

**Minutes of the North Curry Parish Council Meeting held via Zoom on  
Wednesday 09<sup>th</sup> September 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, Mr M Dennis.

1. **APOLOGIES:** 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 12<sup>th</sup> August 2020** – The Chairman invited any amendments or comments to the minutes. Mr Turner reminded the Chairman about two amendments. The first re: item 11. Sentence beginning... After much discussion the Chairman proposed...add that before a decision can be made.....a package should.... Also re item 12... sentence ...add that going ahead at this time is irresponsible to be spending money... and with uncertain...Mr Jeanes proposed these were a true record of the meeting, seconded by Mr G Cable which was carried.
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** –Mr Jeanes on Item16 - Payment List and Mr M Dennis declared an interest in Item 6 – Planning Application 24/20/0029.
4. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS** – Mr A Meehan and Mr G Caldecott were members of the public who joined the meeting. They were both interested in Item 8 - new speed signage costs and Mr A Meehan also Items 7 using social media in the future.
5. **MATTERS ARISING:**

**Policing matters** – The Neighbouring Policing team had emailed the Parish Council to enquire about using the village hall as a Community Hub. It was confirmed that this should be a village hall decision and that the Clerk should pass the email on to the Village Hall for their decision.

**Retention of BT Phone Box** – An email was sent by us with our comments and views on why we should keep the Box and a notice was put up on the Telephone Box informing the Parishioners of the threat of losing the facility and our reasons to keep it. We also kindly asked the Parishioners to use it or lose it!

**Allotments:** It has been reported that two allotments in Loscombe Meadows are overgrown and do not appear to be in use. The Clerk is investigating this and will report back at the next meeting,

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

**24/20/0037 – Change of use of land from agriculture for the revised siting of 3 No. Shepherd Huts for Holiday Accommodation at Nythe Farm, Nythe Farm Lane, North Curry (retention of works already undertaken).** Mr Turner explained the new planning application for the 3 Shepherd Huts and highlighted that an enforcement notice had been made as one hut had been installed in a different area than first proposed. Therefore, new plans had to be resubmitted. It was discussed that the decking surrounding the hut was very high approximately 2ft above the level of the field obstructing the view of the wheels on the Shepherds Hut and that the balustrade around the decking was not in keeping. Mr Stone highlighted that he had a lot of comments from walkers in the area suggesting the Huts look quite prominent and suggested that planting could take place to screen them. After much discussion Mr Turner proposed we object to the planning but the Parish Council would be mindful to support the application if the decking was lowered to ground level minus the balustrade and also to plant trees and shrubs to soften the appearance. This was seconded by Mrs Vaughan, which was passed with one abstention.
7. **TO CONSIDER & DISCUSS SOCIAL MEDIA** – Mr Meehan joined the discussion and was asked if he required, his email expressing his concerns on using Facebook, dated 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020 to be read out, he declined. Mrs Leader kindly presented Facebook to the committee explaining the benefits in communicating to Parishioners, how it can be set up, who can administrate the Facebook page, how it links to the Parish Council Website and discussed the types of information we could post to the page and other benefits. Mrs Leader explained that there would be three administrators for the Facebook account set up under the Parish Council and it would be used in a conservative way initially to get it started and that all items posted to be agreed first. After much discussion from the committee Mr Meehan was asked to speak he stated that although he supported the idea of the Parish Council using Facebook that we do not make it the only place to put information on and that we should consult with our Parishioners. He then continued to reiterate the words from his earlier letter already referred

to where upon the Chairman took the decision to intervene and thank him. Mr Meehan somewhat upset then rose and left the meeting. It was proposed by Mr Turner that we set up and use Facebook for a trial period for three months and advertise the fact that we are setting up Facebook in the Pink Sheet. We should add an Agenda item for the next meeting to look at the new set up to discuss and approve. This was seconded by Cllr. P Stone, which was carried.

8. **TO DISCUSS AND CONSIDER 20MPH LIMIT COSTINGS** - Mr G Caldecott joined the meeting 8.35pm. Mr A Meehan was not present. The Chairman explained that we had not received the final costings but had been informed from Somerset, West & Taunton Council that the cost would be around £10,000 pending a few more items that needed to be finalised. As the Council had already agreed up to £15,000 the Council are happy to continue with the project. The final decision, however, for the new scheme was also dependent upon the Police agreeing to the 20mph scheme. Cllr. D Fothergill explained that there would be a period of consultation with the Police and was hoping to have a decision this side of Christmas. Cllr D Fothergill also informed the Parish Council that the flashing signs by the school were to remain and this would show a triangle sign with children crossing. The Chairman thanked Cllr. D Fothergill for his help.

