

**Minutes of the North Curry Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on  
Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

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

**Members of the Public:** Ms Sue Buller

1. **APOLOGIES:** None
2. **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2018** – Mrs Vaughan proposed the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> December were a true record, Mr Akerman seconded the proposal, which was passed.
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Mr Jeanes declared an interest re. item 13, Payment List.
4. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS** – None.
5. **MATTERS ARISING** –
  - Policing matters – Corr. C6702 PCC Newsletter** - request for award nominations noted.
  - Speedwatch Co-ordinators** – Mr Akerman reported that no volunteers had come forward.
  - Harmonium Repair – Corr. B6686 Harmonium repair update** - Mr Akerman reported that the instrument is early Victorian, and rare. Repairs are being carried out and will cost £60 (below the agreed limit).
  - Dangerous Tree in Moor Lane** has been pollarded.
  - Church Road Lime Trees** – Cllr Stone reported that he had received two estimates and is waiting for another two.
  - Request for TDBC CIL Confirmation** – Cllr Stone has written to TDBC but has not received a reply as yet.
  - NC School Grant Request** – No further correspondence received as yet, probably due to the school holidays. To go on next agenda or matters arising.
  - Road Signage Installation** – Mr Akerman reported that work has been deferred until the Spring, possibly the Easter holidays, when it will be carried out in conjunction with the works on Greenway. Mrs Vaughan reported that one of the repeater signs in Moor Lane is broken, rusted and the roundel half off. Could it be renewed and moved to a better location. The Chairman said she would report it. The sign at the junction of White Street / Stoke Road has been turned and is now pointing in the wrong direction. Cllr Stone said he would mend it.
  - Lockyers Field Dog Waste Bin – Corr. B6685** Strongvox will provide a bin but it costs £5.03 a week to have a bin emptied. £260pa per bin. There are already three in the parish. Will the management committee meet this charge? To go on next agenda.
  - A358 Improvements Consultation** - Richard Landers has agreed to be our representative. The improvements have been delayed.
  - Grit Bins** - Mr Akerman reported that he has checked their status. The Chairman to check that the clerk has contacted TDBC. Mr Cable has asked for a dumpy bag of grit in Knapp Lane.
  - Trees on Cables - Corr B6691** Elm trees are resting on cables on Helland Hill. The Clerk to report to BT. There is a big tree stump on the verge. Cllr Stone will remove it.
  - Priory Farm, Knapp – Corr. B6688 TDBC update re. Priory Farm** - a new planning application has been submitted but is invalid. Mr Turner will follow this up.
  - Road Gritting – Corr A6704** - Stoke St Gregory Parish Council are considering alternative gritting arrangements and queried North Curry plans. North Curry await further information from SCC.

*Cllr D Fothergill entered the meeting.*

Cllr Fothergill said that there will be no preventative salting but the roads will be salted if ice forms. SCC will review the situation in May.

**Donation to Citizens Advice Bureau – Corr B6707** CAB have written to thank the PC for their donation.

**Hedge at Old Rectory** – Mr Jeanes reported that it has been replanted.

**County Council Report** – Cllr Fothergill reported that the bus subsidies will continue; the projected SCC overspend has been reversed to a small underspend; Somerset receives less public health settlement than other authorities; In the Somerset Wood, 1,600 trees have been planted with 8,000 more to come, donations to help with the upkeep will be welcome. He outlined the new school building programme, major road improvement schemes and support for enterprise. A Somerset Foster Carer has been awarded the MBE and Somerset Day will be celebrated for the 5<sup>th</sup> year on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2019. (To go in Pink Sheet).

He also said that SCC have received £10m from central government for pothole repairs. Mrs Vaughan said that the new yellow lines on the corner of Greenway are already starting to erode as an inferior quality of paint was used. Mr Cable said that the A358 consultation has been deferred until spring by Highways England.

6. **APPOINTMENT OF WENDY BALDWIN AS PARISH CLERK** - There was a good standard of applicants. Interviews were carried out by Mrs Stodgell, Mr Turner, Mr Jeanes with Mrs Wellwood in attendance. Ms Smith proposed that Ms Baldwin be appointed, Seconded by Mrs Leader, All in favour. **Corr. 6690** Ms Baldwin has accepted the appointment and will start on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January. She has enrolled on a SALC course. Mrs Wellwood will work with her for a couple of days. Mrs Stodgell proposed that Mrs Wellwood be remunerated for her extra time, seconded by Ms Turney, all in favour.
7. **PRECEPT BID FOR 2019 / 2020** – Figures showing budgeted and actual expenditure had previously been circulated. Mr Jeanes said that most of the budgeted expenditure was in line with previous years. £719 provided for dog waste bins to be increased to £784. The clerk's salary will be less than budgeted as she will start at a lower rate but there will be additional expenses for courses and travel. Mrs Leader commented on the allowance for the village newsletter. At present other organisations contribute to the cost in proportion to the amount of space they use. Hall Committee to discuss this arrangement further. The Council's contribution may increase. Mr Jeanes proposed that the Council's precept for 2019 / 2020 be £19,000, seconded by Mrs Stodgell, All in favour. Mr Jeanes said the figure needs to be submitted tomorrow (January 10<sup>th</sup>) to meet Taunton Deane BC's deadline. Mrs Stodgell said she would email it. Cllr Stone asked if the Band D contribution could be included for information.
8. **PREPARATION OF WELCOME BOOKLET** for distribution to parishioners after the election. It would include details of different societies with contact details. Mr Cable queried the usefulness of a booklet given that the parish has a website with up to date information. It was agreed that the Council would proceed with the booklet for the time being. Ms Turney said she would prepare the booklet and involve the new clerk.
9. **CONSERVATION AREA LEAFLET** – Mrs Vaughan had circulated a draft leaflet prior to the meeting. She said that she had obtained most of the information from the Taunton Deane website. It still needs a contact phone number for TDBC. Including a map of the area was discussed but thought not to be necessary. The introduction to be altered to explain that the parishioner is receiving the leaflet because they are in a conservation area. The final paragraph giving listed building guidance to be scrapped. Ms Turney offered to help with the final layout. The final draft to go on the next agenda.
10. **NEW SECTION OF HEDGE AT LOSCOMBE MEADOW** – Cllr Stone had circulated a plan showing the proposed extra hedge by the allotments. Mrs Vaughan asked who would be responsible for maintaining it. The Parish council is responsible for the allotment and therefore the hedge as well. The cost is £30, including rabbit guards, which will come from the parish tree budget. Mr Jeanes proposed that the hedge be planted, seconded by Mr Akerman, one person voted against, everyone else in favour.
11. **DOG WASTE BIN AT LOSCOMBE MEADOW** – **Corr. A6703** Cllr Stone said he had been approached by several people. There is already one dog waste bin in Greenway and another near the White Street playing field. Given that there is an annual cost of £260 for emptying the bins the council

