to allow for a café and kitchen area. Bridge Barns, Unit 6 Langport Road, Long Sutton, TA10 9PZ.

The applicants were present at the meeting and summarised briefly the details of their plans. NR confirmed that it was a straightforward Change of Use (COU) and members were unanimous in their support, adding that it will be a great asset to the village.

Planning application: 24/02527/TCA. Notification of intent to carry out Tree Surgery works to No.4 Trees within a conservation area. Orchard Farm, Knole, TA10 9HY.

Members noted the details.

b. Update on any existing planning applications.

The clerk provided some additional information which she had previously circulated. No amended application details are formally ready for official comment, so members were urged to consider the information in preparation for further discussion at the next meeting.

A decision notice (22/03261/FUL) Hodgehay, Langport Road, Long Sutton dating back to 2022 has now been granted with conditions (28/10/24).



24/104: Somerset Council - Enhanced Highways Maintenance Scheme Pilot.

Somerset Council have launched an Enhanced Highways Maintenance Pilot Scheme. To consider the scope of works provided by this scheme, and to decide how to engage.

The clerk summarised the scheme - Somerset Council are instructing their contractors, Keir, to undertake various works such as gully clearing, line painting, sign cleaning etc. at a day rate of £700 per day to include operatives, traffic lights etc. Approximately 60 gullies can be cleared in a day – Long Sutton has about 300 in total in the parish. The clerk has arranged a meeting with the Keir representative & will report further at the next meeting.

During discussions, the importance of jetting the drains was stressed as well as an accurate map of the location of gullies. These details amongst others will be clarified at the meeting with the Keir representative.

a. To discuss blocked gulleys reported within the parish, not addressed by Somerset Council. The clerk requested that specific locations of known blocked gullies would be very useful & the Chairman suggested asking residents via social media & the newsletter to report them. JR said using the What 3 Words app is useful to pinpoint an exact point.

24/105: Knole Flooding

**The Chairman used Standing Order 1(a) to move the agenda item forward to allow for public discussion.*

To receive a short verbal update regarding the flooding recently in Knole. To discuss progress of the flooding action group in Knole. To discuss the challenges, and liabilities, (pipe and pond), and to decide upon any next steps.

The assembled residents from Knole provided a summary of the flooding issues they are facing, and the remedial measures they are investigating with reports from engineers & surveyors. These surveys must be carried out in the first instance in order to apply for grants from the SRA (Somerset Rivers Authority) and also the National Lottery, and they asked for a contribution from the parish council to help with the investigative costs.

The Chairman thanked them for the summary and asked members for any comments. Most members felt that parish council funds need to be used wisely and proportionately as it is not a grant-giving body, but providing a seedcorn for specific projects can be considered. The Chairman proposed an amount of £600 for the surveying of the mill stream bridges which was agreed. However, it was made clear that no further contribution would be given until the issue of flooding throughout the village is considered as a whole. Mr Minogue offered to provide a brief synopsis of their specific plans & thanked the council for their contribution.

a. To discuss payment of an invoice for Gown Engineers, for a site visit, feedback and proposed methodology.

The Chairman proposed payment of the invoice previously agreed & all members present approved the payment.



24/106: Village Hall and Recreation Ground

- a. To receive a short verbal report from the last Management Committee meeting.

RC confirmed that the next committee meeting is the following week, so not much to report apart from the recent redecoration in various rooms costing £3k.

24/107: Pavilion Refurbishment

To receive an update regarding the pavilion refurbishment.

RC said that there was nothing specific to report on – plans are still being considered particularly with regard to what works the parish council can carry out and therefore reclaim VAT. He will have more to report in the New Year.

24/108: Environment Group

- a. To receive an update from the Environment Group.

GR reported that there is ongoing work with the school about owls which will include owl box building in January.

- b. To discuss the parish council land at Ilchester Lane. To receive a budget from the Environment Group to support the enhancement of this area, to discuss and to decide upon next actions.

GR continued to report that she had also met with a charity who find work for adults with learning difficulties & they are happy to help with the parish land. The Environment Group had largely agreed with the Bumblebee Trust about assessing what is there for the first couple of years, before doing too much work.

RC asked if they planned to plant trees & summarised the England Woodland Creation offer. He also asked if they would cut hay later in the season? GR confirmed that everything is being considered and different sections could be used differently. A woodland section would be good, and they would also like to reinstate the hedgerow. The Footpath Volunteers have offered to install a gate free of charge at the entry point off Ilchester Lane.

