

**Minutes of the North Curry Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on  
Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

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

**Members of the Public:** Cllr. D Fothergill (SCC), F Hemmings, Mr D Walker, Mr & Mrs Octon, Mr & Mrs Deacon, Mr R Handley, Mr G Dart, S Bethune, Mr & Mrs Billingham, Mr Leader.

1. **APOLOGIES:** Mr Wilkins.
2. **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 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. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** –Mr Jeanes for item 12, Grass Cutting Tender.
4. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS** – None.
5. **MATTERS ARISING:**

**Policing matters** – Mr Dennis reported a break-in at Nythe Farm and also warned of another he had been informed about in Curry Mallet, both of these were farms, a notice is to be put in the newsletter reminding owners of all rural properties to be vigilant.

**Village hall car park entrance** – Mr Jeanes reported that the application had not yet been submitted, and that the village hall have requested another meeting with him before moving forward.

**Loscombe footpath update** – Mr Jeanes has asked Mr T Walker to proceed with the ownership of the footpath, no further update at this time.

**Queens square garden flag** – No volunteers have come forward yet, request to go back in the newsletter.

**VE day update** - Mrs Vaughan and Mrs Leader had met with Mr Sidley and they have collectively organised a weekend of events to celebrate VE Day, this will incorporate the May Fair which is now running again this year. Mr D Walker asked if a civic service might be preferable on the Sunday, it was thought this may be more inclusive. All the details will be finalised and advertised in due course.

**Community asset registration** – Mr Cable has discussed the registration with the new owners of The Rising Sun who have no objections to the business being registered. By way of update, they are hoping to open later in the year after some essential works have been carried out. Mrs Vaughan had spoken with the landlord of The Bird in Hand who has also agreed, and Mrs Stodgell is awaiting a reply from the owners of The Far Canal soon.

**Lockyer's allotment update** – Clerk and residents of Lockyer's Field are continuously chasing updates on the transfer of the allotments.

**County Cllr. Report** – SCC Councillors have approved a £338m budget for its services across the next three years. The budget included funds for road safety, family safeguarding and infrastructure. A £1m climate change fund has been created by SCC, the fund will be available to parish and town councils to bid for green initiatives in their areas as SCC steps towards making Somerset carbon neutral by 2030. Efforts are being made to roll-out superfast broadband across the two counties of Devon and Somerset following the Governments funding extension. A digital helping hand is being trialled in Somerset to provide tailored support for people with mental health problems or learning difficulties. The personalised app links the user with their carers and support teams. Finally but very importantly Cllr. Fothergill gave an update on the current situation with Covid-19 urging us all to undertake basic hygiene processes such as washing hands and using tissues when coughing or sneezing, Latest information on the virus can be found at [www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public)

