

**Minutes of the North Curry Parish Council Meeting held via Zoom on  
Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

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

2 Members of the public.

**1. PRELIMINARIES**

**To receive and approve apologies for absence.** Mrs J Leader, Mr M Dennis, Ms C Smith, Ms E Turney and Cllr S Buller

The Chairman opened the meeting thanking everyone for attending this amended date of the Parish Council meeting, following the cancellation on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021, due to the mourning period of HRH Prince Phillip, The Duke of Edinburgh.

**Approve and sign minutes for the previous meeting dated: 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021.** The Chairman invited any amendments or comments to the minutes, none were made. Mr Jeanes proposed the minutes as a true record of the meeting, this was 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): Mr Jeanes declared an interest in Item 9 on the Agenda Payment List.

**2. Matters Arising:**

**Policing Matters:** It was reported that recently several acts of vandalism and break ins at the Village Hall, Allotments and The Pavilion had taken place. There is evidence this is being carried out by some youths of the village. The incidences had been reported to the Police. After much discussion it was agreed to ask the Police to patrol the areas more often and to report the incidences in the Pink sheet.

**Fingerpost signs:** The Clerk had chased the contractors for a start date again as no work had commenced to date. The contractors will inform us of a start date once an Emergency job they are working on has been completed. This is to be expected in May, but are making no promises.

**Allotments – contracts, waiting list, fence at Greenway, tap at Loscombe Meadows.** The new contracts have been sent out to the Allotment holders and the signed agreements and payments are being returned. The Parish Council currently have 13 parishioners on the waiting list and the Clerk to allocate any vacant allotments. The Chairman reported that Mr Koppa after many years attending his allotment wishes to give up his plot and it was agreed for the Clerk to send a letter of thanks for all their hard work to the allotments over the years. It was agreed to split this full sized plot in to quarters as is our practice now. The Parish Council had received reports the west hedge at Greenway Allotments is in need of repair and it appears maybe badgers and deer entering and were damaging produce. After much discussion it was agreed to contact the Allotment holders, by way of a survey, to establish how much of a problem this was and the best way to secure the boundary. The Clerk to ask in her absence if Mrs Leader as Allotment Delegate would be happy to take this on. Mr Jeanes reported he had repaired one of the taps at Loscombe Meadows due to frost damaged only to be told a few days later that the other tap was leaking water, on checking readings the loss of water could amount to approximately £200. It was agreed for the Clerk to contact Wessex Water to report the incident. The Chairman thanked Mr Jeanes for repairing the taps.

**Flooding Matters:** The Chairman asked Cllr Fothergill there was an update on the mobile sign to put in Moor Lane when the moor was flooded and Mrs Vaughan asked if there was an update on the Flood Gate Cllr Fothergill agreed to chase again and update us. Cllr Fothergill reported the issue with the drains and Flooding at The Shambles were currently under investigation by SCC and he would update us as soon as possible. Mrs Vaughan reported she had updated Mr & Mrs Prosser at the Post Office regarding the investigation.

**Cyber Security:** The Clerk reported she had contacted Mr Willis to ensure we had adequate security for the IT in the office and been assured that all the correct procedures were in place regarding passwords and security protecting for the PC and Laptop. The Clerk reported there were extra protections we could put in place if deemed necessary at a cost, after discussion it was agreed to maintain the current security. However, the Clerk to investigate with IONOS to clarify our contract and how our systems are backed up.

**Update on Eucalyptus Trees, Haymoor:** Cllr Stone reported on the current situation of the planting at the site, the planting has gone ahead although not all plants has survived. After a discussion it was agreed that given the Parish Council had tried to challenge planting of the Eucalyptus trees there is no further route to challenge the situation. The Chairman thanked Cllr Stone for trying.

**Climate Emergency Fund application update:** Mr Jeanes explained that the application had been declined and asked Cllr Fothergill if there was a list of successful applicants to see what projects had been accepted for the fund. Cllr Fothergill agreed to investigate and obtain feedback information. Mr

Jeanes asked if the Parish Council should still discuss the Electric Charging point in the future and consider other means of finance for the project. It was agreed to discuss this in depth at the June Parish Council meeting. Clerk to note.

