

**Minutes of the North Curry Parish Council Meeting held via Zoom on  
Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

**Present or comments received:** Mrs C Stodgell (Chairman), Mr A Turner, Mr B Jeanes, Mr G Cable, Mrs H Griffiths, Mrs J Leader, Mrs C Vaughan, Mr M Dennis, Ms C Smith, Mr T Turner, Mr M Wilkins.

1. **APOLOGIES:** Cllr. P Stone, Cllr. D Fothergill, Cllr S Buller and Miss E Turney
2. **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> September 2020** – The Chairman invited any amendments or comments to the minutes. Mrs J Leader highlighted that Item 7 regarding Social Media needed to be clearer and to stress that Facebook would be used in conjunction with other sites. It was agreed to add to the sentence beginning... Mrs Leader reiterated that Facebook was to be used in conjunction with The Parish Notice Board, Website, and Pink Sheet etc. as the more media we use the better so that we can reach/connect with our Parishioners. Mr Jeanes highlighted that item 17 needed to be clearer and perhaps amend it to; A field in Haymoor below Manor Hill has been fenced and will be planted with trees. Mr Jeanes also pointed out a typing error in item 19 Ken Kate should be Ken Tate. The amendments above were proposed by Mr Jeanes, seconded by Mrs C Vaughan, which was carried.
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** –Mr Jeanes on Item14 - Payment List.
4. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS** – Members of the public present Mr A Meehan for Item 7 Social Media and Mr O Cullwick, a new comer to the village interested to see what is happening in the Parish.
5. **MATTERS ARISING:**
  - Policing matters** – It was highlighted that the Parish have had several outbreaks of petty vandalism and perhaps we should contact the PCSO's it was highlighted that they have already been contacted and are aware of the problem.
  - Retention of BT Phone Box** – Correspondence B6957 the final submission has been sent and the Parish Council are awaiting the final decision of keeping the BT Phone box.
  - 20 MPH Speed limit** – Unfortunately, there is still nothing to report we are still waiting on the Police for the approval of the proposal. It was highlighted that the police have been seen in the village quite often because they are invited on occasions to join Speedwatch.
  - Ash Trees** – The Ash Trees situated in White Street and behind a property in St James Court. The residents of one of the properties are continuing to have a problem with the Ash trees stating they are dealing with a lot of mess from the birds in the trees and the amount of leaves falling in their garden. They wish to have them cut down. The Parish Council have already cut back a lot of the overhanging branches for the property owners and if they so wish to have more cut back then they are within their rights to do so themselves. Ash trees are becoming scarcer and the Parish Council do not wish to have them cut down. Mrs Vaughan proposed although we hear their concerns we are sorry to say that the trees were there before they moved in and nature will take its course, this was seconded by Mrs H Griffiths, which was carried.
  - Allotments Loscombe Meadows /Lockyer Fields:** Two Allotments in Loscombe Meadows appear to not be in use and rather overgrown. The owners were contacted one owner has already replied and highlighted that they are both keyworkers working for the NHS unfortunately and understandably during COVID19, had not had any free time to attend the allotment, but wanted to keep it and will endeavour to do some work on it to tidy it up. The other allotment we are still in the process of chasing the owner. In Lockyer fields an owner sadly had her plot vandalised and requested that they could put up private sign and a padlock to the gate. The Chairman proposed permission to do so and this was seconded by Mr Jeanes, which was carried.
  - Litter Pick 10<sup>th</sup> October 2020** – Thank you everyone who helped out. There was a very good turn out this year of about 15 people a lot of litter was collected especially on New Road and the overflowing bin on the corner of Stoke Road and White Street. A member of the public highlighted that her Granddaughter is an avid litter picker and was very upset that she could not attend the Litter pick on the day as she had a swimming lesson never the less we received a letter showing her Granddaughter Litter picking on another occasion to help out the Parish. The Clerk was asked to send a letter of Thanks. It was also highlighted that there had been several items such as tyres, guttering,

traffic cones all left in New Road that had to be dealt with. The Clerk was asked to thank the Parishioners in the Pink Sheet for everyone's kind help on the day.

**Signposts** – this was to chase up the work for several signpost around the Parish with some sign fingers to be replaced as Cllr. P. Stone was unable to attend the meeting therefore it was agreed to add this as an item on the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting.

**Dog Bins** – A discussion was had regarding a new contract that has been received for the emptying of 3 x Dog bins within the Parish once a week and the Parish Council will be charged quarterly for this service as opposed to annually in the past. Mr Turner proposed that we accept the contract, it was seconded by Mr Cable, which was carried. It was also highlighted that we chase up why rubbish bins are not being emptied around the village such as the one the corner of White Street and Stoke Road it was clarified that Cllr. P Stone was already in liaison with Somerset, West and Taunton to rectify the collections of all rubbish bins.

