

**Minutes of the North Curry Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on  
Wednesday 14th August 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, Mrs J Leader, Mrs M Burt.

**Members of the Public:** Cllr. D Fothergill (SCC), Cllr. S. Buller, Mrs H Griffiths, Mrs H Morley, Mr G Dart, Mr R Barrett, Mr M Wilkins.

1. **APOLOGIES:** None.
  2. **APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> JULY 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> July were a true record; Mr Jeanes seconded the proposal, which was carried, Mrs Leader abstained.
  3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Mr Jeanes declared an interest in item 15, 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.
  5. **MATTERS ARISING-**
    - Policing matters** – The Chairman read out a note from Mr Meehan, reporting that a new Community Speedwatch volunteer would be participating on the group watch. Speed watch undertook a session in Wrantage where it was found a number of drivers, especially in vans were reported for excess speed; 26 % of all traffic passing through were driving in excess of the speed limit. The Chairman proposed that Speed Watch be added to the list of monthly reports, seconded by Mr Dennis, which was carried.
    - Welcome Booklet** – Mr Fugett continues to work on the welcome booklet. He requires some final information which Ms Turney will provide before the draft is presented at the next meeting.
    - 106 Monies – Village hall.** Mr Jeanes reported there had been discussion regarding the purchase of a projector and screen and also the widening to the hall carpark, however, no firm conclusion had been reached as yet.
    - Extension to 30 mph in Moor Lane – Corr. A6805** from J. Sharpe of Somerset County Council (SCC). The Chairman reported a disappointing decision by SCC that in line with the Councils Financial Imperative the work does not meet the Department for Transport guidance which states there must be at least 20 houses for a minimum distance of 100 meters to qualify for the 30mph speed limit. SCC state that statutory responsibilities and essential work is their current priority. They also noted they believe that the police would not use enforcement in this area, as it does not meet the criteria and there have been no record of accidents to date.
    - Loscombe Meadow allotment spec:** The Chairman reported due to annual leave within Strongvox, we did not have an answer at this time.
    - D&S Fire & Rescue Consultation.** The Chairman reported completing the questionnaire and that a decision by them would be made in September.
- ANY OTHER MATTERS ARISING** – Mrs Vaughan raised the Alzheimer's / Dementia awareness session which she will be organising for September, details to follow and Clerk to put up posters.
- County Council Report** – Cllr. Fothergill reported that Somerset has been granted one Million Pounds over the next three years to deliver Emotional and Mental Health support for young people across the County. The County Council Finances are still being discussed to ensure ongoing sustainability. Cllr. Fothergill also raised the issue of the resurfacing works on Greenway, unfortunately, there was an error at SCC, which led to the resurfacing taking place after the new markings had been painted, Cllr. Fothergill gave assurance that these would be put back as soon as the grit settles and the weather allows.

6. **APPLICATIONS FOR COMMENT BY NORTH CURRY PARISH COUNCIL 24/19/0026 – ERECTION OF GARAGE/STORAGE BUILDING ADJACENT TO PADDOCK AT MANOR FARM, STOKE ROAD, NORTH CURRY** - Mr Turner, having visited the property with Mrs Vaughan explained the application and the intentional use of the building. Following some discussion over the future use of the building, Cllr. Stone proposed we support the application, with Mr Turner adding that this is providing the existing boundary hedge and trees are retained, seconded by Mr Cable which was carried.

**24/19/0028/LB - CONVERSION OF GARAGE TO ANCILLARY ACCOMMODATION AT WEAVERS BARN, WEAVERS BARN LANE, WRANTAGE** - Mr Turner and Mr Jeanes had visited the site when the initial planning application had been submitted. Mr Turner explained that this was then been retracted and had been reallocated as a Listed Building application. He went on to explain that this was a holiday let, which, following a change of use application had now been accepted as residential use, and the plans were alterations to the interior with the only visible changes being additional skylights. After discussion, Mr Turner proposed we support the application provided it meets with the conservation officers guidelines; The Chairman seconded this, which was carried.

As a footnote, the Chairman asked Mr Turner if he would like to report on the outcome of application 24/19/0021 Erection of bungalow on land to rear of 16 Town Farm, North Curry which was discussed at Deane House. Mr Turner summarised the hearing and explained that this had been deferred to 22<sup>nd</sup> August due to some lack of information.