9. **TO DISCUSS AND CONSIDER.**

**A) Somerset Climate Emergency Fund Available Grant £5000-£75000** – The Chairman highlighted that this grant was available and asked if we should apply and if so what other projects we may require within the Parish. It was discussed that the Grant could help to introduce a charging point for cars or even bicycles within the village. The council were informed that the Village Hall in principal have agreed for a point to be installed in the Village Hall Car Park, therefore, we should pursue the grant available to help with the installation. Mr Jeanes proposed to gather information regarding the cost of installing the Electric Car Charging point to discuss at the next meeting in relation to applying for the grant. It was seconded by Mr Cable, which was carried. It was also discussed that the Wildlife Fund were asking Parish Council to apply for the above grant to help them employ required staff but the Parish Council were not happy to deploy this idea. Cllr D Fothergill explained the grant in more detail, it can be applied for several projects up to the value of £75K and application needed to be submitted from 1st October 2020. The Chairman proposed that we place this item on the Agenda for the next meeting and for all to come up with any proposals 10 days before the next meeting with the view of submitting a claim. This was seconded by Cllr. P Stone, which was carried.

**B) Growth Support Kickstart Grant Applications** – The Chairman explained the Grant was not the type of grant that the Parish Council could really apply for it was more in line with small business - no interest or comments were made.

10. **TO DISCUSS PLANNING WHITE PAPER** – Mr Turner explained briefly that the Planning White Paper was new legislation being introduced by the Government to streamline the planning process i.e. to designate land more easily, stop the process of planning taking so long, CIL money, how it should be spent and focus on the design and environmentally friendly new houses. Mr Turner pointed out that there was a very lengthy and involved questionnaire to complete by 15<sup>th</sup> October 2020, this could be completed by us or we leave it to SALC to do. The Committee agreed to at least try and complete the Questionnaire. Mr Turner kindly agreed to complete the questionnaire but would like help from other members on the committee. It was agreed to bring the completed questionnaire to the next Parish Council meeting the Clerk to make it an Agenda item for October.

11. **TO DISCUSS SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL UNITARY REORGANISATION** - Cllr. P Stone informed the committee of the proposed reorganisation of Somerset County Council explaining the proposal would be to split Somerset in two, East & West and Mendip & South Somerset this being named as Stronger Somerset. Cllr D Fothergill explained the process which started 2 to 3 years ago where the Government decided the line of travel was to move to Unities for several reasons one now being part of Covid-19 recovery. There will be a White Paper Coming out in October to detail reform and evolution and we should consider how this effects services such as Adult Social Care, Children's Services and Public Health. The first waive has 5 counties involved which includes Somerset, business cases will be supplied for consultations with local services such as NHS, Police, Fire, NHS, Parish Councils and many other local services. The findings will be published in January with the route forward there will be a shadow authority in April and eventually go live in April 2022. We will

be consulted and once we are in receipt of the consolation it will be an agenda item. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Fothergill for his input. Cllr. Fothergill left the meeting 9.15pm

- 12. TO DISCUSS AND APPROVE FURTHER RENT ABATEMENTS FOR THE COMMUNITY STABLE** – Mr Jeanes explained to the committee that from March 2020 the Coffee Shop and Angela Few were given a 6 month rental holiday due to COVID -19 and lockdown. With effect from 4<sup>th</sup> July Angela came back to work and started paying full rent. At the Stable Committee Meeting it was discuss that Angela’s business was doing a lot less than previously and having to pay extra costs regarding Covid cleaning and Hygiene procedures and protection, this in turn losing time during the day resulting in less clients and also loss of clients as some people are still avoiding mixing. Angela informed us that the profits are down almost 50%. Referring to the grant the Parish Council had received towards helping tenants etc. Mr Jeanes proposed to help moving forward, we would offer a 50% rent abatement until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 to both Angela and the Coffee Shop. This was seconded by The Chairman, which was carried.
- 13. TO DISCUSS AND ARRANGE AN AUTUMN LITTER PICK** – Mr Jeanes said he would be happy to arrange an Autumn Litter Pick for Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at 10am. We should meet at the Village Hall and social distancing rules would be adhered. High Vis Vest should be worn and gloves. Mr Jeanes proposed to go ahead with the Autumn Litter Pick and it was seconded by Mr Cable, which was carried. The Clerk to put the event in the Pink Sheet and to arrange the collection of the bags of litter.
- 14. TO DISCUSS AND CONSIDER COSTS FOR THE DEFIBRILLATOR** – Mrs Vaughan kindly investigated the cost of replacing the battery in the defibrillator which is due for renew 28<sup>th</sup> September 2020. Mrs Vaughan also look in to The Ambulance Trust Scheme, but this was frozen at the moment because of COVID. The cost of this scheme is a one off payment of £1800 +VAT. We would look at this scheme again in the future. Meanwhile, Mrs Vaughan suggested a replacement battery. The Chairman proposed to add the payment for the battery £230 +VAT to the payment list this was seconded by Mrs Leader, which was carried.
- 15. CORRESPONDENCE:**
- **A6943 - SW&T Planning – 24/20/0037 Change of use of land from agricultural for the revised siting of 3 No. shepherds huts for holiday accommodation at Nythe Farm, Nythe Farm lane, North Curry (retention of works already undertaken). Item 6.**
  - **A6944 – Application for bids invited for Somerset Climate Emergency Community Fund 2020-2021. Item 9.**
  - **A6945 – Neighbourhood Policing Team – using village hall as a Community Hub. To ask the Police to contact the Village Hall Direct.**
  - **A6948 - Email from Mr A Meehan relating to Parish Council Meeting 12<sup>th</sup> August 2020. To be read out in Item7.**
  - **A6949 – Email re Opening of North Curry Village Hall Zoom meeting to continue at the present time no need to book at the moment maybe the pavilion could be an alternative if the Village Hall not available when we return**
  - **B6946 – Road Closure – Curload Road & Stanmoor Road to commence 21<sup>st</sup> September 2020 1 night works by Network Rail.**
  - **B6950 – Stronger Somerset – SCC Unitary reorganisation. See item 11.**
  - **C6947 – Stable Committee minutes March May & August 2020.**
- 16. FINANCE - The Monthly Account** was presented by Mr Jeanes, detailing all receipts and payments, he proposed it be accepted, seconded by Mr Dennis, which was carried.

