

Minutes of the North Curry Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 13th October 2021 at North Curry Village Hall (Main Hall)

Present or comments received: Mrs C Stodgell (Chairman), Mr P Stone, Mr G Cable, Mr M Dennis, Mr B Jeanes, Mr I Fugett, Mr B Jeanes, Mr A Turner, Miss E Turney, Ms C Smith, Mrs H Griffiths, Cllr S Buller and Cllr B Hall.

6 Members of the public.

1. PRELIMINARIES

To receive and approve apologies for absence. Mrs J Leader, Mrs C Vaughan, Mr M Wilkins, Cllr. D. Fothergill.

Approve and sign minutes for the previous meeting dated: 08th September 2021. Mr Fugett proposed the minutes were a true record of the meeting, this was seconded by Mr Stone, 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. Mr B Jeanes in item 14. Finance.

2. Matters Arising:

Policing Matters: None.

Flooding Matters: The Chairman referred to Mrs Vaughan's email Corr: A7147 in her absence. She highlighted the following; 1) Flood Gate on the Lyng side of the moor was still not fixed, the Chairman to speak to Cllr Fothergill, 2) 4 gullies at the junction of the Shambles and Stoke Road were blocked causing back up flooding and Mrs Vaughan reported to Highways. To write to Highways and ask for gullies to be cleared as flooding in areas of the Parish a problem. The Clerk to send an email. 3) To request clarification of the sequence of locking the flood gates on the moor, the Chairman to speak to Cllr Fothergill. The standalone flood sign the Chairman to ask Cllr. Fothergill if this can be ordered.

Fingerpost signs: The Clerk reported that the fingerpost signs were completed and re-positioned. Mr Stone volunteered to look at the signs for approval. Mr Stone proposed that a further four signs were awaiting refurbishment, and is seeking a quotation. This was seconded by the Chairman, which was carried. It was agreed to write to Thornfalcon Parish Council regarding the fingerpost sign for North Curry on the A378 at the junction and explain we have been refurbishing our Finger signs throughout the Parish, and if there were in the same mind we could obtain a figure in their behalf.

Bus Shelter update: Mr Stone explained we are waiting for a revised quote from the original ground works contractor. Following our request for a grant from SALC re the Opening up Safely & Reconnecting Communities Fund Grant, Mr Stone said we had been accepted and we have received the £1500 grant towards cost. It was agreed to contact another contractor to gain comparison price of these works.

Trees in Church Road update: Mr Stone has looked at the trees in Church Road and found 3 trees in need of attention. He would gain permission from the tree conservation officer to carry out the work. It was agreed to ask the Tree Specialist to look at crown raising other trees on Church Road to give advice on future work required.

Loscombe Meadows footpath odour update: It was agreed the Clerk should chase the enquiry sent in to SW&T Environmental FAO John Harvey again.

Allotments: The Clerk confirmed the Loscombe Meadow allotment plot has been let and was in the process of obtaining a spokesman for the Greenway Allotments.

Opening Up Safely & Reconnecting Communities Fund Grant – Update: Covered above under Bus shelter.

Parish Church Magazine re Facebook: Mrs Stodgell explained that Mr Wilkins had posted this month edition of the Parish Church Magazine on to Facebook which had received several views.

Airband Community Internet Ltd. Cllr Buller explained she had not received an update from them but they were due to carry out surveys in Ruishton and Thornfalcon and North Curry should follow soon after. The survey should display details of broadband speed etc. and cost. She will update us once in receipt of the information.

County Cllr. Report – weekly updates being forwarded by email

3. Planning Applications for comment by North Curry Parish Council

24/21/0045 Demolition of agricultural buildings and erection of a timber car port with annexe in the roof space, timber stable block, formation of outdoor arena, relocation of access onto Stoke Road and change of use of land from agricultural to equestrian at Goulds Farm, Stoke Road, North Curry. Mr & Mr Osborn

were present at the meeting. Mr Turner explained the application and its location. After discussions, Mr Turner proposed that North Curry Parish Council supports the application. However, we would like to see an attenuation system put in place to prevent any additional surface water runoff, causing additional flood problems in the Broad Lane road system. This was seconded by Mr Fugett, which was carried. (1 abstained)

24/21/0046/LEW Application for a Certificate of Lawful Development for the existing change of use of land for permanent siting of 10 No. storage containers pursuant to Class B8 at Stoneyhead Caravan Park, Langport Road, Wrantage. Mr Turner explained the application and its location and after a discussion, Mr Turner proposed that we object to the application as the containers have been moved into their current position for less than a year and are not in the position as shown in the aerial photos. Also the present position compromises access and traffic movement within the whole of the site. This was seconded by Mr Fugett, which was carried.

