

**Minutes of the North Curry Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on
Wednesday 9th May 2018**

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

Members of the Public: Cllr. D Fothergill.

1. **APOLOGIES:** Mr G Cable.
2. **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11TH APRIL 2018** - Mr Turner proposed the Minutes were a true record of the meeting subject to amending the word “harder” to “different” at line 3, para. 14, Ms Turney seconded the proposal, which was passed.
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – None.
4. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS** – None.
5. **MATTERS ARISING** – **Policing Matters** – **Corr. B6431 S. Whittel re. prowlers** was noted. Police were also dealing with men overcharging for work and shed break ins and vandalism in Stoke St Gregory were also reported. **Allotment grass cutting** – **Corr. B6432 G. Golder & T. Stodgell re. allotment grass cutting** referred. The Chairman had offered to donate a redundant lawnmower. There had been two offers from allotment holders to help with grass cutting, it was agreed petrol costs would be reimbursed. Mrs Burt to clarify that payment for the cutting would not be made. **Town Farm Orchard** - **Corr. A6413 R. Bryant TDBC re. Tree Preservation Order to rear of 16 Town Close & associated correspondence re. felling of trees** referred. It was noted that the trees had been hacked to maximise damage, not felled, and had been left in a dangerous state. The orchard was now fenced off. Cllr. Stone proposed the Parish Council enquire whether prosecution for the breach of the TPO was to follow and to reiterate the Parish Council’s objection to the granting of permission. Mr Akerman seconded the proposal, which was passed. It was noted that under the S106 agreement the land was to be undeveloped. **Parish Website** – Two websites had been costed and it was hoped a proposal on the way forward could be brought to the June meeting. **Road Safety Improvements** – **Corr. A6414 N. Cowling SCC re. discussion about Windmill hill road safety** referred. Mr Akerman had met Cllr. Fothergill and SCC staff to discuss Windmill Hill safety issues, particular concern being expressed about the safety of pedestrians crossing at the Methodist Church. It had been suggested that the community fund a feasibility study of safety improvements here at a cost of approx. £1,000. Mr Akerman proposed the Parish Council not embark on a feasibility study until the effect of the current works (yellow lines, pavement and signage) was assessed. Mrs Vaughan seconded the proposal, which was passed with one vote against. **Corr. A6415 J. Sharp SCC re. parking restrictions, footway and white lines, A6416 K. Jones SCC, J&D Green, Mr & Mrs Spearpoint & Cllr. Stone re. Greenway pavement and A6417 Cllr. Stone & Mike Glendenning (TDBC) re. Pear Tree Cottage drainage** were noted. Cllr. Fothergill reported that concerns were resolved and the proposed work had gone through the Approval Board and SKANSKA were scheduling the £100k work. There was discussion of the flooding issues at Pear Tree Cottage which Cllr. Stone considered involved the culvert at the rear of the house not leading anywhere, TDBC to undertake a CCTV survey to see where the blockage is. Cllr. Fothergill would ask Kerry Jones of SCC to contact TDBC to liaise re. their drainage work on the road and what issues TDBC find. Re. the issue of Skanska’s connection of surface water to the sewer at The Shambles, (necessitating further work to rectify), Cllr. Fothergill explained that fault was not clear but discussions were ongoing. **Corr. B6434 M Griffiths re. PC’s concerns re. spring in Village Hall car park** was noted. The matter would be brought up at the Village Hall meeting. The Chairman noted the need for photos if the flooding was seen again. **Corr. B6433 Fleur White re. Spin Bus use of car park** – It was noted that the Spin Bus would not use the Village Hall car park after half term as they were not interested in an alternative night, the Playing Field car park was also busy on Wednesday nights. **Corr. A6418 a-c SALC & NALC re. General data Protection Bill progress** – It was noted that a Data Protection

Officer may not need to be appointed but that the PC would need to comply with the Regulations. Recipients of the e-newsletter may need to be re-contacted.

Mr Jeanes noted that the Coffee Shop cleaner was now on the HMRC system.