**Litter Pick update:** Mr Jeanes reported an excellent turn out of approximately 40 people for the Spring Litter Pick, a good success and thank you to all that took part. The Autumn Litter Pick would need to be an item on the September Agenda to ensure we have completed a Risk Assessment and ensure there is a good stock of Hi Vis waistcoats and litter pickers. The Chairman thanked everyone involved and expressed the Parish Council's thanks to be passed to Viv Fouracre and her group who have a very successful project litter picking on the local A378 and Rock Hill.

**Lime Trees Church Road:** Cllr Stone reported he had been trying to get in touch with David Galley the Tree Protection Officer to obtain advice on the way forward with a maintenance plan. He will update the Parish Council once an appointment has been made. The Chairman explained that we will reply to the email received from Mrs Ryan regarding the Lime Trees in due course.

**Update on SID:** The Chairman reported that Mr Meehan and Cllr Stone had met with Highways to discuss the sites for the proposed mobile SID. Highways advised it would be beneficial to consider providing a permanent SID in Wrantage, close to Wrantage Mills. Highways are to confirm the sites discussed are permissible and also confirm the start date for the 20mph scheme in the village.

**White Street steps:** The Chairman advised Cllr Stone had forwarded his report after repairing the steps from White Street on to Stoke Road and the fence fixed. He explained that he was trying to make the treads on the steps safer and will check with Mrs Walker if she is in favour of the repairs.

**Recommendation Memorial Bench: Corr. B7031** The Chairman explained the Parish Council had received a request for a memorial bench to be placed near the Village Hall for the late Mr & Mrs Eggleston, Mr Eggleston had been a Councillor when they lived in North Curry many years ago. Due to the postponed Parish Council meeting an email was sent to all Councillors for their thoughts. Many of the Councillors remembered them, and all who replied were enthusiastic. The Chairman proposed to give the Parish Council's support to the placement of the Memorial Bench, this was seconded by Mr Turner, which was carried by the resulting majority from the replies.

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

3. **To finalise costs and activate works for the approved Bus Shelter and seat at Borough Post and to approve payment of £250 for Roadworks Licence to Somerset County Council.** The Chairman explained this had been a project started before COVID restrictions and three revised quotes had been requested by the clerk and received. The Chairman proposed that the Parish Council approves the Euroshel quotation for a 2 bay urban metro bus shelter at Oxen Lane/Windmill Hill for the total cost of £3,815.00 plus VAT as their package included the seat, delivery and installation, this was seconded by Mrs Griffiths, and was carried. The Chairman continued to explain that the base for the shelter was still awaiting final quotes and proposed as these were local trustworthy traders that we accept the lowest price, this was seconded by Mr Jeanes, which was carried. The Highways require a licence to construct a Bus Shelter on the highway at a cost of £250 the Chairman requested this payment to be approved, this was seconded by Mr Jeanes, which was carried.
4. **Confirmation of Parish Council ownership of Church Road grass verge between the pavement and road.** The Chairman explained Mr Walker sent an email with attached papers to agree that the Parish Council does own the grass verge between the pavement and road, as expected. Cllr. Fothergill reported following investigation, Highways records show that it is quite common for the subsoil of the land to be owned by another party with the Highways surface rights being vested by SCC. In theory ownership could be right with an individual or organisation owning the land according to their deeds but the Highways Authority as custodians for the travelling public have surface rights on the land and this seems to be the case.
5. **To discuss Neighbourhood Local Plan – update on Bridleways. CorrA7028.** Cllr Stone explained this is more about the Bridleways rather than the local plan. He met with Ann Finn local bridleways Chairman and she has also given a list of tracks and droves where applications have been sent to create Bridleways and these are still on a list waiting for County Council to approve. A Green Lane from Lillesdon to Rodwell Lane has now been recognised and as a footpath they have been signposted but not shown on our footpath maps, the route is being used by horse riders. Cllr Stone stated Mr Vile is one of the landowners and the other side is The Hebditches. A discussion needs to take place to reach an agreement with the land owners to get it recognised as a Bridleway or footpath, more work to be done and he will report back at the next meeting.
6. **To discuss and approve the purchase and installation of an UV Air Steriliser for The Stable.** Mr Jeanes reported the Coffee Shop had agreed to purchase an UV Air Steriliser as an additional help to provide a COVID safe environment within the Coffee Shop and also adhering to the current COVID government regulation. He explained he had spoken to the tenant hairdresser, Angela Few and she was

anxious for her customers and staff and suggested we could purchase another for the corridor (wall mounted) leading to the toilet area. The cost being approx. £240 each and with funding from the £10k grant re COVID. After a discussion Mr Jeanes proposed to purchase a UV Air Steriliser for the corridor at a cost of £239 +VAT, this was seconded by the Chairman, which was carried. The Chairman thanked Mr Jeanes for his work and input.

