

**Minutes of the North Curry Parish Council Meeting held via Zoom on
Wednesday 11th November 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, Cllr. P Stone, Cllr. D Fothergill.

7 Members of the public.

1. **APOLOGIES:** Miss E Turney
2. **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10th October 2020** – The Chairman invited any amendments or comments to the minutes. Mr B Jeanes proposed these were a true record of the meeting, seconded by Mr M Wilkins which was carried.
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** –Mr Jeanes on Item 20 - Payment List.
4. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS** – Members of the public present for various items.
5. **MATTERS ARISING:**

Policing matters – It was discussed that within the Parish there had been an incident that involved BOGUS CALLERS, whereby one person distracts the owner while the other raids the rest of the property for valuables or cash. It was agreed that this should be reported via the Pink Sheet, Facebook and the Website to alert our Parishioners.

Parking on Greenway – Corr:A6961 Ms M. Stone re parking Greenway. It was highlighted that Parishioners are continuing to park on the pavement in Greenway where the road was newly altered last year to make it safer for pedestrians. After much discussion it was agreed that a letter should be sent by us to warn drivers it is a traffic offence parking on the pavement and double yellow lines, and action will be taken by the police and traffic wardens which could result in fines. An email from Mrs L Back informing us that since the playgroup moved to the school, part of the school parking spaces are being used as a play area for them. It appears the staff are parking on the highway causing more parking problems for parents when dropping off and picking up the children and their safety. After much discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council should write a letter to the school asking them to clarify the parking situation and have it as an Agenda item at the next meeting.

Retention of BT Phone Box – The Parish Council are still awaiting the final decision. SW&T have confirmed they have supported our application for its retention.

20 MPH Speed limit – Corr:A6967 The Chairman explained that during a conversation Mr Meehan had with County Highways, he had been given an update concerning works and had forwarded them to the Parish Office. The Chairman was disappointed the County Council, although well received, had given updates to the public without informing us the instigator and payee of the scheme, she had been assured by Highways in future updates would go through the Parish Office... It must be noted at no time did Mr Meehan indicate he was a Parish Councillor to them.

Sign Posts – The Chairman asked the current situation about the Finger Sign Posts. The Clerk explained that although a couple of emails had been sent to the contractor chasing, no replies had been received. The Parish Council decided to advertise on Facebook for a new Contractor. D fothergill was asked if he could investigate contractors that the council may use who could do the said work. He agreed and stressed that any contractors employed would require a Section 38 Working on Highways Certificate.

Dog Bins – The Clerk explained that the correct contract had been sent in and the new invoice had been received and was on the payment list for tonight.

General Bins (Emptying of) – The Chairman asked if the Parish Council were now clear on, who and when collected the general bins. Cllr. P Stone said he was still investigating this and waiting for answers. Mr Turner indicated that it is SW&T who have general bin contracts and the direct labour force which are now run by private contractors for the Dog Bins. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact SW&T to obtain clarity.

Facebook– The live Facebook page has been very successful we now have over 140 followers. Mr Wilkins explained that he has now put on up to 20 posts and the activity has been very good particularly around the Pink Sheet. Mr Wilkins will continue to put on information posts from the Clerk and requested that the Councillors do contact him if they feel anything else should be posted.

Remembrance Service – Mrs Smith, Mrs Vaughan Mrs Leader and Mrs Griffiths represented the Parish Council at this unadvertised ceremony (COVID SAFE) Mrs Vaughan laid the poppy wreath on our behalf. The service ran very successfully and quite a few members of the public arrived but kept social distance. Photographs were put on Facebook.

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

6. APPLICATIONS FOR COMMENT BY NORTH CURRY PARISH COUNCIL

24/20/0046LB Conversion of part of barn to domestic annexe and home office space at Lillesdon Barn, Lillesdon Lane, North Curry & 24/20/0047LB Conservation of part of barn to domestic annexe and home office space at Lillesdon Barn , Lillesdon Lane, North curry . Mr Turner explained that he would talk about the two application together as the second application related to it being a listed building. The Barn had a previous application for an erection of a porch within the court yard which had been refused and the owners were appealing. This application is for living accommodation for their elderly parents. As the property was being maintain to a good standard Mr T Turner supported the application and a note to be added on the listed Building Application requesting they ensure that the building is restored to an adequate standard. This was seconded by Mr G Cable, and was carried

24/20/0051 Replacement of single storey side extension with the erection of a single storey extension to the side and rear at Sandstone Cottage, Helland, West Sedgemoor Road, North Curry. Mr Turner explained the application. After much discussion Mr Turner proposed to support the application, this was seconded by Mr M Dennis, and was carried. 1 abstention.