County Cllr. Report – Cllr. Fothergill reported on, amongst other things, the merging of adoption services to form Adopt SouthWest, the high number of children in care in Somerset, utility firms being fined for offences relating to illegal roadworks and Dementia Awareness week. There was also discussion re. the “conversation” relating to options for a Unitary model of local government in Somerset. Cllr. Stone proposed the Parish Council write to the TDBC Chief executive to ask whether they would consider putting the merger of TDBC and West Somerset on hold while the issue of unitary status was being discussed. Ms Turney seconded the proposal, which was passed with 6 votes for, 3 against and 3 abstentions.

6. APPLICATIONS FOR COMMENT BY NORTH CURRY PARISH COUNCIL

24/18/0017/LB Listed building consent for a two storey extension to the northwest elevation of the farm house at Broad Lane Farm, Broad Lane, North Curry, Taunton (amendment to previously approved scheme 24/16/0062/LB) – Mr Turner explained the application. After discussion he proposed the Parish Council support the application using the same comments as used on the previously application that the PC supported. Mrs Vaughan seconded the proposal, which was passed.

7. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – REVIEW AND TO CONSIDER DRAFT MINUTES – The

Chairman thanked Mr Dennis and Mrs Vaughan for supplying the refreshments. Mr Dennis mentioned figures re. farmer funding that had been taken from a DEFRA document, he considered the DEFRA numbers to be incorrect. He also expressed concern at the anger with which concerns were being expressed. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Stone for his work on the tractor paper and Mrs Leader suggested the formation of a Farming Liaison group. Cllr. Stone intended to produce a summary of the responses to his paper and a draft conclusion paper for the June meeting and to have another meeting with farmers to formalise the agreed points and to look at a second list of reasonable points.

Mr Akerman mentioned the positive feedback to the meeting. Mrs Vaughan suggested at para. 8.2 of the draft minutes that the phrase “use a piece of road” read “use the public road”. The Chairman proposed the minutes as mended go forward to the 2019 APM for approval, Mr Jeanes seconded the proposal, which was passed. Following up on a suggestion at the APM, Mrs Vaughan would suggest the Coffee Shop report to the APM as it would be of interest to the Parish.

8. TO CONSIDER REPORT FROM PLAYING FIELDS TREASURER RE. CONTROL OF THE PLAYING FIELDS AND ASSOCIATED FACILITIES) – A briefing note on the issues had been circulated to Cllrs. for consideration and the matter would be discussed at the June meeting.

9. TO CONSIDER TRACTOR REPORT UPDATE – Covered at item 7.

10. TO CONSIDER CONTRIBUTION TO COST OF BRIDGE ACROSS DITCH AT SPORTS FIELD, PAYMENT TO BE FROM FOOTPATH FUNDS – Cllr. Stone explained the proposal and asked for a maximum of £100 from the footpath fund to finance the bridge. Mrs Leader seconded the proposal, which was passed. It was noted that the hedge would have to be re-instated at the end of the lease.

11. TO AGREE SIGNATURE OF LOSCOMBE MEADOW ALLOTMENT TRANSFER, SUBJECT TO LEGAL APPROVAL – **Corr. A6453 Strongvox re. allotments transfer** was noted.

The Transfer agreement had been forwarded for legal consideration. It was noted that the soil appeared good to spade depth despite some stones, but that there were currently no sheds, tarmac or dip tank. It was also noted that the agreement referred to the allotments being for Loscombe Meadow residents or near neighbours. The Chairman proposed the Parish Council sign off the agreement subject to the amendment of the agreement at paras. 12.4.1 and 1&2 of Schedule 3 to allow the allotments to be used by all parishioners, the provision of sheds, a dip tank and tarmac, and there being no legal issues raised. Mr Jeanes seconded the proposal, which was passed.

