

**Minutes of the North Curry Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on  
Wednesday 10 July 2019**

**Present:** Mrs C D Stodgell (Chairman), Mr A Turner, Mr B Jeanes, Ms C Smith, Ms E Turney, Mr M Dennis, Mrs C Vaughan, Mr Cable, Cllr. P Stone, Mr I Fugett.

**Members of the Public:** Mr A Meehan, Mr & Mrs Caldecott, Cllr. D Fothergill (SCC), Mr J Wedley, Mr R Lander, Cllr. S. Buller, Mr & Mrs Watson, S Bethune.

1. **APOLOGIES:** Mrs J Leader, Mrs M Burt.
2. **APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2019** – The Chairman invited any amendments or comments to the minutes, there were none, Mrs Vaughan proposed the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> June were a true record; Mr Cable seconded the proposal, which was carried.
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Mr Jeanes declared an interest in item 14, Payment List.
4. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS** – The Chairman addressed the public inviting them to ask general questions unless they were attending for a specific agenda item. Mr Wedley commented on the reason for his attendance and the Chairman assured him the subject of parking on Greenway would be raised under correspondence. Mr Caldecott asked for an update on extension to the 30 mph speed limit request in Moor Lane, Cllr. Fothergill explained that this request had been referred to the ‘Road Signs and Markings’ department who are investigating the matter.

**7.45pm Mr & Mrs Caldecott left the meeting.**

5. **MATTERS ARISING-**

**Policing matters** – Nothing to report

**Welcome Booklet** – Mr Fugett continues to work on the welcome booklet. He required some information on the Pavilion and Village Hall, which Ms Turney and Mr Turner will provide.

**106 Monies – Village hall.** Mr Jeanes reported there had been no update on the use of these funds.

**Sorting planning boxes** – The Chairman reminded Cllrs. to collect a box from the PC office.

**Schools CIL Money** – The Chairman reported that she and the Clerk visited Mr J Abbott, CEO of the Richard Huish Trust (RHT), to discuss the use of the CIL monies for play equipment at the school and if they would be willing to underwrite the risk should the money be recalled. They were in favour of this; providing Mrs Morley also accepted that this repayment would be linked to their school budget should it ever be evoked. The PC will receive confirmation once this has been discussed between RHT and the school. The Chairman also noted correspondence **A6790** from Mrs Morley in respect of the Jubilee funds set aside in order to help pay towards new school toilets. The Chairman explained that Mrs Morley was unaware of these allocated funds, the Clerk responded to Mrs Morley with the details of the allocation, and requested that should the school wish to revise their use of these funds, they write to the PC so it can be considered.

**Traffic in Moor Lane/Shambles** – Following Mr Jeanes prior suggestion to elevate a hashed triangle at the junction of Church Rd and Moor Lane, Cllr Fothergill explained that there was little chance of works for improvement of traffic safety. He explained that, as there has been no history of accidents in that area, it currently serves to show the junction and road marking are clear, and adhered to. Mr Meehan added that permission had now been granted for the Speed Watch Group to monitor Moor Lane.

**R. Alford Meeting** – The Chairman, Mr Turner and Cllr. Stone met with Mr Alford to discuss the allocation of monies regarding the savings on street lighting for Lockyer’s Field, and while he had recognised this had been discussed previously, nothing final had been agreed. He was willing to look into the possibility for some monies, however, noted that this would not be substantial. Mr Tuner also commented that should the footpath in Knapp Lane not be agreed, savings from that could help the parish, and possibly the school. There was some discussion on what decision had been made regarding the footpath. Cllr. Buller agreed to look into this and report back to the PC.

**A358 chosen route – Corr. A7791.** The Chairman gave thanks to Mr Lander for his continued hard work on this. The final draft of the letter Mr Lander had produced was sent to all Cllrs. and the Chairman asked for any questions regarding the suggested response. Mr Lander explained the premise of the letter, and after some discussion, the Chairman proposed we send the letter; this was seconded by Mrs Vaughan, which was carried.

**Stable heating system** - Mr Jeans and Mr Dennis have continued investigating replacing the existing boiler with a more environmentally friendly option and have a meeting arranged to discuss the system further, including obtaining details on funding, grants and cost savings associated. This will be an agenda item for August.

The Chairman raised a letter that had been sent by Mr Meehan requesting a small section in the village newsletter to report on the speed watch statistics, the Chairman proposed she contact Mrs Drakeford to ask if space can be allocated for this without the PC having their column size reduced, seconded by Ms Turney, which was carried.