7. TO DISCUSS AND APPROVE FURTHER RENT ABATEMENTS FOR THE COMMUNITY STABLE – It was explained that The Stable Committee had a meeting and agreed that with this second lockdown the hairdressers closing again and the coffee shop remains closed, to cancel the rent due and revert back to the 50% rent abatement once the lockdown is lifted 2nd December 2020. This would mean a loss. After much discussion, the Chairman proposed that we go ahead with the rent abatement. This was seconded by Mrs H Griffiths, which was carried. Mr Jeanes informed the Parish Council the coffee shop proposed to extend outside and build a Veranda at the gable end of the coffee shop. This is to accommodate two tables outside to help protect from any bad weather and two tables inside the building for socially distancing in the current COVID situation. The coffee shop will get the plans drawn up and asked the Parish Council agreed to submit the plans on their behalf.

8. TO DISCUSS AND APPROVE LENDING ZOOM TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH CHARITY MEETING AND THE VILLAGE HALL FOR THEIR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – Due to the current COVID situation the Chairman requested as she is one of the Trustees of the PCC and they are part of the Parish that we enable for them to meet by using our Zoom account. Mr Jeanes also requested that the Village hall also use our Zoom facility for their AGM that we could support them. The Chairman proposed to lend the Zoom facility. This was seconded by Mrs Vaughan, which was carried

9. TO DISCUSS THE PLANTING OF EUCALYPTUS TREES AT HAYMOOR BELOW MANOR HILL – Cllr. Stone explained that the 16 acre field was owned by Gothards of Stoke St Gregory having already obtained consent to plant Eucalyptus eventually to be used as fibre or for fire burn. The site is quite visually prominent when looking from the Church or the park around Manor Farm and is right on the edge of the SSSI. It would certainly have an effect on wildlife and the site is also part of the flood reservoir. The Forestry Commission are involved and it is with a Countryside Stewardship Scheme whereby land owners get paid for benefitting the environment. The scheme had gone through various channels within the Forestry Commission but not to the Parish Council. After much discussion Cllr. Stone proposed to ask if they would reconsider planting a more local produce such as willow or maize. This was seconded by Mrs Griffiths, vote 7 against, and not carried. The Chairman proposed to write to the Forestry Commission Stewardship highlighting to them that the Parish Council were not approached about the scheme and felt that we should have been notified informed the site being in such a prominent position. This was seconded by Mr Dennis, vote against 1, which was carried. The Chairman also proposed that we should inquire why Eucalyptus planting was used and not local willow for example. It was asked if Cllr Stone, Mr Holms and Mrs Vaughan

could work together to produce a draft to be agreed. This was seconded by Mrs Leader, vote 1 against, which was carried.