6. **LOCAL PLAN 2040 - NORTH CURRY RESPONSE - Corr. A6913.** The copy of the response drafted by Mr D Walker, Mr Turner and Cllr. Stone had been circulated to the Cllrs. prior to the meeting. Mr Walker addressed the main points and some additional comments made by Stoke St Mary who are also in the ward. After discussion, Mr Turner proposed we submit the response with the addition of the Stoke St Mary comments; Miss Turney seconded this, which was carried. It was also requested that the documents are made available on the website. The Chairman gave thanks to the group for their time and efforts with this response.
7. **TO DISCUSS 20MPH LIMIT IN THE CENTRE OF THE VILLAGE** – the Chairman reminded the Cllrs. that since the monitoring of speed through the centre of village, this area now qualifies for speed restrictions of 20mph. Cllr Stone explained that the Speed Awareness Group met with Cllr. Fothergill to discuss the potential zone where the 20mph limit may apply. Cllr. Fothergill reminded the group that the average speeds registered by the monitors were under the 30mph limit, which would allow areas of North Curry to have a self-enforcing 20mph limit. This limit is enforceable by law, there will be no speed calming, signs will be changed and some alterations to signage outside the school will need to be made. There was much discussion about whether the signs and restrictions would work etc., costs are to be met by the PC (£15k +). However, it was clear that the majority of parishioners appeared to want the limit in place. The Chairman proposed the PC pursue the proposal, seconded by Mrs Leader, which was carried.
8. **TO REVIEW & APPROVE THE NEW WELCOME BOOKLET** – Mr Fugett was not in attendance; therefore, the item was deferred until the next meeting.
9. **TO REVIEW & APPROVE QUOTE FOR BUS SEAT & SHELTER AT BOROUGH POST** – Quotes for the installation of the bus shelter have been received, however, three quotes for the concrete base need to be obtained. This will be moved to next month for decision, the Clerk was asked to find out the lead-time on the installation.
10. **TO DISCUSS AND APPROVE ANNUAL PAYMENT OF £36 FOR CPRE MEMBERSHIP** – The Chairman stated that this was a valuable membership and proposed the PC renew the subscription, this was seconded by Mr Cable and carried.
11. **TO REVIEW & APPROVE MINIMUM NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS AT SPEEDWATCH SESSIONS** – the Chairman explained that this has been raised due to only two volunteers being available to service the Wrantage area, traditionally, three volunteers have been present at Speedwatch sessions. Its understood from the guidance issued by Somerset and Avon Police that a minimum of two volunteers must be present, conversely, since the PC have been supporting and liaising with the NC Speedwatch team, no less than three volunteers have been out at any one time. Mrs Vaughan who is part of the Speedwatch team of volunteers, explained that not only the speed is recorded but also the other details like the make of the vehicle, colour, registration number etc. and commented that this may be hard for only two to people to obtain these details, especially in Wrantage where there is an increased speed limit. There was some discussion, following which, Mr Tuner proposed that a minimum of two volunteers carry out a Speedwatch session at any one time, however, three would be the optimum when there are sufficient volunteers available, this was seconded by Mrs Vaughan and passed.

#### **8.50pm Mr Jeanes left the room**

12. **TO DISCUSS & APPROVE NEW GRASS CUTTING CONTRACT** – The Chairman explained only two quotes had been received at present. There was some discussion regarding the structure of the quotes received and the Clerk was asked to continue to find a third quote while some further details on current quotes were clarified.

**8.55pm Mr Jeanes re-entered the room.** Having explained the tender was not yet ready for decision, Mr Jeanes was asked to continue to cut the grass until this had been concluded, he agreed.

- 13. TO DISCUSS & AGREE RENEWAL OF ACCOUNTING SYSTEM** – Mr Jeanes explained the concerns with our current accounting system and that himself and the Clerk are in the process of deciding whether to renew with Scribe, try a new provider (Edge) or revert to an updated version of the spreadsheet which he had been working on. He also discussed the current methods of reporting at the end of the year. Historically, both income and expenditure, and receipts and payments had been produced at the end of the year. However, advice from Somerset Association for Local Councils (SALC) suggests NCPC should only be producing one report, for our size and income, this should be receipts and payments and Mr Jeanes proposed this is how the end of year reporting would be completed, this was seconded by the Chairman and carried. Following discussion, it was decided that until the end of year process was complete a decision on a new accounting system be deferred. Scribe provided an invoice for an additional licence to their system for two months, Mr Turner proposed the payment of £47 be authorised to extend the licence, the Chairman seconded this which was carried. From 1<sup>st</sup> April the new spreadsheet will be used to record the accounts until a decision has been made.
- 14. TO CONSIDER PAYMENT OF ANNUAL GRASS CUTTING DONATION TO THE NC PLAYING FIELD AND NC SPORTS FIELD** – The Chairman reported that in previous years a grant of £225 had been given to the Playing Field and £500 to North Curry Sports Field and asked the Cllrs. if this should be reviewed and increased. Cllr. Stone proposed the same amounts be paid again this year, this was seconded by Mr Leader, which was carried. Mr Turner abstained and the Chairman was against the proposal.
- 15. CORRESPONDENCE – A6912 –A6917** had already been covered by agenda items above. The Chairman raised **A6916** which was the village of the year completion, it was briefly discussed, however, it was thought trying to get volunteers to action this would be challenging.  
**B6921** - Road closure of Newport Road from 16<sup>th</sup> March for 3 days.
- 16. FINANCE** – The Monthly Account was presented by Mr Jeanes, detailing all receipts and payments proposing this be accepted. He also read out the payment list and proposed it be accepted, this was now to include the grant payments to the two fields as discussed in item 14. He also explained the monthly service charge to the Stable had been increased to £165, both proposals were seconded by Miss Turney, and carried. Clerk to send additional payment details to the finance committee.