**Corr. B6800** – The Chairman reported on a letter from Planning regarding an enforcement order on the unofficial caravan site in Wrantage; the residents of the site have been asked to submit a planning application.

**ANY OTHER MATTERS ARISING** – none

**County Council Report** – Cllr. Fothergill reported that following the end of year financial report, SCC were in a substantially improved financial position; however, advises there may be changes in next year's finances due to uncertainty of future grants. He also reported he ongoing funding for the Dementia Support Group. There is continued success on the Talking Cafes, 14 now run across Somerset and these have helped over 2,737 people in the last 18 months. The BBC Concert Orchestra visited Somerset and played to over 1000 Somerset pupils in an effort to open up the work of classical music to children. Cllr. Fothergill also reported on completed road schemes, a historic signpost award for Exmoor, introductory courses on mental health in August for anyone wishing to attend and the ongoing work towards those in the County with special educational needs.

6. **TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE COST FOR A PARISH COUNCIL LAPTOP – Corr. A6792.** The Chairman referred to the letter received from SWT Council regarding use of CIL monies to purchase technology required for the PC. The Clerk had obtained some prices. After discussion, it was suggested the Clerk contact the PC Doctor to ask advice on what would best work with our existing system.
7. **TO DISCUSS A PARISH SPEED POLICY** – The Chairman reported on the meeting between Mr Meehan, Cllr. Stone, and Mr Akerman to discuss speed in the parish and Cllr. Stone and Mr Meehan requested the support of the PC on the 20s plenty campaign. Cllr. Fothergill commented on his willingness to support the parish on the campaign, however, explained that in order to change the speed limit, the entire SCC policy on speed would need to be amended which would in turn affect the 500 parishes in the County. Mr Dennis suggested the creation of a culture and ethos in the parish to encourage people to reduce their speed may be a more achievable goal. There was much discussion around the subject, and the campaign. The Chairman proposed a working group be set up to move this forward. Cllr. Stone, Mr Meehan, Ms Turney and Mr Watson were willing to form this group and report to the PC regarding the speed policy and 20 mph limit campaign. Cllr. Fothergill offered to arrange radar points to be set up in September to obtain accurate data on speed to help support the group.
8. **TO DISCUSS AND APPROVE COST FOR A BENCH SEAT AT BOROUGH POST BY THE BUS STOP – Corr. A6793** from Mrs Browne requesting a seat for the bus top at Borough Post. Cllr. Fothergill, had spoken to highways who had no objections to the seat, after discussion on potential costs, Cllr. Fothergill suggested we include a shelter as this may end up being an additional request in the future, Ms Turney offered to research shelters and seats and will report back to the PC at the next meeting.

9. **TO DISCUSS AND APPROVE COST FOR SOCIETY OF LOCAL COUNCIL CLERKS (SLCC) MEMBERSHIP – Corr. A6794** – The Chairman explained that this membership was taken out for the previous Clerk who found it very useful and proposed we renew it at the cost of £128. This was seconded by Mr Cable, which was carried.
10. **TO DISCUSS IDEAS FOR VE DAY CELEBRATIONS – Corr. A6795** the Chairman explained that this had been raised previously in correspondence and ideas were to be brought to the meeting. Suggestions previously had been to liaise with the British Legion and Church. The Chairman offered to contact Mr Tate to see if and how the Legion might want to be involved in celebrations, it was also suggested that an entry go into the newsletter asking parishioners for ideas.
11. **TO DISCUSS AND CONSIDER A DONATION AMOUNT TO PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL CHILDREN’S ACTIVITY DAY – Corr. A6796.** The Chairman reminded the Cllrs. of the £350 donation made last year towards the Parochial Church Council Children’s activity day, and that we have received a request to donate again this year. After discussion, it was decided that the Parish Council should spread the annual donations across different groups each year and Mr Jeanes proposed we do not make the payment for the PCC Children’s Activity Days this year, seconded by Mr Dennis, which was carried. Mr Turner was for the payment of these funds and Cllr. Stone abstained.
12. **TO DISCUSS FINGER POST REQUIREMENTS AND APPROVE COST OF REPLACEMENT FINGERS WITH WRITING – Corr. A6797** the Chairman explained that we were still in the process of getting the fingers with writing. Cllr. Stone suggested, as this was such a specialist service, the PC obtain, and pay for the quote from Mr Prior for the three remaining fingers, seconded by the Chairman which was carried.
13. **CORRESPONDENCE**

**A6790 – A6797** already covered in matters arising and previous agenda items.

**A6798 – NALC – Legal update.** Secret ballots are no longer allowed unless these are permissible in the Parish’s Standing orders. The Chairman explained that our Standing Orders currently state a secret ballot can be held when electing a Chairman and Vice Chairman but not for anything else, after brief discussion Mr Jeanes proposed we amend our Standing Orders to permit the use of secret ballots, seconded by the Chairman, which was carried.

