

Minutes of the North Curry Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 08th December 2021 at North Curry Village Hall (Main Hall)

Present or comments received: Mr P Stone (Vice Chairman), Mr G Cable, Mr M Dennis, Mr B Jeanes, Mr I Fugett, Mr B Jeanes, Mr A Turner, Mrs C Vaughan, Mr M Wilkins, Cllr D Fothergill, Cllr S Buller.

4 Members of the public.

1. PRELIMINARIES.

To receive and approve apologies for absence. Mrs C Stodgell (Chairman), Mrs J Leader, Ms C Smith, Miss E Turney, Mrs H Griffiths, Cllr B Hall.

Approve and sign minutes for the previous meeting dated: 10th November 2021. Mr Turner proposed that 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): Mr Jeanes declared an interest in Item 11 on the Agenda Finance, Payment List.

2. Matters Arising:

Policing Matters: The PCSO Tony Wearmouth had sent correspondence to inform the Parish there has been an increase in the amount of thefts from Garden sheds and out buildings and to be vigilant and ensure your property is locked up safely.

A358: Mr Lander spoke and gave an update to the Parish Council regarding a recent issue which had come to his attention on the A358 proposal. The information was circulated to all Councillors via email. He explained our understanding was that National Highways had done a lot of research regarding the proposal of shutting of all access routes to the A358 and replacing them with two points of access Mattocks Green and Ashill and had come to the conclusion this proposal was acceptable. Mr Lander explained that it was our assumption and that of the Parish Council Group for the A358 that they had expected National Highways to have consulted Somerset County Council of the proposal and for them to give their formal approval. However, after reading Somerset County's response to the consultation, this was not the case and raises the issue that it should be addressed. Mr Jeanes proposed that Mr Lander write to National Highways and request that they should ensure that Somerset County Council Highways are fully consulted about the impact on the existing road network. This was seconded by Mrs Vaughan and the proposal was carried.

Flooding Matters: Mrs Vaughan explained Cllr Fothergill and Mr Meehan had arranged the jetting and CCTV around the problem area at the Shambles. This has been completed it appears a problem area is a 400mm to 225mm pipe is causing the system to pressurise and restrict the flow at high volumes of rain pour This will be investigated by Highways and works to be confirmed to rectify. The Floodgate works have been started the post was dug out and repaired this week and awaiting the installation of the gate.

Mr R Lander left the meeting

Fingerpost signs: Mr Stone explained he had circulated correspondence to all Councillors regarding the next stage of Fingerpost refurbishment, three signs in Knapp and one in Helland, one quotation has been received awaiting a second after an update on the specification. He explained a slight adjustment to the Haymoor fingerpost sign and this was to change the location, new finger and triangular tip. Mr Stone had spoken to the land owner for the new location and they were happy for it to be moved. Mr Stone explained he will update the Parish council at the next meeting once the quotations had been received.

Bus Shelter update: Mr Stone explained we are in receipt on one revised quotation for the bus shelter base and awaiting a second quote. Once we are in receipt of both we can move forward, the clerk to place on agenda for the next meeting.

Trees in Church Road update: Mr Stone explained that he is in the process of asking consent to do more work to the trees in the future.

Loscombe Meadows footpath odour update: Mr Wilkins explained there had been no progress report from the Environment Agency and will await their reply.

Installation of Car charging Points update: Mr Jeanes explained he is chasing to obtain up to date quotes. He explained, Mr Fugett raised at the last meeting, rather than taking up spaces in the car park perhaps they could be placed in the green area by the road, the Village Hall committee were happy to have the chargers in the car park, as placing them in the green area would cause more work and expense. The Clerk to place on the Agenda for the next meeting.