CHEQUE NO:	PAYEE	AMOUNT
BACS	Clerk Salary	£674.05
BACS	NCVH Room Hire	£33.60
BACS	NC Stable Charge - Water	£35.31
BACS	NC Stable Charge - Gas	£37.47
BACS	NC Stable Charge - Electricity	£96.11

**17. COMMITTEE / DELEGATE REPORTS-**

**Footpaths** – Cllr. Stone reported that one of the land owners had requested a Bristol gate instead of a kissing gate, SCC are able to provide this and the kissing gate can be used elsewhere in the parish. It was suggested a better surface be put down on Manor Lane footpath as an attempt to direct people away from the road, it was proposed that CIL funds be explored for this. Cllr. Stone will investigate the options and report back.

**Playing Fields** – enquires are being made regarding providing bow top railings between the play area and the road and the removal of some of the low branches on the cherry tree

**Village Hall** – Nothing to report

**Tree Warden** – Cllr. Stone reported that three dead trees on Windmill Hill have now been taken down. The trees that were taken down at the Plantation have now been replaced with Pine trees.

**Allotments** – Mrs Leader had visited the Greenway allotments and made them aware she was the new contact, she hadn't yet been to Loscombe Meadow and Lockyer's Field is still to be signed off.

**Stable** – Mr Jeanes reported that the stone wall would soon be repaired.

**Flood Warden** – Mrs Vaughan had still not received a response regarding her enquiries dating back to December about the locking and unlocking of the flood gates. She has suggested a meeting where the responsibilities for this can be discussed and clarified for the future. She also reported the drain at the meeting of Stoke Road and The Fosse was blocked again, Clerk to contact Highways.

**White Street** – Mr Leader explained the details of the 106 grant the sports field had applied for and asked that the Parish Council support the request, Cllr. Stone proposed the application be supported, seconded by Mr Jeanes which was carried.

**Wildlife Group** – Cllr. Stone met with the Environment Agency to discuss reducing the cutting of the banks which he had been working on for a while in order to increase the wildlife inhabiting them. This has been agreed on a trial basis; he also asked if a write up could be added to the PC publicity input promoting the area and its website

**Speedwatch:** No Speedwatch session.

**SALC:** Nothing to report.

**Road Safety** – Nothing to report.

**Speed Policy Group** – Covered in item 7.

18. **PUBLICITY** – message regarding break-ins, request for a flag volunteer, Happy Easter message, Covid- 19 PC response. VE weekend, community woodland details.
19. **MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION-** Mr Dennis mentioned the 'Forget Me Not Wood' 54 out of the 400 tree have already been allocated in memory of loved ones. Mr Dennis is keen to promote the wood and also hopes it will connect the farming community and the people who live within it.

Mr Jeanes raised the question of whether the PC should be exploring installing an electric car charge point. He had heard that Stoke St Gregory (SSG) had explored a Government grant for a charge point and are installing theirs in the village hall. There was some discussion and Mr Jeanes requested this be put on the agenda for next month. He also mentioned SSG were hosting a film on the 26<sup>th</sup> March showing what the world may look like in 2040 if climate change action is put in place now.

Mr Turner raised the issue of meetings under the current circumstances with warnings of Covid- 19, it was decided this would be monitored.

Mrs Vaughan raised the issue of mud on the roads again, Mr Dennis said he will speak to his contact regarding these issues.

**There being no further matters to discuss, the meeting closed at 10.03pm**