

**Minutes of the North Curry Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on  
Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2017 at 7.30 p.m.**

**Present:** Mrs C D Stodgell (Chairman), Mr A Turner, Mr G Cable, Mr D Akerman, Mrs C Vaughan, Miss E Turney and Ms C Smith.

**Members of the Public:** Mr A Meehan, Mr A Oldfield, Mr R Payne and Cllr. D Fothergill.

1. **APOLOGIES:** Cllr. P Stone, Ms M Carter, Mrs J Leader, Mr B Jeanes, Mr I Fugett and Mrs M Burt.
2. **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2017** – Mr Akerman proposed the Minutes were a true record of the meeting, Mrs Vaughan seconded the proposal, which was passed.
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – None
4. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS** – None.
5. **MATTERS ARISING – Policing matters** – Corr. A5952 PCSO Escott re. Road Safety events – The Clerk was still waiting to hear from the PCSO re. the possibility of a road safety talk for the APM. Other ideas for the APM were invited. Corr. B5974 G. Townrow re. break-ins was noted. **Speed Watch** – Mr Akerman reported data from speedwatch would ultimately go on a viewable database. Training had been undertaken but accreditation of sites was still awaited. **BT Phone Box** – Nothing to report. **House Plaques** – Corr. A5953 D. Patten re. plaques was noted, a photo of the plaques was to be requested. **Overlands Footpath** – Access was now possible but the path would not be opened until a kissing gate was available for the diagonal footpath (Corr. B5968 P. Stone update re. outstanding issues referred). The Chairman proposed if the path wasn't reinstated within two weeks a strong letter would be sent to Strongvox. Mr Akerman seconded the proposal, which was passed. **Farming Newsletter Input** – Corr. B5965 M. Griffiths re. newsletter farming input referred, the Village Hall had agreed to accept farming input. Corr. A5957 D. Akerman & A. Gothard re. tractor issues and A5958 S. Mears re. tractor spreading slurry were noted. Early starts were linked to the need to access fields while frosted to reduce mud being brought onto roads. **Litter Pick** – The Clerk confirmed the litter would be collected from the Village Hall car park in the afternoon of the pick. It was agreed 12 x£3 litter pickers be ordered from Viking. **St James Court Hedge** – Mr Lander still awaited a response from TDBC re. his letter concerning the verge. **Broad Lane Surface Water Meeting** – Cllr. Stone had met Somerset County Council, further discussions were to take place re. the viability of further possible improvements. **Rural Broadband Southwest** – Corr. A5954 N. Sloan re. broadband referred. A higher capacity link should help to cover the Knapp area and possibly more. **White St. Litter Bin** – A view from Highways was awaited as the bin would be sited on the highway.
6. **APPEALS / APPLICATIONS FOR COMMENT BY N. CURRY PARISH COUNCIL**  
*Appeal PINS Ref: APP/D3315/W/16/33162999 Re. Appn. No. 24/16/0042 – Residential development of 20 No. dwellings (including 5 affordable dwellings) and provision of public open space, children's play area and allotments on land to the south of Knapp Lane, North Curry (Revised scheme to 24/16/0007) -* Corr. A5955 TDBC notification of Knapp Lane appeal referred. Mr Turner summarised previous comments on this application. It was noted that comments for this appeal should include relevant comments relating to the published SADMP (as were mentioned in comments to the previous Knapp Lane appeal) and reinforce highway issues, noting increasing traffic issues within the village and actions taken by the Parish Council. It was noted that traffic predictions per house for another development in North Curry were higher than the predictions per house for this application, this would also be raised. After full discussion Mr Turner proposed a response to the appeal be submitted along the lines discussed above, Mr Turner and the Clerk to prepare. Mr Akerman seconded the proposal, which was passed. (8.15pm Mr Meehan and Mr Oldfield left the meeting.)

