

**Minutes of the North Curry Parish Council Meeting held via Zoom on  
Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 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, Cllr S Holmes.

5 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: 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021.** The Chairman invited any amendments or comments to the minutes reporting she had added belated apologies received from Miss L Turney. There were no comments and Mr B Jeanes proposed they were a true record of the meeting, seconded by Mrs C Vaughan, 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:** It was reported an incident had occurred at White Street where there was an attempted attack on a young teenager by three teenagers, two boys and a girl, while walking his dog. The victim managed to get away, the Police have been informed. It was reported that CCTV is to be installed at the Sports Field. This incident should be an entry in the Pink Sheet asking members of the public to report any suspicious behaviour within the Parish.

**Fingerpost signs:** The Clerk had contacted West Country Blacksmiths to inform them the Parish Council would like them to carry out the work on the Fingerpost Signs as per their quote and she had received a reply to say work will commence this month.

**Website Legality:** The Website developers had made some changes to templates within the Website and Mr Cable explained, that with Mr Walton, some compliance checks would need to be done before moving forward.

**Allotments:** The question was raised as to how many people were on the waiting list the Clerk to confirm numbers but she thought approximately 12. It was discussed to contact the owners again of those Allotments unattended, giving a deadline either to tidy them up or forgo the plot for those who are waiting. It was agreed to send a note with new contracts in April 2021 asking they inform us immediately if no longer required.

**Flooding Matters:** Mrs Vaughan raised the issue with the drains and flooding by The Shambles and outside of the Post Office. Cllr Fothergill had investigated the problem and a survey had been done, it appears it is not connected to the work recently carried out on the new storm drains and concerns with the narrowing of the drains further up the system which may require additional work. Cllr Fothergill to follow this up and report back at the next meeting. Mr Meehan suggested a pump may help to disperse the flood water outside the Post Office at the Shambles. After a discussion, Mr Meehan was asked to investigate details of a possible pump and to come back to the Parish Council. Mrs Vaughan asked if in times of the moor flooded and closed a temporary road closed sign be put up in the road by Mrs Keal house to stop cars that continue to pass the road closed sign on the post by the Queen Square Gardens. This would prevent many cars having to turn around at Mr Jeanes entrance drive on the moor and if flashing lights can be put around the current flood sign on the pole next to the Queen Square Gardens to make it more noticeable when displayed. Cllr Fothergill to investigate.

**Litter Pick 20<sup>th</sup> March 2021:** The Spring Litter Pick will take place on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 10am from the Village Hall. The Clerk to ensure Litter sacks are ordered and adverts to go out via Posters, the Website and Facebook.

**Planting of Memorial Cherry Tree:** The Chairman thanked Cllr Stone for planting the Memorial tree in Greenway Playing field in memory of Marion Burt and explained that Mr Burt was very emotional and grateful for the gesture. It was requested if a memorial plaque could be placed at the bottom of the tree by Mr Burt. Mr Turner could not see it a problem, but would confirm with the Playing Field Committee. Mrs Vaughan to contact him to confirm. Mrs Griffiths recommended Timpson is the place to purchase and engrave the plaque.

**Update on Eucalyptus Trees, Haymoor:** Cllr Stone apologised that the letter regarding planting the Eucalyptus Trees at Haymoor had already been sent to the Forestry Commission when it had been agreed to be brought to this meeting for authorisation. He confirmed that he was awaiting a reply and would bring it to the next meeting.

**Stoneyhead Caravan** – Mrs Smith reported to the Parish Council that after a 3 years a court case took place and the outcome was that 3.5 acres which involved 7 sets of deeds are to be for sale on the site.

**County Cllr. Report** – weekly updates being forwarded by email.

**3. To further discuss the progress of Limes Trees on Church Road.**

The Chairman explained that the Parish Council had received an email from Mrs Ryan thanking Cllr. Stone for works carried out to prevent any further tree root damage to her property. Cllr Stone explained other works had been done to the path where trips hazards were apparent and thanked Mr Kirby for his assistance. Mrs Ryan and Mr Kirby were happy that the current problems are resolved for now but a plan needed to be put in place for further maintenance of the trees. Cllr Stone said he would contact David Galley who was the TPO to ask him to take a look at the trees and the Parish Council could then devise a plan for a future maintenance proposal. The Clerk to continue with investigation of ownership with the Solicitors.

