

**Minutes of the North Curry Parish Council Meeting held via Zoom on  
Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

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

4 Members of the public.

**1. PRELIMINARIES**

**To receive and approve apologies for absence.** Mrs H Griffiths and Ms C Smith

**Approve and sign minutes for the previous meeting dated: 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021.** The Chairman invited any amendments or comments to the minutes, none were given, Mrs C Vaughan proposed they were a true record, this was 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): None.

**2. Matters Arising:**

**Policing Matters: None**

**WPS office package:** The Clerk explained she had investigated the WPS Office Package with Mr Willis and it compared similar to the existing package already on the laptop. She gave recommendations of Office Packages which could be applied to the laptop to mirror the PC and run emails through Outlook with possible costs of £60-£80. It was agreed that the Clerk should decide what suits her needs and move forward with Mr Willis to implement it.

**Super speed Broadband:** Nothing to report at this time.

**Dog Bin Lockyer's Field:** The Chairman explained that the bin has now been moved closer to the footpath and that there are no reported problems.

**Christmas Lights:** The Chairman thanked Mrs C Vaughan and Mrs J Leader for taking down the Christmas lights, which are now stored at the Parish office.

**Allotments:** The Chairman reported that we had now contacted the second owner of the overgrown plot in Loscombe Meadows who assured us he would start attending the plot and had not been able to due to family issues. It was suggested that we contact the two owners of the overgrown plots requesting them to place a temporary membrane over the top to keep growth at bay at present to make it look tidier. The Clerk to send them a letter. Cllr. Stone reported he had cleared one of the dead Elm trees at the site and still had one more to do.

**Trees Highcroft House: Corr. B7013** Cllr. Stone had reported that the tree on the corner was cut down as agreed by Mr Gallery the tree officer and other trees on site are covered by TPO.

**Business Grants:** Mr Jeanes explained we had applied for the £10k earlier in the year and were successful but unfortunately we were refused the second Grant. There are now three grants available and it was a question of whether we should apply for them or not. After a discussion the Chairman proposed not to apply for the available grants, this was seconded by Mr Jeanes, which was carried.

**Flooding Matters:** Mrs Vaughan asked Cllr Fothergill firstly why the Flood Gates are not being shut by Highways and why plastic cones are being put across instead as this causes confusion and clarity on whether the road is officially open or not. Cllr. Fothergill will investigate and report back on this matter and also chase again why the Flood Gate on the Lyng side of the moor has not been fixed. Mrs Vaughan also enquired about the communication the general public receive via the S C C website regarding the road being open or closed as it is not always up to date or accurate, Cllr Fothergill again will investigate and report back.

**Loscombe footpath:** Mr Jeanes reported the transfer of the ownership is still in progress and paper had gone to Mrs De Silva for signing.

**County Cllr. Report** – weekly updates being forwarded by email. Cllr. Fothergill gave his report and ask for information on Older Age Abuse to be placed in to the Pink Sheet.

**3. Planning Applications for comment by North Curry Parish Council.**

**24/20/0061 Application for outline planning with all matters reserved, except for access, for the erection of 1 No. dwelling to replace mobile home at Stoney Ridge, Langport Road, Wrantage.**

Mr Broadway the property owner and Amy Cater from Tozers Solicitors were present for the discussion. Mr Turner explained the applications location indicating that the site was on the Langport Road and the last plot of land on the left hand side after what used to be the Wheelwright Arms. The history regarding the site was that originally the caravan was there when the cottage was having works completed and eventually planning was granted about 20 years ago to allow the mobile site to stay under licence to Miss A Penfold for as long as she needed it. Mr Broadway has applied to replace the 40 year old mobile home with a 4 bedroom detached property, the entrance is currently shared with the cottage but as part of the application is the proposal is to change this. The Solicitor explained that the application was being discussed in principal and being considered by the SW&T. After much

discussion Mr Turner proposed to support the application but the Parish Council would wish to add we would like to see a single storey/low profile dwelling and additional screening to be planted around the perimeter of the site, this was seconded by Mr Jeanes, which was carried.

