

**Minutes of the North Curry Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on
Wednesday 10th January 2018**

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

Members of the Public: Cllr. D Fothergill and Mr T & Mrs J Laurance.

1. **APOLOGIES:** Ms E Turney and Mrs J Leader.
2. **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13TH DECEMBER 2017** – Subject to amending the word “form” to “from” at item 6, para. 24/17/0063, Mr Jeanes proposed the Minutes were a true record of the meeting, Mr Dennis seconded the proposal, which was passed.
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – None.
4. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS** – None.
5. **MATTERS ARISING – Policing Matters** – Mrs Vaughan noted the prompt arrival of the Police after an altercation at The Bird In Hand. **West Lane Blockage** – Cllr. Stone reported that the Bridleway Association would be obtaining prices for the work to open up West Lane and making applications for funding. He recommended the work proceed in the Autumn. Mr Darling to be kept in the loop once more details were known. **Valuation of assets** – No further progress. **Parish Website** - Cllr. Stone suggested the Stoke St. Gregory website be used for ideas for a new website. **Bank Account Checks** – Mrs Leader had checked the accounts with the guidance of Mr Jeanes, all was in order. **Loscombe Meadow Dog Bin** – The formation of a residents association was still awaited. **Village Drainage Works – Corr. A6289 Correspondence Parish Council, R. Lander & Cllr. Fothergill re. road closures** referred. Concern was expressed regarding the signage in use, Cllr. Fothergill confirmed that this was being reviewed and would be changed. Comment was made re. the installation of the lights along the Pavement before work had started. Mr Dennis also mentioned signage at Helland making it difficult for traffic to access the road from the A378, Cllr. Fothergill confirmed this was in line with requirements and was to prevent traffic having to reverse out onto the A378. The Chairman expressed concern that the gas shortage was not foreseen by developers given the number of houses being built. **Coffee Shop Repairs Update – Corr. B3608 Correspondence re. repair work to Community Stable** referred. Mr Jeanes reported that it was hoped work would be completed by the end of the month. Written confirmation of the Structural Surveyor’s comments re. the need to close the Coffee Shop were awaited. The need for a crash barrier in front of the window was raised. **Speed Info. Device (SID) Changes – Corr. A6290 D. Graham re. SID programme estimated costs** referred. The cost of SCC installing SIDs in the future would depend on uptake by other Parishes but could be anything from £330 to £1613 per year for 3 SID locations. To buy a SID would cost in excess of £3000 and would require trained volunteers and insurance. After discussion Mr Akerman proposed the Parish Council support in principle paying SCC to install SIDs at a cost not exceeding £1100 for the Parish (3 sites), if it were to cost more the Parish Council would have to reconsider the revised cost and whether to continue to support use of SCC SIDs. Mr Fugett seconded the proposal, which was passed. **Allotment Apple Tree – Corr. A6291 T. Goodall complaint re. removal of Bramley tree in the allotments and hanging of gate** referred. Allotment holders were upset by the removal of the Bramley tree. It was noted that 3 trees would be replacing the one cut down and Mr Jeanes had liaised with the allotment holder on which the tree had stood. Mr Jeanes apologies for not speaking to other allotment holders before undertaking the work. **Cutting back of Hedges** – It was noted that hedges had still to be cut back at Banana Cottage, Paynes Farm and at the Oxen Lane Junction. Concern was expressed that if it was not carried out soon it would run into the bird nesting season. Clerk to contact Banana Cottage and Paynes Farm requesting action before the beginning of March and to possibility of cases being reported if necessary. Mrs Burt to speak to the owners of the hedges at the Oxen Lane junction. **Plot 30**

Loscombe Meadow – Corr. A6292S. Salter & Mr & Mrs Fletcher re. plot 30, Loscombe Meadow referred. It was confirmed that the garden fence had been moved and a 4' access gate to the ditch installed with planting allowing access to the gate. Clerk to report PC approval to TDBC. **County Councillor Report** – Cllr. Fothergill gave a report covering the February closure of the A361, cuts faced by SCC and the need to protect rural buses, a forthcoming meeting with Highways re. the plans for road safety improvements in the village (he confirmed that the yellow lines could not be brought ahead of the other work as it would take 6 months for the required permissions), the School Admissions consultation and also the A358 consultation. Re. the A358 consultation, **Corr. A6294 Highways England re. A358 consultation, A6295 Newgate Communications re. A358 briefing for Parish Councils and A6296 H. Burgess & R. Lander re. A358 consultation and possible attendance at PC meeting** referred. Cllr. Fothergill pointed out the need to consider how the A378 linked in to the new road. The Newgate Communications briefing was intended for Parish Councillors only, the Clerk awaited further clarification. Parish Cllrs. were asked to provide availability.

