

Minutes of the North Curry Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 10th November 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, Mrs J Leader, Mr A Turner, Miss E Turney, Ms C Smith, Mrs C Vaughan, Mr M Wilkins.

7 Members of the public.

1. PRELIMINARIES.

To receive and approve apologies for absence. Helen Griffiths, Cllr Sue Buller and the Clerk, Maria Perry.

Approve and sign minutes for the previous meeting dated: 13th October 2021. The Chairman proposed the minutes were a true record of the meeting, this was seconded by Mr Turner, which was carried. (1 abstained)

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 in Item 10 Payment List.

2. Matters Arising:

Policing Matters: NONE.

Flooding Matters: Mr Prosser from North Curry Post Office contacted the PC regarding his stock room flooding again and suggested the drains outside are draining slowly and appear to be blocked yet again. Mrs Vaughan visited but Noel wasn't present so she spoke to Alison & their son. The Water Authority and Highways have been chased several times. The Clerk and Mrs Vaughan to chase. Mr Meehan said he is still awaiting the report progress from 21st March 2021 regarding broken flood gate and will pass the details to the Clerk. The Chairman thanked Mr Meehan for all his work. Mrs Wood approached the PC about bad flooding at Woodley, St Giles Kennels it is particularly bad on the corner by the bridge. The Clerk to report to Highways. The Flood Gate closure sequence was still not clear, Cllr Fothergill said he would chase up and provide contact information to gain clarification. A complaint was also received from a Windmill hill resident regarding a drain blocked and causing flooding near his property. The Clerk to write to Highways.

Fingerpost signs: Mr Stone explained new quotes are being obtained from contractors for four more signs to be renovated, he has sent details to all Councillors. Mr Stone also sent pictures of the two signs which have been completed for renovation and now in place.

Bus Shelter update: Mr Stone explained a second contractor for the groundworks at Oxen Lane had been contacted regarding groundworks and a site visit is being arranged. Corr: A7159 He explained the stage two application of the Opening Up Safely & Reconnecting Communities grant was successful and we were granted a further £3,600.

Trees in Church Road update: Mr Stone reported he had carried out some minor work on the Lime Trees but he needed to apply for consent to complete the move extensive works required, because the trees are in a Conservation area.

Loscombe Meadows footpath odour update: Mr Wilkins explained he had met with John Harvey of the Environmental Services but unfortunately not yet received a response from their meeting.

Autumn Litter Pick: Mr Jeanes explained around 30 volunteers came to help collect litter around the Parish, there was a smaller pile of rubbish this time. The Clerk to place in the Pink sheet, a thank you to all that volunteered.

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

Remembrance Sunday final preparations: Order of Service needs to be distributed and collected on the day, Mrs Vaughan and Mr Jeanes to assist. Payments to the Bugler and Organist are to be arranged and sent by the Clerk.

County Cllr. Report – weekly updates being forwarded by email, please see attached.

3. National Highways A358 road improvement:

Mr Lander explained he has sent correspondence and a draft letter Corr: A7160 to the Parish Council for a response. Regarding the response by North Curry Parish Council for the A358 Statutory Consultation he explained he had made some relatively small amendments which he proposed sending to National Highways. He said he would write to Mattocks Green (Ilminster, Broadway) group and advise we do not wish to join their group but wish them good luck with their endeavours. Mr Turner proposed the Parish Council were happy with the A358 improvement comments and for Mr Lander to send the letter to Mattocks Green Group, this was seconded by the Chairman, which was carried. The chairman thanked Mr Lander for his hard work and time. Mr Stone voted against supporting the scheme as he considered that improvements to the A358 at the Ilminster end and from Thornfalcon to the M5 were all

that were needed to avoid congestion and, given Climate Emergency, the building of more roads was not good use of billions of public funds.

4. **20mph Scheme and SIDS:** Correspondence A7161 - Mr Fugett asked about roundels for new 20mph speed limit and was advised by Cllr Fothergill to go online and check the plans and if a roundel is on the plan – if it is listed but not installed it can be actioned directly – Cllr Fothergill agreed that his name could be referenced if needed.

Moor Lane appears to have a roundel missing at start of 20mph limit.

Bedding in process for new speed limit has now ended after being installed in March – Mrs Vaughan and Mrs Leader have suggested temporary signs indicating the change of speed limits.

Andrew Meehan explained he is stepping back from Speedwatch coordinator duties as it's been very stressful process - Phil Stone aided by Maurice Wilkins will take over. The Chairman thanked Mr Meehan for all his work as coordinator. Speedwatch will be an item on next month's Agenda, Mr Stone to contact the Clerk for wording of the item.