**24/20/0062 Change of use to Gypsy Traveller site for 1 No. family on land adjacent to Stoney Ridge, Langport Road, Wrantage (retention of works already undertaken).** Mr Turner explained that over 2 years ago Mr Broadway's sister and family came to live on site in another mobile home with him as they with could not continue to live where they were originally sited in Fivehead and as yet no permission has been granted for this. Although they have been Travellers in the past, with young children and running a business in the area they now wish to settle and give stability to their children. Mr Turner proposed to object to the application, but the Parish Council would be mindful to support the application if the gypsy traveller's site can be linked only for the sole use of Mr Broadway and his sister, this was seconded by Cllr. Stone, which was carried.

4. **To discuss and agree ongoing management and costs of the Electric Vehicle Chargers.** Mr Jeanes explained that the grant application for the Charger had been submitted. At a Village Hall meeting the committee, subject to the grant being successful, agreed to host the unit in the village hall car park, this was providing the Parish Council agree to cover any additional charges that may occur, we insure the Charger and place a sign "Cars left at Owners Risk". After discussion Mr Jeanes proposed that the Village Hall can be assured that there will be no additional cost for them in hosting the Electrical Vehicle Charger, this was seconded by the Chairman, which was carried. The Village Hall to supply the electricity used at a price to be agreed.
5. **To further discuss the progress of Limes Trees on Church Road.** Cllr. Stone reported that due to bad weather and Covid restrictions he had not yet been able to investigate the Lime Trees in Church Road it was agreed to place on the Agenda again for March 2021.
6. **To further discuss Eucalyptus Trees, Haymoor.** Cllr. Stone reported that he had not completed the letter of dissatisfaction to the Forestry Commission regarding the Eucalyptus Trees but will do and this to be an item for the Agenda next month. Also he was awaiting the result of an impact study via Mr P Holmes.
7. **To discuss Annual Parish Meeting preparations for 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021.** It was agreed to place this item on the March Agenda when it should be clearer of Government Guidelines regarding COVID19.
8. **To discuss and consider Finger Sign Posts quotation and way forward.** The Chairman report that we had received a quotation of £1850 + Vat from West Country Blacksmiths for the work required to the Finger Posts Signs one at the crossroads in Wrantage and the one Greenway end of Oxen Lane. This was compared to other prices we have paid for the works already carried out to completed sign posts as it was very hard to find people who carry out these bespoke works for alternative prices. Mr Turner proposed that the Parish Council go ahead with the quote and request the work to be carried out, this was seconded by Cllr. Stone, which was carried. The Clerk to arrange work to commence.
9. **To discuss and agree Allotment agreements and rent.** The Chairman explained that there are a couple of rents that appear unpaid and are currently under investigation. Otherwise, the income we receive covers the expenditure for the allotments and after discussion the Chairman proposed that we leave the rents as they are this year, this was seconded by Mr Jeanes, which was carried.
10. **To discuss Parish Stable Building report – Rent and Service charges.** Mr Jeanes explained the Stable Building rent and Services charges and how they are calculated this leading to this years' Service Rent cost being reduced. The Rent was agreed that we continue to cancel rent during the current lockdown and continue with 50% rent whilst there will be considerable restrictions effecting trade. Mr Jeanes proposed that we continue with the same policy, this was seconded by Mr Cable, which was carried. Mr Jeanes explained that the Stable, despite the loss of rent agreed to transfer £1,000 to the Parish Council Account instead of the original amount of £5000 and this will appear within the next financial report.
11. **Finance: Monthly Bank Report and Payment List:** The Clerk presented the monthly report the Chairman proposed that it was a true record, this was seconded by Mrs Vaughan, which was carried. The payment list (see below) was read out and highlighted we had already received the Dog Bin invoice from SW&T for the Lockyer's Field bin. She explained we had received an additional invoice for the footpath 4 kissing gates, since the Payment List was compiled, for the amount of £1,380 this payment had already been approved and recorded in the May 2020 minutes. Mr Jeanes proposed to approve the payment list, this was seconded by the Chairman, which was carried.