12. **REVIEW OF REGISTER OF INTERESTS (RoIs)** – Cllrs. were supplied with their RoIs and updated them as necessary.
13. **TO CONSIDER RENEWAL OF ROAD SIGN CUTTING CONTRACT** – Cllr. Stone to check the price for sign grass cutting would be unchanged this year. The Chairman proposed that if the price was the same as last year the grass cutting be continued for a further year. Mr Fugett seconded the proposal, which was passed.
14. **FINANCE** – i) **To approve Town Farm Stable Budget** – Mr Jeanes presented the Stable budget, noting that the proposed £3,500 payment to the PC may be increased depending on costs and that the service charge reserves would be capped at £4000. He proposed the PC accept the budget, Mrs Vaughan seconded the proposal, which was passed.
- ii) **To approve the final end of year accounts for period ended 31st March 2018** – Mr Akerman suggested the recently found land value of some assets should be shown separately under other assets in 2019. The Chairman proposed the accounts be accepted, Mr Jeanes seconded the proposal, which was passed.
- iii) **To approve and sign the Annual Governance statement 2017/18 in Section 1 of the Annual Return for the year to 31st March 2018** – The Annual Governance statements had been seen and read by all councillors. Mr Jeanes proposed they were acceptable and that the Chairman and Clerk sign Section 1 of the Annual Return, Mrs Burt seconded the proposal, which was passed.
- iv) **To approve the Accounting statements 2017/18 in Section 2 of the Annual Return for the year to 31st March 2018** – The Accounting Statements had been seen by Cllrs. Mr Jeanes explained the figures came from the Receipts and Payments figures, the £1 difference in figures resulted from rounding to the nearest £1. Mr Jeanes proposed the completed Section 2 was acceptable and the Chairman and Clerk sign Section 2 of the Annual Return. Mrs Burt seconded the proposal, which was passed.
- v) **Annual Audit** – It was hoped the auditor for Creech St Michael would undertake the internal audit. The chairman proposed the Parish Council pay up to £100 + petrol expenses for the audit. Ms Turney seconded the proposal, which was passed.
- vi) **Monthly Account for May** - Mr Jeanes presented the monthly account noting the two Town Farm service charges resulting from the Bank Holiday in March making the March payment late and the receipt of the precept and VAT reclaim. The Chairman proposed the account be accepted, Mr Turner seconded the proposal, which was passed.
- vii) **Payment list** – Mr Jeanes presented the payment list and proposed it be approved, Mr Turner seconded the proposal, which was passed.

Cheque No	Payee	Amount
BACS Transfer	Centrewire re. kissing gates	£1358.40
BACS Transfer	SALC Subscription	£440.21
BACS Transfer	NCVH Room Hire (April)	£23.27
BACS Transfer	B. Wellwood/INKredible – printer ink	£44.30
BACS Transfer	B. Wellwood - Clerk Salary	£719.49
100331	S. Case re. strimming allotment & fuel	£30.00

- viii) **Finance Panel Meeting** - Mr Jeanes mentioned the insurance review, Clerk to check GDPR liabilities coverage and new allotments to be covered. He also raised the possibility of using SAGE for the accounts, the basic costs being £24/month, training for the Clerk and set up costs. Debbie Curtis would be willing to undertake the installation and training at a cost of £20/hour. Mr Dennis recommended using Xero which he had found to be more user friendly. Clerk to ask neighbouring Council what versions they use and visit Mr Dennis to look at the Xero system if necessary. The Chairman thanked Mrs Curtis for her input.
- ix) **To adopt the revised Financial Regulations** – Mr Jeanes explained the suggested changes and proposed the amended regulation be adopted, Cllr. Stone seconded the proposal, which was passed.