*24/17/0002/LB Various external and internal alterations at Lillesdon Farm, Lillesdon Lane, North Curry (part retention of works already undertaken)* – Mr Turner explained the application. (8.25pm Cllr. Fothergill joined the meeting.) After discussion Mr Turner proposed the Parish Council support the application, commenting that they were pleased to see the owner wishing to restore the house to its original condition. The Chairman seconded the proposal, which was passed.

Mr Akerman queried whether the garage at Howards End met the specification of the approved plans, the Chairman considered it did but the plans would be checked. (8.28pm Mr Payne left the meeting.) The Chairman noted that a second Manor Farm planning appeal had been received and would be considered at the February Planning Meeting. The Chairman proposed the full Parish Council be invited to the Planning Meeting and co-opted onto the Planning Committee for that meeting. Mr Turner seconded the proposal, which was passed.

7. **TO CONSIDER RESPONSE TO PROPOSED NEW DISTRICT COUNCIL FOR TAUNTON DEANE & WEST SOMERSET – Corr. B5966 P. Stone comments re. TDBC / W. Somerset merger** were noted. Mr Turner noted that West Somerset would not gain as much money as expected from Hinkley Point due to the change in the rating system and rates not being applied until the power station was operational. Comments were also raised re. West Somerset's debt problems and the difference in terrain and associated issues between the rural and more remote West Somerset and the more residential Taunton Deane. The Chairman suggested all Parish Councillors submit responses as individuals as well as a Parish Council response. Each question was discussed with the following comments agreed: Q.1 - All were against the proposed merger. Q.2 - All considered a new single district council would not be able to provide effective and convenient services. Q.3 - No name for the council would be submitted as the merger was not supported. Q.4 – Retention of the status quo should be considered which would enable further savings to be made through joint staff arrangements without a merger. This would also give the opportunity to consider a future establishment of a suitable single tier of government for Somerset which would sit much more comfortably with the SW Region and Local enterprise Partnership. Attempting to provide most services via websites is doomed to failure when so many rural properties have no reasonable broadband access. Q.5 – A Mayor is an important part of Taunton Deane's heritage but there would be a much reduced sense of community following a merger of two Councils with little in common. Q.6 – There is a need for a Taunton Town Council which could enable Taunton residents to finance improved services without the cost falling on the rural areas. Wellington, Minehead, Bridgwater, Williton and Langport all have Town Councils and so should Taunton. Q. 7 – We are already seeing a continuing deterioration of services provided by both districts as well as other public bodies. Open space management, street cleaning, planning enforcement, environmental protection, housing provision, highways, economic development and support for community organisations are already suffering. Already in some cases Parish Councils are being asked to take on the costs or lose services. Q. 8 – Yes. It will adversely affect the ability of individuals and groups to get help with problems and issues in their communities and their own lives. We understand elected representatives will have the size of their Wards increased by at least 33% and this will reduce their effectiveness in dealing with individuals' problems. Replacing specialist officers with websites will reduce the effectiveness of services, even where people can access them. Q. 9 – Yes. The Parish Council believe in collaboration between councils in terms of sharing services and reducing costs by reducing overheads and embracing new technology where it will be effective. Taunton Deane should continue to seek such efficiencies but a merger with West Somerset is not the way forward.
8. **TO CONSIDER FINGER POST REPAIR PRIORITIES – Corr. A5956 a&b SCC Highways re. fingerposts and white lines and Corr. B5937 P. Stone comments re. fingerpost repairs** referred. After discussion Mr Akerman proposed the finger post in Church Road be tackled first as it was the most prominent, with the fingers being removed and taken to the "Men's Shed", Burrowbridge, for repair at £30 per finger, and volunteers to wire brush and paint the post. The Chairman seconded the proposal, which was passed. The Chairman

proposed a working party report on the condition of the other signs and prioritise them. Mr Cable seconded the proposal, which was passed. Mr Cable, Ms Smith and Ms Turney offered to be on the working party and it was assumed Cllr. Stone would wish to lead it (the Chairman would check with Cllr. Stone). Mr Turner offered to repaint the sign on the road at Knapp Corner. The Chairman prosed the Parish Council investigate the cost for Skanska to repair the Rockhill sign. Ms Turney seconded the proposal, which was passed. Cllr. Fothergill offered to obtain a price.