7. **To approve rescheduling of the main Parish Council meeting, including the AGM from 12<sup>th</sup> May to 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021.** After a discussion the Chairman proposed the change of date from the 12<sup>th</sup> May to 5<sup>th</sup> May for the AGM to be followed by the Parish Council meeting for May, commencing at 7.30pm, this was seconded by Mr Wilkins, which was carried.
8. **To approve delaying the Annual Parish Meeting (APM) in line with Covid recommendations to a new approved date.** A discussion was had regarding the date for the APM it was agreed that we wait for further Government regulation to be confirmed and await confirmation from the Village Hall for dates available for the Parish Council meetings before a decision could be made.  
**CLr Fothergill left the meeting 8.50pm.**
9. **Finance: Monthly Bank Report, Payment List and Provisional Accounts 2020-2021:** The Clerk presented the monthly Bank Report, the Chairman proposed this was a true record, and was seconded by Mr Jeanes, which was carried. The Payment List (see below) was read out by the Clerk, The Chairman proposed to approve the payment list, this was seconded by Mrs C Vaughan, which was carried.

**Payment List:**

<b>Monthly Payment List - April 2021</b>	<b>Cheque No.</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>VAT</b>
Clerk-Maria Perry - April 2021	BACS	647.28	0.00
Plusnet (bill not issued as yet)	DD	20.00	0.00
Service Charge	SO	104.75	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
Water Business 24/07/20-26/02/21 Queen Sq Garden	DD	17.91	0.00
Wessex Water 31/0720-02/03/21 Loscombe Meadows allotment	DD	16.30	0.00
Water Business 31/07/20-02/03/21 Greenway allotment	DD	42.48	0.00
Clerks & Council Direct subscription renewal	BACS	12.00	0.00
The Flag Shop - reimburse M Perry - Som Flag	BACS	6.32	1.27
Inkredible - toner set	BACS	67.25	13.45
B & K Jeanes - Grass cutting March 2021 Inv 20195	BACS	30.00	0.00
Somerset Woods 3rd Payment	BACS	140.00	0.00

The Clerk explained that the Furlough payments for Mrs Pickles has been claimed for February and March, and apologised that the January claim had not been processed as she, in error, had missed the deadline. She also reported that the HMRC NI payment was not showing on the payment list as historically from 2019 an overpayment had been made and non-payment for this quarter would reduce the overpayment. Mr Jeanes presented the draft Provisional Accounts for the year 2020-21 and explained the accounts would be approved at the AGM.

**10. Correspondence. A7023-A7028 covered above.**

**A7029** – Mr Jeanes explained the letter from the Stable Committee regarding the tenant's responsibilities of the maintenance of their new veranda whilst in tenancy and that should they give up their tenancy, the Parish Council have the right to ask for its removal and reinstatement of the area if they so wish, or is to be gifted to the Parish Council.

**A7030** – Email from Ruishton & Thornfalcon Neighbourhood Plan Administrator notification of Regulation 14 Consultation of draft NDP - no comments were made.

An update on S106 - no changes.

NALC broadband sent copy - Questionnaire to all members to complete if interested. Survey on remote meetings, to be filled in by the clerk with Chairman if required.

Mrs Drakeford has sent an email regarding the Pink sheet hoping to resume the delivery from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021. As requested the Parish Council agreed to continue to print and deliver copies the Pink sheet to the Post Office until its deliveries are fully operational.

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

**Footpaths (PS)** – Cllr Stone reported that at New Bridge the Environment Agency (EA) has erected a new post and rail fence across the gap between the bridge parapet and the garden of New bridge house. Initially a pedestrian gate was put in the fence, which at first was locked and then later removed and replaced with rails. The gate would have provided an ideal link to the public footpath along the river bank right through to Knapp Bridge.