was reluctant to meet the expense of having another one given that there are two quite close together. Mrs Vaughan suggested moving the playing field bin to the corner of White Street with Longs Field. Mr Fugett proposed that the Council wait, seconded by Ms Turney, all in favour. Mrs Burt said that dog mess is not being cleaned up outside Trevarrick House. A note to go in the pink paper.

## 12. CORRESPONDENCE

**A6705** – Pink Sheet invoice – to go on the next agenda as it is higher than budgeted. Mrs Vaughan said she would be interested to see a breakdown of the payments.

**A6706** – Request for donations for maintenance of Remembrance Wood. To go on next agenda.

**B6696** – Neighbourhood planning evening. Decided not to go.

**B6698** – School admission consultation - noted.

## 13. FINANCE

**The Monthly Account** was presented by Mr Jeanes, the major expense in December was £1069 on the website. The sundry item of £21,680 in November related to the machinery store at White Street.

Mr Jeanes proposed that the monthly account be accepted, seconded by Mrs Leader, All in favour.

### Payment list

| Cheque No | Payee            |                         | Amount |
|-----------|------------------|-------------------------|--------|
| BACS      | BBC Groundworks  | Re: West Lane           | 433.00 |
| BACS      | Taunton CAB      | Donation                | 150.00 |
| BACS      | B Wellwood       | Clerk's Salary          | 719.49 |
| BACS      | HMRC             | Clerk's NI & Stable tax | 87.36  |
| BACS      | B Wellwood       | Re: recruitment advert  | 58.50  |
| BACS      | SALC             | Training                | 85.00  |
|           | Brian Jazzmaster | Harmonium repairs       | 60.00  |
| BACS      | Brian Jeanes     | Grasscutting            | 28.00  |
| BACS      | Village Hall     | Rent                    | 15.51  |

It was proposed that the payment list be accepted, seconded by Ms Turney, Mr Jeanes abstained, everyone else in favour.

Mr Jeanes proposed that £5k be moved from Cambridge & Counties Bank to the Co-op to cover the cashflow. Seconded by Mrs Stodgell. All in favour.

**Accounting Systems** – Mr Jeanes said that he had visited Pitminster Parish Council to look at “Scribe”. The clerk was very pleased with the software and the helpline but had not used it to produce year end accounts yet. He also visited Ilminster Council to look at “Edge”. On balance he favoured “Scribe”, which will handle the Stable accounts. Mr Jeanes said he would like to work with the new clerk and report back next month. Mr Akerman asked if Littlejohns, the external auditors, have a view. They approve of both. Both companies have been in business for some time.

## 14. COMMITTEE / DELEGATE REPORTS –

**Footpaths** - there is an Elm down on West Lane.

**Playing Fields, Village Hall and Tree Warden** had nothing to report.

**Road Safety** – There will be speed enforcement 14 – 27 Jan.

**Allotments and Stable** - nothing to report.

**Flood Warden** – Mrs Vaughan reported that once again the gully on Fosse / Stoke Road was not cleared and is now completely blocked. She has reported it.

**White Street** - Cllr Stone funding for the playing fields is available and he would liaise with Greenway to see what is needed. A skate board facility had previously been suggested but details of requirements have not been received.

**Wildlife Group** – Mrs Vaughan said that there will be Wassail in the Community Woodland on 26<sup>th</sup> January with various events.

**SALC** - Mr Jeanes attended the AGM. SALC is now a limited company. They will holding training for the local elections; nomination papers will be available from 18<sup>th</sup> March and must be returned by 3<sup>rd</sup> April. They recommend that papers be taken to the Deane House in person and a receipt obtained.

He had learned that employees of the Council, including contractors, are precluded from serving on the Council. He will therefore no longer be able to cut the grass. Cllr Stone will ask for this to be clarified by TDBC. Mr Turner will ask the playing field contractor to quote for grass cutting.

15. **PUBLICITY** - Thanks to the retiring clerk and welcome to the new one. Salt available to all householders. Note about collecting dog waste, Somerset Day. Note about the forthcoming election.

16. **MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION**

Mrs Vaughan asked about the collapsed wall in the Shambles. The owners have not cleared the obstruction and the rubble is blocking the highway. Cllr Fothergill said he would contact the Highways Agency.

Mr Fugett commented on the potholes in Stoke St Gregory and asked if their Council could be contacted.

Mr Cable asked if there is a register of businesses – to go on a subsequent agenda.

Cllr Fothergill and a member of the public left. A confidential item was discussed (minuted separately).

**The meeting closed at 9.40pm**