

**Minutes of the North Curry Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on  
Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

**Present:** Mrs C D Stodgell (Chairman), Mr A Turner, Mr B Jeanes, Ms C Smith, Mrs C Vaughan, Cllr. P Stone, Ms E Turney, Mrs M Burt, Mr D Akerman, Mr M Dennis and Mr G Cable.

**Members of the Public:** Cllr. D Fothergill

1. **APOLOGIES:** Mrs J Leader.
2. **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2017** – Mr Jeanes proposed the Minutes were a true record of the meeting, Ms Turney seconded the proposal, which was passed.
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – None.
4. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS** – None.
5. **MATTERS ARISING – Policing matters** – the school newsletter parking reminder was noted. Mrs Burt also mentioned vans parked near the junction restricting visibility. Mr Cable suggested double yellow lines outside the school would get parking warden visits, visibility issues were a police matter. Cllr. Fothergill reported the theft of three landrovers at Burrowbridge. **NHS Health Checks** – The health check had again been fully booked, a third visit had been booked for 18<sup>th</sup> Dec. (**Corr. A6222 J. Cawley re. further NHS Health Checks** referred.) **West Lane blockage** – Mr Jeanes reported that Mr Darling was not happy for the lane to be opened up but accepted that as he did not own the lane he could not stop it, he had expressed concerns about the steep ditch on one side being a hazard for horses. He would be kept informed of any proposals. Horse stiles should impede motorbikes using the lane. **Trial recording of meetings** – The recording still did not appear to have worked. After discussion, Mr Akerman proposed the warning re. the filming of meetings be kept on the agenda but that recording equipment not be purchased but hired for contentious meetings if it was felt necessary. Mrs Burt seconded the proposal, which was passed. **Autumn litter pick – Corr. B6237 R. Hopkins re. litter collection** referred. The litter would be collected on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> Nov. **February meeting venue – Corr. B6238 Pavilion booking confirmation 14/02/18** was noted. **Sports Field Sign – Corr. A 6223 J. Sharp SCC re. Sports Field signage & A6224 J. Leader to J. Sharp re. further meeting** referred, site meeting to take place on 16<sup>th</sup> Nov. **Newsletter Input – Corr. A6225 B. Drakeford re. newsletter additions** referred. Timing would be an issue if the PC wished to submit extra information to fill up space in the newsletter. Cllrs. suggested that articles could be submitted in advance for use if required. **Overgrown hedges – Corr. A6226 J. Mullins re. Canterbury Villa hedge** – The Parish Council appreciated Mr Mullins' prompt attention to cutting back his hedge. **Loscombe Meadow Garden** – The enforcement officer hoped to visit the garden in question on 07/11 but had not reported back yet. **County Councillor Report** – Cllr. Fothergill reported the gritter lorries were active, the A358 consultation had been postponed, there was a Childrens Services consultation online, and flu vaccinations had been recommended for all due to the virulence of the strain. He also reported on drainage work due to be undertaken in the village in the New Year that would result in various road closures, full details to be in the January newsletter, and that a full pavement was back under consideration for Greenway rather than a virtual one.
6. **APPLICATIONS FOR COMMENT BY NORTH CURRY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**24/17/0055 VARIATION OF CONDITION NO. 07 (MATERIAL SPECIFICATION OF THE ACCESS AND DRIVEWAY) OF APPLICATION 24/10/0040 AT BOW HAY, LANGPORT ROAD, WRANTAGE** - Mr Turner explained the application which reflected the tarmacing of the driveway six years ago. It was noted that there was a drainage channel at the bottom of the driveway. After discussion Mr Turner proposed the Parish Council support the application. The Chairman seconded the proposal, which was passed.

