

**Minutes of the North Curry Parish Council Meeting held on
Wednesday 11th August 2021 at North Curry Village Hall (Main Hall)**

Present or comments received: Mrs C Stodgell (Chairman), Mr G Cable, Mr M Dennis, Mr B Jeanes, Mrs J Leader, Ms C Smith, Mr. P Stone, Mr A Turner, Miss E Turney, Mr I Fugett, Mr M Wilkins, Cllr D Fothergill.
4 Members of the public.

1. PRELIMINARIES

To receive and approve apologies for absence. Mrs H Griffiths, Mrs C Vaughan, Cllr B Hall

Approve and sign minutes for the previous meeting dated: 14th July 2021. Miss E Turney proposed the minutes were a true record of the meeting, this was seconded by Mr 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): Ms C Smith declared an interest in item 3. Planning reference 24/21/0041, Mr Turner declared an interest in item 3. Planning application 24/21/0031 and Mr Jeanes declared an interest in item 8. Payment List.

2. Matters Arising:

Policing Matters: None.

Flooding Matters: The floodgate on the Lyng side of the moor road is still not fixed and the damaged gate is still lying in the verge. Cllr D Fothergill said he would continue to chase and the Chairman stressed that this is now an urgent matter.

Fingerpost signs: Corr: A7097 The Clerk explained that she had contacted West Country Blacksmiths and they confirmed that work was near completion approximately the end of the month. She highlighted that West Country Blacksmiths asked for the new fingerpost signs in the office, which need painting, be delivered to them. It was agreed to contact the company and ask them to collect, as us delivering proved difficult, failing this the clerk to investigate costings for a courier firm to deliver.

Bus Shelter: Corr: A7098 Mr Stone explained that he performed a survey on the positioning of the Bus Shelter and sent a plan to SW&T Council for approval, he is now waiting to hear from them. He stressed the road was not in a good condition at the top of Oxen Lane and would speak to Highways to try and get it improved.

20mph Scheme: Mrs Leader explained she had checked the new 20mph layout against the proposed map of the works, she found that the 20mph signs were only on one side and not easy to spot and the roundel on Stoke Road was missing the number 2. She ask if the new limit warning signs were arriving as people were not adhering to the new speed limit. Cllr D Fothergill to chase the signs. Kate Brown had a full list of things that were incorrected which had been given to her via Mr Meehan after his liaison with the Police regarding Speedwatch.

Queens Platinum Jubilee update: Mr Jeanes confirmed he had spoken to Rob Vile regarding the Beacon for the celebrations and he was happy to host the Beacon, as before. Lady Mary Stewart-Wilson was present at the meeting and suggested a Queens Platinum Jubilee Committee was formed to monitor ideas and to oversee ideas once they were in place, she asked if a notice could go in the Pink Sheet asking for volunteers to join the committee which would include a couple of the Parish Council Councillors. It was agreed for the Clerk to place a piece in the September 2021 Pink Sheet.

A358: Corr: A7100 The Chairman explained that Richard Lander continued to inform us on the junction at Mattocks Tree Green junction and the A358 plans, queries are still in progress and we are waiting to hear back. The Chairman thanked Mr Lander for all his hard work.

Airband Community Internet Ltd: Corr: C7125 Cllr Buller was to report back on her findings after a meeting with the company, this was deferred to the next meeting, in her absence.

Report on APM 21st July 2021: The Chairman explained that the APM had a poor turn out, sadly due to COVID and the rearranged meeting date from May to July. The minutes of this meeting will be approved at the next APM, all being well, in May 2022.

County Cllr. Report – weekly updates being forwarded by email

3. Planning Applications for comment by North Curry Parish Council

24/21/0031 Replacement of barn with erection of 1 No. dwelling at Birds Farm, Higher Knapp Lane, Knapp, North Curry (amended Scheme to 24/19/0027). Mr Jeanes explained the application and highlighted the planning application was discussed at the last Planning meeting in July, a clear ridge height needed to be confirmed before the Parish Council would make comment. The applicant Mr R Case was present, he had sent in information regarding the ridge height of the new building and a map showing the site and trees around it. After much discussion, Mr Jeanes proposed that the Parish Council object to the proposal on the grounds that it would be much higher building than the previous application and a completely new dwelling well outside the village envelope and also that it would be deemed unsustainable under current planning regulations. Should SWTC be minded to approve the application that the PC request that conditions be attached, these are: to ensure retention of the trees to the West of the site, and the mature apple trees within the orchard, this was seconded by the Chairman (3 for the objection, 2 against 5 abstained.)