6. **TO CONSIDER CLLR. STONE'S TRAFFIC DISCUSSION PAPER** – Following a meeting with farmers and the NFU, further work was required on the Tractor Traffic Report before circulation prior to discussion at the February meeting. The Chairman asked for North Curry Parish Councillors to see the report before it was made public in Stoke St. Gregory.
7. **TO CONSIDER VILLAGE ENTRANCE SIGNAGE – SITING AND STYLE** – Cllr. Stone was still investigation ownership of possible signage sites, it was agreed the Parish Council would like input into the design of the signs. It was agreed that the matter be held until Highways had confirmed their proposals prior to the February meeting.
8. **TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE PRECEPT BID FOR 2018/2019 – Corr. A6293 Clerk & B. Jeanes re. Precept increases** referred. Mr Jeanes presented the precept that had been discussed at the previous two meetings. Comments were invited. After discussion of the need to cover SID costs up to £1100 and the loss of the support grant, the Chairman proposed the Precept be set at £18,000, Mr Akerman seconded the proposal, which was passed.
9. **TO CONSIDER LATEST INFORMATION RE. A358 IMPROVEMENTS CONSULTATION** – Covered under item 5 above.
10. **TO CONSIDER INSTALLATION OF A COMMUNITY FRIDGE – Corr. A6303 Community Fridge Explanation** referred. Mr Dennis explained the idea of a Community Fridge and ambient store and confirmed that it would not be eligible for Hinckley Point grants. The idea was broadly supported but concerns included the administration of the scheme, the effect it may have on the Post Office, liability issues and North Curry not being a big enough village for the scheme. Mrs Vaughan suggested one in Langport would be a better location. She would look at the community fridge in Frome and report back at the February meeting.
11. **TO CONSIDER PROPOSED BUS GATES AT MONKTON HEATHFIELD** – Mrs Vaughan gave background to the forthcoming installation of a bus gate near Proctors Farm. West Monkton residents were concerned the gate would result in the use of the lanes of West Monkton as rat runs. The Chairman of the West Monkton Conservation Society expressed their concern that congestion would result in motorists using back lanes and that SCC should review their legal commitment to a bus gate. Cllr. Fothergill explained the rationale behind the bus gates and the need to provide traffic calming of some form equivalent to a bus gate if it wasn't a bus gate. He confirmed that once the Western Relief Road was completed (possibly by the end of the year), SCC would undertake traffic modelling before installing the bus gate or other traffic calming measures. The Chairman suggested comments be held until the traffic modelling was completed and proposals for traffic calming confirmed. Mr Akerman suggested a note of concerns be sent. Mrs Vaughan proposed Mr Alun Jones (SCC) be sent a note of concerns that future traffic management through Monkton Heathfield on the A3259 could cause

increased congestion and journey times for traffic accessing Taunton and surrounding areas from the east. Mr Akerman seconded the proposal, which was passed with three abstentions. .

12. CORRESPONDENCE – Corr. A6289 – A6296 & A6303 covered above.

Corr. A 6297 FWAG & C. Vaughan re. slurry spreading issues – Mrs Vaughan had reported slurry tanker activity when the ground was saturated with water. Councillors asked to keep an eye out for inappropriate slurry spreading.

Corr. A 6298 R. Bryant re. chance to make representations re. single Council for TDBC & West Somerset – The Chairman suggested individuals submit comments.

Corr. A 6299 M. Gunning re. Sycamore Row tree issues – The Clerk had advised Ms Gunning of the contact details of the Sycamore Row Management Company indicated on the internet.

Corr. A 6300 B. Townsend re. Church Road footpath – The Clerk had contacted Highways in October re. the slipperiness of the footpath and forwarded this email re. a fall on the footpath to Highways with a further request to do something. Cllr. Stone suggested thought be given to the purchase of a petrol driven cleaning machine and the path be cleaned monthly. Concern was expressed about liabilities this might incur but Cllr. Fothergill commented that if the PC was working to improve the situation they would not be liable. Cllr. Stone to speak to residents of Church Road re. the issue. Clerk asked to write a further reminder to Highways.

9.20pm Mr & Mrs Laurance left the meeting.

Corr. A 6301 Defibrillator Accreditation Scheme certificate and reminder – Noted, Clerk to ask if poster could be put up in the Post Office.

Corr. A 6302 S. Pritchard re. new External Auditor webinar – Clerk had requested the link for members of the Finance Panel.

Corr. B 6307 Strongvox confirmation of awareness of H&S issues – Noted.

Corr. P. Walker thanks re. new road sign The Fosse - Noted.

Corr. from School re. possible installation of Bags for School clothes bin in the Village Hall car park – The Clerk had advised the school to contact Mr Griffiths of the Village Hall Committee.

9.30pm Cllr. Fothergill left the meeting.

13. FINANCE – Monthly Account – Mr Jeanes explained the monthly account and proposed it be accepted. Mr Akerman seconded the proposal, which was passed. Mr Jeanes explained a discrepancy between the O/S Balance column and Total and Estimate columns, this related to the dealing of C.I.L. monies separately, he would endeavour to tweak the accounts to more accurately reflect this. **Payment List** – Mr Jeanes presented the payment list, which included a Newsletter contribution in line with expectations, and proposed it be approved, Mrs Vaughan seconded the proposal, which was passed.

Cheque No	Payee	Amount
BACS Transfer	NCVH Room Hire (Nov. & Dec.)	£37.49
BACS Transfer	B. Wellwood - Clerk Salary	£704.40
BACS Transfer	Clerk National Insurance	£21.48
BACS Transfer	Village Newsletter	£509.20

14. COMMITTEE/DELEGATES REPORTS

Footpaths – Cllr. Stone reported that Moredon had agreed to the installation of kissing gates, but the price had increased by 15% and the gates would now cost £250 - £280 which would come out of the footpath budget. It was agreed he proceed with ordering the gates. **Playing Fields** – Mr Turner reported on money raised at Christmas in the Square and that planning permission had been received for the Pavilion works. **Village Hall** – Nothing to report. **Tree Warden** – Cllr. Stone offered to look at the Sycamore Row tree. **Road Safety** – Nothing to report. **Stable** – Already covered above. **Flood Warden** – Nothing to report. **Allotments** – Mr Jeanes would try to fix the hanging of the allotment gate. **SALC** – Nothing to report. **White St.** – Nothing to report.

15. **PUBLICITY INPUTS** – Input to cover A358 consultation, forthcoming closure of A361, deafPLUS visit, PC meeting change of venue and asbestos warning.
16. **MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION** – The Chairman mentioned Mr Male’s views on the poor standard of the Loscombe Meadow/9-Acre Lane footpath and Mrs Vaughan mentioned Planning Appn. 24/18/0001 that would be discussed at the January Planning Meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.36 pm

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