**4. To discuss Annual Parish Meeting preparations for 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021.**

The Chairman raised the question if the APM on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021 and the AGM that usually take place on the seconded Wednesday of May (12<sup>th</sup> May 2021) before the Parish Council meeting, could still take place and the current rules regarding Covid. It was agreed to postpone the APM until after June at this stage and after Cllr Fothergill clarified that there is a cut off date for use of zoom at present, we move our AGM and PC meeting (May 12<sup>th</sup>) back to the 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021. This will need to be an Agenda item for Aprils meeting to notify Parishioners as per our standing order.

**5. To discuss and consider the purchase of SID (Speed Indicator Device):**

The Chairman invited Mr Meehan to deliver his report on the proposal to purchase a SID, a copy was previously sent to all Councillors. Mr Meehan thanked Mr Wilkins and Mr Cullwick for all their input and help in preparing the report. After much discussion Mr Meehan advised the Parish Council that the first step, before any decision can be made, is to work out the actual cost. In order to do so we would need to sign a Memorandum with Somerset County Council this would trigger the Traffic management into action. A meeting could then be made with traffic management visit the proposed sites for the positions of the SID poles. This will determine how many poles are required it would enable definite costs, each pole costing approx. £200. It was agreed that Mr Meehan would investigate the Memorandum and liaise with the Clerk. The SID unit will be used at these locations and it was agreed to investigate the costs in using a Facilities Management Company, in favour of training people to carry out ourselves, Mr Cullwick offered to carry this out on our behalf, the Clerk to liaise with Curry Rivel Parish Council to ascertain how they manage theirs. The Chairman proposed we go ahead with this decision, this was seconded by Mr Jeanes, which was carried. Mr Meehan and Cllr. Stone to look into the locations.

**6. As Covid relaxes to forward works for the approved Bus Shelter and seat at Borough Post.**

The Chairman explained as Covid relaxes it was time to revisit the approved Bus Shelter and seat at Borough Post. She said that Clerk was revisiting the previous quotes and obtaining up to date figures. Any new quotes to be directed to the Chairman. We need to check with Highways that the agreements from SCC Highway for the shelter are still current, Cllr Fothergill said he would check with Highways and report back.

**7. To discuss available Councillor Training Events and costs.**

The Chairman explained that we receive invitations for various Councillor Training Events from SALC on a regular basis and wanted to confirm a way forward regarding booking and costs. After discussion it was agreed to continue to circulate to all and continue to make a decision at that time.

**8. To discuss Neighbourhood Plan regarding the local public rights of way network.**

Cllr Stone explained the plan which had previously been sent to all Councillors. He explained that we were already complying with most of local public rights of way requirements. After discussion, it was agreed we should write to Ann to ask for an update on the Bridleways modification, Cllr Stone to look into any closed footpaths or non-accessible paths and it was agreed to place the Footpath map on the website and Facebook so Parishioners are aware of the Footpaths to avoid trespassing.

**9. Proposal to initiate a Climate and Environment Action Group.**

Mr Jeanes explained his proposal to the Parish Council referring to the document he had previously emailed to all Councillors with details of the Climate and Environment Action Group, stating that Stoke St Gregory had just formed such a group and felt that North Curry Parish Council should form a sub-committee reporting back to the Parish Council. After much discussion the Parish Council decided against going forward.

**10. Finance: Monthly Bank Report and Payment List:**

The Clerk presented the monthly report Mrs Leader proposed that it was a true record, this was seconded by Mr Jeanes, which was carried. The payment list (see below) was read out and Mrs Vaughan proposed to approve the payment list, this was seconded by Cllr. Stone, which was carried. The Clerk also reported that we had received an invoice regarding the widening of the entrance at the Village Hall. It was agreed at the Parish Council meeting of February 2020 that we would contribute to 50% of the cost. Therefore, a payment of £2,982 would be made to the Village Hall for our contribution as agreed.

**Payment List:**

Monthly Payment List - March 2021	Cheque No.	Total	VAT
Clerk-Maria Perry - March 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 March 2021	S/O	11.99	2.40
Viking Inv 007474745 stationery	BACS	31.00	6.21
NC Stable Charge - Elec 01/12-28/02	BACS	72.47	0.00
NC Stable Charge - Water 07/08-10/02	BACS	15.64	0.00
NC Stable Charge - Gas 01/12-28/02	BACS	11.56	0.00
IONOS Annual fee for hosting website including emails 04/03/21-22	D/D	120.00	24.00

#### 11. Correspondence.

##### A7017-A7020 Covered.

**A7021** – An email had been sent regarding the steps at White Street leading from the field on to Stoke Road and how they have subsided and dangerous when it is wet or frosty. Cllr Stone agreed to investigate and make repairs to improve them.

