

**Minutes of the North Curry Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on  
Wednesday 13 February 2019**

**Present:** Mrs C D Stodgell (Chairman), Mr A Turner, Mr B Jeanes, 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:** H. Perret, J. Handley, R. Handley, A. Oldfield, J. Hooper, B.J. William, C. Burnham, C. Burnham, G. R. Morgan, P. Hodgkin, D Fothergill (SCC), A. Meeham, L.A. Wand, M.F. Wand.

The Chairman welcomed our new Clerk, Wendy Baldwin.

1. **APOLOGIES:** Mr G Cable
  
2. **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2019** – Mr Jeanes requested we add 106 Loscombe Meadow to item 14, White Street. Mrs Vaughan proposed the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> January were a true record, Mr Turner seconded the proposal, which was carried. A confidential item was discussed (minuted separately), and carried.
  
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Mr Jeanes declared an interest in item 18, Payment List. Mr Turner declared an interest in item 6, Planning application for Priory Farm, Mrs J Leader declared an interest in item 7, planning application for 15 Portman's.
  
4. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS** – None.
  
5. **MATTERS ARISING** –
  - Policing matters** – None
  - Speed watch Co-ordinators** – Mr Akerman reported that Mr Meehan had volunteered to take over the role for a trial period.
  - Church Road Lime Trees** – Three quotes had been received. It was proposed by Mr Jeanes to proceed with the lowest tender from Aboricare Ltd, this was seconded by The Chairman and will go on March agenda for approval of payment. Cllr. Stone was regretful there was a delay, Mr Turner suggested he schedule the work with Aboricare for as soon as possible after the next meeting, with the indication that the motion to pay the invoice will be carried on this date.
  - Request for TDBC CIL Confirmation** – Cllr Stone has written to TDBC but with no conclusive answer regarding the legality of using CIL money for the schools application - to be discussed later on the agenda, item 14.
  - Lockyer's Field Dog Waste Bin** – **Corr. A6712** Strongvox confirmed the management committee will meet the charge of £5.03 a week to have the bin emptied.
  - Skate Park Request** – **Corr. A6713** the Clerk contacted Master Lithgow who had previously forwarded his petition to ask for further details on the expectation of the skate park and potential costs for the project. His mother replied detailing some similar schemes, in excess of £40,000. The cost and size of these examples are over budget and the size would be too big to fit on the playing fields without losing pitches. Mr Turner took these details to the Playing Fields Committee and after much discussion it was concluded that the committee did not have the funds or the appetite for the park. Mr Akerman noted that in Duloe in Cornwall he had seen a portable skate park. It was discussed and agreed that The Clerk was to respond to Mrs Lithgow, explain the cost and size was too much, and ask if a scaled down version could be researched, meanwhile, The Clerk will also research the scheme on Duloe and that of Ilchester Town Council who also have a skate park to find out what they have in place.
  - Welcome Booklet** – The Chairman asked Miss Turney for progress on updating the booklet, which will need updating by May, following the elections. Miss Turney expressed the possible challenge in updating the booklet as it stands and suggested it was redone from scratch in a different format rather than duplicating efforts. The Chairman felt this was not necessary and after discussion it was agreed

that a notice be put in the newsletter to ask if anyone would like to help update this booklet. Mr Fugett agreed to take this task if no one responded to the invite from the newsletter. The Chairman also said she would contact David Pattern who designed the last leaflet, to see if he would be able to update it.

**Wall in the Shambles** – work has commenced and is nearly completed.

**County Council Report** – Cllr Fothergill reported that SCC continues to grit on a precautionary basis. A review to changes in the gritting routes will be carried out this summer ahead of the policy for the 2019/20 winter period.

It was also reported Somerset's schools will receive an increase in their funding in 2019. Ofsted visited SCC to undertake an inspection of Children's Social Care Services. SCC Public Health encouraged people to talk during February's 'Time to Talk' day detailing contact numbers for organisations who can help and advice. Two further investments into Special Education Needs in Somerset were announced by SCC. The investment programme is to the SCC have the right places in the right areas of the County to meet the needs of children with Special Educational Needs. Somerset Direct continues to improve its performance in the resolution of adult Social Care issues, seeing over 90% of contacts resolved satisfactorily in first contact, in addition the Adult Social Care Team have achieved 89% reduction in the number of people waiting to a social care assessment. He reported several schemes being implemented by the end of March following the addition £9.9m fund to maintain Somerset's roads last year.