SIDS report from Andrew Meehan as Speed watch Coordinator

- Have had a lot of problems with finding suitable locations for devices
- Need to improve some signage and various other works (has taken 11 weeks)
- Problems with the Police agreeing to potential locations which he had suggested, no proactive guidance has been provided for suitable locations.
- Where the Police agree locations Highways Authority have said no.
- Windmill Hill has no approved location (despite putting in the Somerset County Gazette that they would be there this week!). Could possibly use the Baptist/Methodist Chapel car park(s)
- Wrantage Speedwatch volunteers have had to step down due to ill health the Parish Council thank them for their work. New volunteers will be required. Have a SIDS location at Barcroft Avenue.
- Could we get a SIDS device for Wrantage alone? It is on the main route into Langport so there may be possible grants.

Possible SIDS/pole locations:

Wrantage Mill, Windmill Hill, White Street, Greenway at the Village Hall, Canterbury drive/White Street, Moor Lane.

We cannot have SIDS as no location is presently acceptable – too many cars, over hanging trees (which have been trimmed back) etc. The prices remain the much the same but we can't move forward without agreement from Highways and the Police.

Possible radar locations:

Tin Inn at Borough Post, Windmill Hill lay by, Canterbury Drive

5. **To discuss the Queen's Platinum Jubilee proposals:** Corr: A7162 & A7165. The suggestion of a Patchwork quilt has been sadly put aside, there has been no official response from the Village Hall Committee. The funding of the organised events has not yet been discussed but £500 has been initially accounted for in the Precept 2022-23. Mr Dennis and Mrs Vaughan will arrange a meeting inviting Mary Stuart-Wilson and any other volunteers. Mr Dennis reported he had been checking the official guidance from the Palace to fall in line with other Parishes. Several suggestion/ideas have been put forward to celebrate the occasion, new entrance and exit signs for the village with reference to the Queen, Social Event, Beacons – as previous Jubilee, lasting memorial, planting a tree in the Queen Square garden or other location, metal bench in Queen Square garden, Choir event at the Church, fete and /or Street Party and Jubilee mugs for the children at the school /in the Parish and maybe extra mugs/tea towels to sell in Post Office to fund the new bench/tree. Mr Dennis proposed the Clerk to add in the Pink sheet requesting more suggestion to discuss at the January 2022 Parish Council meeting, this was seconded by the Chairman, which was carried.
6. **Footpaths matters including, Insurance re purchase of hedge cutter:** Mr Stone explained that Zurich Insurance will cover him using the Hedge Cutter, the Chairman agreed to buy a new hedge cutter for use on Parish footpaths up to the value of £350, this was seconded by Mr Turner, which was carried.
7. **To consider the Parish Council Funding the installation of two car charging point at the Village Hall.** Mr Jeanes explained previously, we were not successful in obtaining funding for the Electric Car Charging points via an Emergency Climate Fund. The cost is now thought to be approx. £3000. He explained he is waiting for the new quote to be finalised. A discussion took place on possible locations but there are many factors to consider including ownership and access. The Village Hall is owned by the Parish and a possible location, Mr Fugett was concerned about losing parking spaces as the hall car park is often full when events

are taking place. It was discussed that there are other possible places at the hall i.e. green areas at the front so no existing spaces are lost – Mr Jeanes/Miss Turney to consider options.

- 8. To discuss North Curry Sports Ltd application using S106 Grant monies. Corr: A7163** - Mr Leader joined the meeting on behalf of North Curry Sports Ltd to request a S106 or CIL money towards the cost a new tractor to maintain the grounds at White Street sports ground. They have 14 acres to maintain and have been borrowing/leasing a tractor but the tractor is costing more to maintain – new fuel tank and door recently and will need more and more work. The cost of replacing the tractor would be approx. £18,000. The Chairman proposed to agree to support the request by North Curry Sports Ltd, the amounts to be agreed at a later date but to support their request (in principle). We will need to get further confirmation on whether CIL can be used or not - potential to use S106, CIL, Light source or reserves, this was seconded by Mr Cable, which was carried. (1 Abstained).
- 9. North Curry Church Bells Appeal:** The new Vicar, Rev Dr Simon Bale attended the meeting and introduced himself to the PC. A representative from the Church Bells Appeal spoke to the PC about their appeal and asked if the PC can help to raise funds too. The Clerk had asked advice from SALC and we cannot support the maintenance of the Church directly. The appeal so far has £3,000 raised by clubs and £60,000 is the total raised to date. The renovation is not just the Bells it also covers the tower and the clock. After a discussion the PC wanted to support the Church Bell Appeal and suggestion were given of maybe sponsoring the bell for the Jubilee or using certain funding pots if all funding criteria's were met. The chairman proposed to agree to investigate joining the bells appeal and add as an item to the Agenda in the future. The PC would like to support their request in principle but prices will need to be agreed at a later stage. Potentially maybe from the Light Source fund or reserves after thorough investigations, this was seconded by Mrs Vaughan, which was carried.

10. Finance: Monthly Bank Report, Payment List:

Monthly Bank Report: Mr Jeanes presented the report which had been sent by the Clerk to all Councillors, prior to the meeting. He also reported that the Internal and External audit has been carried out with no issues and the Internal Auditor, Liz Hembrow is stepping down and a replacement is required. A suggestion to ask Owen Cullwick a resident in North Curry and Clerk to Brent Knoll PC. Mr Jeanes proposed the Monthly report was a true record and that he will contact Owen to ask if he can be our Internal Auditor going forward, this was seconded by the Chairman, which was carried.