Queens Jubilee update: Mr Dennis explained he and Mrs Vaughan had spoken to obtain a plan to structure the events and arrangements of the Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations. It was agreed it would be

simpler if each event had its own group to manage the project and deliver on the day. After discussion possible events were suggested to plan and work towards, it was agreed to hold the Beacon Lighting at Nythe Farm and use this event to raise money for the Church Bells, the Beacon must be registered and there is strict guidance on how to make/build it etc. On the Saturday Buckingham Palace are having a Platinum Party with music etc. it was suggested, perhaps a group could form to provide some entertainment or a concert. Sunday there is a big Jubilee Lunch and may be arrange an event to be held at the playing field where people can come and bring their posh lunch and dress up, some music to be provided too. Cllr Fothergill advised there is a website which can help with the organisation of the Platinum Jubilee and this can be found at www.platinumjubileesomerset.org. It was agreed to place on the Agenda for next month to discuss further and await any further ideas from Parishioners.

Remembrance Sunday report: Mrs C Stodgell the Chairman of the Parish Council, express what a good turn out there was at the Remembrance Service and the Parish Council would like to thank all those who helped or took part on the day.

County Cllr. Report – weekly updates being forwarded by email

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

24/21/0056/CQ Prior approval for proposed change of use from agricultural building to 3 No. dwelling houses (Class C3) and associated building operations at Hill Farm, Combe Lane, Knapp, North Curry.

24/21/0057/CQ Prior approval for proposed change of use from agricultural building into 1 No. dwelling house (Class C3) and associated building operations at Hill Farm, Combe Lane, Knapp, North Curry.

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The above applications were discussed together. Mr Turner explained fully each applications proposal and location. After discussion concerns were raised by the Parish Council and a neighbour regarding the access to the site and increased traffic whilst the development was underway on the very narrow lanes, as well as the increase in domestic traffic after new residents had moved in. Mr Turner proposed to object to the application, but the Parish Council understands that this application is likely to go ahead because of its status, the Parish Council is very concerned about the additional traffic of both construction and the future domestic use that this construction will cause on the narrow access roads, this was seconded by Mr Fugett, which was carried. Mr Turner explained we had received late correspondence from Somerset West & Taunton Planning to say the application 24/21/0034 – Redevelopment of land to form private fishing pond on land off West Sedgemoor Road, Helland, and North Curry, has been withdrawn.

4. Ratification of Trustee of the Parish Council replacement (Mr G Cable) for the Parochial Church Charity.

Mr Turner proposed for Mr G Cable to be Trustee replacement for the Parochial Church Charity, this was seconded by Mrs Vaughan, which was carried.

5. To discuss Speedwatch and 20mph Scheme and SIDS update. Mr Stone explained he has updated the Councillors regarding the Speedwatch and SIDs via email. He showed a picture of the proposed SIDs to be use which would read actual speed of a vehicle and show this on the device. He explained the Canterbury Drive location had been approved by the Police but we are still awaiting approval of other locations. It was agreed to continue with the work to approve other locations. Mr Stone confirmed cost of the SIDs, pole and training if we have one pole it would be approx. £2,550 for two poles and two SID installations, the cost would be approx. £4,500 and suggested, perhaps at the next meeting a decision could be made.

Discussion of contractor's tractor speed throughout the village. Mrs Vaughan explained this is a long standing problem and the subject is more about the farm vehicle driver's attitude and behaviour rather than the speed and perhaps could be altered easily if we had understanding and cooperation from the farmers and contractors themselves. Mr Dennis suggested that perhaps we could meet to attempt to appeal to the farmers/contractor's such as Webbers and Pattens to discuss the ongoing problems. Mr Dennis suggested we invite the farmers to come and have a friendly discussion to address the situation of speed, damage to grass verges and other property and how some people feel intimidated by the large vehicles travelling within the Parish etc. It was suggested to meet in a mutual area with two members of North Curry and Stoke St Gregory Parish Council Councillors to talk through and try to resolve issues raised. Mr Dennis agreed to approach the Farmers and set up the meeting in the New Year and Mr Stone to contact Stoke St Gregory Parish Council to see if they would like to join in the discussion.

6. To discuss purchase of 20mph bin stickers for Parishioner's within the 20mph zones. Mr Stone explained the bin stickers for Parishioner bins within the 20mph Zone would cost in the region of £31.50 he asked that

the Parish Council bare the cost and he would deliver to the households with the areas. Mrs Vaughan proposed we agree to pay the cost and for Mr Stone to deliver to the Parishioners, this was seconded by Mr Wilkins which was carried.