Cllr Stone had written to Environment Agency last year to ask if a gate could be provided here but had a reply saying this was not possible, giving no justification. The official footpath runs through the garden of the house but this is impractical and presently unusable.

Cllr Stone has recently written again to the EA asking if the provision of this sensible link with a permissive path could be reconsidered.

Mr Turner asked if an Application had been submitted to divert the footpath from the house garden along the riverbank, the clerk to investigate.

A further footpath issue is being negotiated on land owned by Mr J Coate, (near Frog Lane farm with four footpaths across it. New fencing has been erected around tree planting here and Cllr Stone has agreed with Mr Coate that the existing track should be used as a footpath to create a more logical route for walkers. Mr Coate has put a gate in to accommodate this and the new route needs to be formalised with the Parish Council, probably with a permissive path agreement. This issue will be on the next PC agenda.

**Playing Field (AT)** – Mr Turner explained there had been some vandalism in the Playing Field the BBQ has been taken down and an attempt to dismantle the Fort this has been reported to the Police. They had some small lettings of the Pavilion but will be decorating the Main Hall and Kitchen ready for more bookings coming in mid-May.

**Tree Warden (PS)** – Cllr Stone explained he had been busy felling dead Elms in White Street.

**Flood Warden (CV)** – As discussed above.

**White St. (PS)** - The committee have now authorised the fencing on the side where all the advertising signs are, the cricket nets have been worked on, as well as the post and rail fence replaced by Morris Way. Also CCTV has been installed.

**Wildlife Group (PS)** – In the sports field the large Butterfly Bank is now established and with the Wild flower area developing they are anticipating attracting many Butterflies.

**Facebook (MW)** – Mr Wilkins sent a previous detailed report to all Councillors and explained the Facebook Page is continuing to increase in popularity.

## 12. **Publicity Inputs.**

Report on increasing damage to property in the Playing Fields, White Street and Allotments village and the involvement of the Police.

Litter picking asking residents to pick up any litter that has fallen out of recycling bins and if parishioners can weight there recycling boxes to stop any litter blowing out.

Dog mess to highlight it is not always picked up or dog waste bags are being left by bins, in hedges or hung on fences.

Continued thank you to all Parishioners re COVID.

## 13. **Matters for Discussion.**

Mr Cable highlighted for our information that he had noticed a number of small holdings appearing in Knapp and surrounding areas. Mr Jeanes reported that the Coffee Shop and Angela Few would like to express their thanks for the abatement on Rent during the COVID lockdowns. He also reported that we are about to be in receipt of a CIL Payment for the amount of £4,917.84 monies from erection of bungalow behind 16 Town Farm and change of use agriculture dwelling at Knapp Lane Farmhouse. Mr Jeanes reported that a foul smell had appeared in a section of the footpath at 9 acre lane and it is suspected that there could be a leakage from the septic tank at Spring Cottage, it was agreed that Mr Jeanes would visit the owners to discuss. Mrs Vaughan highlighted that the defibrillator box lettering had almost disappeared and agreed she would contact the supplier to rectify this. She also highlighted that Tim Hill had emailed her to advise he would be playing solo folk music and song on 1st May 2021 in Queen Square Gardens. Also on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2021 a small evening gig with a band playing in the Queen Square Gardens and as he would like to rehearse with his big band needs to source out a venue such as White Street or the Pavilion. Mrs Vaughan also reported that a couple of parishioners suggested a celebration once we are out of lockdown, like the Jubilee Celebrations in the Playing Field and Tim Hill said he will play there with no fee if the arrangements went ahead.

It was highlighted that quite a few properties in Stoke Road have purchased some land from the owner at Manor Field to extend their gardens.

Mrs Griffiths reported on some dates The Village Show is to go ahead 14<sup>th</sup> August 2021, schedules in the Post Office. Also some events in aid of the Church Bell Appeal 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021, Jumble Sale at her home on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2021 and on 3<sup>rd</sup> August a Quartet Concert in the church tickets already on sale at the Post Office. Cllr Stone mentioned the fence on 9 Acre lane and the fence is starting to break and lean over, on the footpath from Loscombe Meadow where it is known as no man's land as it does not appear to have an owner.

**There being no further matters to discuss, the meeting closed at 09.41pm**