7. **TO DISCUSS PROPOSAL FROM R. ALFORD OF STRONGVOX – Corr. A6807** R. Alford. Strongvox. The Chairman read out the letter, which was concerned with the points of the footpath, street lighting funds that had not been made to the PC and a dowry for the allotments. The letter made comments relating to support from to Cllr. Fothergill and his officers. Cllr. Fothergill clarified that he does not have officers and is not in a position to instruct the Council as suggested in the letter. After much discussion on what the letter was actually requesting, the Chairman proposed that the Clerk write back to Strongvox explaining the situation and requesting a reissue of the letter so it is clear why the funds being offered.
8. **SWT COUNCIL STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT CONSULTATION – Corr. A6808** S. Pritchard., SWT Council and Mr D Walker. The Chairman read the email, which had been sent to the Councillors prior to the meeting explaining that Mr Walker had reviewed this on behalf of the PC and suggested no involvement was needed until the next stage. However, she proposed that we forward the draft letter as is to Highways England; this was seconded by Mr Fugett, which was carried.
9. **TO CONSIDER THE REQUEST FROM RESIDENTS TO CONSIDER THE COST OF PATHWAY MAINTENANCE FROM LOSCOMBE MEADOW TO GREENWAY** – The Manor Lawns Management Company (MLMC) are responsible for the upkeep of the Loscombe Meadow Development, including the pathway to Nine Acre Lane, The Chairman explained they have requested financial help as the path benefits not just the residents of Loscombe Meadow, but the wider community in the Parish. Cllr. Stone had prepared a report, which was sent to all Cllrs. prior to the meeting. There was some discussion on the ownership of the path. A parishioner and member of the management committee, Mr Wilkins said Strongvox had written confirming they had no responsibility for the path leaving the ownership unknown – further discussion lead to a request for the Clerk to contact Mrs De Silva who is believed to own the land before a decision is made as to payment for its upkeep.
10. **A.) TO DISCUSS AND APPROVE DECISION ON LETTER FROM RH TRUST REGARDING SCHOOL CIL MONIES – Corr. A6809.** J. Abbott, RH Trust. The Chairman reminded the Cllrs. of the visit to Mr Abbott, Richard Huish Trust made by the Clerk and herself,

which had resulted in the Trust and the school underwriting the risk of the monies for the school play equipment, should the district council fail to accept the criteria used to allocate the funds. After much discussion, the Chairman proposed the application for up to £20,000 of CIL funds for school play equipment be accepted and paid once the work was completed, seconded by Ms Turney, which was carried, Mr Fugett and Mr Cable were against the proposal and Cllr. Stone abstained.

**B.) TO DISCUSS AND APPROVE CHANGE OF USE FOR SOME OF THE JUBILEE FUNDS ALLOCATED FOR NORTH CURRY SCHOOL – Corr. 6810.** H Morley. The Chairman explained the request from Ms Morley to reallocate the excess Jubilee funds, which were previously ring-fenced to assist in building of new toilets in the old porta cabin, in order that they be used towards the redecoration of the Octopus classroom, the supply of new tables and chairs and fridge freezer for the wrap around care at the Pavilion, totalling £1000. There was some discussion around the monies and its use, following which the Chairman proposed we approve this and make payment once works are completed, seconded by Mrs Vaughan, which was carried, Mr Fugett was against the proposal. Mr Jeanes confirmed the additional funds required to make the total could be made available from the Facilities Development Fund.

11. **TO DISCUSS AND APPROVE A STABLE HEATING SYSTEM** - The Chairman thanked Mr Jeans for the work he had put into researching the options. Mr Jeanes summarised the report, which he had circulated to the Cllrs. prior to the meeting. After much discussion about cost and timing of the boiler works, the Chairman proposed the existing boiler be replaced with like for like to ensure it is in place for winter, seconded by Mr Fugett, which was carried. Cllr. Stone, Mr Jeanes and Mr Dennis were against the proposal.
12. **TO DECIDE REQUIREMENTS AND DECISION AND APPROVE COST FOR A BUS SEAT AND SHELTER AT BOROUGH POST BY THE BUS STOP - Corr. A6811.** Report from Ms Turney. The Chairman thanked Ms Turney for her work on this and posed the question of whether a shelter is required, or if a bench would suffice. There was some discussion, Mr Jeanes proposed Ms Turney obtain three quotes for option 2 on the report (a shelter with a shallow barrel roof and prop seats) this was seconded by Mr Smith, which was carried. Mr Turner was against the proposal, and Cllr. Stone and Mrs Vaughan abstained.
13. **TO DISCUSS AND APPROVE COST OF SIGNPOST REPLACEMENT FINGERS WITH WRITING – Corr. A6812.** The Chairman explained the Clerk had received a late quote from the supplier, Mr Prior. The Clerk reported a delay in the quotation due to the painter and fitter retiring and Mr Prior needing to find a new contact for this element of the work. Mr Prior quoted £190 for the making of each of the three finger posts, quoting a further cost of £480 for painting and fitting. Cllr. Stone proposed we order the finger posts to be made, but contact Mr Keal for the painting, seconded by the Chairman which was carried.
14. **CORRESPONDENCE**
  - A6805 – A6812** already covered in matters arising and previous agenda items.
  - A6813 - R. Lander and D. Walker re Taunton Park and Ride.** SWT Council Parking Department have agreed to continue to finance the site this year although they understand this to be the responsibility of SCC Highways, who in turn believe the responsibility should be with SWT Parking
  - A6814 – P. Hitchcott** – Regarding Nine Acre Lane. Mr Hitchcott had concerns of safety on exiting his gateway onto the Lane due to cyclists. After discussion, it was clear that many people on bikes, running, disability scooters etc. use this lane leading to the footpath, and that a message be put in the newsletter for all users of road and paths to be responsible and considerate of others.
  - A6815 – Somerset Road Safety Team** – Regarding a presentation for drivers, known as Route 60. The Chairman explained that a similar event had been held before, the only cost is the use of the

Village Hall and the talk proved very popular. She proposed we support the event and obtain dates from the Village Hall and potentially the Pavilion; this was seconded by Mrs Burt, which was carried.