7. **To discuss North Curry Sports Ltd application using S106 Grant monies.** It was agreed by the Parish Council to discuss this item when members of North Curry Sports are available to attend.
8. **North Curry Church Bells Appeal.** Correspondence: A7182 Mr Stone explained we had received an email from Geoffrey Dart, Chairman of the Church Bells Appeal regarding sponsoring the Bells at a cost of £10k. After discussion, it was agreed although we are sympathetic to the cause we still need to clarify a few issues, financially and legally, before going ahead. The Clerk to investigate.
9. **To consider permitted usage and related signage of footpaths to Lockyer's Field and Loscombe Meadows.** Mr Jeanes explained he had seen horses using the footpath at Lockyers Field and asked, due to the narrow path, if we should clarify with Rights of Way if horses are permitted. If not, may be a sign should be considered for the Lockyers Field and Loscombe Meadows footpaths to State "not suitable for Horses, Cyclist give way to pedestrians. It was discussed this proposal would require consultation with both management committees of the two areas and agreed to approach them with the suggestion of the signs worded as above, if required.
10. **To discuss the proposal of a Formation of a Central Somerset Local Community Network (LCN). (Meeting attended by Mr Stone & the Clerk).** Mr Stone explained the meeting he and the Clerk attended regarding the LCN and the proposal of Somerton Town Council to set up a Central LCN, which would include 31 parishes in total. After a discussion it was agreed the Parish Council would be happy to continue being involved but not yet ready to commit to becoming a member until such times more information was given by Somerset West & Taunton and Somerset County Council. The Clerk to write to Somerton Town Council to explain.
11. **Finance: Monthly Bank Report, Payment List:**
Monthly Bank Report: The Clerk presented the Monthly Bank Report, Mr Turner proposed that the report was a true record, this was seconded by Mr Wilkins, which was carried. The Clerk raised the issue of Zoom and that we are no longer using it and should it be cancelled. Mr Jeanes proposed that we should cancel our monthly subscription, this was seconded by Mr Wilkins, which was carried.
Payment List: The Clerk presented the Payment list below and explained we would be receiving a credit of £14.21 from NCVH against the October 2021 Invoice and a late invoice had been received from Mr Jeanes for Grass cutting for November 2021 of £60.00. Mrs Vaughan proposed to approve the Payment list, this was seconded by Mr Dennis, which was carried. Mr Turner asked if the usual payments for White Street and the Playing Fields for grass cutting were to be made, it was agreed to add them to the Payment List for approval for the meeting in January 2022.

Payment List:

| Monthly Payment List - December 2021 | Cheque No. | Total | VAT |
|---|------------|--------|------|
| Clerk-Maria Perry - December 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 December 2021 | S/O | 11.99 | 2.40 |
| North Curry V.Hall - Hire 10/11 & 24/11 Inv 3553 | BACS | 28.42 | 0.00 |
| North Curry V.Hall - Hire 13/10 & 27/10 Inv 3526 | BACS | 28.42 | 0.00 |
| NC Stable Charge - Elec 01/09-30/11 Inv 2021/1/08 | BACS | 64.60 | 0.00 |

12. **Precept 2022/23.** Mr Jeanes reminded all Councillors we do have to decide next month what our Precept will be for 2022/23. We have agreed an extension and highlighted again if there was anything else to consider to highlight it at the January meeting.
13. **To consider and approve valuation of buildings for insurance purposes.** Mr Jeanes explained that we should value our buildings every so many years for insurance purposes and a valuation it now due. Quotes have been obtained and sent via email to all Councillors. Mr Jeanes proposed as Greenslade Taylor Hunt gave the cheapest quote we instruct them to value the Stable, the Pavilion and Storage Shed at White Street, this was seconded by Mrs Vaughan, which was carried.

