

**Minutes of the North Curry Parish Council Meeting held via Zoom on
Wednesday 13th January 2021**

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 M Wilkins, Cllr. P Stone, Cllr. D Fothergill. 4 Members of the public.

1. PRELIMINARIES

To receive and approve apologies for absence. Mrs L Turney

Approve and sign minutes for the previous meeting dated: 09th December 2020. The Chairman invited any amendments or comments to the minutes none were given, Mrs C Smith proposed they were a true record of the meeting, seconded by Mr B Jeanes, which was carried.

Declarations of interest: (Members to declare any interests, including Disclosable Pecuniary interests they have in agenda items that accord with the requirements of the Parish Council's Code of Conduct): Mr B Jeanes declared an interest in item 13. The Payment List.

2. Matters Arising:

Policing Matters: The Chairman thanked Mr Meehan for emailing to the Parish Council the PSCO newsletter. Cllr D Fothergill gave an update of the parking enforcement. He explained the only areas where restrictions of parking can be made, are the keep clear signs outside the school. When the 20mph new speed limits are installed throughout the village and regulations applied and SW&T will automatically trigger a regulations order that needs to be in place for enforcements and the double yellow lines in Greenway.

Finger Sign Posts: The Clerk explained she has requested a quotation from a recommendation and will chase for a reply from West Country Blacksmiths.

SW&T Business Grant Application: Corr. A6988 the application was rejected and it was agreed to look at future, more relevant available grants. Mr Turner proposed not to appeal this one and make a stronger application for another suitable grant if one becomes available, this was seconded by the Chairman, which was carried.

Eucalyptus Trees Haymoor: Corr. B7004 the Parish Council sent two letters to the Forestry Commission and the Woodland Grant Scheme to ask why Eucalyptus was being planted and why we had not been informed, and not planted with a more local product such as willow. The Chairman explained that the responses simply said we can do nothing about it. Cllr P Stone requested we should reply to the letter and he would compose a draft copy and circulate to all members. It was agreed that this would be an Agenda item for the next meeting.

Coffee Shop Veranda Plans: Corr: A6989 the planning application has been received from SW&T and will be discussed in the next Planning meeting.

WPS office package: The Clerk to speak with Mr Willis to seek advice.

Remembrance Day Poppy Wreath: The Parish Council discussed the removal of the poppy wreath from the war memorial. Sadly, Mr T Brooker who usually removed the wreaths on 1st January, has passed away. Therefore it was agreed that Mrs C Vaughan would continue with this task in the future.

Christmas Lights: It was agreed the lights will stay up until Candlemas 2nd February 2021 to keep the village looking brighter. Mrs Leader and Mrs Vaughan will kindly take them down.

County Cllr. Report: Weekly updates being forwarded by email. Mr Jeanes asked Cllr. D Fothergill, for accounting purposes, when payment would be required for the 20mph Scheme. Cllr. D Fothergill informed us next financial year, when the 20mph scheme should be completed. He informed the Council that the query with Mr Honeywell and the white lines for parking outside his house have been resolved they will be removed including the white lines in the middle of the road as part of the 20mph scheme to as this has been proven to help slow down the traffic.

- 3. To discuss purchasing and installation of Speed Indicator Devices (SID).** Mr Meehan reported that this is a complicated issue for the Parish Council and suggested that a working group should be set up to investigate all aspects to put a proposal together for the Parish Council to then make a decision. After much discussion regarding the devices the Chairman proposed that Mr Meehan, Mr Cullwick and Mr Wilkins form the working group and to report back to the March meeting with all relevant information, the was seconded by Cllr. P Stone, which was carried.
- 4. To further discuss the Somerset Climate Emergency Fund Grant in relation to Electric Car Charging Points.** Mr Jeanes asked the Parish Council if they had all seen his proposal he explained the details and he had already submitted the grant application on the 12th January 2021 which was the deadline. The Chairman thanked Mr Jeanes for all his hard work and time. Mr Turner proposed that we support the electric charging points pending the acceptance of the grant, this was seconded by the Chairman, which was carried.
- 5. To further discuss Super speed Broadband within the Parish.** Mr Cable gave an update of broadband speeds throughout the village and after discussion will further investigate for the next meeting.
- 6. To further discuss the progress of Limes Trees on Church Road.** The Chairman explained following further investigations in to the ownership of the pathway in Church Road, SCC confirmed that they owned the pathway as well as the strip of land and highway. This was questioned and the Clerk asked to write to solicitor to access deeds to ascertain if we own the strip of land and the Lime Trees on Church Road. The Parish Council investigated their insurance cover to establish what tree damage cover we had. After much discussion Cllr P Stone suggested we initially investigate in to the roots and establish if they are the actual problem. Mr Cable proposed for Cllr. Stone to go ahead and investigate the roots adjoining the properties and report back for the next meeting, this was seconded by Mr Dennis, which was carried.
- 7. To further discuss Loscombe Meadow Footpath transfer and approve additional charges.** Mr Jeanes reported that we are progressing further in the transfer of the Loscombe Meadows footpath. He reminded the Parish Council we have already agreed the legal cost of £500. He explained additional costs have occurred for a plan of the footpath £16.79 for which he needed to be reimbursed and a land registry fee will eventually be raised of up to £100. Mr Turner proposed to approve the payments, this was seconded by the Chairman, which was carried.
- 8. To discuss possible transfer of dog bin ownership at Lockyer's Field and associated costs.** The residents committee have requested if the Lockyer's Field Dog bin and associated costs could be taken over by the Parish Council and for the dog bin to be moved closer to the footpath. The Chairman explained she had received a report from one of the residents the bin had not been emptied this year and was in fact their responsibility at this stage and should be serviced until decided otherwise. After discussion Cllr. P Stone proposed that we accept future maintenance of the dog bin and we agree with the residents of the new location, subject to SW&T being able to collect the waste from that location, this was seconded by Mr Jeanes, which was carried. The Clerk to write to the Chairman Designate informing of our decision and to SW&T asking if they will collect from the new location.
- 9. To discuss payment for Christmas Celebration Music.** The Chairman explained although the arranged Christmas Celebrations by Tim Hill had to be scaled down due to COVID restrictions he had been able to get out several times and asked if the previous agreed payment of up to £100 still be paid. Mr Cable proposed we should pay the full £100 in recognition the village, this was seconded by Mr Dennis, which was carried.
- 10. To discuss donation to Citizens Advice Bureau.** Mr Jeanes explained that this was an annual precept donation and in previous years we had paid £150. He proposed that we increased

