

**Minutes of the North Curry Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on
Wednesday 12th September 2018**

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

Members of the Public: Mr D Walker.

1. **APOLOGIES:** Mrs C Vaughan, Mrs J Leader, Mrs M Burt and Cllr. D Fothergill.
2. **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8TH AUGUST 2018** – Mr Akerman proposed the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 8th August were a true record, Mr Jeanes seconded the proposal, which was passed.
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Mr Jeanes declared an interest re. the payment list at item 13.
4. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS** – Mr Walker queried whether the Greenway pavement was still due to be installed during the October half term, Clerk to check with SCC.
5. **MATTERS ARISING – Policing matters – Corr. A6549 Somerset West Info. Advisory Group – Policing survey** referred. Mr Akerman reported the appreciated presence of PCSO Rowe on a speedwatch session and his intention to attend another one. The questions of the survey were discussed and answers agreed, generally reflecting a lack of police presence in the Parish, Clerk to submit responses. The “Next door” website was mentioned and the link would be put in the newsletter, Clerk to seek updated list of police staff. **Speedwatch co-ordinator** – A Speedwatch co-ordinator was still sought. **Parish services issues – Corr. A6550 M. Dennis re. ways to improve services to the Parish** referred. Concerns were outweighed by the strengths of living in the Parish, however mobile phone reception was a concern and, to a lesser extent, so were poor internet, isolation, bus transport, emergency response times, house prices and electricity supply. There was discussion of the need to find out what issues parishioners would like the Parish Council to raise, whilst managing expectations of what they could realistically achieve. Parishioner views could either be sought via a survey, questions in the newsletter, or by discussion at the Annual Parish Meeting (having first prompted thoughts in the newsletter). Mr Dennis would prepare a general question for discussion at the October PC meeting. Re. mobile phone coverage, it was noted that the Church had put itself forward as a potential site for a phone mast and that the PC could lobby phone providers to improve coverage. **Thornfalcon finger post repair – Corr. B6558 Ruishton PC re. fingerposts at Thornfalcon and C6570 Beer (Crowcombe) & Curry (Mallet) Takeaway (newsletter with thanks for fingerpost work)** were noted. Ruishton were considering work on fingerposts. **Church Rd. Lime trees** – Cllr. Stone reported that an application to TDBC to approve the replacement of a Lime tree was in the process of being submitted. **Agricultural traffic proposals** – Updated proposals had been circulated and were discussed, Cllr. Stone summarising the action taken and further issues to be raised with farmers, to include the idea of a “golden tractor” to identify co-operative farmers. Mr Jeanes suggested slurry be spread according to DEFRA regulations. Mr Akerman reported the police co-ordinator’s support for the draft. The Chairman queried the impact on the shop if parking of vehicles in the Square was fully stopped, a possible solution discussed was yellow lines on two sides of the Pepperpot. Cllr. Stone proposed the Parish Council endorse the proposals as a basis for discussion and authorise himself, Mr Akerman, Mr Dennis and Nick Sloan to talk to farmers and others, Mr Dennis seconded the proposal, which was passed. Cllr Stone was thanked for all his work on the proposals. **New website – Corr. A6551 B. Dix re. new website content** was noted, Mr Cable would liaise with Mr Dix. **County Cllr. Report** – Not available. Cllr. Stone mentioned a consultation on 30 houses in Stoke St Gregory next to Church Road being undertaken. Re. **Corr. B6557 P. Stone re. proposed Meare Green Farm wedding venue**, Cllr. Stone thought the application was likely to go to TDBC Planning Committee.
6. **TO CONSIDER ADDITIONAL SESSION OF DROP IN DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING** – A response from South Western Ambulance Service re. possible training was awaited, M/Fd to October.

7. **TO CONSIDER GRANT TO SUPPORT CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES AND CRAFTS DAYS AT PARISH CHURCH – Corr. A6552 R. Ellis re. grants to support children's activities and craft days** referred. It was noted that the activities and crafts days were open to Parishioners of all faiths. After discussion the Chairman proposed the Parish Council support the application and give a £350 grant for the half term club and fortnightly pre-school club. Cllr. Stone seconded the proposal, which was passed with 5 votes for, 2 against and 1 abstention
8. **TO CONSIDER RESPONSE TO PROPOSED CLOSURE OF PARK & RIDE SITES AND DECISION NOT TO GRIT NORTH CURRY ROAD – Corr. A6553 R. Lander, D. Walker, Cllr. Fothergill + others re. proposed cuts to winter gritting and park & ride** referred. TDBC had agreed to bridge the gap in funding for the park & ride for one year. Cllr. Stone and Mr Turner thought that gritting wouldn't be totally cut but the level of when to do it would be raised, i.e. the pre-gritting would be cut. Mr Akerman proposed the PC express their disappointment at the decision to stop gritting, especially in view of the extra development in the Parish, and ask for assurance that salt would still be available for collection if bins were not to be refilled. Mr Turner seconded the proposal, which was passed.
9. **TO APPROVE PAPER ON PARISH COUNCIL APPROACH TO TREES IN NEED OF PRESERVATION ORDERS – Cllr. Stone** suggested that, if the PC were in favour of the principle of a PC approach to trees, he would bring a leaflet for consultation in October aimed at tree owners applying to fell trees and possibly one on how to respond to such an application. He would add in a request to replant a tree if one was to be felled. He would also write out something for inclusion in the November newsletter regarding tree preservation.
10. **TO APPROVE COST OF REPAINTING OF THREE FINGERPOSTS (AS AGREED AT AUGUST MEETING) – Corr. A6554 P. Stone & M. Prior re cost of replacement fingers for fingerpost** referred. New fingers for fingerposts would cost £180 each. Cllr. Stone proposed 3 fingers be purchased at a cost of no more than £180 each and be ordered ready for next May. Mr Turner seconded the proposal, which was passed. A quote for further fingerpost repainting was awaited, Mr Akerman proposed that if the quote was less than £350 then one further post that didn't require new fingers be repaired asap. The Chairman seconded the proposal, which was passed. 2019/20 Precept to consider allocation for further fingerposts.
11. **TO CONSIDER REMEMBRANCE DAY PREPARATIONS – Corr. A 6555 D. Akerman re. Parish Church plans for Remembrance Sunday** referred, the PCC'S plans for the WW1 Armistice Centenary celebration open to all was supported by the Parish Council and would not impact on the standard event at the War Memorial. Mr Jeanes queried whether a roll call of those who survived the war could be read out, Clerk to check with Archive re. possible list. Mr Jeanes also confirmed he would bring along the road closure signs. An organist was required, Clerk to make enquiries.
12. **CORRESPONDENCE- Corr. A6549 –A6555** covered above.
Corr. A6556 A. Korwin re. Knapp Lane delivery lorries causing erosion at Borough Post – Mr Turner confirmed problems at the corner of Knapp Lane & Borough Lane. Letter to be forwarded to Strongvox requesting they rectify issues when the development is coming to a close, the Chairman thought she recalled them saying they would make good any road issues relating to the build. A letter from Mr Billingham re. the poor white lines at the Oxen Lane/Greenway junction was discussed, Clerk to raise with SCC. Mr Akerman mentioned the Longs Field/White St. junction lines.
Corr. B6560 a+b W. Sedgemoor Road & The Shambles road closure notifications were noted.
Corr. B6562 Zurich Insurance re. addition of allotment sheds – Mr Jeanes noted the Zurich suggestion that allotment tenants have Public Liability Cover and NALC had a risk assessment to go with their model allotment agreement. PC allotment agreements to be considered in February with a view to adding the risk assessment, making it clear that insurance was the allotment holder's responsibility and a comment advising public liability cover (to be added to household insurance).

