

**Minutes of the North Curry Parish Council Meeting held via Zoom on
Wednesday 5th May 2021**

Present or comments received: Cllr. P Stone (Vice-Chairman), Mr A Turner, Mr B Jeanes, Mr G Cable, Mr M Dennis, Mrs H Griffiths, Mrs C Vaughan, Mr M Wilkins, Mrs J Leader, Ms C Smith.

2 Members of the public.

1. PRELIMINARIES

In the absence of the Chairman, Vice Chairman Cllr. P Stone took the Chair.

To receive and approve apologies for absence. Mrs C Stodgell, Cllr. D Fothergill, Cllr. S Buller and Miss E Turney.

Approve and sign minutes for the previous meeting dated: 28th April 2021. The Vice-Chairman invited any amendments or comments to the minutes. Cllr Stone had forwarded a proposed amendment to the item in reports, the amendment was sent via email to all Councillors regarding the item on footpaths the amendment read as follows:

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.

Mr Turner proposed the minutes as a true record of the meeting with the above mentioned amendment, this was seconded by Mrs H Griffiths, 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): Ms C Smith declared an interest in item 3. Planning Application number 24/21/0024/LEW this application related to her children.

2. Matters Arising:

Policing Matters: It was discussed that Vandalism continued to be an ongoing problem around the Parish and this has been recognised by the PCSO stating in their Newsletter that extra patrols are being carried out. The Clerk to place an entry in the Pink sheet for May 2021.

Flooding Matters: Mrs Vaughan reported no updates had been received at present.

Allotments: The Clerk explained that the renewal of contacts and the reallocation of vacant plots was currently work in progress.

Land at Knapp – small holding update: A discussion took place at the last Parish Council meeting regarding several small holdings appearing around land at Knapp. The Parish Council asked if Mr Cable would be willing to investigate with SW&T Planning the regulations regarding small holdings and report back.

Loscombe footpath (odour): Mr Jeanes reported he had approached the owner at Spring Cottage to make them aware the source of the odour could possibly be from their septic tank.

Defibrillator update: Mrs Vaughan reported that a new sticker had been sourced for the defibrillator box as it appeared someone had attempted to clean it with a solvent, which had unfortunately removed all the sign writing. The new sticker had been ordered and on its way.

IONOS Contract: At the last meeting the Clerk was asked to clarify the backup systems for our IT she explained this was work in progress and will report back at the next meeting.

Update on SID: The Vice-Chairman suggested that as Mr Meehan was not present, the update can be added to the Agenda for next month.

County Cllr. Report – weekly updates being forwarded by email. Ms Smith raise the question regarding the return of face to face meetings and guidelines, after a discussion it was agreed for the Clerk to investigate rules set out by NALC, for future meetings.

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

24/21/0020 Change of use of land from agricultural to domestic with erection of 3 bay domestic garage/store at Braemar, Knapp, North Curry (amended scheme to 24/18/0018 (retention of part works already undertaken): Mr Turner explained the location of the cottage and the property having been recently sold with previous planning already obtained taking land in from field, to provide a drive and garage. Some of the works had been done to date apart from the erection of the garage. The new owners wished to build the garage but with amendments to the previous plans. The new plans proposed a different size and shape, it was originally a two bay open construction with a small lean to. The new proposal is to make the garage a three bay with space for two cars and at the rear a workshop. After discussion, Mr Turner proposed that we support the application but North Curry Parish Council would like to see the inclusion of the following 1) A native hedge to be planted along the post and rail fence to help it blend in. 2) As assured by the applicant, the ridge height of the garage is minimised by digging the garage in, this was seconded by Mrs Vaughan, which was carried.

24/21/0024/LEW application for a Certificate of Lawful Development for the existing change of use of land with siting of 2 No. mobile homes for independent residential occupation at 6A & 6B Stoneyhead Caravan Park, Langport Road, Wrantage. Ms Smith left the room. Mr Turner explained we had discussed and supported the previous application 24/20/0055 last year. SW&T had refused the previous application on the grounds they were not convinced that the applicants had complied with the 10 year rule. Therefore, a new application was submitted by the owners, the same as above, along with the supporting documents to prove the families have resided at the properties for 10 years. After a discussion, Mr Turner proposed that we support the application provided that SW&T planning 10 year rule can be satisfied, this was seconded by the Vice Chairman, which was carried.