10. **TO DISCUSS AND CONSIDER SW&T LOCAL PLAN RESPONSE TO ISSUES AND OPTIONS CONSULTATION** – The Chairman thanked Mr D Walker for his time, advice and input regarding the new Local Plan. He explained in depth the proposed sites for development in North Curry. Included again Manor Field, The Fosse and a small site in Knapp lane for 2/3 houses. After discussion. The Chairman proposed to write the agreed letter. This was seconded by Cllr. P. Stone. The Chairman also proposed that the Parish Council write separately to show their objection to the continued inclusion of the Manor Field site which has been refused in the past. This was seconded by Mrs C Vaughan, which was carried. The Clerk to ensure the letters are sent.
11. **TO FURTHER DISCUSS COST FOR AN ELECTRIC CAR CHARGING POINT IN RELATION FOR APPLYING FOR THE SOMERSET EMERGENCY CLIMATE GRANT.** Mr Jeanes explained his findings on investigating the costings. He discovered that permission from Western Power will need to be obtained and several factors to be considered including what KW cars accept and the type of payment. He explained he had asked for three quotes from various companies. One has come back under £10,000 for a complete comprehensive package. The Chairman congratulated and thanked Mr Jeanes on all the hard work and time spent on this project. This should be an Agenda item for the next meeting
12. **TO DISCUSS UPDATE ON COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS.** Mrs C Vaughan announced there had been a lot of comments and people were happy about the celebrations and the lights mentioned in the Pink Sheet. A lot of suggestions have come up from Mr T Hill, one an illuminated procession of his band playing Christmas carols and popular music all around the village, Doorstep toast where we raise a glass on our doorstep and neighbours, similar to HHS Clapping dates to be confirmed. The Chairman proposed a donation to the band of £25 per person up to £100. This was seconded by Mr G Gable, which was carried. Mrs Leader proposed to light up the stable building £150. This was seconded by Mr Wilkins, which was carried. Mrs Griffiths, on behalf of the Church confirmed a crib had been purchased for the Christmas Crib in the window display at the Post Office. Mrs Leader volunteered to help arrange the display in the window.
13. **TO DISCUSS AND APPROVE SALARY AND UPDATES.** Mr Jeanes highlighted that this discussion regarding the Clerks salary was slightly overdue but had slipped through the net for last month's meeting. He explained that NALC had issued a new pay scale for the Clerks salary. The Clerk currently works 62 hrs a month at £10.16 per hour, the increase 2.5% increases the hourly rate to £10.44 and this is to be back dated. Mr Jeanes proposed to pay the increase and back payment to the Clerk. This was seconded by Mr M Dennis, which was carried.
14. **TO DISCUSS SUPERSPEED BROADBAND WITHIN THE PARISH** - The Chairman explained that only half the Parish is able to receive Superspeed Broadband. Mr Cable agreed to investigate the problem and Cllr. D Fothergill suggested contacting Connecting Devon & Somerset to get information. This will be an Agenda Item for next month.
15. **TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE DOG BIN AT NINE ACRE LANE-** It was explained that there had been several complaints regarding dog mess not being picked up by the owners and black bags with mess in left hanging in the hedges from the bottom of Nine Acre Lane up to Loscombe meadow. After much discussion it was agreed to move the bin situated near Portmans and replace it on the lane to help reduce the problem. Mr Wilkins offered to investigate a suitable position and this would be discussed next month. The problem of dog mess to be reported in the Pink Sheet, Website and Facebook.
16. **TO DISCUSS AND CONSIDER THE LIMES TREES ON CHURCH ROAD** – The Chairman explained that the Parish Council had received a couple of letters reporting that the Lime Tree roots appear to be causing problems at some properties in Church Road. After discussion Cllr. P. Stone agreed to visit the properties and owners to report back to the Parish Council next month. This would be an Agenda item to include the maintenance programme for the Lime Trees.
17. **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT – Standing Orders:** Mr Jeanes ask if there were any comments on the review of our current Standing Orders, none were given. Mr Jeanes proposed that the Standing Orders have been formerly reviewed and adopted. This was seconded by The Chairman, which was carried. **Asset Register:** Mr Jeanes explained that he had distributed the Audit Asset

Register for comments. He explained the Audit Register quotes the original purchase values whilst the Insurance Company require current valuations. It was noted that the two new sets of allotments, fencing and sheds, the bus shelter in the middle of the village and the Bus Shelter at Lillesdon will be needed to be added. Mr Turner added that the two new benches in the playing field we insured by the Playing field Committee and the Parish Council did not need to include these on the register.

18. **PRECEPT 2021/2022** – Mr Jeanes explained the Precept for 2021/22 proposing a sum of £19k. The Chairman asked if we should add an amount to cover costs for the up keep of the Lime Trees in Church Road this was agreed to be reviewed at the next meeting.
19. **CORRESPONDENCE** – Correspondence **A6961-A6966** and **B6968** have been covered.
B 6969 – Road Closure White Street and Knapp Road 12th Nov -17th Nov – works by BT Openreach.
B 6970 – SW&T email confirming Bird in Hand , Far Canal and The Rising Sun are now entered on to the council’s list of Community Assets
B6971 – Mr Honeywell re query relating to Stoke Road. Cllr. D Fothergill has arranged a meeting in December.
B6972 – Email from the Mayor of Vaudancourt regarding our Twinning of the Vexin Villages and his wish to recreate links. It was agreed to put a request in the Pink Sheet, Facebook and the Website asking for volunteers to come forward to help if there was any interest in renewing links and forming a new committee.
20. **FINANCE – Monthly Bank Report** – Mr Jeanes explained the report noting the two fees for the repairs and maintenance are for replacement of the Defibrillator Battery and pads. The Town Farm had received £282 relating to the Job Retention Scheme regarding furlough. Mr Jeanes proposed that the report was a true record. This was seconded by the Chairman, which was carried:

