

**Minutes of the North Curry Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on  
Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

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

**Members of the Public:** Cllr. D Fothergill (SCC), Mrs H Griffiths, Mr R Handley

1. **APOLOGIES:** Ms E Turney, Mr I Fugett, Mrs M Burt
2. **APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2019** – The Chairman invited any amendments or comments to the minutes, there were none, Mr Jeanes proposed the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> August were a true record; Mrs Leader seconded the proposal, which was carried.
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Mr Turner declared an interest in Item 7, planning application 24/19/0027 and Mr Jeanes declared an interest in item 16, 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 an email from Mr Akerman (**Corr. A6826**) listing various acts of vandalism in the parish, including broken windows, burnt out vehicles and a bench seat thrown over a wall into the Churchyard. He asked if the PC could contact the PSO and ask for increased police presence in the parish, which the clerk has requested. Mr Turner also reported break-ins of stables at Greenway. **Corr. A6827** a notification from PSO Jake Edwards who notifies the parish he is moving on and will be replaced by PSO Sam Bushen and PSO Scott Windsor, noted for the newsletter and clerk to put up posters of replacement PSOs on the PC notice board.
  - Welcome Booklet** – Ms Turney has been trying to obtain contact details for the village hall in order for Mr Fugett to complete the booklet, however, had run out of time to pursue the missing details; as both have sent their apologies; we will be updated next month. Mr Jeanes offered to help provide some details that were missing from the contacts list.
  - 106 Monies – Village hall.** Mr Jeanes reported no further update.
  - Route 60: Corr. A6828** - Poster confirming a date and time for the safe motoring talk. A note to go in the newsletter and posters will be disseminated.
  - D&S Fire & Rescue Consultation.** No decision had been made yet.
  - Dog rescue Centre:** An enforcement notice has been issued, no further details at this time.
  - Remembrance Day Preparations:** The Chairman handed over to the Clerk who has commenced preparations for the service.
  - Allotment Specification:** Mr Jeanes reported that a more suitable, lower risk of damage fencing and gates have been put in place in Lockyer's Field. This is a different specification to Loscombe Meadows allotments. The allotments have not yet had the dip tanks installed however, sheds have now been erected, and it is believed they will be completed soon.
  - Finger Post update:** Clerk has ordered the fingers posts, Cllr. Stone has not had a response from Mr Keal regarding the painting of these, he commented that Mrs Keal's son may have taken over the business; Cllr. Fothergill thought perhaps he had been unwell. Clerk to contact Clerk for West Monkton for Mr Keal Juniors details and when checking on progress with Mr Prior re the completion for the finger posts, to liaise with Stoke St Gregory Clerk as they have an order to pick up as well.
  - Ownership of footpath from Nine Acre Lane to Loscombe Meadow: Corr. A6829** – From Mr Wilkins, copy of the letter from Strongvox stating neither they nor the management company are responsible for the maintenance of the path from Nine Acre Lane to the estate. Clerk contacted previous owner who confirmed the land sold for houses included the pathway, Clerk to continue to confirm ownership.

**VE Day:** The Chairman requested this as an agenda item for next meeting to discuss ideas. Mrs Griffiths later added the PCC had discussed this but had not yet come up with any firm ideas for the celebration.

**Access Path from Knapp Lane/Lockyer's Field:** Cllr. Fothergill had spoken with highways in order to find out the situation with the footpath, he had suggested this could be resolved by a conversation or visit from SWTC Highways, Mr Parsons from Strongvox will make contact, Clerk to check progress with Mr Parsons.

**ANY OTHER MATTERS ARISING** – None.

**County Council Report** – Cllr. Fothergill reported that Somerset are operating their own school bus fleet. Five buses in total will be in use from the beginning of the new school year. He reported a new Castles and Coast Way walk through the Quantocks. 50 new apprenticeships will begin this autumn, totalling 300 apprenticeships SCC have invested in over the past three years. Stand up for Care has been given support from three local government bodies and many others who have signed the petition. The SCC Shared Lives Service has been transferred to Shared Lives South West in an effort to allow more people with different needs to benefit from the service it provides. The new name for the new access road in Bridgwater has been decided by 59% of resident as Squibbers Way.