4. **National Highways A358 road improvement:** Mr Lander the Parish Council representative for the A358 improvement gave an update of where National Highways are with the current consultation. He has recently attended a Parish Council Briefing and a forum and notes have been sent to all Councillors. A total of 8 Parish Councils put up a variety of proposals at the last meeting with National Highways in June and have asked people to support them. He explained he had a one to one session with National Highways today and will forward notes. He asked if the Parish Council would agree for him to put a proposal together to cover the main concerns of the traffic numbers around junction 25 and the access to Taunton and concerns over Mattocks Tree junction. The Chairman read out the letter proposing to agree to decline to join the 8 Parish Council Group and make our own decisions/concerns on the A358, this was seconded by Mr Jeanes, which was carried. The Chairman thanked Mr Lander for all his time and hard work on the A358 road improvement.
5. **20mph Scheme and SIDS.**
6. **Speeding throughout the Parish.** The Chairman proposed to cover items 5 and 6 together. She explained she had received many telephone calls and a letter (Corr: A7419) concerning the 20mph scheme not being adhered to by car and farm vehicles. She explained that the 20mph scheme has not been completed yet and cannot be enforced until such times it has been agreed between SW&T Highways and the Police. Mr Stone confirmed that Mr Meehan had been working on the project and it is still work in progress. The SIDS can be discussed once a price has been investigated. It was reported to ensure enforcement of the 20mph scheme in Knapp Lane we need to purchase an additional sign and roundel, Mr Turner proposed that we meet the cost of this to enforce the 20mph limit, this was seconded by the Chairman, which was carried. (1 abstained) The Chairman reported numerous complaints have been received regarding the farm vehicles speeding and driving dangerously, leaving damaged verges etc. through the village after a discussion it was suggested that we take registration numbers and report to the police.
7. **To discuss the Queen's Platinum Jubilee proposals.** The Clerk confirmed that no further ideas or suggestion had been received from the Pink Sheet request. We have several ideas already and it was proposed that we need someone to lead the ideas. Mr Dennis confirmed that he would be happy to take the lead. The Chairman said it should be an Agenda item for next month to confirm the way forward.
8. **To organise Litter Pick for November 2021.** Mr Jeanes suggested Saturday 6th November 2021 for the Autumn Litter Pick to meet at 10am at the village hall. He also requested that we purchase hi-vis jackets and litter pickers as the number of Parishioners attending the event had increased. The Chairman proposed to agree to purchase 40 hi-vis jackets and 40 Litter Picks from CIL monies, this was seconded by Miss Turney, which was carried. Mr Jeanes to look and the Risk Assessment and the Clerk to order the above jackets and pickers and to arrange collection of the litter.
9. **Footpaths matters including, New Bridge update, Insurance re purchase of hedge cutter.** Mr Stone confirmed he had sent his Footpath report to all Councillors. The Hedge Cutter has not yet been purchased as we are still waiting from the insurance company it is currently with the underwriters. Mr Stone reported we have received the bill for the cutting of West Lane and a second cut has been requested and will be paid by Bridleway Association. Mr Stone reported he will negotiate a cost for two cuts next year to prevent the closure of the lane.
10. **To discuss Remembrance Day final arrangements and agree donations to the British Legion, Bugler and organist.** Mrs Griffiths reported that she will be playing the organ and will arrange for it to be transferred from the church to the square. The Clerk reported that Highways had queried aspects of the

road closure they are now accepted. The following donations were proposed by the Chairman, £200 to the Royal British Legion, Bugler £30 and Organist £50 will be a donation to the Church Bells, this was seconded by Mr Stone, which was carried. The Chairman ask to lay the Poppy wreath.

11. To report on the Carbon Literacy Course and what we could do as a Parish Council.

12. To consider the Parish Council Funding the installation of two car charging point at the Village Hall.

Mr Jeanes proposed taking items 11 & 12 on the Agenda together. He suggested that the Carbon Literacy Course was a very useful course and encourages others to attend. The outcome of the course is what we should be doing as a Parish Council, Mr Jeanes proposed a request to revisit the Car Charing Points asking the Parish Council if we could commit to this idea and he would obtain revised quotes etc., this was seconded by the Chairman, which was carried (1 abstained).

13. Report on Town & Parish Council Conference. The clerk previously sent out her report on the Unitary Conference to all Councillors and explained once she was in receipt of the links to the slides of the conference she would forward to all.

14. Finance: Monthly Bank Report, Payment List:

Payment List: The Clerk read out the payment list below and explained additional late payments, the Parish Council grant 2021-22 had been received of £2,460, therefore, the burial portion of the grant of £920 had to be split as follows: PCC £630, Baptist church £150 and £140 to the Methodist Church. The Playfields grant of £840 to be paid to Playfields for grass cutting. Finally, a grass cutting invoice from Mr Jeanes for £30. Mr Dennis proposed to approve the payment list and all additional payments, this was seconded by Miss Turney which was carried.

