

**Minutes of the North Curry Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on  
Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

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

**Members of the Public:** Cllr. D Fothergill, Mr G & Mrs T Jones and Mr J & Mrs T Simmons.

1. **APOLOGIES:** Ms L Turney and Mrs J Leader.
2. **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2018** – Subject to the correction of Gable to read Cable at item 20, Mr Jeanes proposed the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> October were a true record, Mr Akerman seconded the proposal, which was passed.
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Mr Jeanes declared an interest re. item 19, Payment List.
4. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS** – None.
5. **MATTERS ARISING – Policing matters** – Corr. A6599 Sgt. Murphy re. UK Rural Crime Day of Action was noted. Corr. A6600 M. Griffiths re. police presence in Village Hall noted, Village Hall to mention the occasional police hub in the Village Hall in the newsletter. **Road Safety Improvements** Mr Akerman reported that a speedwatch co-ordinator who could take part during the winter was still awaited. Corr. A6601 K. Jones, SCC re. Greenway pavement reported progress on the Greenway pavement, delivery was now expected in spring 2019. The yellow lines had been installed but it was reported they were already flaking. Cllr. Fothergill to chase re-painting of white lines and new speed signage. **Finger post repairs** – Corr. B6618 Ruishton PC re. fingerposts at Thornfalcon noted that Ruishton PC were looking at the possibility of repainting all their fingerposts, including the one at Thornfalcon. **Village Litter Pick** – Corr. B6617 R. Hopkins & others re. litter collection was noted, the collected litter to be collected from The Pavilion car park. **Church Rd. Lime Tree** – Corr. B6635 Approval of application to fell one Lime tree in Church Rd. was noted. **Car Charging Points** – The Clerk reported on the Langport charging point which was provided to users F.o.C., it was agreed to M/F the item for further discussion in 6 months. **Village Hall Grant** – Corr. A6602 M. Griffiths re. PC grant to Village Hall referred. The Village Hall were relinquishing the PC grant this year as they were in a stable financial position with adequate reserves. Mr Turner noted that \$106 money was not available for The Pavilion. **Remembrance Sunday** – Attendance at the Service had been good, the organist had cost £50. The Clerk reported an issue with one note on the Harmonium, payment for repairs to be an agenda item next month. It was agreed to obtain costs for printing new Orders of Service as current ones were getting tatty. **New Website Update** – Mr Cable reported on progress with the new website, data was being transferred and would then need updating. It was agreed the website be made live prior to updating. **Lockyers Field Footpath** Corr. A6603 SCC, TDBC & B. Jeanes re. Lockyers Field footpath referred, it was noted that the footpath to Knapp Lane from the development was still due to proceed. **County Cllr. Report** – Cllr. Fothergill reported on the commencement of planting in the new Somerset Memorial Wood, gave an update on the re-design of the Library Service, announced the launch of Somerset Independence Plus, a one-stop shop for equipment and advice to help people live independently, and the consultation of the future of the NHS across Somerset. He also reported that extra Govt. funding meant grit bins would be topped up this year. With regard to Speed Information Devices he reported Durston PC were likely to be purchasing one and training people to enable them to move it to various sites.
6. **APPLICATIONS FOR COMMENT BY NORTH CURRY PARISH COUNCIL**  
*24/18/0041 - DEMOLITION OF BOILER ROOM & UTILITY ROOM, RAISING OF ROOF OVER MASTER BEDROOM, ERECTION OF EXTENSION ON GARAGE, ERECTION OF REPLACEMENT UTILITY ROOM, SINGLE STOREY GLASS EXTENSION AT REAR, REPLACEMENT BOILER ROOM AND EXTENSION AT SIDE TO PROVIDE GARDEN*

***STORE, WIDENING OF ENTRANCE WITH LANDSCAPING TO PROVIDE RAMPED AND LEVEL ACCESS AT 12 CHURCH ROAD, NORTH CURRY***

Mr Turner explained the complexities of the application, there was discussion of the proposed finish. After discussion Mr Turner proposed the Parish Council support the application with the comment that the PC trust the Conservation Officer will ensure the exterior finishes will sit comfortably with the properties in the vicinity. Mrs Burt seconded the proposal, which was passed.