6. **CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS FOR CO-OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLOR.**  
**Corr. A6831.** Application from H Griffiths. The Chairman introduced Helen and asked if she would like to add to her application, which had already been forwarded to the Cllrs. She added no further comments and no questions were raised so the Chairman proposed her application be accepted, seconded by Mr Turner, the Chairman asked for a show of hands for a decision, all voted in favour and Mrs Griffiths was invited to join the table. The Cllrs introduced themselves; Mrs Griffiths later signed the acceptance of office and declaration of interest form.

**8:00pm Mr Turner left the meeting for the next item to be discussed.**

7. **APPLICATIONS FOR COMMENT BY NORTH CURRY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**24/19/0027. Replacement of barn with the erection of 1 No. single storey dwelling with mezzanine at Birds Farm, Higher Knapp Lane, Knapp, North Curry.** Mr Jeanes explained the application and plans for the site, which he had visited with Mrs Vaughan. He explained the barn had permitted development rights; however, this application was new, and would involve demolishing the current barn replacing it with a new building of a similar footing. There was much discussion and the application, Mr Case gave further details of the proposed plans and information relevant to its construction, including footpath access, and the reason for development. It was proposed by Mr Jeanes that the Parish Council object to the proposed plans on the grounds that it would be a completely new dwelling, well outside the village envelope, and that it would be deemed unsustainable under current planning regulations. He also added that should SWTC be minded to approve the application, that the PC request that conditions be attached, these are: to ensure retention of the trees to the West of the site, and the mature apple trees within the orchard. This was seconded by Mrs Vaughan, which was carried. Mr Dennis objected and Mrs Griffiths and Cllr. Stone abstained. Cllr. Stone also raised the question of the planning application of a large barn at Huntham in Stoke St Gregory although refusal recommended by the planner, made the point that the PC may need to consider its view regarding the extra traffic through North Curry in the near future if appeal ensues.

**8:28pm Mr Turner re-joined the meeting.**

8. **STRONGVOX - RESPONSE REGARDING DOWRY PAYMENT.** The Chairman explained there had been no further details on this, and the Clerk will look into this further once Mr Parsons has resolved his concerns with the footpath through Knapp Lane.
9. **TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE COST OF A PARISH COUNCIL LAPTOP.** The Chairman reported that the Clerk had contacted Mr Willis for advice; he had put forward some

suitable options. After a discussion on specification, the Chairman proposed that provided the hard and software came to a total budget of £550 this be accepted, if it was going to be over this amount, then it would need to be on the agenda next month, this was seconded by Mrs Leader, which was carried. The Chairman also confirmed the funds for the laptop would be taken out of the CIL allocation.

**8:40pm Mr Handley left the meeting.**

- 10. TO DECIDE REQUIREMENTS AND DECISION AND APPROVE COST FOR A BUS SEAT AND POSSIBLE SHELTER AT BOROUGH POST BY THE BUS STOP.** Cllr. Fothergill will check if the PC are permitted to put a shelter in the proposed area. As Ms Turney who had lead the project was absent, the decision on this was postponed until the next meeting.
- 11. TO DISCUSS BT PHONE BOX REMOVAL CONSULTATION. Corr. A6833.** The Chairman reported on a consultation from SWTC and British Telecom on the removal of telephone boxes, linked to this was **Corr. A6834** from Mr Lay in support of the phone box remaining due to lack of mobile signal in the village. After discussion, the Chairman proposed we object to its removal based on little to no mobile signal in the village and its proximity to the defibrillator should emergency help be required, this was seconded by Mr Turner which was carried.
- 12. TO DISCUSS AND APPROVE NEXT TRANCHE OF FOOTPATH KISSING GATES.** Cllr. Stone reported on the plans and map he had sent to the Cllrs. prior to the meeting detailing the next tranche of proposed footpath kissing gates, which would include three new gates along the path to Knapp, and one along Westfield Lane. There was some discussion and it was decided the funds would be taken from the CIL allocation. Mr Jeanes proposed the four new kissing gates be approved; this was seconded by Mr Turner, which was carried.
- 13. TO DISCUSS AND AGREE COSTS FOR POSSIBLE SIGNAGE AT NINE ACRE LANE.** The Chairman and Mrs Vaughan suggested that before a decision was made on this that, we needed more information on the ownership of the path from Nine Acre Lane to Loscombe Meadow. Cllr. Stone agreed to put together some wording for potential signs describing the path as 'multiuse'. This is to be added to the next agenda.
- 14. TO AUTHORISE WENDY BALDWIN WITH ONLINE VIEW-ONLY ACCESS TO THE LLOYDS BANK ACCOUNT.** The Chairman explained the Clerk had now taken on responsibility for the Stable accounts and Mr Jeanes had suggested she have the access needed to reconcile the monthly bank statements. The Chairman proposed she have access, this was seconded by Mrs Leader, which was carried. Mr Jeanes will also check if the Clerk is able to have view only access to the Cooperative account of the PC.
- 15. CORRESPONDENCE**
  - A6826 – A6834** already been covered in matters arising and previous agenda items.
  - A6835 – Highways England.** Date for the next meeting, Mr R Lander will attend on the behalf of the Parish Council.
  - A6836 – P. Hitchcott.** Email stating our reply and message regarding various users of Nine Acre Lane in the newsletter was not satisfactory and he will take matters further.
  - B6837 – Road Closure.** Stathe Road, in Burrowbridge on 2 October for 3 days.
- 16. FINANCE – The Monthly Account** was presented by Mr Jeanes, detailing all receipts and payments, he proposed it be accepted, seconded by Cllr. Stone, which was carried. Mr Jeanes also commented on the grant monies received. These consist of £700 for Footpaths, £840 for Greenway Playing Fields (NCPFMC) £920 burial ground grant to be divided between the Ebenezer Baptist Church, £150, North Curry Methodist Church, £140, and the parish church (North Curry PCC), £630.