An email had been received today from Mrs A Maw, Lord-Lieutenant of Somerset notifying us of Fly the Flag for Somerset which takes place over the weekend of 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> May until Somerset Day on the 11<sup>th</sup> May it was agreed to place an advert in the Pink Sheet, on Facebook and the Website requesting Parishioners to join in. The Chairman proposed to purchase a Somerset Flag for Queens Square Garden 5ft x 3ft at a cost of £7.99, this was seconded by Mr Jeanes, which was carried, to be flown in Queens Square Gardens over this time. It was suggested Parishioners could cut out, or draw the flag and place in their windows.

#### 12. Committee /Delegated reports – (Please send written reports prior to the meeting and these will be included on the minutes.)

**Footpaths (PS):** Covered in minutes above.

**Playing Field (AT):** Grass mowing had commenced. Awaiting restriction of the lockdown to be removed to be able to action things again.

**Village Hall (LT):** Mr Jeanes reported that the Village Hall committee are resubmitting their application for S106 monies to install a fixed overhead projector, screen and hearing loop in the Meeting Room, a under sink water heater in the games room and a modern power efficient LED based lighting system. The Village Hall have requested if the Parish Council can write a letter of support to accompany the application. Mr Jeanes proposed that we write a supporting letter, this was seconded by The Chairman, which was carried.

**Tree Warden (PS):** Cllr. Stone promoted and informed the Council of tree and hedge planting schemes at Newport and the Farmhouse.

**Allotments (JL):** Mrs Leader suggested that we could send out a renewal deadline letter with all the new Allotment contracts this year asking Allotment holders to ensure they inform us by the end of April if they can no longer attend their plot. This will give people on the waiting list a chance to catch the growing season.

**Stable (BJ):** Mr Jeanes informed the Parish Council that Angela will reopen her salon on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2021 and The Coffee Shop will reopen on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021. He explained planning permission had been granted for the Coffee Shop Veranda and they were moving forward to agree a price and start building. The Coffee Shop are looking for additional volunteers it was agreed place an advert on Facebook for volunteers, Mr Jeanes to send information to Mr Wilkins.

**White St. (PS):** CCTV around the Pavilion is in the progress of being put up and grass cutting has started on the cricket pitch.

**Facebook (MW):** The Chairman thanked Mr Wilkins for his Facebook statistics which had been sent to all Councillors and it was encouraging to see its popularity and frequent use.

#### 13. Publicity Inputs.

Coronavirus Helpline – continue to place the contact details into the Pink Sheet.

Footpaths – reminder to use footpaths only and avoid trespassing, keep dogs on a lead where livestock are grazing, take dog waste home and to not leave polythene bags of waste on barbed wire fences and hedges and highlight footpath maps are in the Post Office, website and Facebook.

Fly Tipping – To ask Parishioners to be vigilant and report any siting.

Dognapping and Scams and Break Ins – alert to Parishioners.

Fly the Flag – Somerset Day 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> May until 11<sup>th</sup> May Somerset Day.

Mr Jeanes suggested and it was agreed that we write to the Village Hall regarding the Pink Sheet as to when distribution could begin again.

**14. Matters for Discussion.**

Mr Jeanes suggested that we should look in to our computer security after receiving an email from NALC regarding Cyber security. It was agreed for the Clerk to contact Mr Willis to discuss. Mrs Leader asked if we could use the Parish Council Facebook page to advertise the Church Bells raffle after discussion it was agreed to decline the request at this stage as once we advertise for one it opens it for all. Mrs Leader also suggested that we should thank Liz Turney and acknowledge her efforts regarding the Parish Council even though she has not been able to attend over the last few months. It was agreed to send our thanks. Mr Dennis requested the Zoom invitation to be sent to him on his Outlook Calendar the Clerk to action. Mr Cable had received a complaint regarding tractors early in the morning making a lot of noise about 4am. It was agreed to monitor the situation.

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 22.08 pm**