**A6799 Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service Changes** – the Chairman explained that this was a consultation document on changes. Cllr. Fothergill commented on the removal of vital services including the fire station responsible for any fires on Exmoor and encouraged the PC to give their view. The Chairman will complete the survey on behalf of the PC and Mr Jeanes will attend the ‘Have your Say’ session in Taunton on 30<sup>th</sup> July.

Late correspondence included an email from Mr J Wedley regarding the double yellow lines on Greenway, and how this has resulted in fewer parking spaces for the residents of Cricket Cottages. The Chairman explained that the proposed plans were displayed in the post office and had been proposed in response to a survey of parishioners requesting the changes for the safety of the school children. The Chairman also reiterated what the Clerk had stated in correspondence prior to the meeting, that emergency vehicles, people with disabled permits as well as delivery, unloading and loading is permitted on the double yellow line, also the village hall car park is available for parishioner’s, and anywhere else in the village where it is legal to do so. There was much discussion, Cllr. Fothergill offered to meet with Mr Wedley to discuss possible ways to increase parking for residents of Cricket Cottages.

An email from Cllr. Stone regarding management of riverbank cutting in Curry Moor was also discussed. The Chairman proposed we support Cllr. Stones proposal to limit the cutting was agreed,

providing it was made clear to the Rivers Authority that this was not to delay or inhibit the dredging or flood management, this was seconded by Mrs Vaughan, which was carried, Mr Fugett abstained.

14. **FINANCE – The Monthly Account** was presented by Mr Jeanes, detailing all receipts and payments (including monthly direct debits that are not listed below), he proposed it be accepted, seconded by Ms Turney, which was carried.

**Payment list** – The Chairman presented the payment list and proposed it be approved, Ms Smith seconded the proposal, which was carried, and Mr Jeanes abstained.

<b>Chq No</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Amount</b>
BACS	W. Baldwin – Clerks salary	674.05
BACS	NCVH (June room hire)	33.60
BACS	NC Stable Charge - Electricity	74.77
BACS	NC Stable Charge - Gas	18.06
BACS	HMRC - NI & PAYE + Stable tax	6.00
BACS	B A & M K Jeanes - grass cutting June	42.00

#### **COMMITTEE / DELEGATE REPORTS-**

**Footpaths** – Cllr. Stone reported that the third of four kissing gates is now in on the path from bottom of Helland Hill towards the orchid field. Mr Fugett asked Cllr. Stone if he could investigate getting the footpath cut at Barton Way, as it is very overgrown. Mr Dennis asked if there was any footpath guidance as a group of shouting runners who strayed from the footpath and crossed his farm, which could have put them in danger with his animals. The Chairman will investigate.

**Playing Fields** – noting to report

**Village Hall** – nothing to report

**Tree Warden** – nothing to report

**Road Safety** – already discussed speed watch numbers. Committee remains to be established.

**Allotments** – nothing to report, Mr Jeanes did raise the issue of Lockyer's field allotments soon to be completed and to ask Strongvox if they will consider a gate to our specification due to the ongoing issues with the gate for the allotments at Loscombe meadow. Clerk to write a request.

**Stable** – nothing to report

**Flood Warden** – nothing to report

**White Street** – Cllr. Stone reported that the under 14's Football Group had welcomed and played games against Wiltshire, Somerset and Lancashire, proving the field is a suitable venue for County level matches.

**Wildlife Group** – Cllr. Stone has now put up the notice board.

**PUBLICITY** – Vacancy for Councillor. VE celebration ideas, Verge Cutting, Hedge and shrubbery cutting.

**MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION** – Mr Turner raised the unauthorised residence in the field at the top of Newport Hill, clerk to inform SWT Council Planning Enforcement.

**There being no further matters to discuss, the meeting closed at 10.08pm**