24/21/0018 Replacement of porch, erection of a two storey extension to the side, erection of a single storey extension to the front/side, replacement of road side window with bi-fold door and replacement of windows, fascia's and guttering with K-Render at Lantern Cottage, 2 Moor Lane, North Curry. Mr Turner explained that this application was discussed at the last meeting 28th April 2021. The Planners were not happy with the application to have the single storey extension so close to the roadside. The amended application was submitted to build it 2ft away from the roadside and reduce the size. The amendment addressed some of our original comments and concerns. Mr Turner proposed North Curry Parish Council supports the application but wishes to be assured that the proposed development conforms to any requirements to building to plot size ratios, this was seconded by Mrs Vaughan, which was carried.

- 4. To discuss Footpaths and any queries – (Cllr. Stone, Public path Liaison Officer) -** The Vice Chairman explained he had sent everyone pictures and details of the issues regarding footpaths the first one being New Bridge. He explained since the last meeting he had wrote to the Environment Agency to open and link access on the river bank to Knapp. He is waiting for their reply, he stated that this is the second letter that he has sent and the reply from the first letter was a negative response. He asked if the Parish Council would be happy to write to the Environment Agency formerly if another negative response was received. After a discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council would compose a letter if deemed necessary. The second issue on footpaths was regarding the new track down the side of Frog Lane Farm, a new fence has been erected and Mr Coate is happy for the track to be a permissive path and the vice chairman requested the Parish Council to write to Mr Coate formalising the arrangements agreed, all agreed. Mr Jeanes ask if there were any plans regards replacing the new kissing gates the vice chairman explained he now has 8 gates to replace but is waiting for the weather to improve before work takes place and that he is investigating to find the best locations for the new gates, any suggested locations were welcomed.

5. Finance - Payment List:

The Clerk read out the payment list below highlighting that the Clerk salary included additional hours, Mrs Vaughan proposed to approve the payment list, this was seconded by Mr Turner, which was carried.

Monthly Payment List - MAY 2021	Cheque No.	Total	VAT
Clerk-Maria Perry - April 2021	BACS	908.28	0.00
PlusNet (bill not issued as yet)	DD	20.75	4.15
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
CPRE - The Countryside Charity - Annual Subs	BACS	36.00	0.00

