

# MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LONG SUTTON & WELL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 30 JANUARY 2025

**Members:** Cllrs Jim Goodbourn (Chair)(JG), Roger Bright(RB) and Sean Knight(SK).

**In Attendance:** Susan Richardson, Clerk & RFO, 6 Members of the Public

<b>55/24</b>	<b>APOLOGIES</b> Apologies were received from LS&WPC Cllrs Mark Bartlett & Frazer Hamilton, HCC Cllr Jonathan Glen, HDC Cllrs Stephen Highley & Chris Dorn.
<b>56/24</b>	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATIONS UNDER s33 OF THE LOCALISM ACT 2011</b> There were no declarations of interest.
<b>57/24</b>	<b>PUBLIC SESSION</b> - Members of the Public in attendance raised the following matters/areas of concern (i) <u>Big Meadow</u> - JG confirmed that the PC had received an update from HDC who confirm that they have held a couple of meetings with Allsop since January. There has been some advancement. An 'offer' in terms of the S106 money made only this week is being evaluated before wider consideration. A major consideration for the PC and its residents is a revised proposal for reprofiling the soil on the site. The PC will reach out to Allsop requesting a meeting to understand the proposed landscaping revision prior to them applying for a variation of the planning permission to be submitted and formally considered. (ii) <u>Solar Farm</u> - JG confirmed that the PC have been granted an extension to comment on the revised planning application. A note had been circulated to residents highlighting the opportunity to register their comments on the revised planning application. The PC are due to vote on their response later on the Agenda. (iii) <u>Traffic</u> - Traffic volumes and speed through the village remains a concern. Some drivers, especially those encountered during school drop off times, are driving aggressively with some incidents of RTA being narrowly missed. JG agreed to raise the issue with LWC's COO asking for a reminder to be sent to parents requesting appropriate driving behaviour through the village.
<b>58/24</b>	<b>ROUTINE BUSINESS &amp; ADMINISTRATION</b>
(a)	<u>Ratification of Minutes</u> - Minutes from the PC meeting held on the 28 <sup>th</sup> November 2025 were unanimously APPROVED.
(b)	<u>HCC Devolution</u> - HCC voted (88% majority) in favour of applying to join the Labour Government's 'Devolution Priority Programme'. The driving factor for inclusion in the programme is financial, as HCC is significantly in debt which is unsustainable. The debt has arisen due to the considerable increase in requirement for adult social care and children's services which account for 85% of total budget spend. The remaining 15% must cover all other services. If HCC take no action, the likelihood is that the Council would have to declare insolvency. All district and borough councils will be disbanded, along with the County Council; replaced with a large unitary entity but town and parish councils would remain untouched. However, services currently by the districts and borough would have to be redistributed either to the unitary body or to the relevant town or parish council. The plan for devolution sets out two requirements (i) election of a mayor who would have more power than both local councillors and MPs (ii) set up a combined authority which would mean merging all county's councils (Hampshire & Solent. HCC is committed to the creation of a combined authority across the wider region incorporating Isle of Wight Council, Portsmouth Council and Southampton City Council. Whilst Portsmouth and Southampton were in support the Isle of Wight rejected the proposal.
(c)	<u>National Insurance 2025</u> - Following the Government's announcement that the tax free employer band for NI is reducing to £5,000 per employee (currently £9,100) the PC will be liable for the NI on the Clerk's salary over £5,000. The Clerk confirmed that she has registered the PC in preparation for the 1 <sup>st</sup> of April 2025 requirements.