**6. PLANNING – APPLICATIONS FOR COMMENT BY NORTH CURRY PARISH COUNCIL 24/18/0049 – CHANGE OF USE OF LAND AND BUILDINGS TO MIXED USE RESIDENTIAL AND DOG RESCUE CENTRE AT PRIORY FARM, BIRDS LANE, KNAPP, NORTH CURRY (resubmission of 24/18/0032) (Retention of works already undertaken)**

Mr Turner left the meeting. Mrs Vaughan explained the new application no longer included planning on the outhouse, however this was the only amendment to the previous application submitted. Mrs Vaughan and Mr Jeanes visited Priory Farm. It was noted that the footpath was still diverted without permission. Concerns from residents included noise, intimidation when meeting large groups of dogs being exercised, and dogs escaping. After full discussion Mr Jeanes proposed the Parish Council object to the granting of permission, Mrs Leader seconded the proposal, which was carried. There was discussion of the comments to be given, after which Mrs Vaughan proposed the following comments be made:

1. Noise - the noise from Priory Farm is unacceptable being frequent, highly intrusive and occurring from early morning to late at night. This affects a large number of properties, there being 25+ properties within 500m of Priory Farm, (hardly a "sporadic hamlet"). The noise is not temporary as stated in the Agent's letter as there is a continual changeover of dogs due to the nature of the business. Neighbours have also noted that on occasions where the site has been visited for the purposes of considering this application, that the noise has reduced and query if some dogs are removed from site on these days.
2. There is a public footpath in existence directly behind the house which has been blocked and diverted without permission. It would be difficult to enforce the maintenance of the footpath if it is not an official diversion. Even with the diversion there is risk of coming into contact with the dogs as they access the land associated with Priory Farm. It is understood that this planning application cannot be agreed until an application to divert the footpath has been formally agreed.
3. Health and Safety – the source of many of the dogs means they would be unsocialised and pose a greater risk to the public and livestock. The number and nature of the dogs being exercised at one time is causing people to feel intimidated when meeting them while using the footpath across the farm and on surrounding paths. There are also a number of reports of dogs having escaped and being loose without the owner's knowledge onto the footpath and surrounding areas.
4. There is concern that this is a residential property that has not got the necessary facilities for a dog rescue centre. (It is noted that, in addition to rescue dogs waiting for rehoming, the Rushton

Rescue Centre website suggests that a further 25 dogs, that the applicant doesn't want to part with or that aren't suitable for rehoming, are resident at the property on a long term basis.)

5. The Parish Council has concern about the accuracy of the application and Agent's covering letter, bearing in mind this is a retrospective application. These include:

- At item 6 of the application form, the proposal does require a diversion of a right of way, the currently approved right of way passes directly behind the property but has been unofficially diverted.
- The agent claims that "most of the land comprises woodland" and this is indicated on the site plan, however this is not the case. The "woods" are open fields with occasional trees, with one very small area of woodland at the end, this does not serve to muffle the noise of the dogs in any way as claimed.

Mrs Leader seconded the proposal which was carried. Some members of the public left the meeting and Mr Turner returned to and resumed Chairing the meeting.

**7. 24/19/0003 – ERECTION OF A TWO STOREY EXTENSION TO THE SIDE OF 15 PORTMANS, NORTH CURRY (Amendment to previously supported application)**

Mr Turner explained that this application had been resubmitted with the amendment to the roofline. After discussion, Mr Akerman proposed the Parish Council support the application. Mr Jeanes seconded the proposal, Mrs Leader abstained, and the proposal was carried.

**8. 24/18/0046 – ERECTION OF A DETACHED DOMESTIC WORKSHOP/STORE TO THE SIDE OF 2 WINDMILL HILL, NORTH CURRY (Amendment to previously supported application)**

Mr Turner explained the amendments of the application, there was discussion of the proposed new 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 Vaughan seconded the proposal, which was carried.

**9. TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF PINK SHEET COSTS OF £536.40**

Corr. A6705. The Chairman proposed we pay the £536.40 cost which is £36.40 over the precepted sum. Mrs Leader questioned the amount, the Chairman explained that it was discussed by the Village Hall Committee and had been agreed that the cost for the production of the newsletter was shared by all users. Mr Turner, seconded the proposal, Mrs Leader abstained, and the proposal was carried.