**B6816 Road closure notification** - Solomans Hollow 2/09/19 3 days (9:30-15:30)

**B6817 Road closure notification** - Moor Lane 05/09/19 - 1 night

**B6818 Road closure notification** - Queen Square, Shambles Knapp Lane 05/09/19 - 1 night

**B6819 Road closure notification** - Ham Road Creech St Michael - 3 days 20/08/19 (09:30 -15:30)

**B6820 Road closure notification** - Knapp Road 09/09/19 3 days

**B6821 Road closure notification** - Meare Green Lane, West Hatch 16/09/19 3 days

**B6822 E. Walliker** - A358 Preferred route announcement

**B6823 SWTC.** Planning - enforcement notice.

15. **FINANCE – The Monthly Account** was presented by Mr Jeanes, detailing all receipts and payments (including monthly direct debits which are not listed below), he proposed it be accepted, seconded by the Chairman, which was carried. Mr Jeanes also commented on the acceptance of the new signatories and confirmed he can now instigate the opening of the Co-op instant access savings account.

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

Cheque number	Payee	Amount
BACS	Clerk Salary	674.05
BACS	NCVH room hire	15.51
BACS	B Jeanes Grass cutting	47.83
BACS	Wessex Water - Loscombe	15.58
BACS	Stable - Water	29.23

**Insurance renewal:** Mr Jeanes explained the PC are in a long term undertaking with Zurich for one more year, therefore the PC is obliged remain with them unless there is an extraordinary reason why not to. However, if the Cllrs. think of anything they believe should be included in the policy, and may not be, then to contact the Clerk to check. Mr Jeanes also confirmed that we do not need the Kissing Gates included and the Clerk should remove these from the asset list.

#### 16. COMMITTEE / DELEGATE REPORTS-

**Footpaths** – Cllr. Stone reported that the kissing gate in Helland is now in situ and he will be exploring the next phase of kissing gates for review by the PC, this will be an agenda item in September.

**Playing Fields** – Mr Turner reported that the claim to the Playing Fields for the accident on the zip wire had now been received, he confirmed a replacement would be found once the incident has been concluded, he also commented on the use of the Pavilion for the school wrap around service.

**Village Hall** – Ms Turnery reported the VH are looking into new stage lighting, 106 monies ideas are still being discussed, the standard of the replacement bricks and pointing around the VH is being discussed. There are still vacancies available including the Secretary, Booking Secretary and positions on the Management Committee.

**Tree Warden** – the tree at Stoneyhead has now been issued a TPO

**Road Safety** – Committee remains to be established.

**Allotments** – nothing to report

**Stable** – nothing to report

**Flood Warden** – nothing to report

**White Street** – Cllr. Stone reported the footpath fence around the playing field is to be removed and set back in order that dog walkers can use the footpath without dogs running on the pitch.

**Wildlife Group** – Cllr. Stone reported that the group have a moth trap, have been exploring the species using the area, and encourage people to visit the site to see what they have found.

**SALC:** nothing to report

**Speed Policy Group** – Cllr. Stone had sent an update regarding the groups progress, SWT Council will be monitoring speed in September and the North Curry Speed Policy is still being considered.

**17. PUBLICITY** – VE celebration ideas, Verge Cutting, Hedge and shrubbery cutting. Road closures, users of roads and paths. Alzheimer’s awareness sessions.

**18. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION** – The Chairman informed the Cllrs. that Helen Griffiths was interested in joining the PC and she would be considered at the meeting in September.

Mr Dennis raised the issue of lack of space in the cemetery; the Chairman explained this was an action for the Church, Clerk to make them aware of the discontent.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS** – Mr Fugett raised that the spring on the gate leading to the wildlife area was not working and may cause issues with livestock escaping; Cllr. Stone was willing to look into this.

There was some discussion regarding co-option in our Standing Orders and the use of closed ballots whereby if a decision was made with a show of hands it would be appropriate.

Mr Jeanes raised the issue of hedge cuttings in the ditch of the Lockyer’s Field and Chapel Close footpath, Clerk to write a letter to the residents concerned and Mr Jeanes will hand deliver.

Mr Turner raised the decision made on application 24/18/0049, dog rescue centre, Knapp which was a refusal, and asked if the Clerk would contact SWT Council and find out what the next steps may be.

**There being no further matters to discuss, the meeting closed at 10.05pm**