Corr. B6567 R. Lander re. Taunton to Southfield preferred route announcement – An announcement is expected in late autumn.

13. **FINANCE – Monthly Account** - Mr Jeanes presented the monthly account, noting receipt of the TDBC grants to burial grounds etc. and proposing the account be accepted. Mr Akerman seconded the proposal which was passed.

Payment list – The Chairman presented the payment list and proposed the payments be made. Mr Akerman seconded the proposal, which was passed, Mr Jeanes abstained.

Cheque No	Payee	Amount
BACS Transfer	PT Electrical – re. PAT testing	£78.32
BACS Transfer	Zurich Insurance	£1139.64
BACS Transfer	B. Wellwood - Clerk Salary	£719.49
Chq 100334	NC Methodist Church (TDBC Grant)	£140.00
BACS Transfer	St Peter & St Paul Church (TDBC Grant)	£630.00
Chq 100333	Ebenezer Baptist Church (TDBC Grant)	£150.00
BACS Transfer	NC Playing Fields (TDBC Grant)	£840.00
BACS Transfer	Keal's Fencing, Gardening & Property Services	£31.27
BACS Transfer	NCVH Room Hire (August)	£23.27
BACS Transfer	BA & KM Jeanes - grass cutting August + glue	£29.32
BACS Transfer	St Peter & St Paul Church (activities grant)	£350.00

14. COMMITTEE/DELEGATES REPORTS

Footpaths – Cllr. Stone continued to undertake clearing and the kissing gates had received positive comments. **Playing Fields** – Mr Turner reported allocation of a £3,000 grant for play equipment (a rotabounce), further funding was required both from the Playing Field and from a Parish Council grant. The PC had approved a provisional grant of £1,000 towards the equipment at the June meeting and the Playing Fields were asking if a further £500 could be added to that grant to match the Playing Fields contribution. The matter would be discussed at the October meeting. Mr Turner also reported that Alex Morrice had gone through the Trust document to make it more understandable and submit it, with a copy of the lease, to the Charity Commission. He also mentioned the need for the PC to consider the reserves the Playing Field must hold as they were looking to replace the MUGA floodlights with LED lighting but the cost would reduce their reserves. The Finance Panel would consider and bring to the PC in November. It was also reported that Little Acorns pre-school was expected to move to the school so wouldn't be undertaking the modifications to the Pavilion. **Village Hall** – Nothing to report. **Tree Warden** – Nothing to report. **Road Safety** – Mr Akerman reported a speed check on Windmill Hill with 8% found to be doing above the threshold speed, Speedwatch would also be out again in September. **Allotments** – Covered above. **Stable** – Nothing to report. **Flood Warden** – Nothing to report. **SALC** – Nothing to report. **White St. + Wildlife Group** – Cllr. Stone reported that the “Big Bash” had made approx. £5,000 and notices about dogs being on leads were to be put up.

15. **PUBLICITY INPUTS** – Input to cover road closures, the SCC roads website (Corr. B6565 SCC re. road maintenance website referred), the “Next door” website and a note re. the forthcoming Remembrance Sunday and WW1 Armistice Centenary.

16. **MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION** – The Chairman raised a request received for a greenhouse or polytunnel on a Loscombe Meadow allotment. Matter to be discussed at the October meeting, consideration needed re. size of allotment able to have them, their specification inc. possibly plastic windows, location on the allotment and what would happen at the end of the tenure. Mr Cable had also reported back on possible projector prices for planning meetings, matter to be considered at the October meeting. Mr Jeanes suggested the bench under the tree in Queen Square Garden be moved as it would be more likely to be used out in the open, it currently being shaded and dirty. The need for the North Curry Society plaque to be repainted was also raised, Clerk to contact the N. Curry Society.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.28 pm