**County Cllr. Report** – Cllr. Fothergill updated the SCC reports.

6. **APPLICATIONS FOR COMMENT BY NORTH CURRY PARISH COUNCIL**

**24/20/0043/LEW Application for a Certificate of Lawful Development for the existing use of Unit 3 and Unit 4 being used continuously as separate units of residential accommodation at Underhill Farm Cottages, Wrantage.** It was explained that the application for the two Farm units were accepted one in 2000 and one in 2007 and the owner has applied to get these two properties regularised to make them lawful. After much discussion it was suggested that they should maybe be inspected to ensure that the units are suitable for permanent residency and maybe ask the building inspector to take a look. Mr Jeanes proposed that the Parish Council make no observations on the application and send a side letter asking building control to ensure they have been converted to a good suitable standard for living accommodation, seconded by Mr Cable, which was carried.

**24/20/0042/LEW Application for a Certificate of Lawful Development for the existing use of the holiday unit as a permanent residential dwelling at The Barn, Ludwells Farm, Langport Road, Wrantage.** Mr Turner explained that this has been a permanent resident for over 10 years and the application was to change it from holiday to permanent accommodation. The property was converted with full planning permission and building control. Mr Turner supported the application which was seconded by Mrs Stodgell, which was carried.

7. **TO DISCUSS & APPROVE THE NEW SET UP OF NORTH CURRY PARISH COUNCIL**

**FACEBOOK PAGE** – The Chairman began by saying that she did not want to chew over the last week, however, she was devastated that misinformation was publicised to our Parishioners that we the Parish Council intended to only use Facebook as our means of communication and that our Parishioners were encourage to email in (17 in total) to complain to The Chairman's private email and the Parish Office and all had been notified to this inaccuracy. The Chairman asked if Mr Meehan required his private letter to be read out as he requested informing him it had been sent to all the Parish Councillors prior to the meeting. Mr Meehan declined the offer. The Chairman ask if any of the members of public wished to speak before inviting the council to make the Facebook presentation. The Chairman explained that Mr Meehan also requested to speak after the presentation. Mr Wilkins explained to the Parish Council that he had met with the Parish Clerk and Mrs Leader to discuss the setup of the Facebook Page. Mr Wilkins showed on screen a comprehensive summary of how the page was to be set up. He also stated the live page that was not yet published. Mrs Leader thanked Mr Wilkins for a great presentation she went on to explain that other information could be added in the future and maybe planning as it develops over time and the Chairman emphasized at this point that this is NOT our only means of communication. Mr Dennis confirmed that it was a great presentation and only had two concerns, how input was going to be controlled and maybe this should be agreed at each Parish Council meeting under Publicity and another concern was planning. It was agreed to report on big developments. After much discussion it was highlighted that we need to ensure the website holds a prominent place on the Facebook page for people to also refer to. The Chairman proposed to adopt using the Facebook page and to go live the next day this was seconded by Mrs C Vaughan, which was carried. Mr Meehan was then invited by the Chairman to read out his statement. The Clerk to announce the live page via the Pink Sheet.