**8.20** Mr & Mrs Jones left the meeting.

7. **TO CONSIDER PURCHASE AND OPERATION OF SPEED INFORMATION DEVICE – Corr. A6604 SCC re. future of SID programme and A6605 SCC re. SID Q&A** referred. SCC would not be providing a SID service. Concern was expressed about the cost of purchase and training and availability of volunteers to move it every two weeks. N. Curry has two accredited sites on Stoke Road and in Wrantage although more could possibly be accredited in future. After discussion the Chairman proposed Durston PC be informed that NCPC may be interested to use their services of SID provision and operators if they wished to make them available. Mr Akerman seconded the proposal, which was passed. (Mr Akerman reported that SIDs were primarily a speeding deterrent but that data could be reported to the Police and assist decisions in where speed checks be located.)
8. **TO CONSIDER AND AGREE IN PRINCIPLE THE PRECEPT BID FOR 2019/2020 – Corr. A6606 TDBC request for Precept** referred. Mr Jeanes went through the draft precept in detail. There was discussion of expected website costs and it was suggested the proposed figure of £1600 for IT be reduced to £900 as initial costs would be covered in the current financial year. Stationery and Printing included £200 for shredding of documents. Cllr. Stone asked for £200 to be added from the precept for footpaths (in addition to the TDBC grant) to enable more kissing gates to be installed. Seats, signs and noticeboards allocated £800 for fingerpost costs with an additional £800 expected to come from CIL funds. Speedwatch / Road Safety costs included £600 for SIDs and £200 for grit. Training costs included money to train new Councillors following the elections and a new Welcome Booklet following the elections. The precept as amended above would give a £1100 surplus if £19000 was requested (a 3.5% increase). Cllr. Stone raised the idea of a dog bin near the Community Woodland which volunteers would then empty into the bin near Stoke Road, £150 would be requested from the PC. Mr Dennis queried the increase in the Precept given current surpluses, some considered it necessary in view of the risk of future caps on precept, Mr Akerman also mentioned the need to provide for cleaning gullies. Mr Jeanes confirmed there would be time for further discussion as the Precept would not be finalised until the January meeting. The precept would be paid in two instalments in April and September in future. Mr Jeanes proposed the precept as amended be put forward as a provisional precept for discussion and approval at the January meeting. The Chairman seconded the proposal, which was passed.
9. **TO CONSIDER ADDITIONAL SESSION OF DROP IN DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING – Corr. A6607 Defibrillator training costings** referred. Training with the ambulance service would cost £475 or another company could provide it for £159 for up to 18 people. It was agreed that a note be put in the newsletter asking who would be interested in attending training.
10. **TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE PARISH COUNCIL TREE POLICY AND LEAFLET FOR PARISHIONERS WISHING TO FELL TREES** – Cllr. Stone explained the draft tree policy that had been circulated. Mr Dennis suggested trees be planted as memorials. Mrs Vaughan asked for a definition of what is classed as a tree. Mr Jeanes queried the need to restrict planting to native trees. It was agreed the draft be put on the website and a link be put in the January newsletter to make people aware.
11. **TO CONSIDER WAY FORWARD IN APPROACH TO PARISHIONERS IN INVITING PARISH MATTERS OF CONCERN TO THEM** – After discussion it was agreed the item be raised at the January meeting, the Chairman asked all to think about how they wanted to proceed. Mr Dennis suggested Parishioners be asked about car charging points.

