

**Minutes of the North Curry Parish Council Meeting held via Zoom on
Wednesday 12th August 2020**

Present or comments received: Mrs C Stodgell (Chairman), Mr A Turner, Mr B Jeanes, Mr G Cable, Mrs H Griffiths, Mrs J Leader, Cllr. P Stone, Cllr D Fothergill, Mrs C Vaughan

1. **APOLOGIES:** Mrs C Vaughan joined the meeting at 8pm, Mr Mike Dennis, Mr I Fugett, Mrs C Smith, Mr M Wilkins, Cllr S Buller and Miss E Turney
2. **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8th JULY 2020** – The Chairman invited any amendments or comments to the minutes. Mr G Cable proposed these were a true record of the meeting, seconded by Mr B Jeanes which was carried.
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** –Mr Jeanes and Cllr. P Stone declared an interest in item 16.
4. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS** – Mr A Meehan, Mrs F Hemmings and Mr G Caldecott were members of the public who joined the meeting. All were interested in Item 12 new speed signage design and cost and Mr A Meehan also items 10 Parish Council views on the future or the Pink Sheet and item 11 the Parish Council using social media in the future.
5. **MATTERS ARISING:**

Policing matters – It was reported that in the early hours of the morning, over the last week, there had been criminal damage to a picnic table in the playing fields, it had been set on fire and at the same time several cars had been damaged on Greenway and Stoke Road. This had been reported to the Police. Please can we all be vigilant and report anything suspicious. It was agreed that this is an item for the Pink Sheet and the Clerk to action.

IONOS CLOUD FEE – The Clerk investigated the contracts with IONOS and confirmed we have two contracts set up with an annual fee for the domain name and a monthly fee for the Hi Drive storage.

To consider Electric Car Charge Point – to leave on hold for now

SALC Training for Clerks – There are new courses available in September Clerk [Mrs M Perry] to register as soon as possible.

County Cllr. Report – Cllr. Fothergill updated the SCC reports.
6. **APPLICATIONS FOR COMMENT BY NORTH CURRY PARISH COUNCIL**

24/20/0029 – Erection of porch to the front of 2 LODWELLS ORCHARD, NORTH CURRY – Mr Turner explained that the porch would be tucked in a corner between the garage and the projection of the bungalow, it would have timber cladding and the design looked modern and in keeping with its surroundings. Mr Turner proposed to support the application and it was seconded by Mrs T Stodgell, which was carried.
7. **TO DISCUSS A NEW WILDLIFE TRUST REPORT – action required for “reversing the Decline of Insects”** – Cllr Stone discussed that the report referred to insects all over the world and that the decline was becoming quite a problem. It was highlighted that the Parish already had several projects in place that covered the preserving of insects and a new project was under way with the Wildlife Group to encourage parishioners to join the Wildlife Group to grow wild flowers and plant them to encourage the insects. It was suggested that the Wildlife Group project should be advertised in the Pink Sheet to be actioned by Cllr. Stone and submitted by the Clerk.
8. **TO APPROVE LEGAL FEES RE TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP FOR THE FOOTPATH FROM LOSCOMBE MEADOWS TO NINE ACRE LANE** – The legal fees were discussed in principal at the last Parish Council meeting and it was agreed to pay the legal fees of £500. Proposed by Mr T Turner and seconded by Mr B Jeanes, which was carried.
9. **TO DISCUSS AND CONSIDER BT PHONE BOX CONSULTATION** – This consultation comes up every year whereby it is suggested that the Red BT Phone Box should be removed. After much discussion it was agreed that we would like to keep the village phone box and reply back using the same reasons as we did on previous years listed below:
 1. Mobile phone reception in the centre of the village is extremely poor (non-existent for many) and this phone box is in regular use – 153 calls in the last 12 months (significantly

higher than all the other phone boxes proposed for removal, the majority of which had either not been used at all or been used less than 5 times over the year).

2. This phone box is located adjacent to North Curry's defibrillator. In view of the extremely limited mobile phone reception in this area it is essential that reliable telephone access close to the defibrillator is maintained for emergency use.
3. The phone box is opposite a pub, in the absence of mobile phone reception, many wishing to avoid drink driving makes use of the phone to call for a lift, it's absence could result in increased drink driving.
4. The phone box is in the Conservation Area of the village and part of the heritage of the village.
5. The nearest alternative public phone boxes are several miles away in adjacent villages but these are also proposed for removal so the nearest public phone box would then be many miles away.
6. The phone box has no history of vandalism.