8. **TO DISCUSS UPDATE OF CANCELATION OF THE REMEMBRANCE SERVICE 8<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2020 AND APPROVE DONATION FOR THE BRITISH LEGION WREATH** – Mrs H Griffiths confirmed that as the Remembrance Service was cancelled this year due to COVID the Church was holding a morning Remembrance Service on the 8<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at 10am. The Chairman asked Mrs Griffiths to represent the Parish Council. It was confirmed that the wreath could be laid at the church after the service and then moved to the memorial in the square. The Chairman proposed that Mrs Vaughan, Mrs Leader and Ms Smith were all happy to attend the church service and lay the wreath, this was seconded by Mr Dennis, which was carried.
9. **TO DISCUSS PLANNING WHITE PAPER NALC CONSULTATION QUESTIONNAIRE** – The Chairman thanked Mr Turner for his time in completing the Questionnaire and everyone's input towards it. Mr Turner explained he had tried to take everyone's opinions where possible to improve on the original answers. After much discussion, the final replies were agreed and Mr Dennis proposed the Parish Council send in the questionnaire completed by Mr Turner as he had spent a lot of time and effort on it, this was seconded by Mrs Vaughan, which was carried.
10. **TO DISCUSS AND CONSIDER COSTS FOR AN ELECTRIC CAR CHARGING POINT AND ANY OTHER PROPOSALS IN RELATION TO APPLYING FOR THE SOMERSET CLIMATE EMERGENCY FUND AVAILABLE GRANT** - The Chairman explained that nothing further has been proposed for the Somerset Climate Emergency Fund Grant. However, Mr Jeanes was working on obtaining some quotes for a pair of car charges behind the Village Hall. Only one company had come back so far quoting £7,300 for 7kw chargers and £8,000 for 22kw chargers. Mr Jeanes explained he was still waiting on two other quotes and needed to look in to all the information in more detail. After much discussion, the Chairman proposed that we should register an interest in the Somerset Climate Emergency Fund Grant to help with the cost of the car charging project and asked Mr Jeanes if he was happy to continue with the research, this was seconded by Mr Dennis, which was carried. The Clerk to register the interest and Mr Dennis offered his help in investigating the Car Charging Project.
11. **TO DISCUSS REQUEST FOR CHRISTMAS CRIBB IN THE SQUARE (CHURCH CLOSED RE COVID)** - The Chairman explained that a representative of the Church has been in touch with the Parish Council with the idea of placing the church crib in the square for everyone to view during the Christmas period this being due to restricted Christmas Services in the Church due to COVID. It was agreed that this was a lovely idea and the Clerk had contacted the Post Office owners for their views as they arrange the Christmas Tree every year. Mr & Mrs Prosser agreed this is a lovely idea and asked if the Parish Council would donate to help to illuminate it. After much discussion it the Parish Council concluded that they had concerns on the safety of the very old, delicate and valuable items and the risk of them being vandalised. It was suggested that perhaps the church could find a smaller crib set to place in the Post Office window and decorate that for Christmas? The Chairman proposed a £50.00 donation to the church for the window display, this was seconded by Mr Jeanes, which was carried. Mrs Griffiths to go back to the church with the Parish Council's suggestions.
12. **TO DISCUSS COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS** – Mrs Vaughan highlighted that Christmas in the Square was cancelled this year due to COVID. However, asked for this item to be on the Agenda to discuss possibilities of holding other events complying with COVID restrictions. Tim Hill a resident of the Parish, was proposing he could perhaps perform a musical procession through the village passing people's houses as he has done during lockdown this year. Another suggestion was maybe for the parishioners to decorate a window for Christmas and could this be a competition. More Christmas Lights perhaps in the Square as well as the usual tree. The Blue Gipsy Wagon, a theatre company owned by some parishioners to arrange a performance for Halloween or Christmas. After much discussion, the Parish Council decided we could ask all residents of the Parish to put up Christmas lights or decorate windows this year to add a little Christmas Spirit to the community. It was agreed to advertise this on the website, Facebook and the Pink Sheet. It was also decided to approach the Queens Square residents to ask if they can put lights up in the Square it was agreed to ask them and make this an item for the next meeting to discuss again.
13. **CORRESPONDENCE** – A6951 – A6954 and A6958-6960 and B6957 has already been covered.
- B 6955 Road Closure - Lillesdon Lane. North Curry to commence 12th Oct 2020 for 12 days works by Wessex Water

- B 6956 Road Closure - Woodhill Road, Stoke St Gregory to commence 16th Oct 2020 for 5 days work by Mike Ford Groundworks - storm drain work

A6960 – Mrs Ryan’s email was discussed regarding the root system of the Lime Trees in Church Road and it was decided to ask advice from Mr T Walker Solicitor. This was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr Dennis, which was carried. A late email came in from the Old Vicarage, North Curry who had been in touch with Cllr. P. Stone regarding a dead Walnut Tree at the property, the owners had written to David Galley the Tree Officer at SW&T who agreed they could fell the tree in December.

14. **FINANCE** - Mr Jeanes talked through the Bank Report he explained that the £180 water bill for Queen Square Garden had been processed in error and should be added to the Allotment expense this should be rectified by the next meeting. Mr Jeanes did point out that a previous bill for Queen Square Gardens had been higher than usual due to the tap leaking and hopefully this has now been repaired. Town Farm running cost are slightly higher this month but this is due to two service costs appearing in one month and a large water bill due to the Stable water leak. We are now in receipt of income from South West and Taunton relating to the burial ground rent £920, footpaths £700, playing field grant £840. We have received the second 2020-2021 precept payment of £9500. The Co-op current account is vastly high at the moment but a transfer to reserves will be made however keeping a good reserve on the current account for future costs. Mr Jeanes proposed that the above was acceptable which was seconded by the Chairman, which was carried. The Chairman thanked Mr Jeanes for his continued good work.

Mr Jeanes spoke about the Zurich Insurance renewal the price quoted in the payment list below was £1,328.91 this was for a 1 year agreement. The Parish Council, however usually proceed with a long term agreement of 3 years, therefore, the cost is slightly lower £1,279.00. Other quotes were obtained by the Clerk one with Norris & Fisher who could not compare in price and pulled out and Came & Co who were a lot more expensive. Mr Jeanes proposed that we take out the 3 year long term agreement with Zurich, this was seconded by the Chairman, which was carried. Mr Jeanes also pointed out that Zurich requested an Asset register with up to date values. Although we have an Asset Register this is for audit purposes only and only hold the purchase value of Assets. Therefore, we need to review our Asset Register as soon as possible to be completed by the Clerk and Mr Jeanes.