14. Correspondence. Correspondence A7186: The Vice Chairman explained we had received an email regarding a proposal for a BMX track to be installed at the Playing Fields, Greenway. Mr Turner informed the Parish Council that this is due to be discussed at the next Playing Field committee meeting. Mr Stone explained we had received an email requesting help with transport for the elderly to be able to get to Local Community Groups/Clubs. The Clerk explained she had been in touch by the Village Agent and this is exactly the type of thing they can help with. The Village Agents asked if we could suggest a monthly meeting place where they could engage with Parishioners that may require their help/advice. Mr Dennis suggest the Church it was agreed this was a good venue and the Clerk to inform the Village Agent of this idea. Somerset Bus Partnership had requested a representative from the Parish who could represent our bus route/service as it being one of the more delicate routes to keep in place. It was agreed to ask via the Pink sheet if anyone would like to volunteer.

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

Footpaths (PS): Mr Stone explained one issue regarding the path along the River Tone from New Bridge to Knapp where there are not any Bristol Gates or safely usable styles and only gates some of which are locked. Therefore, Parishioners find it hard to walk the footpath safely. Mr Stone suggested that we write to the Environment Agency and ask if they would consider to install Bristol Gates where required, all agreed.

Playing Field (AT): Mr Turner and the committee wishes to make you aware of the failure to attract new committee members even after using every method available to us for a considerable time. The existing committee (consisting of only 5 members) are able to deal with the routine running of the field and pavilion but are limited when it comes to new projects and fund raising. Should one of the present members leave for any reason the committee would become untenable. The Committee would welcome the Parish Councils thoughts it was agreed to discuss this as an item for the next meeting.

Village Hall (LT): Following Liz Turney needing to stand down as PC rep to the Village Hall committee Mr Jeanes agreed to stand in for her for the time being. Following lengthy correspondence with the Charity Commission and with their agreement the section within the Trust Provisions which governs the make-up of the committee has been updated to reflect the current and ongoing Hall users. They are currently thinking of covering over the patio area on the north side of the hall with a construction similar to the Coffee Shop veranda and also to build a better storage shed to replace the current wooden one. Both of these should be eligible for part-funding with 106 money.

Tree Warden (PS): Mr Stone he was busy after the storm and went around the village attending any fallen trees and debris.

Stable (BJ): A fire risk assessment was carried out on Monday by Safefire; we are awaiting their written report which will probably outline some measures which need to be taken to ensure the safety of the various users. The drainage issue in the car park is being addressed by Chris Burnham and should be satisfactorily completed today (Tuesday, 7th).

Facebook (MW): For the period – 9th November 2021 – 7th December 2021 Page Followers – 285, previously 283, Page Likes – 235, previously 233 – continued gradual increase 17 posts this period, but I have included 4 posts from 8th & 9th November as the reaches for these went up by 450 since my last report. We had 2,610 people reached at an average of 124 per post and 215 total engagements. The most popular post was for North Curry Youth Football Club at 237.

16. Publicity Inputs. Happy New Year to ALL Parishioners, Village Agent explain their service, reminder for School New Applications due January 2022, Somerset Bus Partnership request for volunteer representative and drains and gulley's to remind Parishioners to keep the gulley's clear.

17. Matters for Discussion.

Mr Dennis asked about the field next to the river bank across the moor why it is left in such a mess. After a discussion it was agreed to write to the Environment Agency and the Contractors to find out what is happening to the field in the future. Mrs Vaughan raise a questions from Mrs Leader ; she asked if the adverts are taken out of the Parish magazine as she felt it only fair to leave them in when placing on our Facebook page, however, after a discussion it was confirmed they are kept in. Mr Fugett suggested that after the recent ceremony in Queens Square Garden maybe we could consider more of a permanent gazebo/structure for a shelter and bring it in line for an idea for the Queens Platinum Jubilee. It was agreed to add it to the list of ideas for the Jubilee. Mr Turner explained he had now met Jan from Fusion Fostering to confirm that the planting will take place to cover the gaps in the hedge around the car park.

There being no further matters to discuss the meeting was closed at 10.18pm.