24/21/0041 Formation of vehicular access for 6A and 6B Stoneyhead Caravan Park, Langport Road, Wrantage (retention of works already undertaken). Mr Turner explained the application stating that the works had been carried out about a year ago. After much discussion, Mr Turner proposed to support the application subject to the Highway Authorities are satisfied with the safety of the proposal, this was seconded by Mr Fugett, which was carried.

24/21/0042 Erection of 1 No. dwelling with annexe with refurbishment of shed to garage at High Elms Nurseries, Broad Lane, North Curry. The applicants were present at the meeting, Mr Turner explained the application. The site for the new dwelling with annexe was used previously for many years as a Nursery. After much discussion, concerns were raised regarding flooding which occurs in Broad Lane just off the entrance to the property. Mr Turner proposed to support the application but North Curry Council ask that the drive is constructed prior to any construction works on the site. The drive is constructed in a way that is does not have surplus water falling into the area of Broad Lane and if necessary an attenuation system to be provided, this was seconded by Mr Fugett, which was carried. (1 abstained)

24/21/0043 Erection of an outbuilding to be used in connection with the children's home in the rear garden of Helland, The Orchard, West Sedgemoor Road, North Curry. Mr Turner explained the application stating the out building would be a standard Summer House and would be used by the Children's Home to hold one to one sessions/meetings for the occupants away from the house. After a discussion Mr Turner proposed to support the application, this was seconded by Mr Stone, which was carried.

21:15 Mrs Leader Left the meeting.

- 4. Clarification of agricultural land usage for domestic use. Corr: A7101** The Chairman explained we had received clarification from SW&T Planning, planning permission is required to use agricultural land for domestic use at a cost of £462 for the application. Mr Turner proposed that we should place an entry in the Pink Sheet to highlight this to Parishioners so that they are aware, this was seconded by Mr Fugett, which was carried (1abstained)
- 5. Footpaths matters and address other queries, New Bridge, crops growing on footpaths and proposed purchase of Hedge Cutter. Corr:A 7102** Mr Stone explained that we had no conclusion regarding the letters sent to the environment agency regarding new bridge. He proposed to place a Public Notice on the fence to maintain the permissive footpath link along the bank of the river tone to the existing footpath for a month or so. If no objections are then received he will create a style on the fence for access, this was seconded by the Chairman, which was carried. Mr Stone explained that the issue of crops growing on footpath should be addressed but after speaking to rights of way it is too late for this year. He said that we should consider writing to land owners a couple of times a year when crops are sown to request that footpaths are not planted on. The Chairman requested that we defer this item until the next meeting and agree a letter. Mr Fugett raised an issue with an unofficial footpath diversion this was agreed to be discussed at the next meeting. Mr Stone asked if a Hedge

cutter can be purchased to help maintain the footpaths in some areas. The question was raised regarding insurance and agreed that the Clerk should investigate with Zurich if we are covered. The Chairman proposed that we agree to purchase the Hedge cutter with a budget of £350.00, subject to insurance cover, this was seconded by Miss E Turney, which was carried.

6. **To discuss Overlands and Loscombe Meadows Street Lights syncing and costs. Corr: A 7103** The Chairman explained we had received correspondence from the Highways Lighting Team quoting the cost for syncing the lights in Loscombe Meadows and Overlands. As there are 17 lights the cost would be approximately £750. Mr Wilkins proposed that we do not go ahead due to the high cost, this was seconded by Miss E Turney, which was carried.
7. **To discuss Greenway Allotments Survey and its outcomes.** This item was agreed to defer until next month.
8. **Finance: Monthly Bank Report, Payment List:**

Payment List: The Clerk firstly explained the payment to HMRC for £114.99 was listed in error and was paid in July 2021. She read out the Payment List adding there were additional hours 28 to be added to the Clerks Salary totalling £292.32. Mr Turner proposed to approve the payment list including the additional hours, this was seconded by Miss Turney, which was carried.