**10. TO CONSIDER ACTION ON DEAD ELM TREES ON WHITE STREET**

The Chairman explained these trees belong to the Council, but when Cllr. Stone tried to remove them, there was an objection by a member of the public as it was thought these trees may not be dead and also act as a barrier to the cricket balls on the playing field. Mr Akerman suggested the resident put some netting up as protection from cricket balls and also suggested the trees be replaced once removed. Cllr. Stone said there were already new oak trees planted there. Mr Jeanes proposed the dead trees are taken down, Mr Vaughan seconded the proposal, which was carried.

**11. TO CONSIDER REQUEST FOR MAINTENANCE FUNDING FOR THE NEW SOMERSET WOODLAND (WW1 REMEMBRANCE WOOD)**

Corr. A6715 The Chairman reminded the Cllrs that Cllr Fothergill reported about the WW1 remembrance wood last month and that Cheddon Fitzpaine and West Monkton Parish Councils have the finances to provide all the tree saplings. They contacted all the Parish Councils in Somerset inviting councils to finance a tree for each fallen soldier in their Parish, helping with the care of the trees for approximately 5 years. The Clerk had written and asked for further details of cost and they suggested £25 per tree. NCPC has 28 names on the war memorial, totalling £700. The chairman

proposed the PC support the request but pay a 5<sup>th</sup> annually for the 5 years- £140 in April 2019 continuing until 2024, Mr Akerman seconded the proposal, which was carried.

**12. TO APPROVE NCPC CONSERVATION AREA LEAFLET**

Mrs Vaughan had circulated a final draft of the leaflet prior to the meeting. The committee agreed the slight alterations and Mrs Vaughan proposed the leaflet be printed in the Parish office and hand delivered to residents, Mrs Burt seconded, which was carried. Clerk to print the leaflets and labels for the envelopes ready for delivery.

**13. TO CONSIDER LOCKYERS FIELD FOOTPATH PROPOSALS INCLUDING NEED FOR HEDGE REMOVAL**

**Corr. A6716.** Mr Turner explained the plan for the proposed hedge removal for a footpath on Knapp Lane for Lockyer's Field residents. After much discussion, the following points were suggested in response to this. On consideration;

1. There is already a new footpath leading to the village, is it necessary for another.  
Knapp lane has limited parking, visitors and Tradesman Park on the road which will obscure the new sight line anyway.
2. The speeds in Knapp Lane are on average 25mph, this has proved to be 38% faster than the original speed stated of 18mph. It is thought that as this speed is excessive for this road, it is feared that speed will only increase with a longer sight line – rather than increase the visibility, can something be put place to reduce the traffic speed, there was a suggestion to reduce the speed to 20mph and install speed bumps.

Mr Akerman proposed we request from Strongvox that instead of using funds to create another footpath, Strongvox donate £25k to increase road safety for all in the Parish. Mrs Turney seconded the proposal which was carried.

**2. TO CONSIDER SCHOOL REQUEST FOR GRANT FUNDING FOLLOWING FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE FROM SCHOOL**

**Corr. A6717** – The Chairman summarised the letter sent by the school to explain why they needed to come to the Parish for help with funding, they also included a revised quote which is lower than the original amount requested. We still do not have clarification whether CIL funds can be used for this specific purpose. After discussion, it was suggested that The Clerk contact SALC or NALC and ask if they can offer guidance, respond to H Morley explaining the delay in authorisation, quoting the CIL conditions, and write to the school Governors to request if they can provide evidence of other schools using CIL funds in this way.

**3. CORRESPONDENCE**

**A6705** - A6717 already covered in matters arising and previous agenda items.

**A6718** - item 17, to follow.

**A6719** - The new service charges from the stable committee

**A6720** - TDBC, The Mayor, request for nominations For the Citizen Nominations

**B6721** - Road closure, Knapp Lane, 19 February for 3 days from 9am – 4pm (utilities)

**B6722** - SCC closure to Meare Green Lane, for sewer level monitor equipment.

**B6723** – TDBC Print Room closure from 29 March.

**B6724** – Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance – Coast to Coast Cycle Race.

**4. TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE PAYMENT FOR THE NEW PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTING SYSTEM**

Mr Jeanes explained that he and The Clerk had seen two demonstrations, one from a company called Scribe, and one from a company called Edge. Mr Jeanes then clarified the reason for choosing Scribe was down to a more user friendly system, and the option of ongoing support from the free helpline

made Scribe more cost effective. Mr Jeanes proposed we adopt the accounting system, Mr Turner seconded the proposal, which was carried.

