

**Minutes of the North Curry Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on
Wednesday 13th December 2017**

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

Members of the Public: Cllr. D Fothergill

1. **APOLOGIES:** Ms C Smith, Mrs C D Stodgell and Mrs M Burt sent apologies for non-attendance and Mrs Vaughan for late arrival.
 2. **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2017** – Mr Jeanes proposed the Minutes were a true record of the meeting, Mr Turner seconded the proposal, which was passed.
 3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Mr Jeanes re. item 14, his name being on the payment list.
 4. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS** – None.
 5. **MATTERS ARISING – Checking of Bank Accounts** – Mrs Leader, Mr Jeanes and the Clerk to meet on 15/12 to explain and undertake checks. **Valuation of assets** – There had been some correspondence, Mr Jeanes, Mrs Stodgell and the Clerk to discuss further. **Policing matters** – Nothing to report. **NHS Health Checks** – The third session was again fully booked. **West Lane blockage** – The Chairman to speak to Mrs Finn to ask whether the Bridleway Association would take the lead on this issue, possibly with a donation from the Parish Council. **Trial recording of meetings** – The recording already taken did not have sufficient volume to be heard clearly. It had been previously agreed to hire equipment if needed. **Car charging points** – Mr Akerman explained that, despite Govt. match funding, with three different standards there were too many variables to proceed at this time. **Autumn litter pick update** – This was well attended. Mr Jeanes hoped to litter pick Knapp Lane. **Corr. A6248 D. Hoyle re. litter pick & gas bottles** referred. Mr Turner reported that he had been speaking to the Police who had been making visits to the Village Hall car park and keeping an eye on the area and that the issue had gone quiet at the moment. In view of this it was agreed not to put an item in the newsletter in case it spread the idea of mis-usage of gas canisters. **9-Acre Lane footpath maintenance** – Strongvox had previously confirmed that responsibility of the lane would lie with the residents of Loscombe Meadow. Mr Jeanes reported that planting had been undertaken in the gap beyond the garden at Plot 30 blocking access. TDBC had visited and given Strongvox 28 days to comply with planning. Mr Fugett noted that a gate needed to be installed in the site perimeter fence to allow access to the ditch once the Plot 30 garden fence and other planting was in the correct position. He also raised the issue of Strongvox's health & safety responsibilities re. the play equipment, Clerk to remind Strongvox of these. **Loscombe Meadow dog bin** - The Chairman awaited the formation of a residents association before proceeding. **Remembrance Day update** – This was well attended, a new organist may be required depending on Mr Astin's willingness/ability to continue. **Village drainage works** – See agenda item 11. **County Councillor Report** – Cllr. Fothergill gave a report covering improvements to Children's Services, a forthcoming library consultation, road safety figures, the teacher training college, a grant to Quantock Hills, and an end of life study. Changes to the Speed Information Device service were also discussed, this would no longer be funded by SCC. Parishes could either purchase their own or pay SCC for the service. SIDs have to be moved every two weeks. Parishes can place their own SIDs where they like but the data will only be taken into account by the Police if it is from an approved site. A road safety report should be ready for the February meeting.
- Corr. A6249 M. Griffiths re. Village Hall expenses** – noted, Ms Turney would endeavour to get details of future plans for the hall exterior when costings were available. **Corr. A6250 B. Goodchild re. Stoke website creator** – Celia Smith to talk to the creator of the Stoke website, Cllrs. to look at the Stoke website to see if it is what North Curry want. Cllr. Fothergill to ask

who did the West Monkton website. **Corr. B6259 B. Jeanes re. Helland Hill salt bin** – Salt bin repaired and adequate. **Corr. B6260 P. Stone re. Orchid Field** – Dan Patten was now aware of his responsibilities re. the field and it was hoped improvements in the management of the field would be seen.

6. APPLICATIONS FOR COMMENT BY NORTH CURRY PARISH COUNCIL

24/17/0054 - ERECTION OF BARN, ERECTION OF CARPORT AND REPLACEMENT OF OIL TANK AT LILLEDON FARM, LILLEDON LANE, NORTH CURRY – Mr Turner explained the application. After discussion Mr Turner proposed the Parish Council support the application noting that they would like to see materials used being sympathetic to the surroundings. Mrs Leader seconded the proposal, which was passed.

