

**Minutes of the North Curry Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on
Wednesday 08th January 2020**

Present: Mrs C Stodgell (Chairman), Mr A Turner, Mr B Jeanes, Mr M Dennis, Mr Cable, Mrs J Leader, Mr I Fugett, Mrs C Vaughan, Mrs H Griffiths.

Members of the Public: Cllr. D Fothergill (SCC), Claire Thackray (SWTC Engagement Lead) Susan Harrison, Mr & Mrs Jones, Mr & Mrs Langford.

1. **APOLOGIES:** Miss E Turney, Ms C Smith.
2. **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11th DECEMBER 2019** – The Chairman invited any amendments or comments to the minutes, there were none, Mrs Vaughan proposed the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting were a true record; Mr Jeanes seconded the proposal, which was carried.
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – None.
4. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS** – None.
5. **MATTERS ARISING -**
 - Policing matters** – None
 - Lighting up times Loscombe Meadow/Overlands** – The Chairman advised the road has not yet been adopted by Highways, Cllr. Fothergill confirmed this and also stated that it is the developer's responsibility to apply for the road to be adopted in order for this to happen. Mrs Vaughan commented on the different lighting up times between Overland's and Loscombe Meadow, however until the road is adopted by Highways it is thought unlikely that the lighting up times can be changed.
 - Welcome Booklet** – Mr Fugett has almost completed the amendments for the booklet, he suggested signposting readers to the Parish Council website for up to date contact details rather than listing all these in the booklet, it was agreed this was the best way of ensuring the current information was correct.
 - Finger Post update:** We are still not able to reach Mr Keal, Ms Smith has given contact details of someone who may be able to help to the Clerk to make contact.
 - 106 Monies – Village hall.** Mr Jeanes continues to gather quotes for the proposed works.
 - Litter Pick** – The Chairman asked if this should be placed on the next agenda for the spring litter pick in readiness for March/April date, this was agreed. The Chairman mentioned a request from a neighbouring parishioner for Stoke St Gregory and North Curry to join together to collect litter along the rivers banks in the two parishes as the floods had caused an abundance of plastic and debris to surface. However, it was thought this may be a safety concern, therefore it was agreed that a note would be put in the newsletter encouraging litter to be collected when seen but not specifically directing the parishioners to the river sides.
 - D&S Fire & Rescue Consultation Decision** – The Chairman reported news of Porlock keeping their station and Taunton and Yeovil losing their third engine. Cllr. Fothergill stated that the results may change slightly before the final document is released on Friday (10/01/2020)
 - Lockyer's Field/Knapp Lane Footpath. Corr. A6884** from Mr & Mrs Roberts asking us to resist the footpath. The Clerk had still not had a response from Strongvox regarding the new plans for the path. Cllr. Fothergill reported that Strongvox had voiced to Highways they have the support of the PC who strongly object to the footpath going ahead. Mr Turner mentioned that this may be a result of a conversation between Mr Meehan and Strongvox, he reiterated Mr Meehan that the PC objected to the removal of the hedge on the original plans, however, if the footpath were to be achieved without removal of the hedge the PC would be in favour of the footpath. Cllr. Fothergill suggested we clarify the position with Strongvox, Clerk to email and copy to Cllr. Fothergill.
 - Bus stop marking.** The Clerk has requested this, but there has been no confirmation of when works may begin, Clerk to chase up.
 - Broad Lane Entrance.** Clerk has written to Kali Martin at SCC to ask for advice on where to direct concerns of flooding caused due to the new entrance.

County Council Report. Cllr. Fothergill reported Climate Emergency Strategy Events are continuing to run through to the middle of February. The strategy will help identify ways for Somerset to become carbon neutral by 2030. The Somerset team providing advice, support and training to governors, clerks and others in educational professions won a top award in December, as did SCC's Support Services for Education, SSE delivers training and support to teachers. SCC proud to support grassroots projects for those suffering with dementia, aiming to encourage community engagement.