7. **AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE OF PRECEPT BID FOR 2018/2019** – To be discussed after item 13.
8. **TO CONSIDER CLLR. STONE’S TRAFFIC DISCUSSION PAPER – Corr. A6227 P Stone re. traffic paper referred.** Item deferred to December to allow consultation with land owners. Mrs Vaughan mentioned an accident involving an Alvis contractor entering The Shambles in the wrong direction (**Corr. A6233 C. Vaughan & D. Akerman re. tractor accident** referred). [Cllr. Stone mentioned a possible suggestion to consider stopping parking around the monument, at least on the two inner sides.]
9. **TO CONSIDER ANNUAL PAYMENT TO NORTH CURRY VILLAGE HALL – Corr. A6228 B. Jeanes re. Village Hall annual contribution** referred. It was recalled, though not minuted at the time, that the initial agreement was to pay the grant for 5 years. After discussion Mr Jeanes proposed the grant be maintained to complete five years of payment and that enquiry be made as to what external maintenance the money has been and will be spent on. Mrs Vaughan seconded the proposal, which was passed, the Chairman abstained.
10. **TO CONSIDER JOINT FUNDED SCHEME FOR DOG WASTE BIN AT LOSCOMBE MEADOW** – Cllr. Stone suggested the Parish Council consider funding the purchase of a dog waste bin at Loscombe Meadow, with the management company covering the ongoing cost of emptying the bin. The Chairman proposed Cllr Stone approach the management company to get their views on the financing of a dog bin, possibly with some financial support from the Parish Council. Cllr. Stone seconded the proposal, which was passed.
11. **TO APPROVE AMENDMENTS TO PARA. 5 OF THE FINANCE REGULATIONS** – After reading out the previous para. 5.2 of the regs. and the proposed changes to paras. 5.2 & 5.4. (as agreed at the Finance Panel Meeting to reflect online banking) and brief discussion, Mr Jeanes proposed the Parish Council adopt the new paragraphs 5.2 & 5.4. Mr Akerman seconded the proposal, which was passed.
12. **TO CONSIDER FINGER POST REPAIR QUOTES – Corr. A6229 B. Keal re. finger post repair, & A6230 Cllr. Fothergill re. finger post repair** referred. Cllr. Stone considered Mr Keal’s prices reasonable and Cllr. Fothergill confirmed it would be cheaper to do the work in situ and that Mr Keal’s work in Cheddon Fitzpaine was of a very good standard. Cllr. Stone proposed Mr Keal be appointed to undertake work on the first three finger posts. Mrs Vaughan seconded the proposal, which was passed. The intention is to renovate all finger posts in the Parish over time.
13. **DRAINAGE DISCUSSION RE. LOSCOMBE MEADOW / MANOR LANE – Corr. A6231 S. Poole re. Manor Lane drainage** referred. It was noted that this confirmed on record the drainage system that had been installed and which should work.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 7. AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE OF PRECEPT BID FOR 2018/19**

The Chairman thanked Mr Jeanes and the Clerk for their work on the precept. Mr Jeanes went through all the proposed income and expenditure, explaining the reason for any increases or decreases. There was discussion of the cost of the finger post repairs following which Cllr. Stone suggested the £344 in lost grant income could be added to the precept to partially cover fingerposts, Mrs Stodgell suggested the expenditure for “Seats, signs and noticeboards“ be increased from £500 to £1000. Cllr. Stone seconded the proposal, which was passed. Re. income, it was noted that the Stable had transferred £5000 to the Parish Council in 2017/18, with £3,500 allocated to be transferred in the 2018/19 precept. Mr Jeanes would check the Stable Committee’s views re. 2018/19 before confirming the amount.

Re. **Corr. A 6236 a&b P. Stone re. footpath accessibility** - Cllr. Stone reported that he hoped to install some metal kissing gates instead of stiles on footpaths for the less able to use. It was agreed the cost of these could come out of footpath funds with volunteers installing them. The Chairman proposed Cllr. Stone go ahead with four kissing gates, subject to landowners approval, with money for 3 coming out of footpath funds and one funded by a parishioner's donation, (this would not impact on the precept). Cllr. Stone seconded the proposal, which was passed.

There was discussion of the need for a new website after which the Chairman suggested the money not be included in the precept in 2018/19 but could come out of grant money if required.

After discussion of the risk of capping of precepts and what should be an increasing tax base, Mr Akerman proposed in principal that the £344 of lost grant be added to the precept to make it £17656 (subject to final decision in January), Cllr. Stone seconded the proposal, which was passed.

Ms Smith to obtain info. on local websites designers and liaise with Mr Cable. Mrs Vaughan suggested parishioners be asked in the New Year what they wanted from a new website.

**14. CORRESPONDENCE – Corr. A6222 – 6231 & 6233 & 6236** covered above.

**Corr. A 6232a-c SCC & Cllrs. re. grit availability** – Mr Jeanes confirmed he still had sufficient salt bags. Mr Akerman confirmed the White St. bins had sufficient grit, although the one at Longs Field also contained water and the one down Helland Hill was damaged. After discussion the Chairman proposed, subject to Cllr Stone and Mr Jeanes' investigations, a new bin be obtained for Helland Hill and Patten's asked to refund the cost as they had damaged it. Mr Akerman seconded the proposal, which was passed. Cllr. Stone offered to drill a hole in the Longs Field bin to allow any water to drain out.