It was also suggested to put a sign on the outside of the Telephone Box to advise parishioners of its threat and highlighting the need for the defibrillator and encourage parishioners to maybe use it on occasions.

10. **TO DISCUSS PARISH COUNCIL VIEWS ON THE FUTURE OF THE PINK SHEET – Delivery/Social Media** – The Chairman reported that the Pink Sheet had received an overwhelming amount of letters to support its continuation. After much discussion, the Chairman proposed that the Pink Sheet should continue and that the Parish Council continue with the support grant, this was seconded by Mr B Jeanes. It was also proposed by the Chairman, that we should write a letter to Mrs B Drakeford giving our support and agreement to continue the grant also suggesting to consider using media such as email/website, for those who wish and maybe some kind of sticker on the door to advise no paper copy needed. This was seconded by Mr B Jeanes, which was carried.
11. **TO DISCUSS AND CONSIDER THE PARISH COUNCIL USING SOCIAL MEDIA IN THE FUTURE** – Mrs Leader kindly researched the prospects of using social media and it was found that using Facebook may be the way forward. Mrs Leader presented other Councils Facebook pages and explained how it can be used. After much discussion, the Chairman proposed that a package should be put together using volunteers to create a Facebook page for North Curry Parish Council. It was decided that Mrs Leader and the Clerk would work together to produce this ready for the next meeting, this was seconded by Mr G Cable, which was carried.
12. **TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE NEW SPEED SIGNAGE DESIGN AND COSTS** – The Chairman started this discussion with views sent from Mr I Fugett by telephone, he asked that, as well as sending his apologies, for not attending that the Chairman make the Council aware of his feeling that going ahead at this time is irresponsible and with the uncertain times and finances due to Covid 19 the scheme should be shelved, he gave her a lecture that it is being done on a whim for a few people and there is nothing wrong with the 30mph.. The Chairman explained the decision had been already taken by the majority and it would continue. Cllr D Fothergill explained the plans of the project and the areas of speed changes around the village. The total costs of this unfortunately had not been received in time for the meeting. It was highlighted that many want to see the 20mph extended to the school crossing to Portmans at Windmill Hill. After a discussion Mr Turner proposed that as a lot of effort and time had gone in to the current proposal that we continue with the new speed signage design and start another safety scheme for the school crossing on Windmill Hill. The cost of the scheme, yet to be confirmed, should be no more than £15k, we then proceed with the project. However, if the costs come back more than £15k then we will have to come back to discuss again at the next meeting. This was seconded by the Chairman, which was carried. The Chairman thanked Cllr D Fothergill for his time and input and Mr Caldecott and Mr Meehan for their support.
13. **TO CONSIDER PROVIDING THE VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE WITH A LETTER OF SUPPORT TO ASSIST THEIR APPLICATION FOR MONEY FROM THE S106 GRANT FUND** – The village hall are proposing to use £40k of the S106 grant for improving the village hall facility. The village hall will match 50% of the costs and will make several improvements such as widening of the car park entrance, a digital projector and a loop system for the hard of hearing, in the

meeting room, social room water heater for hot water to the sink, replace floating wooden floor in the main hall and new stage lighting. Mr B Jeanes proposed that we should write a letter supporting their application, this was seconded by the Chairman, which was carried.

- 14. TO DISCUSS AND CONSIDER THE BUSINESS RATE GRANT AVAILABLE TO THE PARISH COUNCIL** - we were advised from Somerset West & Taunton Council that we were entitled to the Business Rate Grant of £10k in the light of COVI D 19. After much discussion, it was proposed by Mr Jeanes that we should apply for the grant as the Parish Council had incurred losses of rent during the pandemic, this was seconded by Mr Turner, which was carried.