the donation this year to £200 in recognition of the difficult past year regarding COVID this was seconded by the Chairman, which was carried

- 11. To discuss possible further rent abatement Coffee Shop & Angela's Hair Salon for Lockdown commencing 5th Jan 2021.** After much discussion the Chairman proposed to treat both the Coffee Shop and Angela's Hair Salon equally and to award a rent holiday for the duration of lockdown and the Grant we have already have to cover this, this was seconded by Mr Cable, which was carried.
- 12. To discuss Precept final return 2021/2022.** Mr Jeanes explained although we may have future expenditure with the SID proposal and possible tree expenses that we keep the same total of Precept £19K. Referring to the CAB donation to increase the total for Section 137 to £1250 and the Income, due to the fall in interest rates, reduce £650. Cllr. Stone agreed and proposed that we request the Precept of £19k, this was seconded by Mrs Leader, which was carried.
- 13. Finance: Monthly Bank Report and Payment List:** The Clerk presented the financial report and Mr Jeanes proposed that it was a true record, this was seconded by the Chairman, which was carried.
- Payment List:** The Clerk read out the Payment List (see below) she explained the IONOS monthly fee had increased to £3.60 as our 6 monthly discount had expired. The Chairman proposed to approve the Payment List, this was seconded by Mr Dennis, which was carried.

Monthly Payment List - January 2021	Cheque No.	Total	VAT
Clerk-Maria Perry - January 2021	BACS	647.28	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	3.00	0.60
Zoom pmt to Maria Perry December	S/O	11.99	2.40
BA & KM Jeanes - grass cutting November Inv 20162	BACS	58.00	0.00
C. Vaughan - Christmas Celebration Donation	BACS	50.00	0.00
Citizens Advice Bureau Annual Donation	BACS	200.00	0.00
BuyaPlan plan Loscombe footpath	BACS	13.99	2.80

Mr Jeanes added the £10k total transfer, which is due January from Cambridge & Counties Bank to our Co-op Bank account, will no longer be required as the 20mph Scheme costs are due after completion in the next financial year. The Village Hall is due to have the work done to widen the Village Hall Car Park entrance so we will be required to pay the agreed £3k in due course. Mr Jeanes proposed to liaise with the Clerk to work out the cash flow over the next few months and arrange the necessary transfer between the Parish Council's accounts, this was seconded by Mr Cable, which was carried.

- 14. Correspondence.** Items A6998-A6994 have already been covered.
- A6995** – Email –SW&T Planning Appeal re Higher House Farm, Huntham, North Curry – Mr Turner explained that in the past we had commented on a previous application where Mrs Kemp was not happy with our reply as it is not in our Parish and Stoke St Gregory her Parish had not objected, we withdrew our comments. Mr Turner proposed we note the letter of appeal and let it run its course, this was seconded by Cllr. Stone, which was carried.

A6996 – Email – SW & T Planning re 2 Borough Post – The Parish Council wrote to SW&T expressing the gates and fence erected in the field were not as stated on the plans and SW&T replied saying as the gate and fence is no higher than 2m it is a permitted development. Mr Turner proposed we sent a letter to Mrs Brown explaining their reply and we write to SW&T expressing our dissatisfaction with their point of view, this was seconded by Mrs Leader, which was carried.

- 15. Committee /Delegate reports** – (Please send written reports prior to the meeting and these will be included on the minutes.)

Footpaths (PS) – The footpaths are well used, which is great news but they are very muddy people need to take care and wear wellies.

Playing Field (AT) – Closed again regarding Lockdown and they will apply for the next suitable Grant as currently no income.

Tree Warden (PS) – Cllr. Stone did look at the Sycamore tree which was felled in Knapp lane acknowledging it was in a poor state. He reported that a lot of Dead Elm trees are falling around the Parish.

Flood Warden (CV) – We are still waiting for the Flood Gate on the Lyng side of the moor to be fixed, this is on order.

White St. (PS) - Closed

Wildlife Group (PS) – Plans for the future are coming together.

Speedwatch (AM) – Mr Meehan reported that due to COVID they are not allowed to operate and that there are to be 3 new Speedwatch positions at 3 Constable Cottages, 3 Greenway, The Pavement and Knapp Lane when lockdown restrictions are lifted.

Speed Policy Group (PS) Concentrating on the 20mph Scheme and the SID new group to be formed as mentioned above.

Facebook (MW) – Maurice circulated his report including Facebook usage which shows it increasing popularity.

- 16. Publicity Inputs.**

Thank the Parishioners re Covid and sticking to regulations. Reminder to say free bags of salt for the cold weather are still available. Parish Council Elections May 2021. The Footpaths are very muddy take care and wear your wellies.

- 17. Matters for Discussion.** Mr Jeanes suggested that the Facebook invite for the Parish Council meeting could include the Zoom link and meeting dates need to be updated on the website. The new temporary road layout at Junction 25 is now active.

There being no further matters to discuss the meeting was closed 22.04

Clerk to North Curry Parish Council