**5. TO DISCUSS RENEWAL AND PAYMENT OF MEMBERSHIP TO CPRE.**

**Corr. A6718** – The Chairman explained that payment of this membership was supported last year, adding the CPRE are a valuable asset in many ways and the payment has already been precepted. The Chairman proposed we support this membership, Mrs Vaughan seconded the proposal, which was carried.

**6. FINANCE**

**The Monthly Account** was presented by Mr Jeanes. Mr Jeanes proposed that the monthly account be accepted, seconded by Mrs Vaughan, all in favour.

**Payment list**

<b>Cheque No</b>	<b>Payee</b>		<b>Amount</b>
BACS	B. Wellwood	Clerks Salary	561.12
BACS	W. Baldwin	Clerks Salary	1191.80
BACS	CPRE	Membership	36.00
BACS	B. Jeanes	New Parish Council sign	36.00
BACS	Village Hall	Newsletter costs	536.40
BACS	Village Hall	Rent	15.51
100338	J Musgrove	Maintenance around road signs	72.00

The Clerk salary was raised, The Chairman explained this was due to a midmonth start and is not due for payment until end of February. It was proposed that the payment list be accepted, seconded by Cllr. Stone, Mr Jeanes abstained, everyone else in favour.

**Addition and removal of authorised user** - Mr Jeanes explained this was a document from the bank enabling the new Clerk Wendy Baldwin to have basic authorisation on the account and to remove the previous Clerk, Barbara Wellwood.

**Petty Cash Withdrawal Process** - Mr Jeanes explained that previous Clerk would draw cash on behalf of the Parish for petty cash and this would be repaid. Mr Jeanes explained that the Parish Council cannot cash cheques and that we explore the option of a debit card for the current clerk. Mr Jeanes proposed we continue with the same system as we had done previously. Mr Turner said he would be willing to draw the cash and so did the Chairman, Mrs Leader seconded the proposal, which was carried.

**7. COMMITTEE / DELEGATE REPORTS –**

**Footpaths** – Mr Akerman reported that the footpath between Manor Lane and Loscombe Meadow was very muddy, he proposed that suitable material be purchased to reduce the mud making it easier for walkers and School children to use. Mr Fugett seconded the proposal, which was carried.

**Playing Fields** – Mr Turner reported they are nearly ready for a new play surface and is the £1500 available. To go on next agenda.

**Village Hall** – Online room booking will go live by Easter. The Gazebo is available for let, free of charge but a £10 deposit is required, which is refundable on return. All hall users have included newsletter costs in their rental charges, with the exception of the coffee shop who are generous in donations to the hall. WIFI should be available in the hall by the end of February, username and password to be agreed. Fund raising - Julia Felix Concert tickets are available in the Post Office, over 50% already sold. There are new hire rates for cutlery, these are now £25 per hire, plus any breakage. The Village Hall have their AGM on 2<sup>nd</sup> April.

**Tree Warden** – waiting for response regarding the trees on Helland hill.

**Road Safety** – One speed camera session has already taken place this month, another was booked for the following Thursday.

**Allotments** – nothing to report

**Stable** – Increase charge for all. To go on next agenda

**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** – nothing to report

**Wildlife Group** – Mrs Vaughan said that the Wassail in the Community Woodland on 26<sup>th</sup> January went well with about 100 attendees.

8. **PUBLICITY** - Note about the forthcoming election. Welcome Booklet. Updating the website, Dorset and Somerset Coast to Coast Cycle Challenge, and including a request for marshalling volunteers. Note to residents to ensure recycling is securely in boxes.
9. **MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION** – Cllr. Stone reported on the progress of the finger posts, The Chairman asked for a list of all those already done. Mr Jeans noted that in the Points of Light publication that SALC send, other Parishes have two litter picks a year, Mrs Vaughan stated North Curry also have two a year. To go on March agenda.

**The meeting closed at 10.25 pm**