- x) **To adopt the revised Risk Assessment Schedule** – Mr Jeanes explained the new General Data Protection Regulations amendment and proposed the amended Schedule be adopted, the Chairman seconded the proposal, which was passed.
- xi) **To approve Clerk's salary** – The Finance Panel recommended the Clerk's salary stay on the same scale point but these would be increased by 2% following a Local Authority pay agreement, the Clerk's hours remain the same but extra hours at the end of the year to be paid as leave tended to result in extra hours being worked, and pay to be reviewed if Data Protection rules impinge on responsibilities. The Chairman proposed these recommendations be accepted. Ms Turney seconded the proposal, which was passed.
- xii) **To approve transfer of £15,000 to Cambridge & Counties account** – Mr Jeanes proposed £15,000 be transferred from the Co-Op account to the Cambridge and counties account, Mr Akerman seconded the proposal, which was passed.
- xiii) **To approve the addition of any end of year surpluses to the Facilities Development Fund to rebuild reserves** – Mr Jeanes explained the reduction of the Facilities Development Fund (FDF) as a result of taking on of the Stable and that at a previous Finance panel meeting it had been agreed that any surplus in the year should be attributed to the FDF to rebuild it. Mr Jeanes proposed that the £5259 surplus be transferred to the FDF to boost it, Mrs Vaughan seconded the proposal, which was passed. It was agreed the level of the fund be reviewed annually.
- xiv) **Community Infrastructure Levey (CIL) update – Corr. A6419 D. Walker re. suggestion TDBC's use of CIL raised in North Curry, A6420 H. Morley re. primary school request for CIL funding and A6421 S. Lithgow re. request for CIL funding for skate park** referred. A list of CIL income and payments had been circulated, more funds were expected as a result of the Knapp Lane development but it was agreed expenses could not be undertaken in advance of receipt in case payment didn't materialise for any reason. Mr Turner mentioned the Playing Field committee had concern about the usage and maintenance of a skate park, Mrs Leader noted the need to consider everyone in the village. After discussion the Chairman proposed more specific details of what was sought be asked for, possibly by looking at ones in the local area. Mrs Leader seconded the proposal, which was passed. Mrs Tuerney's request for a footpath from the Playing Field to the Village Hall was also noted.

15. CORRESPONDENCE –

Corr. A6422 M. Fleming re. suggested white kerb line along Stoke Road – To be discussed at June meeting.

Corr. A6423 S. Jackson re. interaction with tractor while cycling – Forwarded to PC Dan Cox.

Corr. A6424 R. Byrne re. Somerset Village of the Year competition – Noted.

Corr. A6425 SALC re. consultation on powers for dealing with unauthorised developments and encampments – The Chairman would consider whether to respond to the consultation.

Corr. A6426 C. Vaughan re. White St. licence – The Clerk read the conditions of the PC agreement relating to the usage of the White St. Sports Field and Pavilion, the licensed bar conditions did not prevent the sale of draught beer. Cllr. Stone would raise the issue of alcohol sales at their AGM.

Corr. A6427 D. Arscott re. s106 funding – Money being made available to Village Halls was noted, Clerk to copy email of 08/05 to D. Serbu. Cllr. Stone was to try to deal with the s106 application form and would be going back to D. Arscott on the matter.

Corr. A6428 CPRE re. SSG planning application – Noted, it was reported that Huntham farm had taken over Hancox Farm in Stoke St Gregory.

Corr. B6429 Knapp Rd. road closure notification + Greenway Lane closure notification – Noted The Clerk mentioned the concerns of a new resident in The Fosse re. the clock striking through the night, this was considered to be a Church matter, it was reported that the problem had been improved by the tenant concerned moving to the other side of the property to sleep.

16. COMMITTEE/DELEGATES REPORTS

Footpaths – Cllr. Stone hoped to install the kissing gates soon and was already clearing overgrown stiles. **Playing Fields** – Nothing to report. **Village Hall** – Nothing to report. **Tree Warden** – It was

reported that the dead elms at White St. were being felled. **Road Safety** – It was noted that the SID on Stoke Road was not always operating effectively, Clerk to report to TDBC. **Stable** – Covered above. **Flood Warden** – Nothing to report. **Allotments** – Covered above. **SALC** – Nothing to report. **White St.** – Nothing to report. **Wildlife Group** – Consideration was being given to producing a leaflet re. the White St. wildlife area, Mr Dennis offered to print some leaflets.

17. **PUBLICITY INPUTS** – Input to cover APM thanks, Loscombe Meadow allotment availability, the Loscombe Meadow allotments, road closures, dementia awareness and picking up recycling if it gets blown out of the recycling boxes on windy days.
18. **MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION** – It was noted that the Loscombe Meadow lights seemed to be on very late at night, Mr Fugett noted that the Overlands lights go off too early. Clerk to seek views of resident contact. Mr Akerman reported the Church was investigating having a phone mast. Mr Jeanes thanked the PC for his nomination as Volunteer of the Year.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.20 pm