24/17/0061 – ERECTION OF AN AGRICULTURAL BUILDING FOR THE STORAGE OF GRAIN WITH FORMATION OF ACCESS ON LAND ADJACENT TO STONEHEAD HILL, WRANTAGE – Mr Turner explained the application. Mr Dennis declared an interest as a friend of the family. There was discussion of the increase in tractor traffic to and from the proposed store, the reason for the height of the store and the needs of the farmer. **Corr. A6252a+b T. Stodgell & C. Vaughan comments re. appn. 24/17/0061** were read out. After discussion Mr Turner proposed the Parish Council object to the proposal, Mr Fugett seconded the proposal, which was passed, Mr Dennis abstained. Mr Akerman proposed the inclusion of the following comment “Whilst the Parish Council understands the needs of the farmer, they would need a detailed design and impact statement to understand why the building needs to be so large and in such a prominent position”. Ms Turney seconded the proposal, which was passed, Mr Dennis abstained.

24/17/0063 - ERECTION OF TWO STOREY EXTENSIONS TO THE REAR OF 15 PORTMANS, NORTH CURRY (AMENDED SCHEME) – Mrs Leader declared an interest. Mr Turner explained the application which enlarged a previously approved application. Objections from a neighbour were noted. Concerns included the effect of such a large wall on 8 Windmill Hill which is a neighbour on a lower level. After discussion Mr Jeanes proposed the Parish Council object to the proposal on the grounds that the proposal would result in the house being too large for the size of the plot and would be overbearing for the neighbours at 8 Windmill Hill. Mr Fugett seconded the proposal, which was passed, Mrs Leader abstained. Mr Fugett proposed an additional comment that it would be an eyesore for traffic travelling up Windmill Hill. Mr Jeanes seconded the proposal, which was passed, Mrs Leader abstained.

- 7. TO CONSIDER CLLR. STONE’S TRAFFIC DISCUSSION PAPER** – The Chairman had held a useful meeting with farmers and Parish Council representatives from both villages. A revised report should be circulated before the January meeting.

9pm Mrs Vaughan joined the meeting.

- 8. TO CONSIDER VILLAGE ENTRANCE SIGNAGE – SITING AND STYLE** – M/F to the January meeting.

- 9. TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF REPLACEMENT APPLE TREE/S IN THE ALLOTMENTS** – Mr Jeanes had removed a Bramley tree from the allotments and it was proposed that three half standard trees planted closer to the track replace it. After discussion of varieties and a cost of £15.50 per tree, Mr Jeanes proposed three trees be bought, Lanes Prince Albert (cooker), Sunburst (cherry) and a suitable dessert apple variety. Mr Dennis seconded the proposal, which was passed. .

- 10. TO APPROVE WHITE ST SPORTS FIELD SIGNAGE** – **Corr. A6253 County roads re. White St. signage** referred. Mrs Leader explained the proposals. The sign on the corner of

Greenway should be hidden from residents by the hedge, Mr Fugett would speak to the owner of the property concerned. Signage would be changed as appropriate as part of any road improvements. Mrs Vaughan proposed the Parish Council accept SCC's proposed signage. Mr Fugett seconded the proposal, which was passed.

11. **TO CONSIDER PRINTING OF ROAD CLOSURE HANDOUT AND APPROVE ANY ASSOCIATED COSTS – Corr. A6251a-d Road closure notices and emails and A6254 A. Prosser re. roadworks notice** referred. Mrs Vaughan explained the proposals as they had been explained to her. Skanska were undertaking the work along The Pavement, Highways would do the rest of the work, subject to gritting duties. There was full discussion of the reasons for the work, cost and issues with the road closure. Mr Fothergill confirmed that partial road closure was the preferred option but depended on the width of the work and what was being done. Mr Fugett proposed the Clerk contact Highways stating that, whilst happy that the drainage work was going to be undertaken, ask if there was any possibility of the road being only partially closed, either 9am – 3pm or with traffic lights. Mr Akerman seconded the proposal, which was passed. Details of the works to be put on the website once clarified and reference in the newsletter to look at the website for current details. “Business open as usual” signs to be requested. Given uncertainties re. the closures it was agreed a note be put in the post office window once the closures were clarified rather than a hand out being printed.
 12. **TO CONSIDER REQUEST FOR DONATION TO CITIZEN'S ADVICE BUREAU – Corr. A6255 Citizens Advice Taunton donation appeal** referred. Mr Jeanes proposed that, as in previous years, £100 be given, Mr Akerman seconded the proposal, which was passed.
 13. **CORRESPONDENCE – Corr. A6248 – 6255** covered above.
 - Corr. A 6256 D. Graham re. termination of speed indicator programme** – Concern was expressed who would move a SID if the Parish Council had their own. Mr Akerman proposed the Parish Council express interest in principle in being included in part of a County wide operation but would need to know the costs involved. Mr Jeanes seconded the proposal, which was passed.
 - Corr. A 6257 Walkers are Welcome information** – After discussion it was agreed there was adequate provision from TDBC re. local paths and it was agreed not to proceed with joining the initiative.
 - Corr. A 6258 K. Thomas request for support re. rates reduction** – The improvements carried out at the business were noted but it was agreed that the Parish Council didn't get involved in such cases and would not want to set a precedent by starting to do so. The Chairman would contact Ms Thomas in his role as District Councillor to discuss the issue with a view to possible support from him.
 - Corr. B 6262 Notification of intention to cut back hedge at Banana Cottage** – Noted.
 - Corr. B6263 B. Keal confirmation re. starting work on finger posts** – Noted.
 - Corr. B6265 E. Ormes re. Gigaclear broadband suggesting circulation** – Cllr. Fothergill noted that Town Farm was in a particular blackspot and that phase 2 of the broadband rollout meant that this was not so relevant to the rest of the village, it was therefore agreed not to circulate.
 - Corr. B 6274 D. Patten re. tractor damage** – K. Martin is aware of the issue and will endeavour to get the hole repaired when the drainage work is undertaken in the village. It was noted that the filled ditch was the responsibility of the field owner behind the ditch. Mr Akerman reported that a farmer had offered to put hard core in the hole.
 - Corr. B 6275 D. Fothergill re. Hinkley Point funds for grants** – Mr Dennis mentioned the possibility of a Community Fridge for excess food that would go to waste, matter to be discussed at January meeting.
 - Corr. B 6272 Winter fuel payment donation request** – To be mentioned in the newsletter.
- 9.50pm Cllr. Fothergill left the meeting.