- a) **To approve Town Farm Stable Budget:** Mr Jeanes presented the Stable Budget and proposed the Parish Council accept the budget, this was seconded by Mr Cable, which was carried.
 - b) **To approve the final end of year accounts for the period 31st March 2021:** Mr Jeanes proposed the account be accepted, this was seconded by Mr Dennis, which was carried.
 - c) **To approve and sign the Annual Governance statement 2020/21 in section 1 of the Annual Return for the year to 31st March 202:** The Annual Governance statement has been seen and read by councillors it was presented by Mr Jeanes in detail and were accepted by all Councillors the Vice Chairman and the Clerk to sign Section 1 of the Annual return.
 - d) **To approve the Accounting statements 2020/21 in section 2 of the Annual Return for the year to 31st March 2021:** The Accounting Statements had been seen by Councillors. Mr Jeanes explained the figures came from the Receipts and Payment figures, the difference in figures were from the rounding errors and the total fixed assets figure differed slightly due to the addition of figures relating to the bus shelter at Lillesdon, which had in error, been left off the Asset Register. Mr Jeanes proposed that we sign this page as a true record, this was seconded by Mr Cable, which was carried. The Clerk and Vice Chairman to sign.
 - e) **Annual Audit:** Mr Jeanes explained at the Finance Panel meeting it was suggested that we ask Mrs Hembrow to carry out the internal audit for 2020/21, which was agreed.
 - f) **Monthly Account:** The Clerk presented the monthly account. She explained that the donation of £140.00 was to Somerset Woods and the Sundry expense was for the Flag we purchased for Somerset day, we had received more online payment from the allotments contracts totalling £63.33 and had received two grant payments from CIL £4917.94 and Precept £9500.00. Mr Jeanes proposed this was a true record, this was seconded by Mrs Vaughan, which was carried.
 - g) **Payment List:** As above.
 - h) **Finance Panel meeting:** Mr Jeanes mentioned from the Finance Panel meeting it was required for an additional Asset Register to be in place for insurance showing current figures for replacing items rather than the original prices for the register required for the Audit. The Clerk to investigate with Zurich the assets items they have on their list to ensure all items are listed and figures are up to date.
 - i) **To reaffirm the revised Financial Regulations:** The Financial Regulations had been seen by the Councillors. Mr Jeanes proposed that we reaffirm these and go forward another year, this was seconded by Mr Cable, which was carried.
 - j) **To reaffirm the revised Risk Assessment Schedule:** The Risk Assessment Schedule had been seen by all the Councillors. Mr Jeanes proposed that we reaffirm the assessment and go forward another year, this was seconded by Mr Dennis, which was carried.
 - k) **To approve the Clerk's Salary:** Mr Jeanes explained that the Parish Council reviewed the Clerk's salary every year and proposed that we give the Clerk a statutory annual pay rise as advised by NALC each year and this to be back dated to April 2021, this was seconded by the Vice Chairman, which was carried.
 - l) **To consider the addition of any end of year surpluses to the Facilities Development Fund to rebuild services:** Mr Jeanes explained that we had made a surplus of £7,143 and in the past have added a surplus to the Facilities Development Fund, this is a fund that we can draw on if we needed to by new or replace items e.g. new or replacement swings etc. The fund currently stands at £8,249. Mr Jeanes would like to propose that we add this year's surplus to the fund, this was seconded by Mr Turner, which was carried.
 - m) **Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) update:** The CIL report had been seen by all Councillors. Mr Jeanes presented the report he explained we have £44,500 unallocated to spend and this has to be spent within a time limit £26k by 2023 and £28k by May 2024 and final amount £5k by 2026. The 20mph Scheme is to be paid from these funds. It was discussed to revisit the terms and conditions of spending the CIL monies, to be clear on projects we can considered in the future, to ensure their costs will be covered and maybe consider assisting the Playing Fields and North Curry Sports in improvement projects they may undertake in the future.
6. **Correspondence:** The Clerk explained that due to the short period time from the last Parish Council meeting the correspondence listed below was only received.
- B 7044 Email - Road Closure - Stathe Road, Burrowbridge 24th May for 5 days works
Wessex Water repairs to mains

B 7045 Email - Road Closure - Curload Road, Stoke St Gregory 14th June 4 days

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

Footpaths (PS) – Covered above.

Playing Field (AT) – Mr Turner reported that the decorating had been started and they will start to let the pavilion from next week under appropriate COVID guidelines.

Village Hall (BJ) – Mr Jeanes reported that they have started a list of maintenance required for the hall and looking forward to getting people back in using it again.

Tree Warden (PS) – Cllr Stone explained he had cleared the tree reported this morning in the Church which had fallen covering the footpath up to the church. Mrs Griffiths said the PCC say thank you very much for the work done.

Allotments: The Vice Chairman updated the Parish Council and explained, as agreed in the last meeting, he is going to cut the Ash Trees down from around the sheds with the help of Mr Jeanes. They will try to use some of the cut down trees to plug the hole in the hedge and hope this helps to keep the deer out. They will also try to find out from the allotment holders how much the Badgers are a problem at the allotment site.

White St. (PS) – The Vice Chairman reported that North Curry Sports are trying to make use of the funding which may be available and suggested that it would be useful to see the minutes of the meeting held by North Curry Sports, to see what projects are going on the Vice Chairman to talk to Mr Leader Chairman of North Curry Sports to discuss this.

Wildlife Group (PS) – The Vice Chairman reported maintenance was continuing on the large Butterfly Bank.

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

8. **Publicity Inputs.**

Mrs Griffiths reported that the Jumble Sale in aid of the bells had been postponed to 28th August 2021. Raffle Tickets available too in aid of the bells.

Policing the Vandalism within the Parish.

9. **Matters for Discussion.**

Ms Smith suggested that we have signs up for the coffee shop after talking to people in the park who didn't realise we had one. She also reported that part of Stoneyhead Caravan Park is now up for sale. It was agreed that a site visit would be helpful by the Parish Council to understand the sale mentioned above and the future plans. The Clerk to arrange.

A Parishioner reported that the tap is not working in Queens Square Garden, Mr Jeanes said it had been turned off for winter and would now turn it back on, Mrs Vaughan to contact the Parishioner to inform the tap will be switched on.

There being no further matters to discuss, the meeting closed at 21.39pm