9. **TO APPROVE THE AMENDED ALLOTMENT AGREEMENT** – Mr Akerman suggested “and continuing or thereabouts” be removed from the opening paragraph and tantalisied be changed to tanalised in para. (f). The Chairman proposed that, subject to these amendments, the agreement be accepted. Mr Akerman seconded the proposal, which was passed.

10. **CORRESPONDENCE** – Corr. A5952 to A5958 covered above.

**Corr. A5959 Wessex Water re. water purchase choice** – More information was awaited.

**Corr. A5960 S. Herriman re. show and procession** – Noted.

**Corr. A5961 TD Citizenship Awards 2017** – Nominations were invited.

**Corr. A5962 C. Smith re. parking issues** - Noted. After discussion Ms Turney proposed the Parish Council put a letter through the houses along The Pavement asking them and their visitors to remember to park considerately and not near a junction or bend. Ms Smith seconded the proposal, which was passed.

**Corr. B5970 J. Parsley re. dog fouling in Knapp Lane.** Mr Cable’s suggestion for a dog bin to be installed at Knapp Lane would be an agenda item at the March meeting.

**Corr. B5975 Avian Flu information and B5956 Abdominal aortic aneurism screening info.** were noted.

11. **FINANCE – Monthly Account** – The Clerk explained the monthly account, Mr Turner proposed it be accepted, Mrs Vaughan seconded the proposal, which was passed. **Cheques/BACS Transfers – Corr. A5963 CPRE renewal** referred. The Chairman proposed the CPRE membership be renewed. Mr Akerman seconded the proposal, which was passed. Mr Akerman propose the payments approved, Ms Turney seconded the proposal, which was passed. Cheque list to be called monthly payment list in future.

<b>Cheque No</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Chq. 10034	CPRE Membership renewal	36.00
BACS Transfer	B. Wellwood - Clerk Salary	697.17

12. **COMMITTEE/DELEGATES REPORTS**

**Footpaths** – Cllr. Stone had met the new footpath warden (Tracey Sutton) who would be addressing a number of footpath issues. Cllr. Stone would attend to Widness Drove bridge steps. **Playing Fields** – Mr Turner reported new Pavilion doors would be installed at half term.

**Village Hall** – The Chairman reported there would be a St George’s Day celebration at the hall, tickets £20. The AGM would be in April and the Hall had a new cleaner. **Tree Warden** –

Nothing to report. **Road Safety** – Following a meeting with the RS Committee, Cllr. Fothergill had taken back to Highways experts comments on the proposals which included the suggestion to change a roundabout at the foot of Windmill Hill to a change of priorities to remove the need for street lighting. Further provision of a footpath along Greenway would also be raised. Cllr. Fothergill hoped to have input about all the Small Improvement Scheme suggestions by the time of the Annual Parish Meeting. **SALC** – Nothing to report. **Stable** – An electrician is to meet Ms Few re. electricity supply to the Hair Salon. **Flood Warden** – Water had been noted on the road at The Plantation after heavy rain. **White St.** – **Allotments** – Nothing to report.

13. **PUBLICITY INPUTS** – Input to cover the Annual Parish Meeting, the Manor Farm planning appeal, Aortic Aneurism screening, dog waste and a request for vehicles parked on road long term to show contact details.

14. **MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION** – Cllr. Fothergill mentioned SCC precept increases of 1.99% plus a further 2% related to adult social care. He also confirmed the funds should be released in 2017/18 to deal with the issues identified by the camera survey of the drains in North Curry. Ms Smith raised concerns about speeding traffic at Solomon’s Hollow, Mr Akerman noted the “road narrows” sign had been turned around again. He also suggested a post was need at both ends of the narrow strip not just one. Cllr. Fothergill to deal with a permanent fix for the road sign turning around. Cllr. Fothergill confirmed that white lines painted in sub-zero temperatures would be re-painted by the contractor at their cost (corr. A5956 referred).

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.52 pm**

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