**Payment List:**

<b>Monthly Payment List - February 2021</b>	<b>Cheque No.</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>VAT</b>
Clerk-Maria Perry - February 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 Feb 2021	S/O	11.99	2.40
SW&T - Dog Bins fee Lockyer's Field 1st Feb-31st Mch 9wks	BACS	48.60	9.72
HMRC - NI & PAYE + Stable tax	BACS	146.27	0.00

**12. Correspondence. A7007-A7008** already covered.

**A7006** Email - Stogursey Parish Clerk containing letter re SW&T policy on S106 Town & County Planning Act – the Chairman explained that the letter regarding a petition against the policy has been sent. Mr Jeanes highlighted that it was regarding monies Stogursey Parish Council have been granted and could only spend on Play equipment when it was not required, they wish to be able to amend the policy to cover other. After discussion it was agreed we were unable to help.

**B7009** Road Closure – Top Road, North Curry, Fivehead and Curry Mallet to commence 17<sup>th</sup> Feb 2021 for 3 days works by BT Openreach.

**B7010** Road Closure – Lower Knapp Lane, North Curry to commence 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021 for 12 days works by Highways drainage.

**B7011** Email – Owen Cullwick re Website Legality. Mr Cable had investigate the Website and requirements to comply with the Disability Access and the Compliance Statement. He explained that the website would need to update its templates which would take some time approx. 4-6 weeks and then he would be in a position to produce the Compliance statement. Mr Cullwick explained that the Clerk would have to look at new templates and procedures for documents to be posted to the website. It would have to be agreed if we change historical documents already posted and once in a position to do so post the correct templates and formats to comply with the legislation. The Chairman thanked Mr Cable and Owen for their work and time on this.

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

Footpaths (PS): The kissing gates have arrived and Cllr. Stone will look at the best locations for them to be erected.

Tree Warden (PS): Cllr. Stone has been working on the Tree Survey that we have to complete every 3 years.

Allotments (JL): Mrs Leader reported she had visited the Greenway allotments and had sent an update to the Clerk.

Stable (BJ): SW&T are still looking at the plans for the coffee Shop Veranda.

Flood Warden (CV): Queries as mentioned in the minutes above re Flood Gates and Communication.

White St. (PS): Work is still ongoing to maintain White Street replacing nets and installing Security Cameras.

Speedwatch (AM): Mr Meehan is putting a report together to report to the next Parish Council meeting regarding the possible purchase of SID. Agenda Item for next month. It was discussed that the SID could possibly be stored and recharged at the Parish Office.

Facebook (MW): Mr Wilkins report was forwarded to all Councillors and it show that Facebook has levelled out in users and continues to be viewed.

**14. Publicity Inputs.**

Request information from Groups and Businesses using our Website to send us their updated information where necessary.

Continue to thank everyone for adhering to Government Guidelines re Covid 19.

Litter Pick Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 10am meet at the village hall.

Place an article highlighting Domestic Abuse amongst senior citizens and promoting Somerset Sight. Welcome Rev Dr Simon Bell.

**15. Matters for Discussion.** The Chairman explained that she was invited to attend the licencing of Rev Dr Simon Bale via a Zoom Ceremony she asked should it go ahead the Parish Council invite him to our

APM to speak and introduce himself, all agreed. Mr Turner explained that at the last planning meeting we discussed the Stoneyhead Caravan Park development and that we would ask Cllr Stone if he would kindly liaise with SW&T and investigate North Curry the number of allocation of pitches for travellers in the Parish and to obtain a general picture of where we are regarding Stoney head. Cllr Stone agreed to investigate. Mr Cable highlighted that in Knapp there has been a problem with huge pieces of dry mud being scattered on the highway from farm vehicles, it was suggested to contact the local PCSO's to ask them to investigate. Mrs Vaughan suggested that in recognition of former Parish Councillor Marion Burt's death it would be a nice gesture if the Parish Council planted a tree in her memory. It was agreed that Greenway Playing Fields would be a good position close to her home and that we should contact the family for their thoughts and what type of tree they would like, if agreed. Mrs Vaughan proposed that the Parish Council recognised Marion as a member of the Parish Council and would like to plant a tree in her memory, this was seconded by the Chairman, which was carried. Mrs Vaughan agreed to contact the family and provided the family agreed to source the tree required. It was also discussed that we should look at a plan in the future to perhaps grow more trees for all those who have passed away due to COVID. Cllr Stone reported that he had a plan for more trees at Greenway Playing fields and it was agreed that he would liaise with Mr Turner, our representative of the Playing fields for further discussion.

**There being no further comments, the meeting closed at 22.13.**