Payment List: The Chairman presented the payment list below. Mr Jeanes highlighted we have been charged by the Village Hall for the meeting room 27th October when it was not used. Miss Turney proposed to approve the Payment List and Mr Jeanes would contact the Village Hall for a refund, this was seconded by Mrs Vaughan which was carried.

Monthly Payment List - November 2021	Cheque No.	Total	VAT
Clerk-Maria Perry - November 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
John Marchant Inv 4314 PAT testing	BACS	45.60	0.00
B & K Jeanes - Grass cutting Oct 2021 Inv 21110	BACS	30.00	0.00
North Curry V.Hall - Hire 13/10 & 27/10 Inv 3526	BACS	28.42	0.00
Town & Parish Council Websites - annual fee 01/12/21-22	BACS	285.00	0.00
Viking hi vis & litter pickers	BACS	125.61	25.12
Royal British Legion - Poppy Donation	BACS	200.00	0.00
Dale Newland - Bugler - Remembrance Day	Chq	30.00	0.00
Mrs H Griffiths - Organist - Remembrance Day	Chq	50.00	0.00

- 11. Precept 2022/23.** Mr Jeanes presented the Precept for 2022/23. He explained that the cost of grass cutting in Queen Square Garden may rise as he is retiring. The budget for seats and notice boards may rise due to additional fingerpost work being carried out. The costs of installing SIDs may have to be considered in the

future and there has been a small rise in the cost of emptying Dog Waste Bins, due to the additional bin at Lockyer's Field. Parish Council Reserves are £128,000 with £58000 in CIL. IT costs have been amended to £650 from £450, amended by £200 to improve accessibility for Hearing or sight impaired users for our website (see below).

12. Correspondence. Corr: B7171 from NALC regarding Website accessibility explains that Government and Council websites should be accessible from September 2021. It was highlighted that we do not have an accessibility statement on our website. The webmaster has an accessibility checker before converting to PDF and placing documents on the website. It was discussed that Mr Cullwick had previously raised concerns and seems to be up to date on this legislation and maybe able to provide advice if required.

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

Footpaths (PS): Mr Stone reported he had cleared growth across Manor Lane footpath again.

Tree Warden (PS): Mr Stone reported a dead tree was taken down at Stoke Road. Mrs Vaughan has been approached by Mrs Olie as a large branch from an oak tree fell down on the Fosse, Western Power have been out and her fence was damaged. The Parish Council have no powers to take action over this as it is the responsibility of the land owner.

North Curry Sports. (PS) Mr Stone reported REACH will continue to use the pavilion for another year having renewed their contract.

Wildlife Group (PS): Mr Stone reported the group are holding a Wassail in January to be led by Tim Hill.

Facebook (MW): 22 posts this period with 2,589 people reached at an average of 118 per post and 298 total engagements. The most popular post was for the signpost refurbishment at 229 and also several 'likes'. A comment was also posted. 'Yes, these traditional village signs are important to maintain for our community. Well done for our Parish Council taking on this excellent initiative'

14. Publicity Inputs.

Thanks for the litter pick volunteers.

Queen's Jubilee Meeting (to take place before the next PC meeting maybe in the Coffee Shop) – firm suggestions with a closing date within 2 weeks.

Promote the Mobile Library Service for housebound people – they can deliver books to your home.

Avian Flu restrictions/outbreak again – keep your chickens secure/closed in under netting etc. - Mike Dennis can provide a web address for further advice.

Use of the phone box in the village centre – Need to use it or we will use it. It needs to be kept tidy and clean would anyone be prepared to volunteer for this task?

15. Matters for Discussion. The Chairman explained the members of the Parochial Church Charity were herself, Carol Brown and Alan Dare. However, Alan Dare is standing down due to ill health. Graham Cable has volunteered to replace him and the Parish Council to thank Alan for his time and service. The Charity distributes annually small amounts of money to long standing residents in the Parish. The next agenda item will be required to ratify new Trustee Graham Cable. Ms Smith asked who the village agent was the Clerk to investigate and inform her. Brian Jeanes stated that Bob Perry had repaired the bus stop guttering, Bob Perry reported that leaves in the Bus Stop gutter and from behind the trellis of the garden behind required clearing the Parish Council agreed he could go ahead and carry out the job. Mr Stone asked for stick on bin labels for the 20mph speed limit to replace 30mph ones within the new limit. This will be added to the Agenda for next month. Mrs Vaughan asked for Tractors through the village to be on next month's agenda. Contractors and not farmers are causing problems. Stoke Road has been particularly bad and neighbours have had property damage. The verges are destroyed and potholes are bad. We need a new approach of consideration and constructive dialogue. If the police could have a presence in an unmarked car it might help.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 10.00pm