Monthly Payment List - October 2021	Cheque No.	Total	VAT
Clerk-Maria Perry - October 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 October 2021	S/O	11.99	2.40
SDH Groundworks Inv 1008 Topping West Lane, Knapp	BACS	120.00	24.00
Water2business 03/03/21-01/09/21 Inv 2058551899	D/D	89.42	0.00
HMRC - NI & PAYE + Stable tax	BACS	123.07	0.00
Zurich Ins renewal fee 1/10/21-30/09/22 (amount TBC)	D/D	TBC	0.00
INKredible Inv 1291489807	BACS	18.78	3.76
Viking paper & clips	BACS	19.72	3.94
PKF Littlejohn audit fee for 2020-21	BACS	200.00	40.00
Water2business 03/03/21-01/09/21 (amount TBC)	D/D	36.28	0.00
North Curry V.Hall - Hire 08/09 & 29/09 Inv 3501	BACS	28.42	0.00

Monthly Bank Report: The Clerk presented the Monthly Bank Report the Chairman proposed for it to be a true record, this was seconded by Mr Jeanes, which was carried. The Clerk explained that we were now in receipt of the correct Dog emptying quotation for the 4 dog bins in the Parish, the cost £6+VAT per bin, per week to be emptied, an increase from last year of 0.60pence per bin. The Chairman proposed to approve the quotation, this was seconded by Ms Smith, which was carried.

15. To discuss Zurich Insurance cover. The Clerk explained we are now in receipt of the renewal documents and invoice for the annual fee, this is the second payment of a 3 year termed agreement. Mr Turner highlighted at the last meeting it was discussed to circulate the Asset Register for all to check to ensure all Asset items were included. The Clerk reported the insurance query for the footpaths Hedge Cutter is still with the underwriters and she would circulate the Asset Register as requested.

16. Correspondence. Covered Correspondence A7147 to A7150. B7151 CPRE AGM the Chairman asked if anyone was interested to attend, there were none. A7152 SALC gave the result of a survey for having the early election this was agreed 4:1 in favour, however, it may still take place in 2023, still yet to be confirmed.

17. 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 they have just received an external inspection which was mainly satisfactory. However, the timber fort is in need of replacing by next year and the committee are starting to investigate a suitable replacement which could prove quite costly. It is hoped that the Parish Council will give the committee their full support and possibly some funding towards the total cost.

Village Hall (LT): Miss Turney explained she was unable to attend the last meeting and it was agreed that Mr Jeanes would attend on her behalf, in the future, if the need arises. Miss Turney said she would forward the minutes of the last meeting.

Tree Warden (PS): Mr Stone explained that complaints were received from residents about the shading from the trees along the frontage at Chapel Close and he had cut them back lightly on both sides, removed the trimmings and the residents had given good feedback.

Allotments (JL): As above.

Stable (BJ): Mr Jeanes reported that the occasional puddle in the Stable car park is still causing concern, but they hope to address this before it gets worse. The Coffee Shop is considering removable sides to be fixed between the posts on the Veranda to protect customers from the wintery weather.

Flood Warden (CV): As Above.

White St. (PS): Mr Stone explained that Hedge Planting is currently taking place at White Street near to Morris Way.

Wildlife Group (PS): Mr Stone explained that the group is helping Young People (as they are helping us) with their Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

Speedwatch (AM): As Above

Facebook (MW): Mr Wilkins reported it was nice to see, a gradual increase in membership, 20 posts this period with 2,406 people reached at an average of 120 per post and 310 total engagements. We started posting the Parish Church Magazine this month, with 128 people looking at it and 18 of them forwarding it on. The most popular posts were for footpath updates from Phil Stone.

18. Publicity Inputs.

Mr Lander kindly prepared a separate piece to be entered in to the Pink Sheet regarding the A358 developments.

Flooding matters for Parishioners to clear gullies etc. with the rainy season upon us. Litter Picking enter event details.

Remembrance reminder.

Jubilee ask for volunteers.

COVID.

19. Matters for Discussion.

The Chairman enquired if the Church Magazine was on Facebook and wanted to clarify that no adverts were included. Mr Stone to liaise with Maurice to ensure this was the case. Ms Smith updated the Parish Council of the Stoneyhead site. Mr Jeanes reported that the guttering was broken on the Bus Shelter and needed fixing, the Clerk to ask Bob Perry if he could carry out the repairs. Mr Jeanes reported that the a draft Precept will be prepare for the next Financial Advisory Panel meeting to be held 27th October 2021 and did anyone have any ideas on what to spend money on, to help prepare it. He also explained that the Coffee shop were looking to put removable shields between the post of the Veranda in the Winter months, looking to use Polycarbonate and what were the Parish Council views on this. The Chairman proposed no objection to this plan, this was seconded by Ms Smith, which was carried.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 10.10pm.