

LONG SUTTON & WELL PARISH COUNCIL – MID YEAR UPDATE - AUGUST 2025

OVERVIEW

I hope that you all are enjoying what has become a very pleasant summer overall. A little later than usual I thought it helpful nonetheless to provide an update of the key issues we are managing by your Parish Council(PC) on your behalf combined with a few updates on more general matters.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND ISSUES

- **Wingate/Big Meadow** – this remains a challenging issue and whilst it was thought that this would be resolved at the beginning of this year it still persists. Hart DC provided an offer in January to Allsop (a property management agency operating on behalf of the receiver) in order to move forward with resolution of Big Meadow which covered the outstanding issues. These included non-payment of Section 106 monies (this is a mandatory contribution by the developer on occupation of the third dwelling to support affordable housing which was unpaid by ME Land Limited now dissolved) which resulted in HDC achieving a High Court injunction preventing the sale of the fifth property on Wingate Meadow. Additionally, there were concerns with respect to, but not limited to, the approved landscaping of the public open space and the inadequacies of the sewage and drainage system. This offer was refused by the then receiver which has recently changed to Pace Limited (following sale of the debt) but represented still by Allsop. To note, that despite recent requests for Allsop to engage with your PC these overtures have been ignored.

Your PC has been made aware by Hart DC that a further offer to resolve the Big Meadow situation was made at the end of July by Allsop on behalf of Pace Limited. In response, and subsequent to the recent PC meeting, a request was made by your PC to Hart DC for an urgent face to face meeting at senior level in order to move the Big Meadow issue forward. This was agreed with some urgency and a joint meeting with Hart DC, including the Executive Director, Corporate Services, senior planning enforcement officer and our District Councillors was held on 4 August. With a focus on all community interests and concerns expressed to your PC, these were fully represented to Hart DC resulting in a very constructive dialogue. Hart DC is now moving forward with a further offer to Pace Limited with the intent of resolving the issue and we await the outcome. Your PC will update you further once information is received.

- **Proposed Solar Farm** – Councillor Bright produced another very well-considered objection response, on behalf of the PC, to the Solar Farm proposal with respect to the mobilisation, and most especially the cable routing, supporting the Solar Farm. As a PC we are very aware of the disappointment surrounding the granting of the Solar Farm application and the very likely huge disruption over 47 weeks, not least concerning traffic levels through our village we will suffer as a community should the current planning application be approved. As a PC we are very grateful to those who took the time to support your PC's objections with your own comments which we

hope all combined will have an effect. We are monitoring closely the progress of this further application, and we will again provide an update when we have one.

HIGHWAYS, VILLAGE MAINTENANCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- **Village Pond** – a thank you indeed to Richard Nicholls for leading the charge to renovate our Village Pond (with some considerable work carried out on his own using his own resources) for the support from Topsoil, Councillor Mark Bartlett and also to all of you who joined the pond working party.

Unfortunately, the sad state of the pond was primarily the result of a combination of the sediment draining from Big Meadow causing blockage of the silt traps (now resolved) and the recent drought conditions. However, the considerable efforts of all have gone a long way to resolving the pond to its former glory albeit there is still work to be completed yet.

- **Traffic speed through the Village** – this issue continues to be a challenge particularly for those living directly on The Street. Building on the traffic measures we have in place (not least the 2 x SIDs managed by Councillor Hamilton) your PC is now looking closely at whether a 20mph zone is a viable proposition. To that end, the PC has commissioned a formal report which will assess benefits or otherwise of such an option which includes its likely acceptance by Hampshire Highways. Once received, and if the report considers that a 20mph zone is viable (which is not guaranteed) then your PC will be seeking Community Engagement prior to taking the project forward. If community supported the PC will seek to establish a Traffic Management Working Group using volunteers from the community to develop the way forward i.e. appropriate speeding deterrents. A Traffic Management Proposal will then be submitted to Hampshire Highways for consideration with an associated fee of circa. £150. A 20mph zone is of note an expensive option (circa. £10,000) and thus your PC will ask that other methods of traffic calming be considered by the proposed Traffic Management Working Group other than a 20mph zone. One fundamental consideration is, the 20mph zone is not ‘policed’ the morality of drivers will still be required. More to follow on this later this year.
- **Footpaths** - there have again been very few footpath matters reported given the very dry summer. As always, Councillor Hamilton welcomes any footpath reports (frazer.hamilton@longsutton.com) you may wish to make such that he will do his best to resolve. Equally, when on your walks if you have with you a pair of secateurs and you can rectify any brambles or similar around, for example, kissing gates then he will be grateful.

RECREATION GROUND

- **The Pavilion** – the Pavilion continues to be in need of regular repairs, and this year has been no exception, with significant monies spent. Your PC will continue to support the Pavilion whilst as a community you wish this to continue.

- **The Playground** - following the annual safety report carried out in May 2025 by ROSPA Play Safety the PC have approved repairs in the sum of £3,212.58. These repairs are required to ensure the ongoing safety of the playground equipment and flooring. The value of repairs -v- decommissioning is always considered prior to approval.
- **Odiham & Greywell Cricket Club (OGCC)** – most will be aware that OGCC play cricket matches on the Recreation Ground during the summer months. Their agreement to do so with your PC expires this September. To that end, your PC has determined that subject to the agreement of terms of conditions this arrangement will continue.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS IN SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNITY

As a general illustration for your information of where public monies are spent (as approved by your PC approved at the last PC meeting) these were as follows:

SID repair

Westcotec Limited Assessment Charge & Carriage for SID repair - £120.00

Pavilion repairs

Repair to Pavilion Kitchen - £48.97

Pavilion Slabs & Support Replacement - £500.00

Pond remediation

DIY Aggregates Limited 3 Lorry Muck Aways (1 FOC) - £ 1,080.00

Volunteer Day Materials - £145.38

The PC approved a further 2 x Muck Aways at the end of July meeting - £1,080.00

The PC approved further materials for 2nd Volunteer Day - £75.00

FINAL REMARKS

As your PC, and as unpaid volunteers, we will continue to do our very best on your behalf, and we look forward to your continued support and interventions. Not least, do express your concerns and/or your points of view when you have them and where we can help, as a PC, we will certainly do so. To that end, do please attend the PC meetings when you can when you will see and hear first hand matters important to you all under discussion. The next PC meeting is on Thursday 25 Sep, starting at 7.30 pm. You will be very welcome if you can make it.

With good wishes as ever for a continuing good summer,

Jim

Jim Goodbourn, Chairman

On behalf of Long Sutton & Well Parish Council