**Corr. A 6234 G. Cable & P. Stone re. village signs** – There was discussion of the pros and cons of black & white village gateway signs in preference to yellow ones and possible change of location for them on Windmill Hill. Mrs Leader to be copied correspondence prior to meeting Highways reps., Cllr. Fothergill to inform SCC that PC considering sites and design for village entrance signs. To be an agenda item in December.

**Corr. A 6235 Planning notification re. Playing Fields Pavilion** – Noted.

**Corr. B 6240 a-c R. Lander & M. Bale (TDBC) re. St James Court landscaping** – Clerk to contact enforcement officer asking if the site has been visited and requesting a report.

Marie Curie correspondence – Request for volunteers to be included in newsletter.

Orchid Field – Cllr. Stone reported that Natural England were contacting the owner re. management of the field. **9.15pm** Cllr. Fothergill left the meeting.

**15. FINANCE – Monthly Account** – Mr Jeanes explained the monthly account and proposed it be accepted. Mrs Vaughan seconded the proposal, which was passed. **Payment List** – It was noted that the payment to TDBC should read SCC re. footpath cutting. Mr Jeanes presented the payment list and proposed it be approved, Mrs Vaughan seconded the proposal, which was passed.

<b>Cheque No</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Amount</b>
BACS Transfer	PT Electrical - re. PAT testing	90.00
BACS Transfer	SALC - Affiliation fees 2017/18	416.18
BACS Transfer	SCC Footpath cutting	500.00
100321	North Curry Methodist Church (TDBC Grant)	140.00
100322	St Peter & St Paul Church (TDBC Grant)	630.00
100323	Ebenezer Baptist Church (TDBC Grant)	150.00
BACS Transfer	B. Wellwood - Clerk Salary	704.40
100324	Royal British Legion	120.00

100325	Mr D Newland (bugler)	25.00
100327	Mr T Astin (organist)	25.00
BACS Transfer	North Curry Village Hall	700.00
BACS Transfer	Viking - Bin bags, envelopes etc	39.19

**Finance Panel Meeting** – As covered above plus discussion of asset values for the Village Hall and PC owned property. Further advice to be sought from SALC as value depends on whether the property was bought by or given to the PC, this was not always clear and could be a combination of the two. Comment was also made about the need to check bank statements against the accounts, this needs to be regularised (Mr Jeanes to speak to Mrs Leader).

#### 16. COMMITTEE/DELEGATES REPORTS

**Footpaths** – Cllr. Stone reported about new dog gates at the football field, he hoped to put more in at Huntham. **Playing Fields** – Nothing to report. **Village Hall** – Nothing to report. **Tree Warden** – Cllr. Stone reported that Hi-Line were to undertake work on the trees at Stoke Road. **Road Safety** – Mr Akerman was awaiting written confirmation of the Stoke Road speedwatch site, he noted that John Hembrow had cleaned up the mud on White St. left by his tractors. **Stable** – Nothing to report. **Flood Warden** – The need to keep drain grills clear was noted. **Allotments** – Nothing to report. **SALC** – The Chairman had been unable to attend the AGM. **White St.** – Cllr. Stone reported 12 teams had been playing a tournament causing overflow parking in Morris Way. The screen planting plus pollarding of willows in the new football field had been undertaken.

#### 17. PUBLICITY INPUTS – Input to include December NHS Health check, forthcoming road closure warning, winter de-icing salt availability, Christmas waste collections, the need to wear reflective clothing at night on the roads, kissing gate funding, Marie-Curie looking for volunteers and the risk of break-ins.

#### 18. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION – The Chairman reported prompt action by highways following her reporting of a pothole online, she would report the Newport sign having been spun around. The Thornfalcon “give way” sign was also rotated. Mr Akerman mentioned Lightsource sponsoring electric charging points and suggested one be considered in conjunction with the Village Hall, possible issues included non-standard plugs, he would investigate. Mr Jeanes raised an email from Ms Conlin re. difficulties faced by the elderly in getting to village events. He had suggested they contact the event organiser to see if a lift could be obtained. He also reported that the owners of the Knapp Lane field had agreed for him to cut some of the hedges. Mrs Vaughan commented on the poor standard of tarmac on the Loscombe Meadow footpath, it had no kerbing to stop it spreading. Mr Akerman noted that Strongvox had said that the Loscombe Meadow Management Committee would be responsible for the maintenance of the path.

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.44 pm**