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59/24	<b>PROPOSALS &amp; RESOLUTIONS</b>												
(a)	<u>2025/26 Budget</u> - Discussion took place around the draft Budget as presented. JG Proposed a budget of £21,908.00 for the year 2025/26, RG Seconded the Proposal. It was unanimously RESOLVED. (Appendix One).												
(b)	<u>2025/26 Precept Demand</u> - JG Proposed a Precept Demand for 2025/26 in the sum of £26,709.12. RG Seconded the Proposal, it was unanimously RESOLVED.												
60/24	<b>FINANCE</b>												
(a)	<u>Payments &amp; Receipts as listed were unanimously APPROVED</u>												
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	<table><tr><td>Westcotec Limited</td><td>SID</td><td>4,677.60</td></tr><tr><td>Mark Bartlett</td><td>Christmas Tree Ceremony Refreshments</td><td>114.80</td></tr><tr><td>SSE Energy</td><td>Electricity Pavilion 7/8 to 6/11</td><td>409.19</td></tr><tr><td>ICO</td><td>Annual GDPR Certification</td><td>35.00</td></tr></table>	Westcotec Limited	SID	4,677.60	Mark Bartlett	Christmas Tree Ceremony Refreshments	114.80	SSE Energy	Electricity Pavilion 7/8 to 6/11	409.19	ICO	Annual GDPR Certification	35.00
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61/24	<b>PLANNING</b>												
(a)	<b>Review &amp; Agree responses to current planning applications;</b> (i) <b>24/02358/HOU Stavanger House, Lord Wandsworth College</b> for extension to the existing garage and annexe building. The PC had offered no comment. (ii) <b>24/02478/FUL Junior House, Lord Wandsworth College</b> for external alterations to this listed building, <u>North Elevation</u> ; installation of black painted metal staircase, removal of window grilles at ground level, replacement of existing window at first floor with a fire escape door. <u>South Elevation</u> ; replacement of existing window at first floor with a fire escape door. Installation of No. 1 black painted metal staircase and relocation of an existing metal canopy, formation of doorway at ground floor level. <u>West Elevation</u> ; removal of an existing metal staircase and fire escape door, installation of a black painted metal Juliette balcony, insertion of new timber framed window at ground floor. <u>North Elevation</u> ; removal of an existing canopy over external play area. Comments invited by 28 January 2025. It was AGREED to offer no PC comment (iii) <b>23/02591/FUL Land at White Hill</b> for installation of a 47.5 MW(AC) capacity ground mounted solar photovoltaic farm, new access and associated ancillary works. The application has been ‘amended’ comments on which are invited by 29 January. The PC have been granted a 7-day extension to comment. It was AGREED to offer an objection to the revised planning application. <b>Post Meeting Note:</b> The PC objection can be read in full in Appendix Two of these minutes. (iv) <b>25/00023/HOU Chequers Cottage, Well</b> for demolition of workshop and erection of enclosed carport. Comments invited by 4 February 2025. It was AGREED to offer no objection.												
(b)	<b>Other Planning Matters;</b>												
(i)	<u>Big Meadow</u> - Despite much discussion within Public Participation the PC formally AGREED to reach out to Allsop in order to set up a meeting directly to aid understanding of any revised plans and long-term management.												
62/24	<b>RECREATION GROUND &amp; PAVILION</b>												
(i)	<u>Weekly Inspections</u> – SK reported evidence of further damage to several slabs at the pavilion. The damage is difficult to consider as ‘accidental damage’. It was AGREED to ask the lengthsman to quote for replacement during his next visit before the cricket season.												

