

**Minutes of the North Curry Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on  
Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

**Present:** Mrs C Stodgell (Chairman), Mr A Turner, Mr B Jeanes, Ms C Smith, Mr M Dennis, Mr Cable, Mrs J Leader, Mrs H Griffiths, Mr I Fugett, Miss E Turney.

**Members of the Public:** Cllr. D Fothergill (SCC)

1. **APOLOGIES:** Mrs C Vaughan.
2. **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2019** – The Chairman invited any amendments or comments to the minutes, there were none, Mr Cable proposed the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting were a true record; Mr Jeanes seconded the proposal, which was carried. Mr Fugett and Miss Turney abstained.
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – None
4. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS** – No members of the public attended.
5. **MATTERS ARISING -**
  - Policing matters** – None
  - Lighting up times Loscombe Meadow/Overlands** – The Clerk had not had a response from Highways Lighting-up team. Requested Clerk to contact for an update.
  - Welcome Booklet** – Mr Fugett is still waiting for confirmation on up to date information for three of the village hall contacts, he will call these people to see if their details remain the same.
  - Finger Post update:** Mr Cable kindly collected these on behalf of the Parish Council. Having been unable to contact Mr Brian Keal who had previously painted the finger posts for the parish, the Clerk was recommended to contact Mr Gorton who is part of the Men's Shed Charity in Bridgwater. Mr Gorton visited the office and had sent a quote for the painting. After some discussion, it was decided the Cllr. Fothergill would find out if Mr Keal is still painting finger posts and let the Clerk know before a final decision is made.
  - 106 Monies – Village hall.** Mr Jeanes reported no further update.
  - Nine Acre Lane to Loscombe Meadow update:** The PC are still trying to establish the ownership of this path. The Clerk had emailed Mr T Walker, who has helped the parish with previous legal matters; however is yet to receive a response. Mr Jeanes will contact him and see if he is able to help.
  - Lockyer's Field/Knapp Lane Footpath.** The Clerk has still not received an update on the footpath from Strongvox; Cllr. Fothergill will contact H. Vittery from SCC who had previously met with Strongvox to see if he can obtain an update. Mr Jeanes mentioned some hedge replanting which is due to take place and requested the Clerk contact Strongvox and find out when these may be planted.
  - Highways – R. Lander.** The latest update from Mr Lander was shared with the Cllrs. prior to the meeting. Mr Lander will continue to represent the PC on this issue and will send an update in due course.
  - Litter pick.** The Chairman gave Mrs Vaughan's apologies for this November litter pick and asked if one of the Cllrs. would meet the volunteers and hand out the pickers etc. Mr Jeanes kindly agreed to do this and the Chairman gave thanks.
  - Remembrance Sunday.** The Chairman remarked on the high turnout of parishioners and noted that some people wanted to purchase a poppy and/or donate to a collection box, therefore will raise this with the British Legion for next year. The Chairman also mentioned that Mrs Griffiths had offered to play the harmonium for the service next year.
  - Grit bins.** Mr Dennis has visited various places in the parish to check the grit bins and bags, which he had marked on a map. One bag was empty. Mr Dennis suggested some places where bags of grit maybe advisable. There was some discuss on the routes covered, following this the Clerk was requested to alert Highways on the empty bag in Knapp, and request bags for Newport Hill, Knapp Road (13 bends), and Moor Lane with a view that bins for these areas may be discussed in time for next season.

**County Council Report.** Cllr. Fothergill reported that applications for secondary schools were now closed; however, those applying for their first school place still had until 15<sup>th</sup> January and SCC encourage everyone concerned to put down their three preferences, not just their first choice in order to assist the process. A free two-day Mental Health First Aid course is being held over November and December assisting attendees in spotting early signs of mental health issues and how to provide help on a 'first aid' basis. Dillington's Winter Wonderland is back for its 3<sup>rd</sup> year, running from Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November to 6<sup>th</sup> December with Christmas stalls and a skate rink. Stepping Stones Independent Living initiative are still looking for supporters. More information on the service can be found at [www.fosteringsomerset.org.uk](http://www.fosteringsomerset.org.uk). SCC is still committed to becoming carbon neutral by 2030 and is working with district councils in Somerset on a strategy. Somerset Rivers Authority spent over £3.8million on flood works to protect people and property last year. SCC is looking to invest more than half a million pounds to kick-start and extend projects for its Dementia Support Groups next year. Finally, SCC's Locality Manager Chris Denovan has been selected as a finalist for the Lifetime Achievement Category at the Social worker of the Year awards in recognition of her contribution to the profession for over four decades.