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

CHEQUE NO:	PAYEE	AMOUNT
BACS	Clerk Salary	674.05
BACS	Room Hire	33.60
BACS	Playing Fields – Grant	840.00
BACS	North Curry PCC- Grant	630.
CHQ100340	Ebenezer Baptist Church – Grant	150.00
CHQ100339	Methodist Church – Grant	140.00
BACS	Grass cutting	23.33
BACS	Affiliation Fees SALC and NALC	442.10
BACS	Arboricare Ltd	210.60
BACS	Stationery	22.70

#### 17. COMMITTEE / DELEGATE REPORTS-

**Footpaths** – Cllr. Stone reported fixing a stile, and one he intends to fix, both in Knapp.

**Playing Fields** – Mr Turner reported that there had been no response from parishioners as to whether a Trim Trail is wanted; therefore one will not be put in at present. Mr Turner reported that the Committee would be happy for White Street to apply for 106 monies, he also commented on a meeting the following week regarding replacing the zip wire.

**Village Hall** – Nothing to report

**Tree Warden** – Cllr. Stone reported some dead elms in Town Close and some Ash trees at the junction of White St and Stoke Road, which need removing and replacing. The consideration of removal and cost are to go on the next agenda.

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

**Allotments** – nothing to report

**Stable** – Mr Jeanes reported that the boiler had now been replaced.

**Flood Warden** – nothing to report

**White Street** – Cllr. Stone reported that the big bash raised £6,000 for White St and the funds are being put to use improving the facilities including the equipment and a new kit for the football team. .

**Wildlife Group** – Mrs Vaughan reported on the upcoming Apple Day, which will be held on 20<sup>th</sup> October at White St behind the sports field.

**Speedwatch:** The Clerk read the monthly report from Mr Meehan, to be published in the Newsletter.

**SALC:** nothing to report

**Speed Policy Group** – .Cllr. Stone reported some delay around the highways proposed speed radars, which he believes has now been resolved.

#### 18. PUBLICITY –Change of PSO, vandalism, welcome new Councillor, Route 60, Speedwatch.

#### 19. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION- the Chairman asked if anyone will be attending the Alzheimer's awareness session, Mrs Vaughan would attend to help facilitate.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS** – Mrs Vaughan expressed concern over large vehicles using the small roads, and particularly the bridges when diversions are in place, highlighting in particular the bridge in Newport, which has a crack in it. The Chairman said she had previously reported this and that she was assured it was being monitored. Clerk to report again. Mrs Vaughan and Mrs Leader will be attending the CPRE Brownfield Sites meeting.

Cllr. Stone mentioned a letter he has written enquiring on the planting around the lightsource panels in Knapp. He also reported a path, which is being made through a meadow in Loscombe Meadow, however this is just a walk through and the rest of the Meadow will remain. He suggested

approaching Highways regarding added signage at Henlade for the Park and Ride, as at the moment it is not clear to the public if the facility is open and if it is running, he thought it may ease congestion and encourage future use.

**There being no further matters to discuss, the meeting closed at 09.30pm**