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<p><b>63/24</b> (a)</p>	<p><b>HIGHWAYS, SID &amp; PARISH LENGTHSMAN</b></p> <p>(i) <u>HCC Highways Update</u> - Since the meeting between HCC Highways and Cllr Mark Bartlett on the March 2023 the PC continues to press HCC regarding the works discussed and agreed. In response to PC chasing HCC response, in an email on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024, as follows:</p> <p><i>“In HCC’s email to the PC following the onsite meeting HCC stated that they would ask that Hayley Lane be included within a Countrywide programme of road marking. The funding for this programme of work is cash limited with County Council’s primary focus being on the classified road network (A, B and C class roads). Unfortunately, the volume of work required on the A and B road network during 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial year has meant that to date HCC have been unable to refresh road markings on Hayley Lane. Hayley Lane does however remain on HCC’s road marking refurbishment list, and as soon as priorities allow the work will be undertaken.</i></p> <p><i>The suggested red coloured pads around the SLOW road markings would now only likely be installed as part of a Community Funded Initiative. I am informed that there is a waiting list for this scheme.”</i></p> <p>Potholes should continue to be reported repeatedly via FixMyStreet. (ii) <u>SID</u> - FH provide data extracted from the SID which shows the volume of traffic coming into the village between 14<sup>th</sup> November 2024 and 21<sup>st</sup> January 2025 to be just over 57,000. The average speed at the SID is less than 35MPH although 85% is 39MPH. (iii) <u>Lengthsman</u> - the lengthsman will be booked in March to undertake identified works.</p>
<p><b>64/24</b></p>	<p><b>FOOTPATH WARDEN REPORT</b> - No issues reported.</p>
<p><b>65/24</b></p>	<p><b>LWC &amp; OGCC LIAISON REPORT</b> - (a) JG will reach out to Baz Bennett, LWC’s COO to set up a meeting for himself and the Clerk before the end of March. (b) The Clerk reached out to OGCC in early January to find a way forward regarding the unauthorised water meter installation within the cricket pavilion. A compromise has been reached, and she will continue to work with Nick Bryant, the Chairman of OGCC, to achieve a mutually satisfactory outcome ahead of the 2025 season.</p>
<p><b>66/24</b></p>	<p><b>LSPS LIAISON REPORT</b> - None</p>
<p><b>67/24</b> (i)</p>	<p><b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b></p> <p><u>Pavilion Insurance Claim</u> – The Clerk advised that since criminal damage sustained at the cricket pavilion at the end of June 2024 HISCOX have only just issued a settlement offer of £2,736.48; £2,406.50 for a new kitchen, £76.62 key safe, new toilet £338, Foam &amp; Water extinguishers £165.34 minus an excess of £250. The assessor appointed by HISCOX who visit in December confirmed that the kitchen could not be repaired due to the broken carcasses. The PC had claimed £6,016.25 for the kitchen alone. The Clerk suggested that the PC reject this offer allowing further negotiation to be attempted.</p>
<p><b>68/24</b></p>	<p><b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b> is confirmed as Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025 @ 7.30 p.m. in Long Sutton Village Hall.</p>

Meeting Closed at 21.09

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**APPENDIX ONE – Agenda Item 59/24(a)**

**LONG SUTTON & WELL PARISH COUNCIL 2025/26  
APPROVED BUDGET**

	£
Precept	26,709.12
Bank Interest	75.00
V.A.T. Claim	1,500.00
Grants	
OGCC	2,044.00
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>30,328.12</b>
Net Salary	7,098.00
Clerk's Expenses	250.00
Chairman's Allowance	150.00
Hall Hire	200.00
Audit Expenses (Internal & External)	500.00
Administration Costs	600.00
Insurance	1,900.00
Subscriptions (HALC, SLCC)	290.00
Website	220.00
Grants & Donations	500.00
Section 137	50.00
Training Courses	250.00
Repairs & Maintenance	2,000.00
Playing Fields & Pavilion Maintenance	3,500.00
Playground	2,000.00
Miscellaneous	900.00
V.A.T.	1,500.00
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>21,908.00</b>

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## **APPENDIX TWO - Agenda Item 61/24(a)(iii)**

### **PLANNING APPLICATION 23/0591/FUL (Revised version, December 2024): FLEET SOLAR FARM -LAND AT WHITE HILL, WELL, HOOK**

Long Sutton & Well Parish Council (LS&WPC) is a statutory consultee for the above planning application, the bulk of which sits within the boundary of the parish. LS&WPC registered a strong objection to the original planning application in February 2024.

Notwithstanding both changes of emphasis in central government policy on renewable energy, and also the amendments to the original proposal now proposed in this revised application, the Parish Council considers that its fundamental and reasoned objections to the scheme are still valid and that the harms associated with the proposal still outweigh to a significant degree any benefits which may be claimed for it. LS&WPC therefore wish to register a strong objection to this revised application.