ANY OTHER MATTERS ARISING – None

6. APPLICATIONS FOR COMMENT BY NORTH CURRY PARISH COUNCIL.

24/19/0040/LB Replacement of garage and barn with the erection of a double garage with office and ancillary living accommodation at Snellgroves, Combe Lane, Knapp, North Curry – The Chairman of the Planning Committee explained the application, which was the unchanged from the first application submitted in 2012. The previous application was approved by the Deane but with a condition that building work begin within three years of the approval, this had lapsed therefore new application is required. There was much discussion regarding the heritage of the property and Parish as a whole from the neighbours of the applicants Mr & Mrs Langford, after which, Mr Fugett commented that our reasons for objection submitted in 2012 should be mirrored again. Consequently, Mr Turner proposed the PC object for the following reasons;

- a) The proposed garage is in the grounds of a listed building and as such, the Committee feel that the previously characterful shed and barn it would replace should be listed and maintained.
- b) The adjoining property would suffer a significant loss of privacy due to windows in the roof
- c) There is a concern the office could be for business use with associated traffic and parking issues, parking already being a problem in the vicinity.

Mr Turner added an additional comment that should SWTC be minded to support the application, that they ensure suitable screen planting is made a condition of the approval. This was seconded by Mrs Leader, which was carried.

7. CLAIRE THACKRAY– ENGAGEMENT LEAD FOR SOMERSET WEST & TAUNTON COUNCIL – The Chairman welcomed and introduced Miss Thackray explained her position within SWT Council, she commented on some of the aspects she can assist with. She would like to identify the burning issues and needs within the parish and provide a link into the Council. Cllr. Stone commented on how helpful Claire had been so far and thanked her for her input.

20.15 Miss Thackray left the meeting.

8. TO CONSIDER TAKING OWNERSHIP OF LOSCOMBE MEADOW FOOTPATH – The Chairman referred to **corr. A6885**, Mr Jeanes email regarding of ownership of the path, which addresses the fact that Mrs De Silva still owns the land. The Chairman, Mr Jeanes and Cllr. Stone met to discuss and visit the path. They all agreed it is a valuable asset to the parish, connecting two halves of the village together providing an important link to the health centre, school and playing fields. There will be paperwork and charges involved in taking ownership of the path, although exact costs are not currently known. Mrs Leader mentioned that now that the Parish Council is likely to face legal costs for the transfer of the land that the footpath is on, perhaps Strongvox should be approached regarding some repayment towards the cost for the path, it was discussed and agreed to approach this idea with Strongvox should the legal representative be in agreement. Cllr. Fothergill suggested the PC also consider trying to take ownership of Nine Acre Lane in order to complete the rights of way of the whole path, however, it was thought at this time that the upper part of the path should be obtained first. The Chairman proposed the PC contact our solicitor with a view to taking ownership of the path and possible recuperations of cost from Strongvox and to act on his advice, this was seconded by Mr Jeanes, which was carried. There was some discussion regarding the drainage, which may affect the path in the future, the Chairman felt the residents of Loscombe Meadow should liaise with Strongvox directly at this time.