24/109: Village Green

- a. To discuss the maintenance of the village green, in particular the wildflower area. To discuss 'no mow May' and maintaining visibility when turning onto Martock Road from the village green.

RC confirmed that the Lengthsman will be cutting back weeds on the village green on his next visit. TT said that he wasn't against 'no-mow May' but felt that the village should look tidy. JP said that she was concerned about the lack of visibility when turning onto the Martock Road, but otherwise supported the scheme. JG said that a sign explaining that the grass was left uncut for a reason would be helpful. Several councillors had received varying feedback from residents about the untidy nature of the lower end of the Village Green. GR said that it was about trying to make a statement & encourage people to think differently & have 'untidy' gardens for greater bio-diversity.



The Chairman proposed some middle ground to satisfy both positive and negative feedback. The principle of 'no-mow' May could be used as a guide, with strips left for wildlife and the grass tended to a certain length to encourage wildlife. Members agreed with this proposal and also that signage should inform residents to that effect.

b. To discuss a request received to site a red telephone kiosk on the village green, which would house a defibrillator.

JP reported that as part of the centenary celebrations, the WI were considering one of a possible 3 items as a legacy. The next WI meeting is the following week, and she will report further at the next parish council meeting.

It was RESOLVED to defer this item to the next meeting. It was noted that the council is supportive of the WI's aspirations for legacy projects as part of their centenary celebrations & look forward to hearing how they will positively impact the village.

24/110: Communication: website and e-newsletter

a. To agree the priorities for the November newsletter. Members agreed that the next newsletter should include the following matters:

Gullies & flooding around the parish including Knole; an update from the Environment Group; WI legacy news; dogs on leads; intro about the new clerk; reminder of grant policy applications especially timing.

b. Actions for consideration and approval.

GR to provide Environment Group news item; JP the same from WI.

24/111: To review the Community Grant Funding Policy.

The Community Grant Funding awarding policy can be found on the parish council website. This item was deferred from the October meeting. The only change is the new logo.

It was RESOLVED to adopt the reviewed policy.

24/112: Finance

a. To approve the accounts for payment in November 2024.

It was RESOLVED to approve the accounts for payment for November 2024.

b. To view and approve the bank reconciliation to 30th September 2024.

It was RESOLVED to approve the bank reconciliations to 30th September 2024 as circulated.

c. To note and approve the spend to budget to 30th September 2024.

It was RESOLVED to agree the spend to budget to 30th September 2024 as circulated.



The clerk further confirmed that the balance of the Tesco's grant for the playground had been received and a notification of CIL funds for £1309.72.

24/113: Representative reports from councillors.

- a. Community Safety (including the monthly crime statistics from Police.uk and the Speed Indicator Device). To discuss the request received regarding a pedestrian crossing.

NR confirmed that the SID (Speed Indicator Device) is back in the village & is sited in the area where a pedestrian crossing has been requested to ascertain speeding data.

The recent crime report listed only one incidence in the village.

The 30mph signs throughout the village are overgrown & RC confirmed that these will be dealt with together with the hedge by the Village Hall car park by Tim Cox.

- c. Lengthsman. To receive a short verbal report of works undertaken in the parish.

RC confirmed that the lengthsman will be installing timber around the ground level of the tennis court. He asked for approval to purchase the required 35 lengths of 4m timbers & bolts at a cost of approximately £440.

It was RESOLVED to approve the purchase of the necessary materials.

- d. Highways and Footpaths. To receive an update about any planned or completed works.

JP repeated the offer from the Footpath Volunteers group to provide a gate into the Community Field from Ilchester Lane. The clerk also confirmed receipt of the recent invoice from the PPLO (Parish Pathways Liaison Officer).

24/114: Other correspondence not previously distributed.

None from the clerk.

AOB - Councillors Comments

JP confirmed that the WI will be hosting a podcast on 21st November 'Lost Lady Society'. The Ho-down has been postponed to 2025 as there was insufficient take up.

On behalf of the council the Chairman thanked the clerk for her excellent service over almost 6 years, and asked if she would attend the Community Coffee morning on Saturday 6th December as the village would like to present her with a gift to show their appreciation.

24/115: Date of next meeting.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on **Tuesday 3rd December 2024, at 7.30pm in the Committee Room of the Village Hall.**



24/116: Agenda items for the next meeting.

Risk register.

Press and Media Policy with additional section covering social media.

Complaints policy to be reviewed.

Meeting closed 9.33pm

END OF MINUTES