

**MINUTES OF NORTH CURRY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD
IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 1st MAY 2019 AT 7.30 p.m.**

Present: Parish Councillors, Cllr. D Fothergill, and 20 members of the public.

1. **WELCOME TO THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**
The Chairman welcomed everybody.
2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Mrs J Leader, Mr Leader, Mrs L Burton.
3. **HEADTEACHER'S REPORT FOR NORTH CURRY C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL** – Mrs Morley, Headmistress of NC School, reported the school is still “outstanding” since becoming an academy and being part of the Richard Huish Trust. Mrs Morley explained that the school has a limited budget and had unfortunately been unsuccessful for CIF funding this year therefore are currently unable to replace the temporary classrooms. She reported the continued success that mindfulness and building resilience sessions has had on the pupils and was pleased to report the school now has an Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA). She also spoke of the support from the local community and thanked these groups for their support. Three pupils from the school then gave a presentation, which included a plea for the Parish Council to help fund new play equipment.
7.40 Mrs Morley, the Headmistress, three pupils and their parents left the meeting.
4. **TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 2nd MAY 2018** - Copies of the Minutes had been distributed to attendees, there were no comments. Mrs Vaughan proposed the Minutes were a true record of the meeting; Mr Turner seconded the proposal, which was carried.
5. **MATTERS ARISING** – None.
6. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT** - The Chairman read her report, copy attached.
7. **TO RECEIVE AND NOTE**
 - 7.1 **Parish Council Accounts** –
Copies of p3-6 and 8 of the unaudited accounts for the previous year were circulated, full copies were also available. Mr Jeanes explained the Stable accounts, and was pleased to say the Stable had managed to provide £5000 to the Parish Council again this year. Mr Jeanes then summarised the Parish Council accounts explaining the figures. A point of particular note was the current balance, which was up from last year due to receiving the second sum of CIL money relating to Lockyer's Field. Mr Jeanes noted the highest expenditure was from the remaining 106 monies, which had been used to purchase the extension to the White Street Machinery Store. Mr Jeanes explained the CIL terms of use and that the Parish Council need to ensure these terms are met for any funding offered. Mention was made by Mrs Jones, a parishioner as to why there were still Jubilee funds unspent, Mr Jeanes explained these were allocated towards to proposed new school toilets, but added it may be that the school would prefer these to be reallocated to part fund the play equipment.
 - 7.2 **Parochial Charities Accounts – Annual Report**

Mr Akerman presented the accounts on their behalf and explained the background to the Parochial Charities, a question was asked as to how many vouchers are given each year and the sum of these. Mr Ackerman explained the payments, which were made and suggested the PCC are considering distributing larger amounts to a smaller number of people this coming year, following which he passed the accounts to the Chairman for signature.

8. **CIL – Discussion of areas to improve infrastructure**

Mr Jeanes asked for suggestions from the room on the use of the CIL money. Cllr. Stone mentioned that some of the residents on Loscombe Meadow had commented that the swings in the play area were only suitable for older children, inquiring if the Parish Council would consider changing one to suit younger children. Mr Jeanes suggested this may be a suitable use of the funds, but this would need to be brought to the Parish Council for a decision to be made. The Chairman also noted that the play areas in both Loscombe Meadows and Lockyer's Field development were for all children in the Parish to enjoy. Mr Turner mentioned the request from the school for new play equipment and asked what stage we were at in finding out if this was considered a suitable use of funds. Mr Jeanes explained that we had been unable to gain a conclusive answer on this previously but new information has come to light, which may assist the decision-making. Mr Jones asked if we knew what other councils had spent their CIL money on, Mr Jeanes explained this is not information we keep, but that gave some examples of what North Curry Parish Council have used some of the funds for to date which included money towards a new pavement, play equipment, picnic benches, a car park at White Street, the school library, waste bins and signs. Miss Turney pointed out that the Parish Council was minded to help the school by funding the play equipment but that clarification needed to be sought to avoid financial ramifications. It was asked by a member of the public if some of the funds could be used to address speed issues in the parish and possible Speed Indication Devices (SIDs). Mr Jeanes explained that it could be, however this had previously been decided against due to the stipulations of use. Mr Akerman explained that the SIDs could only be used in any one place for a period of 2 – 3 weeks before they have to be moved to another location and that volunteers need to be trained and sites accepted in order to operate the equipment. Finally, Mr Jeanes requested that any suggestions for the use of these funds be submitted to the Parish Council for consideration.

9. **NORTH CURRY COFFEE SHOP REPORT** – Mrs Brown, retiring Chairman of the Coffee Shop, reported the most successful year yet for the coffee shop enabling them to donate £16,000 to charities and local good causes, bringing the total amount donated since opening in 2006 to around £175,000. Mrs Brown described the work that goes into the coffee shop and its growing success which had helped it gain a Rural Community Ownership Award and a top three short listing for their 'Investing in Local People' award category, a feature on BBC Somerset earlier in the year as well as a membership and shareholder scheme for the wider community. Mrs Brown explained she is stepping down after the AGM from the role of Chairman after 4 years on this position and 9 years on the committee but will remain a volunteer.