| Monthly Payment List - August 2021 | Cheque No. | Total | VAT |
|--|------------|--------|------|
| Clerk-Maria Perry - August 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 |
| B & K Jeanes - Grass cutting July 2021 Inv 21059 | BACS | 60.00 | 0.00 |
| North Curry V.Hall - Hire 14/07 21/07 28/07 Inv3471 | BACS | 41.34 | 0.00 |
| Amazon - 4 x cartridge drums - reimburse M Perry | BACS | 45.26 | 0.00 |
| Inkredible - 2 x Black cartridges | BACS | 32.96 | 7.28 |
| SLCC Membership fee | BACS | 130.00 | 0.00 |
| Richard Perry - Loscombe Meadow - Nine Acre Lane cut | BACS | 195.00 | 0.00 |
| HMRC - NI & PAYE + Stable tax | BACS | 114.99 | 0.00 |
| GDPR/Data Protection renewal Fee | D/D | 40.00 | 0.00 |
| Viking - Stationery note pads post it | BACS | 34.51 | 6.90 |
| IONOS Annual Domain name fee | D/D | 13.10 | 2.62 |

Monthly Bank Report: The Monthly Bank Report was presented by the Clerk the Chairman proposed this to be a true recorded, this was seconded by Mr Turner, which was carried.

9. **To discuss and approve SALC & NALC Affiliation fees.** The Chairman explained we had received the subscription renewal from SALC & NALC for the annual affiliation fees of £479.72, the Chairman proposed to continue with the subscription, this was seconded by Mr Jeanes, which was carried.
10. **To discuss and approve for NALC Online Event re biodiversity.** The Chairman explained this is a course coming up in September and that Mr Jeanes was interested in attending, the Chairman proposed Mr Jeanes attends and the Parish Council pay the fee, this was seconded by Mr Stone, which was carried.
11. **Correspondence. A7097 to A7104** covered above. **A 7105** Bus service improvement plan require to feedback ways of improvement survey – no one volunteered. **A7106** Mrs J Ryan emailed regarding Trees in Church Road branches are close to properties and sap making pathway slippery. It was discussed SCC usually clean the pavement and agreed to ask them to come out to do this and a tree survey to be carried out. The clerk to write to Mrs Ryan explaining the plan of action. **A7107** Nine Acre Lane email from Beverley Taylor saying she

is interested in buying land and is there access to vehicles it was agreed to reply to her the Clerk to draft a letter.

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

Footpaths (PS): Mr Stone explained that most points had been covered above and he explained he had ask for West Lane to be cut the cost of which is £120.

Village Hall (LT): emailed

Stable (BJ): emailed automatic tap or sensor one

White St. (PS): A lot of activity with Youth Cricket and Football.

Wildlife Group (PS): A Mothing event took place recently and on night 33 species were spotted.

Facebook (MW): emailed

13. **Publicity Inputs:**

Jubilee regarding ideas and forming a committee

Public Health regarding Ticks

Somerset Library Service – reflections of the pandemic.

14. **Matters for Discussion.** Mr Jeanes raised the matter of the furniture in the Allotment shed explaining a while ago Mr D Burt asked if he could purchase the Chair and Cupboard in the shed, if they did not belong to anyone. Mr Jeanes proposed now the allotment surveys have been completed and no one has claimed anything from the sheds that we let Mr Burt have them for a donation of £25 to go towards the Church Bell Appeal Fund, this was seconded by Mr Turner, which was carried. He also raised the matter of the foul smell at Loscombe Meadows footpath which appeared to be coming from a leaking septic tank at Spring Cottage Environmental Health says that this has now been fixed, the parish Council will monitor to ensure this is correct. Mr Cable mentioned about an ideas for CIL money to purchase proper gym equipment, Mr Jeanes highlighted White Street had mentioned about a Trim Trail. Mr Turner ask Mr Fugett if he wanted to come on the Planning Committee and Mr Fugett agreed he would like to continue. Mr Dennis mentioned the parking on White Street a few vehicles are parking too near the junction making it very hazardous when turning in to White Street. Mr Stone mentioned Covid recovery grants were available up to £1,000 and suggested we could put it towards the shelter it was agreed that he looked into the grant and application form and bring it to the next meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 10.15pm