

**Minutes of the North Curry Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on
Wednesday 12th February 2020**

Present: Mrs C Stodgell (Chairman), Mr A Turner, Mr B Jeanes, Mr Cable, Mr I Fugett, Mrs C Vaughan, Miss E Turney, Ms C Smith.

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

1. **APOLOGIES:** Mrs H Griffiths, Mr M Dennis, Mrs J Leader.
2. **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8th JANUARY 2020** – 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 Turner seconded the proposal, which was carried.
3. **CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATION FOR THE CO-OPTION OF A PARISH COUNCILLOR.** – **Corr A6897 Maurice Wilkins** – the Chairman introduced Mr Wilkins and invited questions or comments. Following some short questions to Mr Wilkins such as availability to join the PC and parish knowledge, the Chairman proposed Mr Wilkins join the PC and offered a closed vote if it was felt this was needed, the Cllrs. were happy to openly vote in favour of the proposal which was seconded by Mr Turner and carried.
4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Mr Turner for item 10, Playing Field Fencing, and Mr Jeanes for item 15, Grass Cutting Tender.
5. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS** – None.
6. **MATTERS ARISING -**
Policing matters – None
Welcome Booklet – Mr Fugett has almost completed the amendments for the booklet.
Finger Post update - the Clerk made contact with Mr Keal who is happy to take on the finger post work, however, this will not be possible until the weather improves in late spring/ summer.
Loscombe Meadow footpath update - Mr Jeanes updated the Cllrs. on the progress so far and the response from Mr T Walker, who is happy to act on behalf of the Parish Council. He also mentioned there had been issues with drainage at a certain area along the footpath, and had the suggestion to either improve the drainage, or raise the area of the path affected. There was no immediate action to be taken but Mr Jeanes felt the Cllrs. should be aware, as this may need addressing in the near future. He also mentioned a resident of Loscombe Meadow who expressed interest in owning one of the ponds beside the footpath. He has made Mrs De Silva aware so they can discuss this as a separate matter. With the above points in mind, Mr Jeanes proposed we continue with gaining ownership of the path, seconded by the Chairman, which was carried.
106 Monies Village Hall – agenda item 13.
Lockyer's Field/ Knapp Lane Footpath – following a phone call between the Clerk and Strongvox t has been confirmed that plans for the site are being resubmitted with the footpath removed.
Bus Stop Box Marking- Corr A6898 SWT Council confirming works will be carried out in the new financial year (April 2020 onwards).
Broad Lane Entrance – no news back from SCC or highways on this, Clerk to chase K Martin. The Chairman also added that the request for a depth gauge in Broad Lane will also be implemented in the new financial year.
ANY OTHER MATTERS ARISING – None
County Councillor report – Cllr. Fothergill reported on the Somerset Fund, these are grassroots community support groups aiding local people of all ages and with varying needs of support. There is more information available at www.somersetcf.org.uk/somersetfund. Events regarding the Climate Emergency Strategy are being rescheduled, check online for the latest dates. SCC Adult Social Care team have a new website www.somersetcommunityconnect.org.uk. Fizz Free February is well

underway as part of the Sugar Smart campaign aimed at cutting down on consumption of fizzy drinks. Free healthcare checks are now available for those over 40 years old can be arranged at central village and town location, nearly 7000 people are reported to have benefited from health checks last year alone. Somerset Trading Standards has launched a new information pack for farms to help safeguard their herd from Bovine TB giving advice and support to try to reduce the impact of the disease. Finally, Somerset prepared is the official multi agency partnership working to deliver advice and support to the community to enhance local resilience to emergencies.