12. **TO CONSIDER TREE PRESERVATION ORDER REQUEST FOR TWO TREES IN OVERLANDS – Corr. A6608 Cllr. Stone re. felling of trees in Overlands** referred. Cllr. Stone thought that the 9 trees outside a property in Overlands had been planted as part of a planning condition, two were now left with some young trees planted to replace some of those lost. The owner explained why the trees had been removed, and that advice had been taken. One of the oaks had split and been blown down and the other oak was now one sided and there was concern that this too could fall and be a danger. The kerb and pavements were also being damaged. The Field Maple would be kept and there would be five trees left in total. The Chairman apologised to Mr & Mrs Simmons that they had not been consulted further before the item was raised at the meeting. **9.35** Mr & Mrs Simmons left the meeting. Concern was expressed that matters may be being raised at the Parish Council before full consultation with the people concerned. It was agreed the raising of Parishioner related issues be discussed as a closed agenda item at the December meeting when there was more time available to discuss it. Cllr. Stone suggested Mr Galley (TDBC) be asked to look at the trees to get an independent view, he would organise this.
13. **TO APPROVE AMENDED STANDING ORDERS** – Mr Jeanes explained the proposed changes to the Standing Orders which were a result of SALC requirements. He proposed the changes recommended by the Finance Panel be made to the Standing Orders and the index updated. Mr Turner seconded the proposal, which was passed.
14. **TO APPROVE AMENDED FINANCE REGULATIONS** – Mr Jeanes explained the proposed changes to the Finance Regulations which reflected the changes to the Standing Orders. The Chairman proposed the changes recommended by the Finance Panel be made to the Finance Regulations, Mr Jeanes seconded the proposal, which was passed.
15. **TO APPROVE PAVILION RESERVE LEVELS** – The Finance Committee had considered appropriate reserve levels for The Pavilion and suggested a reserve of £8,000 be set (this should allow operation for two years if the Pre-school left). The Chairman proposed a reserve of £8,000 be set, Mr Akerman seconded the proposal, which was passed.
16. **TO CONSIDER TRANSFER OF GRANT MONEY FROM CO-OP TO CAMBRIDGE & COUNTIES SAVINGS ACCOUNT** – After explanation of the grants received, Mr Jeanes proposed £28,000 be transferred from the Co-op account to the Cambridge & Counties account, Mrs Vaughan seconded the proposal, which was passed.
17. **TO CONSIDER CONDITIONS FOR GREENHOUSES ON LOSCOMBE MEADOW ALLOTMENTS** – The draft conditions were briefly discussed and the Chairman proposed they be approved, Mr Turner seconded the proposal, which was passed. Mr Jeanes was thanked for turning off the water to both sets of allotments for the winter. It was agreed he replace the hasps on the Loscombe Meadow allotment gate with a sliding bolt at a cost of up to £15.
18. **CORRESPONDENCE- Corr. A6599 - 6608** covered above.  
**Corr. A6609 Wessex Resolution CIC fuel loans** – Noted.  
**Corr A6610 Ruishton & Thornfalcon Neighbourhood Plan offer to meet** – Clerk to suggest Ruishton host a meeting and to seek dates.  
**Corr. A6611 Citizens Advice Bureau request for funding** – To be an agenda item in December.  
**Corr. A6612 L. Cole re. fund raising in N. Curry** – Clerk to suggest FONCS as a recipient and to check the proposed event wouldn't clash with the May Fayre.  
**Corr. A6613 Electoral Review final recommendations** – It was noted the new Ward would add Ruishton, Thornfalcon, Henlade and Stoke St. Mary to the current Ward.  
**Corr. A6614 Local Govt. Boundary Commission survey** – Noted.  
**Corr. A6615 Planning Inspectorate re. diversion of footpath L11/37 & T17/20** – Noted.  
**Corr. A6616 SCC consultation on support & services for children & their families** – There were no offers to consider this consultation.

**Dog bin prices** – Dog bins would cost £250 - £390 to install and £336 per year to empty. Clerk to ask Strongvox if they will install a bin at the end of the new footpath near the allotments, with the Management Committee taking responsibility for the cost of emptying the bin.

**M. Vickery re. garden extension** – Mr Vickery was enquiring about the purchase of a small amount of the White St. sports field to extend his garden, after brief discussion Mr Jeanes proposed the idea be rejected, Mr Akerman seconded the proposal, which was passed, Cllr. Stone abstained.

**Corr. B6620 C. Vaughan & SCC re. flood gates** – Mrs Vaughan reported that she was to be included on the list for cascading information re. flood gate closure and would be sent a list of affected residents.

**J. Leader re. removal of Laurel hedge in Conservation Area** – Clarification from TDBC had been sought, Mrs Vaughan reported the hedge had been out of control.