**ANY OTHER MATTERS ARISING** – Mr Fugett asked when the White Lines in Queens Square could be re-painted, Cllr. Fothergill will follow this up.

6. **PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY. Corr. B6867. M. Burt.** The Chairman explained that Mrs Burt had handed in her resignation as she felt she was no longer able to fulfil the role to the best of her ability, the Chairman gave thanks for her service. The vacancy is now on the notice board and if less than 10 parishioners request and election by 27<sup>th</sup> November then the PC is able to co-op a new councillor.
7. **APPLICATIONS FOR COMMENT BY NORTH CURRY PARISH COUNCIL.**  
**24/19/0044/CQ - Prior approval for proposed change of use from agricultural building to dwelling house with associated works (Class C3) at Hill Farm, Knapp.** Mr Turner explained the application, which was a resubmission of previous plans. The applicant is still using the barn for agricultural purposes, therefore wishes to extend the permitted development clause for a further period. Following discussion, Mr Turner proposed we do not support the application due to the same reasons given before which include the site being perilously close to the flood line, this was seconded by Mrs Leader, which was carried, Mr Dennis abstained
8. **VE CELEBRATIONS.** Mrs Vaughan had sent her apologies for the meeting. Mrs Leader said herself and Mrs Vaughan would arrange a meeting and report next month. It was mentioned again that the VE Day was on Friday and therefore would not affect the May Fayre, which will be held on Saturday. Mr Jeanes reported that the two members of the May Fayre committee would not be continuing next year and therefore, are looking for other volunteers to carry on the annual celebration. The role comes with much of the organisation and tasks clearly laid out and full training can be given.
9. **DISCUSS REQUESTED PLEDGE FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT RELATING TO DEVON AND SOMERSET FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE CONSULTATION. Corr. A681. A. Milne, Porlock District Councillor.** Cllr. Milne believes the service cuts may go ahead, and that the decision-making has been flawed. There may be a very strong case for a Judicial Review and he is appealing to local Parish Councils to see if they are willing to pledge financial support towards a review should it be required. After discussion, it was decided it would be too early to agree this and the Chairman proposed this is reconsidered once the outcome of the consultation had been published, seconded by Ms Turney, which was carried. Mr Fugett abstained.
10. **TO CONSIDER REQUEST FOR BUS STOP BOX MARKING OPPOSITE THE PAVEMENT.** The Chairman explained that there had been several complaints about the lack of space for the bus to pull in, and large vehicles had been parking in the bus stop, obstructing the view for drivers coming out of The Shambles. A suggestion was made to put a box marking on the road to

stop vehicles parking there. The Chairman proposed we request this, seconded by Mr Cable, which was carried.

11. **TO DECIDE REQUIREMENTS AND DECISION AND APPROVE COST FOR A BUS SEAT AND POSSIBLE SHELTER AT BOROUGH POST BY THE BUS STOP.** The Chairman had met with Cllr. Fothergill and Kali from SCC Highways Department to investigate the placement of a shelter and/or a seat. There appeared to be room for a shelter without it causing any obstruction to vehicles exiting Oxen Lane, she went on to report that a small pavement may need to be provided due to the current muddy surface and advised that there would also be legal cost for the works. Cllr Fothergill listed the costs and noted that if a shelter was in place, a street furniture licence would need to be applied for; he also mentioned the manhole cover which is believed to belong to BT and that any shelter would need to be considered not to interfere with this. He gave the Cllrs. some costs from the latest bus shelters in a neighbouring parish; this was followed by much discussion around suppliers and costs of the shelter. Mr Dennis offered to meet with the Chairman at the sight and measure the area, check the manhole cover, and then Miss Turney would have the specification to contact three local builders for quotes which can then provide a costing to be discussed and decided in the next meeting,
12. **CONSIDERATION OF SIGNS FOR NINE ACRE LANE**  
Cllr. Stone was absent and therefore this was deferred until the next meeting.
13. **CORRESPONDENCE. A6859 – A6861** had already been covered in matters arising and previous agenda items.  
**A6862. M. Olie – Mud on Knapp Lane.** The recent harvest has caused many lanes to become muddy, the Clerk has been reporting these; Cllr. Fothergill pointed out that the responsibility is with the farmer/owner of the field and Mr Dennis thought it would be advisable to let Parishioners know this is the case and that they can approach the responsible farmer to discuss this.  
**B6863 Road Closure** 21 November, 5 days (9.30am-3.30pm) Rock Hill, junction with Langport Rd  
**B6864 Road Closure** 05 December, 1-day (7.30am-5.30pm) Windmill Hill, junction with Town Close  
**B6865 Road Closure** 02 December 5 days, Knapp Lane, junction with Lodwells Orchard  
**B6866 Road Closure** 11 December 3 days (9.30am-3.30pm) Stathe Rd, junction with Stanmoor Rd
14. **FINANCE – The Monthly Account** was presented by Mr Jeanes, detailing all receipts and payments. He also presented the **payment list**, proposing both be accepted, seconded by the Chairman which was carried. Mr Jeanes mentioned NC School had come forward for the jubilee monies, however we are still awaiting details to make this payment, he proposed payment be made once these details were received, seconded by Mrs Leader, which was carried. Mr Fugett abstained.  
**Precept.** Mr Jeanes introduced the draft precept and explained the thought behind the amounts allocated on the draft and that the Finance Panel had proposed the amount of the precept be reduced by £1000 in 2020/2021. Following discussion, it was agreed the Cllrs. would think on the proposal and return to the next meeting in December with their thoughts and suggestions on the precept.  
**Standing orders.** Mr Jeanes reported on the proposed changes, which were seconded by The Chairman, and carried. **Finance Panel.** Mr Jeanes discussed the off-site back up option presented to us and explained that Mr Dennis had offered a visit to his office to see what system he uses for this. He also mentioned the current accounts system and plans to visit a nearby Parish using the same system to see if we can improve our understanding of its reporting structure.