7. **APPLICATIONS FOR COMMENT BY NORTH CURRY PARISH COUNCIL** – There are no planning applications for consideration this month.
8. **TO REVIEW AND APPROVE WELCOME BOOKLET.** Deferred until next months meeting.
9. **TO CONSIDER CONTINUATION OF LISTING OF ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE FOR THE RISING SUN, THE BIRD IN HAND & THE FAR CANAL – Corr A6899 J Bruce, SWT Council** - confirming each application whether a relisting or not is treated as a new case. If the assets are registered in the same way as before, no less than 8 weeks prior to the original listing, it will ensure the asset listing is continuous. After a short discussion regarding use of the amenities, the Chairman pointed out that we will still need to gain permission from the landlords/owners. She will talk to the owner at The Far Canal, Mrs Vaughan was happy to talk with James at the Bird in Hand, and Mr Cable said he would speak with the new owners of The Rising Sun at Knapp. Once the property owners have been consulted, if they are willing to continue on the community assets register, the Clerk can enter a new application.
10. **TO CONSIDER AND AGREE COST ON REPLACEMENT FENCING FOR THE PLAYING FIELDS AND VILLAGE HALL BOUNDARY – Corr A6900 Mr Turner – replacing the fencing between the playing fields and the village hall three quotes for the works.** Mr Turner left the room to allow open dialogue; the request for the replacement fencing had also been verbally requested by the village hall previously. Following a brief discussion on the need for the replacement and style, which was confirmed as replacement chain link fencing, the Chairman proposed supporting the purchase at the lower cost of the three quotes, £1250, seconded by Miss Turney, which was carried, Cllr. Stone and Mr Turner abstained. Mr Jeanes confirmed the monies would come from the Lightsource fund; this was seconded by the Chairman and carried. Mr Turner will contact the contractor on our behalf.
11. **VE DAY 75 CELEBRATIONS** – Mrs Vaughan reported that Mrs Leader and herself had met with Mr Sidley who was kindly putting together a schedule of events during the week leading up to the celebration. After discussion and consideration that the May Fair is not going ahead this year, it was suggested that the Playing Fields is a more suitable celebration site than Church Road. A budget of up to £500 was approved for a potential schedule of events and a band. Mrs Vaughan will meet with Mr Sidley again and look at revising the initial plan, as a contingency it was also suggested the Village Hall be provisionally booked in case of bad weather.
12. **TO DISCUSS THE LOCAL PLAN – Corr A6903 & 6904 SWT Council Local Plan 2040** – Mr Walker kindly joined the meeting to explain the Local Plan and open up discussion amongst the Cllrs. He gave some background and context to the proposals and some examples of questions he thought it was prudent to raise. It was suggested a small focus group was formed; Mr Turner, Miss Turney and Cllr. Stone will all meet with Mr Walker and work on a response on behalf of the Parish Council which will be discussed again in the March meeting in order to ensure the comments are in by the deadline of 16th March 2020.
13. **TO CONSIDER A GRANT FROM CIL FUNDS FOR WIDENING TO THE VILLAGE HALL ENTRANCE** – Mr Jeanes explained the various projects the Village Hall had agreed use 106 monies for and where this would leave the Hall financially. One of the projects is to widen the entrance to the car park. This car park is also used by the parish, it was suggested that maybe the PC would consider

assisting with some of the cost for this specific project. The total quote for widening the entrance is £6k and the VH are asking for up to 50% towards this cost from the PC CIL funds, this being acceptable due to all the extra parishioners using the Village Hall. Following some discussion, the Chairman proposed the PC pay the 50 % towards the entrance; this was seconded by Mr Jeanes which was carried.