10. **TREE POLICY** –

Cllr. Stone explained that over the year tree preservation orders had been placed on most of the most prestigious trees in the parish and considered now would be a good

opportunity to produce a ‘Tree Policy’ covering the regulations around the trees and their management in the parish. Mention was made to the number of dead elm trees in the parish and the possible threat of Ash Disease. Cllr. Stone summarised some of the benefits of trees and the need to ensure that the new developments in the parish adhere to the planting and maintenance agreements. Another area of focus was that of new planting and re-planting in the parish and Cllr. Stone explained a survey would be carried out in the summer by the Parish Council to identify sites for new trees and future planting.

11. **COMMUNITY WOODLAND –**

Parishioner Mrs Taylor reported the woodland was in its 10th year and was still thriving from new developments such as a pond, landscaping and a butterfly bank. Bird boxes including two owl boxes have shown evidence of use and with the help of volunteers, the area is well maintained, and wildlife activity monitored. She explained that use of grants and support of the local community continues to help promote the group and soon they hope to have trail cameras, a moth trap and much more. Special thanks were given to Mr and Mrs Mears who kindly offered to provide the artwork for the new notice board, which should be in place soon. Reference was made to the website northcurrywildlife.com and the stand at the upcoming May Fayre. She encouraged people to visit the area and the website and ended by giving thanks to the Coffee Shop and Garden Club.

8.30 A coffee break was held. Some members of the public left the meeting.

12. **NORTH CURRY SPORT LTD (WHITE ST. SPORTS GROUND) REPORT – i)**

Chairman – Sue Taylor read a report on behalf of Mr Leader, the Chairman, summarising the success of the White St. Sports facilities, reporting there was now a total of 14 acres for all ages to enjoy including the cricket and football grounds to the wildlife area. Thanks to the volunteers and local community was noted. **Football** – Shawn Sutton reported on the success of the youth football team of which over 100 children have now joined. The Club now has FA Charter Standard, there are FA Level 1, and 2 qualified coaches. He also reported good feedback from visitors and thanked all the volunteers, local community and the Parish Council for their support. Mr Sutton added that there continues to be an issue with dog mess on the sports field despite efforts to encourage dog owners to keep dogs on leads and requested the support of the room on this. **iii) Cricket** – Mr Midgley reported one game had already been played for the season and mentioned the league starting at the weekend. There are now two teams running on a Saturday and the team is in a healthy position at the top of the league for West Somerset. The ECB ‘Allstars’ initiative continues to be a success with over 40 children booked in; and following the example of the football club, there are now games on Friday nights for 5-9 year olds. Mention was made to the annual ‘Big Bash’ and the outstanding support that the funds have generated for North Curry Sports. Thanks were given to the volunteers, and local parishioners.

8.55 Mr Midgley left the meeting.

13. **GREENWAY PLAYING FIELDS REPORT** – Mr Turner spoke on behalf of their Chairman, Mr Quinn. He mentioned the success of the new grass-cutting contract, which began last year. He reported that there was some new and replacement play equipment using grant money donated from the Playing Fields Committee, Somerset

West and Taunton Council, the Parish Council and the Pavilion. CCTV cameras had been installed to limit antisocial behaviour, which has been successful. Unfortunately, the CCTV was unable to determine what caused the damage to the floodlights on the MUGA. Thanks were given to an anonymous donor; the funds will be used to install energy efficient lights in replacement for the ones damaged. It was reported that Little Acorns may merge with the school in the future and consideration was given to the impact this may have on the Pavilion, Mr Turner suggested when improving the Pavilion to ensure it remains user friendly. Reference was also made to their presence at the May Fayre.

14. **PARISH AFFAIRS – OPEN FORUM** – Parishioner Mrs Brown expressed concern for the length of time the footpath between Lockyer’s Field and Chapel Close was taking from the initial closure time in January until now when it is still closed. The Chairman explained that we were assured this was now being worked on again and would open soon, Somerset County Councillor David Fothergill said he would find out what was holding up the process and report back to the clerk. Mrs Vaughan urged those present to be vigilant about the Asian Hornet, pictures and information have been put up in the village and if one is spotted, it should be reported as per the details provided on the notices. Cllr. Stone asked if there was a suggestion of a battery car charging point in the village, Mrs Burt explained that this was raised with the Village Hall Committee as it was suggested one was installed in the car park, however after discussion with Knights Garage, it seems there is no standardisation to the charging plugs, there was also concern over the length of charge time. The Chairman mentioned a single charge point in available in Langport car park and a charge point in North Curry might be something for the future, which may be discussed.

There being no other business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.