14. **FINANCE – Monthly Account** – Mr Jeanes explained the monthly account and proposed it be accepted. Mr Turner seconded the proposal, which was passed. **Payment List** – The Chairman presented the payment list and proposed it be approved, Mr Akerman seconded the proposal, which was passed, Mr Jeanes abstained.

Cheque No	Payee	Amount
BACS Transfer	NCVH Room Hire (October)	28.44
BACS Transfer	BA & KM Jeanes – grass Oct. & Nov. & memorial post	149.50
100328	J. Musgrove re. sign strimming	108.00
BACS Transfer	B. Wellwood - Clerk Salary	704.40
BACS Transfer	NC Stable elc 70.86 gas 7.47	78.33
	Citizens Advice Taunton	100.00

Precept update – Mr Jeanes reported that the Stable Committee had approved the concept of transferring £3,500 to the Parish Council during 2018/19, there were no other comments.

Re. bank balances, Mr Jeanes proposed that, in view of the possibility of the need to cover the White St. Storage shed VAT if payment were made shortly, £8,000 be transferred from the Cambridge & Counties account to the Co-Op to cover contingencies. The Chairman seconded the proposal, which was passed.

15. **COMMITTEE/DELEGATES REPORTS**

Footpaths – The Chairman reported he had agreement to replace the stiles in the Overland area leading to Bill Board's seat, he hoped to get the same from Morden. Trees down across Manor Lane footpath and at Helland Hill were noted. The Chairman to look at dealing with the Helland Hill tree, Rights of Way to be informed of the footpath blockage. **Playing Fields** – Mr Turner reported on the Christmas in the Square and that the planning application was proceeding. **Village Hall** – Ms Turney reported that the website was being updated and there had been discussion of what should be included in the newsletter and that the guidelines were being reviewed. She would report back to the PC in due course. **Tree Warden** – The Chairman reported Hi-Line activity in the Parish. **Road Safety** – Mr Akerman reported that the Police had now approved three more sites, the speed gun had been used on two occasions but nobody was found to be speeding. **Stable** – Mr Jeanes reported an accident involving the Coffee Shop window, and subsequent repair action taken. The Coffee Shop would be closed until further notice. After explanation of the lease, he proposed the rent, service and gas charges to the Coffee Shop be suspended and reclaimed under insurance. Mr Akerman seconded the proposal, which was passed. **Flood Warden** – Nothing to report. **Allotments** – Nothing to report. **SALC** – Nothing to report. **White St.** – The Chairman reported that the lease between NCSL and the Drake family for the lease of the field was in progress.

16. **PUBLICITY INPUTS** – Input to include seasonal greetings, thanks to volunteers, the Post Office and others for the Christmas tree and Christmas in the Square, forthcoming road closure warning, litter pick thanks, winter fuel payment donation, request for a wish list for the new website and a note about planning permission requirements in Conservation Areas.

17. **MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION** – Mr Fugett raised the issue of overgrown hedges, it was noted that Canterbury Villa had cut back the hedge immediately, Banana Cottage had arranged for the hedge to be cut back and there had been no reply from Paynes Farm. Mrs Vaughan mentioned concerns from West Monkton residents regarding the proposal to install bus gates through West Monkton. She asked for the matter to be an agenda item in January.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.20 pm