- 14. TO CONSIDER AND DISCUSS ALLOTMENT RENT AND AGREEMENTS** – The Chairman noted these rates were increased last year and felt the charge was adequate. Mr Jeanes agreed with the Chairman adding that should repairs and cost for maintenance increase then rent can be reviewed at that time. He also asked the Clerk to endeavour to get a date from Strongvox as to when the allotments may be signed over to the PC, in the meanwhile, ask if they will allow the residents to begin preparing the soil for planting, both proposals were seconded by the Chairman which was carried.
- 15. TO CONSIDER QUEEN SQUARE/CHURCH ROAD GRASS CUTTING CONTRACT** – Mr Jeanes left the room in order for open discussion. The Chairman read out an increased hourly rate Mr Jeanes had proposed for the new grass cutting contract, and informed the Cllrs. that due to this increase the contract would need to go out to tender. Two other contractors were named as potentially providing a quote for the works. There was some discussion regarding how the costing was calculated. Mr Turner commented that the average cuts for Greenway were 14 per year. It was suggested the Clerk write requesting a quote per cut for an average of 14 cuts per year as well as an hourly/daily rate should additional works need to be carried out. The vote for the tender will be an agenda item for next month.
- 16. TO CONSIDER SPRING LITTER PICK** – Following the success of the autumn litter pick, it was agreed another be arranged for spring. Mrs Vaughan was unable to guarantee her availability in March; however, it was thought this was best done before the verges grow in April, Mr Jeanes offered to help if required. The date and time was agreed as Saturday 28th March at 10.30am to meet in the Village Hall car park, this will be advertised in the Newsletter, the Clerk will arrange for the rubbish to be collected.
- 17. TO REVIEW QUOTES FOR BUS SEAT& SHELTER AT BOROUGH POST** – The Chairman and Mr Dennis met to measure the layout for the bus shelter and passed the details to Miss Turney. Due to ill health Miss Turney has not been able to finalise the details for proposed cost so this will be deferred until the next meeting and the Chairman will obtain quotes for the works.
- 18. CORRESPONDENCE.** – **A6897 -A6901, 68903 & 68904** already been covered in previous agenda items.
A6902 – A Meehan, Speedwatch Group. Mr Meehan has found two new volunteers for the Wrantage areas as well as securing possible police funding for a new radar for them he asked if the PC would cover the cost if the funds did not materialise, the Chairman asked for it to be put on next month's agenda if required. There was some discussion and it was thought at least three people needed to be present at a Speedwatch Session and perhaps another volunteer could be found. Clerk to feedback to Mr Meehan.
 Mrs Vaughan raised the quality of the works carried out recently on Stoke Road; Mr Fugett also passed comment that the diversion routes and signs were not helpful to local businesses. Cllr. Fothergill gave reassurance that the road works will be inspected before resurfacing takes place.
B6905 – Cllr. Fothergill – the future of Local Government in the area – letter advising talks are ongoing
B6906 – SWTC Local Plan – Poster detailing when and where to voice opinions
B6906 -R. Jackson Dog Fouling
B6907- Road Closure, Lower Knapp Lane and Combe Lane, 12 February for up to 3 days (9.30-15.30)
B6908- Road Closure, Knapp Lane, junction with Lodwells Orchard, 19 February for up to 7 days (excluding weekends)
B6910- Somerset Waste Partnership - recycling of garden waste
- 19. FINANCE – The Monthly Account** was presented by Mr Jeanes, detailing all receipts and payments proposing this be accepted, seconded by Mr Cable, which was carried. He also read out the **payment list** and proposed it be accepted, the Chairman seconded this and it was carried.

CHEQUE NO:	PAYEE		AMOUNT
BACS	Clerk payment		674.05
BACS	Village Hall (January room hire)		33.60

20. COMMITTEE / DELEGATE REPORTS-

Footpaths – Cllr. Stone discussed the damage to the bench on the footpath to the rear of Stoneleigh House, the owners of Stoneleigh have asked what the PC wish to do about repairing the damage to the bench. There was some discussion about replacing just the broken panel; Cllr. Stone will talk with the owners to see if they will repair the panel. It was also reported that there was flooding on the footpath bridge at Highgrove.

Playing Fields – Mr Turner mentioned there had been discussion around potential footpath access through the Playing Field on the inside of the hedge; however, no proposals have been put forward as yet.

Village Hall – The VH welcomes a new secretary and new committee member.

Tree Warden –Cllr. Stone has now taken down both of the Ash Trees at the Copse which had been causing some concern. He also removed a dead elm on Windmill Hill and will contact who is believed to be the owner of the land where the other dead trees are leaning on the lines to see if these can be removed. It was reported there was a broken branch hanging from a conifer at Highfield House on Knapp Lane, Cllr. Stone will also address this. Mr Fugett mentioned another dead tree on Helland Hill which looks as though it is only being held up by the wires below it.

Allotments – previously discussed.

Stable – Mr Jeanes reported new gravel laid to the car park and that PAT testing throughout the Stable will be taking place soon.

Flood Warden – Mrs Vaughan has still not heard back regarding the locking of the floodgates, she will keep looking into this.

White Street – Cllr. Stone reported over 100 people attending the Wassail in January. Mr Leader is putting forward a proposal for the 106 monies for fencing etc.

Wildlife Group – Cllr. Stone is still liaising with the authorities regarding cutting the banks once a year in the autumn.

Speedwatch: No Speedwatch during January.

SALC: nothing to report

Road Safety – nothing to report

Speed Policy Group – nothing to report

21. **PUBLICITY** – Dog Fouling, Road Closures, Spring Litter Pick, Welcome new Cllr, Volunteer for flag duties Queens Square Garden.

22. **MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION-** the Chairman mentioned the sad passing of Mr Brooker who had raised and lowered the flag in Queens Square on marked occasions and asked if the volunteer post be put in the newsletter, it was agreed and added to the publicity inputs. Mr Fugett raised the issue of Somerset Waste Partnership (SWP) dropping bags of waste as the waste lorries travelled down Stoke Road last week, Clerk to report to SWP. Mr Cable reported on website figures, stating 10-30 users per day are visiting the site, the Chairman requested we keep updated on these figures on an ad hoc basis.

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