**Corr. B6623 New Village Agent notification** – Agent to be invited to the Annual Parish Meeting.

**Corr. B6622 TDBC re. withdrawal of Dog Rescue Centre application (subject to resubmission)** – Mr Jeanes proposed that as the application related to a retrospective application and the Centre had been operating without permission, enquiry be made as to how long had been permitted for the resubmission. Mrs Vaughan seconded the proposal, Mr Turner abstained.

**Corr. B6629 D. Patten re. speed camera and closure of passing places near Nythe Farm** – Mr Dennis raised concern that the road closure had continued over time, with the signs remaining but the foreman saying the road was not closed. The Clerk reported the reasons Highways had given for undertaking the work which included protecting vehicles from colliding with a concrete block and protecting a ditch.

**B. Wellwood resignation letter** - The Chairman announced the submission of the Clerk's resignation with effect from 12<sup>th</sup> January. An advert for a replacement would be put in the Newsletter, on the SALC website, in the SSG and Burrowbridge newsletters, on the noticeboards, in the Post Office and, the Gazette (subject to cost). The interview panel to consist of the PC Chairman and Chairmen of the Committees, the current Clerk to also attend. The closing date for applications would be 16<sup>th</sup> December. A job specification and person specification to be prepared. Mr Jeanes proposed a vote of thanks to the Clerk, Mrs Vaughan seconded the proposal, which was passed.

19. **FINANCE – Monthly Account** - Mr Jeanes presented the monthly account noting the PAYE for the Stables would be paid back and that the insurance income was a repayment from the Stables. The income of £21,600 was S106 grant money to pay for the White St. shed and £28,286 of CIL receipts were also shown. Mr Jeanes proposed the account be accepted, Mrs Vaughan seconded the proposal which was passed.

**Payment list** – Cllr. Stone 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	Keal's Fencing, Gardening & Property Services	£456.00
BACS Transfer	West of England Developments	£25920.00
BACS Transfer	B. Wellwood - Clerk Salary	£719.49
BACS Transfer	BA & KM Jeanes – grass cutting October	£31.50
BACS Transfer	NCVH Room Hire (October)	£23.27

**Finance Panel Meeting** – This had largely been covered above, Mr Jeanes and the Clerk to arrange a time with Mr Dennis to look at the Xero accounting system with a view to using a bought in system for the Parish Council accounts.

## 20. COMMITTEE/DELEGATES REPORTS

**Footpaths** – Cllr. Stone continued to clear stiles. He wanted to order six kissing gates, including one for the Church and one for the Wildlife Group (VAT wouldn't be reclaimable on those two). **Playing Fields** – Mr Turner reported the new play equipment would be installed in February and the installation of CCTV at the Pavilion was being considered. **Village Hall** – Nothing to report. **Tree Warden** – Covered above. **Road Safety** – Mr Akerman reported a speed check on Windmill Hill showed 8% speeding. **Allotments** – Covered above. **Stable** – Mr Jeanes reported he had tried to

break the concrete further in the car park to improve drainage, there was to be a new sign urging cyclists to use the bike rack and Berni Miles-Taylor was retiring at the end of the Financial Year and a new volunteer would be required. **Flood Warden** – Mrs Vaughan had cleared drains in the recent heavy rain, fallen leaves blocking the drains had been causing flooding. Drainage at the top of the Shambles by The Pavement had been slow. The Stoke Road/ White St. drains need clearing. Cllr. Stone reported a Community Council consultation about flooding had not been sent to North Curry or Stoke St Gregory, he was being sent some leaflets and would give them to affected households. **SALC** – The Chairman gave a report of the Area Meeting. South West Waste Partnership's waste packs had been passed on to the Welcome Pack organisers. **White St.** - Nothing to report. **Wildlife Group** – To be included in Delegates Report.

21. **PUBLICITY INPUTS** – Input to cover Clerk vacancy, clearing drains, defibrillator training interest, the new Village Agent, Somerset Independence Plus and waste collections over the Christmas period.
22. **MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION** – Mr Cable raised a possible Privacy Policy, he would look for one online. Mrs Burt mentioned helicopter activity at night.

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.40 pm**