#### **Central Government and Hart DC's policy on renewable energy**

As we indicated in our response to the earlier application, LS&WPC fully recognises the importance of renewable energy in the current climate emergency, and is not opposed in principle to well-designed installations which are sensitive to their surroundings and settings, and which respect the local environment and the local community. That remains our position, and we also acknowledge that certain aspects of the original scheme have been modified at the margins in an attempt to meet specific objections to some of its features; nevertheless, we continue to believe that this is fundamentally "the wrong scheme in the wrong place".

We recognise and understand the increased importance that the current government attaches to renewable energy, reflected in amendments to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which strengthen the importance which planning authorities are asked to attach to climate change when considering planning applications. But the planning guidance which underpins the NPPF, which states clearly that the need for renewable energy does not automatically override environmental protections, is still extant. So too is Hart's Local Plan (in particular policy NBE10 – Renewable and Low Carbon Energy), which stresses the importance of considering the impact of a proposed renewable energy scheme on heritage assets, on high grade agricultural land, on residential amenity and "the cumulative landscape and visual impacts of the development".

These considerations surely remain valid as matters to be taken into account, while acknowledging the increased importance attached to renewable energy capacity. Indeed, we note that another planning authority, Newark and Sherwood District Council, have been prepared as recently as January this year to refuse a solar farm application "on the basis of loss of best and most versatile agricultural land, industrialisation/cumulative impact of solar in the landscape and adverse impact on heritage assets" – considerations which are relevant to planning application 23/02591/FUL.

#### **Planning Application 23/02591/FUL – Original and Revised versions**

In our objection to the original application we cited the following concerns:

- proximity to the already-consented Chosley Farm solar farm, only a kilometre away from this installation and thus cumulative impact on the landscape;
- adverse impact on "a pleasing rural landscape";
- adverse impact on an ancient settlement with 32 listed buildings and 2 conservation areas;
- loss of a substantial area of good quality arable agricultural land;

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- delivery by a Special Purpose Vehicle which could evade its liability to decommission and restore the land at the end of the life of the scheme;
- adverse impact on the various footpaths (public rights of way) which criss-cross the development; and
- adverse impact on habitat and biodiversity.

We consider these concerns remain substantially still valid and applicable to this revised application. While we acknowledge that the revised application removes some small sections of the solar panel arrays adjacent to some (but by no means all) of the public rights of way, it offsets those reductions with a compensating increase in the array north of Wood Hill Lane, thus increasing the proximity of that array to the residential properties at The Oasts. And while the overall footprint of the scheme has been reduced by 11 hectares, a significant part of the reduction is to the remote array adjacent to Ford Lane (in response to DIO/MOD concerns on behalf of RAF Odiham) which does little or nothing to mitigate the impact on the environment surrounding Long Sutton. And while we note that increased tree and hedgerow planting is proposed to screen the visibility of the arrays from the village, the rate of growth is such that it will be many years before such measures provide effective screening.

We are also concerned that if, despite this and the many other objections, the application is approved, the construction process will give rise to significant and protracted heavy traffic on narrow lanes already subject to heavy regular traffic generated by the village's two schools.

In conclusion, we would draw attention to the comment of Hart DC's Interim Senior Conservation Officer on the original application in May 2024:

"It is considered that the introduction of the solar farm as proposed will dramatically change the character and appearance of the landscape surrounding the village. Whilst potentially a reversible feature, in reality it will be long term or even permanent. The solar panels, fencing, pole mounted cameras and additional infrastructure required to run and maintain the establishment will introduce an urbanising feature in the existing open rural landscape surrounding the village".

LS&WPC agrees with this summary and considers it remains as valid a comment on the revised application as on the original. We do not consider that the proposed changes to the original planning application remove our fundamental concerns about this proposed scheme, which we believe remain as pertinent and applicable to this revised application. It remains in our view "the wrong scheme in the wrong place". We therefore urge Hart DC to refuse this application.