Monthly Payment List - November	Cheque No.	Total	0.00
Clerk-Maria Perry - November	BACS	629.92	0.00
Plusnet (bill not issued as yet)	DD	20.00	0.00
Service Charge	SO	165.00	0.00
IONOS monthly Hi Drive Storage fee	DD	1.20	0.20
Archie Hooper - clearance of bridleway	BACS	100.00	0.00
SALC - Training Essential Clerk Part 1 Inv 20380	BACS	30.00	0.00
SALC - Training Essential Clerk Part 2 Inv 20394	BACS	30.00	0.00
SALC - Training Essential Clerk Part 3 Inv 20442	BACS	30.00	0.00
Viking Direct Inv 309652 paper	BACS	17.23	3.45
Baptist £150, Methodist £140, PCC £630	BACS/CHQ	920.00	0.00
Greenway Playing Fields -Grant	BACS	840.00	0.00
White Street - annual grass cutting - Grant	BACS	500.00	0.00
Greenway Playing Fields - grass cutting - Grant	BACS	225.00	0.00
Royal British Legion - Poppy Donation	BACS	200.00	0.00
Christmas PCC Donation to Display in the Square/Post Office	BACS	50.00	0.00
Zoom pmt to Maria Perry Sept & Oct	BACS	28.78	0.00
SW & T Dog Bin Invoice 63427530	BACS	842.20	168.44

The Chairman talked through the payment list and Mr Jeanes suggested to set up a Standing Order to the Clerk to cover the Zoom payment of £14.39 per month. The Chairman proposed to approve the

payment list and the setup of the standing order to the Clerk for Zoom reimbursement. This was seconded by Mr M Dennis, which was carried.

21. COMMITTEE/DELEGATES REPORTS

Footpaths – Cllr. P Stone explained he is now in receipt of the gates that he has been awaiting. He is pleased to report the footpaths are well used.

Playing Field – The Pavilion is closed. After a spate of vandalism in the village it was requested if a Youth Club could be created and it was asked if the Parish Council would be prepared to financially back it. This to be an Agenda Item for next month. The Farmers Market will not take place during lock down.

Village Hall – The Village Hall AGM is 1st December 2020 via Zoom and they are looking for a new Chairman. The hall is currently closed until 2nd December 2020. The widening of the Village Hall entrance to the car park will continue to go ahead even though the application to the 106 grant was not successful.

Tree Warden – Cllr. Stone is working alongside the planning enforcement officer to replace the dead trees on Locker’s Field and Loscombe Meadows

Allotments - NONE

Stable - NONE

Flood Warden – The Flood gates are still not fixed on the Lyng side of the moor. The Clerk to email County Highways.

White Street – Pavilion closed and all games are off during lockdown

Wildlife Group - NONE

Speedwatch - NONE

Speed Policy Group - NONE

Road Safety - NONE

22. **PUBLICITY INPUTS** – Pink Sheet, Website & Facebook to highlight Bogus Callers, Primary School applications for September 2021 now open, Youth Parliament for your voice, Christmas Celebrations, Clean up after your dog, volunteers for Twinning Association and Rough Sleepers in Rural Areas.

23. **MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION** – Mr Jeanes explained that he had be talking with the Stoke St Gregory Chairman Graham Gleed regarding the future Car Charger points and it was suggested that we could collaborate with several Parishes to apply for grants and obtain bulk contracts. Mr Gleed was having a meeting to form a strategy group and Mr Jeanes asked if the Parish Council was happy for him liaise with Mr Gleed and feedback at the next meeting. The Chairman proposed that this was a good idea. This was seconded by Mr M Dennis, which was carried.

There being no further matters to discuss, the meeting was closed at 22.23 pm.

Clerk to North Curry Parish Council.