**The Payment List** was presented by The Chairman and she proposed, to pay all including the additional payment of the invoice that we will receive for the Defibrillator battery replacement £230 +VAT. This was seconded by Mr Dennis, which was carried.

## Payment List September 2020

Updated 09/09/2020

Monthly Payment List - September	Cheque No.	Total
Clerk-Maria Perry September	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
IONOS monthly Hi Drive Storage fee	DD	1.20
GDPR/Data protection renewal fee	DD	40.00
NC Stable Charge - electricity 09/05-01/08	BACS	56.06
NC Stable Charge - water 09/05-01/08	BACS	274.14
BA & KM Jeanes - grass cutting Aug Inv 20083	BACS	30.00
Defibrillator Battery	BACS	287.50

### 17. COMMITTEE/DELEGATES REPORTS:

**Footpaths** – Cllr Stone reported that 7 out of 9 gates around the Orchid Fields had been completed. In Wrantage there was a complaint of wobbly styles these have been repaired. Huntham also had some problems with styles and these are being improved. West Lane Knapp is just about to be cut for the second time. Haymore has had a fence put up around Manor Field and then this area will be planted with trees. Cllr. Stone is working on Rodwell Lane and what can be done there.

**Playing Fields** – Mr Turner reported that the Pavilion will open up 21<sup>st</sup> September with its first booking.

**Village Hall** – Making progress with the grant.

**Tree Warden** – Cllr Stone reported that an Elm tree on Windmill hill fell in to the road was cleared, all dead Elms at Windmill Hill have now gone.

**Allotments** – None.

**Stable** – None.

**Flood Warden** – With recent heavy downpours of rain there had been hotspots of flooding around the village. A Parishioner reported that someone was seen sweeping leaves down the drain. This is to be discouraged and a notice for the pink sheet highlighting this. The flood gates the far side of the moor are still not fixed as winter is approaching a reminder to Highways to emphasise its importance.

**White Street** – the football and cricket have been operating with covid restrictions. Low fencing

**Wildlife Group**- None.

**Speedwatch** – None.

**Speed Policy Group** – None

**Road Safety** – None

**18. PUBLICITY INPUTS** – Facebook to alert Parishioners we are setting up a Facebook page. The Autumn Litter Picking will take place on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at 10am at the

Village Hall. Keep drains free on and debris. Parking on the Pavement and in general around the Village.

- 19. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION** – It was discussed that parking was becoming an issue around the village and that a few complaints had been received. It was reported that a van was parking on the yellow lines on Greenway and in general parking as a whole in the village was getting worse and very dangerous. It was agreed to highlight the parking issue in the Pink Sheet. Cllr. Stone highlighted there were signpost that still needed painting and positioning and to chase for this to be done. Mr Caldecott had emailed us to thank us for being able to be present. The Chairman received a telephone call from Mr Ken Kate from the British Legion regarding The Remembrance Service. Unfortunately, the British Legion would not be attending the service around the square in North Curry on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2020 due to COVID and this service is now cancelled although some kind of private wreath laying will take place by them. The Chairman proposed that we should go ahead and order our Parish Council wreath, as usual have an Agenda item next month to agree the donation and payment. There will be no door to door collections but Poppies can be obtained in some supermarkets or online. The Clerk to write to all those involved in the service to advise and explain the necessity of the cancellation, but they are all welcome to place their wreaths on the War Memorial if they wish. To be an item in the November Pink and placed on the website.

**There being no further matters to discuss, the meeting closed at 09.57pm**

**Clerk to North Curry Parish Council**