9. **TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE PRECEPT BID FOR 2020/2021** – Mr Jeanes invited comments regarding the proposed Precept Bid, there was a brief discussion, following which it was decided the precept should remain at £19k for 2020/2021, Mr Jeanes made the proposal, seconded by Mr Fugett, which was carried.
10. **TO CONSIDER THE APPROVAL COSTS OF REMOVAL OF WHITE STREET ASH TREES** – Cllr. Stone is still exploring options with these trees and will request this item placed back on the agenda once he is in a position to move forward.
11. **TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE PAYMENT FOR SIX KISSING GATES** – Cllr. Stone reported that the recent quotes obtained were higher than the quote by which the previous gates were purchased including Mrs Dennis’s costing of a similar wooden gate. He requested permission to procure another six gates for use around the parish. Following discussion and confirmed cost of the gates at £1,726, Mr Jeanes commented that as previously agreed, four of these would be paid out of CIL monies and two from the footpath fund. Cllr. Fothergill suggested contacting Rights of Way as there could be the potential to claim some funding back for the gates, Cllr. Stone will investigate. Mrs Leader proposed the six new kissing gates be ordered, seconded by Mr Fugett, which was carried.
12. **CORRESPONDENCE.** – **A6684 to A6686** already covered in previous agenda items.
A6887 – SWT Council Planning notification of application 24/19/0046 proposed bungalow at rear of Town Farm, informing us that the application will go to committee 9th January 2020.
A6888 – D Akerman- a reminder of the renewal due in October 2020 for the register of Assets of Community Value. The Chairman explained this registration is for buildings and businesses, which may be lost to the parish, should these be put on the market. The register allows advanced notice of six months to the PC before the property/business is put on the open market to give the opportunity to raise the funds should the Parish wish to purchase the business as a community amenity; this can only be done with permission of the owner. Currently on the register are The Bird in Hand, The Rising Sun at Knapp and The Far Canal. Clerk to contact SWT Council to find out details on if this can be continued. The Chairman proposed this is added to the next agenda providing this be still considered a parish asset; Mrs Vaughan seconded this, which was carried. Mrs Vaughan commented on the email she had sent to SCC Highways on 27th December regarding the flood gates, people still using the road or opening the gates and the danger of these not being locked to which she had received no reply, having written again, she still had not received a response. When discussing why these were not locked shut, Cllr. Fothergill raised the issue of combination locks being opened, and then left unlocked, however was cautious of a permanent lock on the gates as a residence is situated within the floodgates. There was further discussion where it was stated that the residence is not currently inhabited. Cllr. Fothergill will look into a solution and update Mrs Vaughan. Mr Fugett raised the possibility of flood depth measure sticks and requested one be positioned on Broad Lane to indicate the depth of water. Cllr. Fothergill did warn this may not prevent drivers attempting to cross, and only gives the depth at that particular place on the road, however, it was thought this would assist the issue of people driving through. Clerk to request a measure stick at the bottom of the ‘S’ Bend in Broad Lane.
13. **FINANCE – The Monthly Account** was presented by Mr Jeanes, detailing all receipts and payments proposing this be accepted, seconded by The Chairman, which was carried. He also read out the **payment list** and proposed it be accepted, Mrs Leader seconded this and it was carried.
- 14.

CHEQUE NO:	PAYEE	AMOUNT
BACS	Clerk payment	674.05
BACS	Village Hall (December room hire)	15.51

BACS	Village Hall – Newsletter Printing costs	508.10
BACS	HMRC – Tax and NI	87.00

15. COMMITTEE / DELEGATE REPORTS-

Footpaths – Cllr. Stone is aware of the overgrown footpath at Wrantage and has requested Highways restore the paths pavement; the Clark was also informed and has requested clearance of the path.

Playing Fields – nothing to report.

Village Hall – nothing to report.

Tree Warden –Cllr. Stone was still concerned about the overhanging trees on Windmill Hill and continues to investigate who is responsible for these.

Allotments – Mr Turner mentioned there was no longer a padlock from the playing fields to the allotments at Greenway, it is understood the school us the gate when out with the school children, it was suggested a lock be placed back on the gate and the school given the code. He will speak to the Headmistress.

Stable – nothing to report.

Flood Warden – Mrs Vaughan mentioned an email from residents at Chapel Close; Mr Jeanes had already resolved the issue.

White Street – Cllr. Stone advised Mr Leader was applying for grant money, Mr Turner advised he cannot apply for the use of the funds for the so this may be best used for the sports ground.

Wildlife Group – There is a Wassail on 17th January 6pm – 8pm.

Speedwatch: No Speedwatch during December.

SALC: nothing to report

Road Safety – nothing to report

Speed Policy Group – nothing to report

PUBLICITY –Councillor Vacancy, reminder to pick up litter when seen, fibre broadband connections, details of closures and flood warning on Travel Somerset website.

16. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION-

Mr Fugett commented on the line of tractors outside Knappwoods Farm. Mr Jeanes explained he had no prior knowledge the tractors would be gathering there, he explained what they had wanted to achieve by using the ramp and hose. Mr Jeanes will speak with his tenants to find a more suitable solution for next time.

Mr Cable reported that the website is recording statistics having had a period where these were not captured, he will report the statistics from the website once more information has be gathered, however, visits on the site are averaging 30 per day. Finally, the Chairman mentioned the Clerk had been in post for one year this month and gave thanks.

There being no further matters to discuss, the meeting closed at 09.28pm