CHEQUE NO:	PAYEE	AMOUNT
BACS	Clerk Salary	674.05
BACS	Room Hire	65.10
BACS	Parish Council Websites	260.00
BACS	1&1 IONOS – Website	115.06

#### 15. COMMITTEE / DELEGATE REPORTS-

**Footpaths** – Cllr. Stone was not in attendance, however, Cllrs. reported good feedback on the new kissing gates he had installed. Mr Fugett added that the steer bolts needed to be removed from the gates, Clerk to inform Cllr. Stone.

**Playing Fields** – Mr Turner reported that two new picnic benches had been installed and a temporary repair had been made to the fence by the Village Hall, he also mentioned the fencing around the playing field was getting tired and a suggestion was made that he write to the Parish Council putting forward a proposal for replacement and funding for this to be considered.

**Village Hall** – Now Mrs Burt has retired, Miss Turney is currently the only delegate. There was nothing to report this month as there was no meeting of the committee.

**Tree Warden** – Cllrs. Stone was not in attendance, nothing to report.

**Allotments** – Mrs Burt was the previous delegate, now she has retired, Mrs Leader offered to take this position.

**Stable** – Mr Jeanes reported a transfer of £5k to the PC from the Stable account, from funds made by the Management of the Stables. There was a small issue with the boiler thermostat, which was rectified. Mr Jeanes has offered to cut down a creeper running through to the Stables.

**Flood Warden** – Nothing to report, however, the Chairman reiterated that if any blocked drains were seen, could parishioners either clear them or report them to the Clerk for clearance.

**White Street** – Cllrs. Stone was not in attendance, nothing to report.

**Wildlife Group** – Mr Jeanes reported a great turnout for the Apple Day and also mentioned that the walks had proved very popular.

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

**SALC:** nothing to report

**Road Safety** – Mr Fugett expressed his enthusiasm to reconnect the Road Safety Group which will include Mrs Vaughan, Mrs Smith, Miss Turney and himself, with Mr Akerman as an informal member.

**Speed Policy Group** – Cllrs. Stone was not in attendance, nothing to report.

**PUBLICITY** – Speedwatch, Vacancy, road Closures, Cutting of Hedges.

16. **MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION-** Mr Fugett reported large Waste vehicles reversing up The Shambles, Clerk to report this to Somerset Waste Partnership. Mr Jeanes raised the public notice board and explained that the boards were being used to promote private sales, as this is not the intention of the boards, Mr Jeanes will place a notice advising that private business and sales notices are not permitted. As a side note, Mr Jeanes also noted the more official and long standing notices such as the parish PCSOs should be on a separate board and he proposed he either purchase or make one and install it for an amount of up to £30, this was seconded by Mr Cable which was carried. The Chairman noted that this should be a glass locked cabinet and if the price is going to exceed the approved amount then this be added to the agenda for December. Mr Turner noted that SWT Council had still not amended the Clerks details from Mrs Wellwood to the new Clerk and suggested the Clerk contact the Council again to update these details.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS** – None

**There being no further matters to discuss, the meeting closed at 09.55pm**