Payment List: The payments below were listed by the Chairman she proposed to pay all on the list below, seconded by Mr Dennis, which were carried.

Regarding the emptying of SW&T Dog Bins, we are awaiting the new invoice. It was proposed by the Chairman that a standing order is set up to the Clerk each month to pay for the Zoom costs set up on her own account, this was seconded by Mr Jeanes, which was carried.

A Finance meeting was discussed and a date is needed to be set up in preparation regarding the precept 2021-2022 in readiness for the next Parish Council meeting. Mr Jeanes to set this up.

Monthly Payment List - October	Cheque No.	Total
Clerk-Maria Perry October	BACS	629.92
Plusnet (bill not issued as yet)	DD	20.00
Service Charge	SO	165.00
HMRC - NI & PAYE + Stable tax	BACS	78.00
IONOS monthly Hi Drive Storage fee	DD	1.20
BA & KM Jeanes - grass cutting Sept Inv 20112	BACS	60.00
Cardiac Science Inv 7388538 Battery	BACS	230.00
Inkcredible order ID1220827298	BACS	35.93
SLCC - Inv 131803 job advertising services	BACS	95.00

Zurich Ins Premium 1yr agreement	DD	1328.91
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## 15. COMMITTEE/DELEGATES REPORTS

**Footpaths** - Cllr. P. Stone reported ...Near the orchid field 7 of the 9 gates planned are now in place using the final gates which were ordered. The delivery of the 4 kissing gates ordered which the Parish Council approved some time ago has been delayed. Cllr. P Stone will continue to chase the order. He has also been asking for some more flat gates from the County Council and am hopeful that these will be forthcoming. These will be used to extend the less able route down towards Huntham which is an important route along the ridge with good views across West Sedgemoor. Cllr. P. Stone also asked for more circular footpath markers from SCC as some have been removed with the old stiles and these have been promised. He continues to negotiate with landowners over keeping the green lanes open.

**Playing Field** – is back operating with various clubs booked in. The Pavilion is looking very smart with having cleared all the rubbish out of the building, a new floor and redecorating.

**Village Hall** - None

**Tree Warden** – Cllr. P Stone reported he has forwarded to councillors the two reports on trees at St James Court and at Church Road. He has begun the inspections of trees which are the responsibility of the Parish Council and will report on these in due course. He is looking at locations for possible tree planting over the Winter and will again come forward with suggestions at a future meeting.

**Allotments** – there have been reports of Children climbing over fences which will be investigated.

**Stable** – The Coffee Shop are looking in more detail of having a shelter erected outside of the building and asked if the Parish Council can do the planning application on their behalf the coffee shop will sort out the plans initially.

**Flood Warden** – Mrs Vaughan reported the Flood Gate Lyng side of Moor Lane it still off its post and now the post itself is bent. It is very important with the winter months pending that the repairs are chased. The Clerk to email Highways and Cllr. D Fothergill.

**White Street** – Cllr. P. Stone reported the new storage container is now in place. All the larger dead elms have now been removed from near the cricket nets. Junior and senior football continues on a reduced scale. In the community woodland he has rebuilt the willow tunnel following some limited vandalism and it should look better with the leaves in the spring. The pond has filled nicely and is developing into an important little habitat.

**Wildlife Group** – None.

**Speedwatch** – None.

**Speed Policy Groups** – None.

**Road Safety** – None.

## 16. PUBLICITY INPUTS:

- **Remembrance Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2020** – Pink Sheet, Facebook and Website.
- **Litter picking to say thank you to all** - Pink Sheet, Facebook and Website.
- **Christmas Lights** - Pink Sheet, Facebook and Website.
- **Thank you for sticking to COVID rules** - Pink Sheet, Facebook and Website.

17. **MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION** - It was highlighted that there is an overgrown hedge at 2 Overlands which is encroaching on to the footpath. The Chairman suggested that she would call the owner to discuss. The footpath from Longs Field to Manor Lane was also reported to be very overgrown this was cleared by Cllr. P. Stone today. The proposal for the new Bus Stop and seat at Borough Post will be placed on the next Parish Council agenda for discussion. Mrs Vaughan requested to replace the pads on the defibrillator as they needed to be update at a cost of £43.80 inc vat The Chairman proposed the purchase, seconded by Mr Dennis, which was carried. The Chairman thanked Mr Cullwick for the attending the meeting.

**There being no further matters to discuss, the meeting was closed at 10pm.**

**Clerk to North Curry Parish Council.**