15. CORRESPONDENCE:

- **A6934 - 24/20/0029 – Erection of porch to the front of 2 Lodwells Orchard – Item 6**
- **A6935 – Future of “The Pink Sheet” –Item 10**
- **A6936 – BT phone box removal consultation – Item 9**
- **A6937 – Reversing the decline of insects – Item 7**
- **B6938 - Road Closure – Ruishton Lane, Ruishton works commencing 03rd August 2020 for 240 days.**
- **B6939 - SW&T email– re missing tree planting by Stongvox, planting will commence at the end of October. The Parish Council need to inform SW&T when this has been completed. – Cllr Stone will keep an eye and let the Clerk know when the work is done**
- **B6940 - Stoke Road, North Curry emails received regarding issue over white line markings outside properties opposite White Street**
- **B6941 - Taunton Deane Bridleway’s Association – thank you email regarding the cutting and clearance of West Lane, special thanks to Cllr. P Stone for organising it.**
- **B6942 – Road Closure – Newport Road, North Curry works commencing 25th August 2020 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 Mrs T Stodgell, which was carried. **The Payment List** was presented by The Chairman and she proposed, to pay all apart from SW&T Council, we are to hold the payment for SW&T council for the Dog Bin collections as the parish council were not in receipt of the quotation for this year and to write to SW&T Council to query the invoice before payment. This was seconded by Cllr Stone, which was carried.

Monthly Payment List - August	Cheque No.	Total
Clerk-Maria Perry August	BACS	629.92
Plusnet (bill not issued as yet)	DD	20.00
Service Charge	SO	165.00
HMRC - NI & PAYE + Stable tax	BACS	0.00
BA & KM Jeanes - grass cutting July Inv	BACS	60.00
IONOS monthly Hi Drive Storage fee	DD	1.20
SW&T - Dog Bins collection fee 1/04-01/07	BACS	505.44
SLCC - Membership fee Maria	BACS	126.00
Viking Direct	BACS	17.33
SALC & NALC Aff Fee Apr20-Mar21	BACS	469.29
Mr P Stone -reimbursement for Postcrete	BACS	38.00
Taunton Fencing Company	BACS	1500.00

Richard Perry - cutting of Nine Acre Lane	BACS	95.00
Wessex Water - Loscombe allotment	DD	12.87
SW Case - 6 cuts allotment grass	BACS	20.00
Waterbusiness - Garden Queen Sq	DD	25.08
Waterbusiness - Greenway allotment	DD	150.25
IONOS Annual fee for north curry.com domain	DD	15.72

Insurance renewal – it was highlighted that the Parish Council Insurance Policy is up for renewal in two months' time, October 2020. Mr Jeanes proposed that we start to obtain quotes from other Insurance Providers before the renewal expires, this was seconded by Mr G Cable, which was carried.

17. COMMITTEE/DELEGATES REPORTS:

Footpaths – Cllr Stone reported that all the gates around the Orchid Fields had been completed and maintenance of the styles and footpaths are ongoing.

Playing Fields – Mr Turner reported that the picnic seat which had been burnt on the playing field would be replaced with a new one. The Church Produce Market had taken place on the field on Saturday. The PCC were talking about arranging a Jumble Sale on the playing field and proposed plans of an Open Air Concert.

Village Hall – None.

Tree Warden – Cllr Stone reported a problem of a tree slightly overhanging a garden in St James court as this is a matter for the property owners to cut the overhang themselves a letter will be sent explaining this. Cllr Stone requested to be involved in the next planning meeting as several planning application for trees are on the Agenda. Mrs Vaughan highlighted that the footpath where several Horse Chestnut trees planted close together and would this be a problem as they grow to some size Cllr Stone would investigate.

Allotments – None.

Stable – None.

Flood Warden – The damaged flood sign on the end of the moor has still not been fixed.

White Street – the football pitches have been marked out and there have been junior football matches. The same with the cricket there have been adult and junior games played.

Wildlife Group- The Group have been concentrating on the decline of insects and have the big bank in White Street to continue with ideas such as growing and planting wild flowers.

Speedwatch – Continued thanks to Mr Meehan and his group of helpers who report a marked increase on speeding both in North Curry Village and Wrantage.

Speed Policy Group – None

Road Safety – None

18. PUBLICITY INPUTS – Alerts to vandalism within the village, overhanging brambles and hedges be alert when walking or cycling and the owners responsibility to keep cut back, increase in Domestic Abuse.

19. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION – The Chairman raised in light of the recent hot weather that a fan be purchased to go in the office, this was agreed. Mr Jeanes highlighted that Loscombe Meadows allotment have a couple of plots that are very overgrown and that we should investigate who they belong to and if they are still required by the tenants or they will be cultivated. Cllr Stone confirmed that he is in receipt of the Tree Survey and it is on his list of things to do.

There being no further matters to discuss, the meeting closed at 09.37pm

Clerk to North Curry Parish Council