

Minutes of the North Curry Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 12th January 2022 at North Curry Village Hall (Main Hall)

Present or comments received: Mr P Stone (Vice Chairman), Mr M Dennis, Mr B Jeanes, Mr A Turner, Miss E Turney Mrs C Vaughan, Mrs H Griffiths, Cllr D Fothergill.

4 Members of the public.

1. PRELIMINARIES

To receive and approve apologies for absence. Mrs C Stodgell (Chairman), Mr G Cable, Mr I Fugett, Mrs J Leader, Ms C Smith, Mr M Wilkins, Cllr S Buller and Cllr B Hall.

Approve and sign minutes for the previous meeting dated: 8th December 2021. Mr Turner proposed that the minutes were a true record of the meeting, this was seconded by Mrs C Vaughan, 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 Turner declared an interest in item 3. Planning regarding Mr R Case planning appeal.

2. Matters Arising:

Policing Matters: The PCSO had circulated the monthly newsletter which had been seen sent to all Councillors.

Flooding Matter: Mrs Vaughan had circulated her report and explained the drain jetting had been completed at the Shambles to improve the reoccurring flooding problems near the Post Office. The flood gate over the Lyng side of the moor has finally been fixed.

Trees Church Road: Mr Stone explained that some progress had been made, a planning application has been registered and we are in receipt of the planning notice 24/22/0002/T. He explained the application and the proposed work. Mr Stone proposed we support the application and be guided by the tree officer as comments, this was seconded by Mr Turner, which was carried.

Permitted usage and related signage of footpaths to Lockyer's Field and Loscombe Meadows: Mr Jeanes explained he had sent his report and picture of the proposed sign to all Councillors. Lockyer's Field Committee are happy with the signs as long as it is not in sight of their homes. He suggested an A4 size sign was required. After discussion, Mr Turner proposed to order two A4 plastic signs to put up in Lockyer's Field with a light green background and black writing. The signs to read No Horses, Pedestrians and Cyclists Please share with Care, with a ceiling of £100 for costs, this was seconded by Mrs Vaughan which was carried. Mr Stone explained he has contacted Loscombe Meadows regarding the signs and communications are still ongoing.

A358: The Vice Chairman explained Mr Lander had received a response from the National Highways regarding his previous letter and explained that Mr Lander was taking up the offer of a one to one meeting. The Vice Chairman suggested either he or the Chairman should attend this meeting too and it was agreed to contact Mr Lander to see if this was possible.

Church Bells Appeal: The Vice Chairman explained that legally it is quite complicated regarding the Parish Council donating/sponsoring the Church Bell Appeal and we are still in the process of gathering information to access if it will be possible. It was agreed to make the Church Bells Appeal an Agenda items at the next meeting and pull more information together to debate at the next meeting.

County Cllr. Report – weekly updates being forwarded by email (see attached) Mrs Vaughan asked about the recycling scheme relating to COVID items mask gloves, etc. which was reported on the news and if it could be introduced in the county. Cllr D Fothergill agreed to follow this up.

7.55pm: Mrs H Griffiths arrived at the meeting.

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

24/21/0059 Removal of Condition No. 03 (agricultural occupancy) of application 24/87/0010 at New House, Mill Farm, Wrantage. Mr Turner explained the planning application and its location. He showed the comments sent in by North Curry Parish Council on a previous planning application similar to the current one in 2015 where the Parish Council objected to the application. He explained there was a lot of comments submitted objecting to the application, wanting to keep low cost affordable agricultural property in the Parish. After discussion Mr Turner proposed to object to the granting of permission as the Parish Council wishes the property to remain available for agricultural usage as it considers there is still a local need for affordable homes for those working in agriculture in the area, this was seconded by Mr Jeanes, which was carried. (1 abstained).

24/21/0031 Appeal by Mr R Case: Replacement of barn with the erection of 1 No. dwelling at Birds Farm, Higher Knapp Lane, Knapp, North Curry (amended scheme to 24/19/0027). Mr R Case was present at the meeting. Mr Turner left the room having declared an interest. The Vice Chairman of planning Mrs Vaughan took over, she explained the appeal and the location of Bird Farm. Permission had been granted previously of a smaller property to be built and a further application had been submitted for a bigger property and this application was refused. Mr Case explained the reason for his appeal. After much discussion, the Vice Chairman proposed North Curry Parish Council would not support the appeal, as nothing had been altered from the original application that had been refused by South West and Taunton planning, this was seconded by Mr Jeanes, but defeated by 2 for and 4 against. The counter proposal was proposed by Miss Turney seconded by Mr Dennis and carried by 4 for and 2 against.

8.20pm Mr R Case left the meeting. Mr Turner re-joined the meeting.

24/21/0061 Change of use, conversion and alteration of redundant agricultural buildings into ancillary accommodation with demolition of sun room and erection of a two storey extension and change of use of land from agricultural to residential at Goulds Farm, Stoke Road, North Curry. Mr Osborn was present at the meeting. Mr Turner explained the application and location. The application was to re-vamp the old farm house and to turn a section in to a residential plot which includes the house annexe and drive into the house and annexe. After discussion, Mr Turner proposed we support the application, this was seconded by the Vice Chairman, which was carried.

8.40pm Mr Osborn left the meeting.

Mr Turner explained we had received correspondence regarding: 24/21/0054/CQ Withdrawal of application – Prior approval for proposed change of use from agricultural building to dwelling house (Class C3) and associated building operations to the barn at Orchard Farm, Higher Knapp Lane, Knapp, North Curry and we had received a late planning application 24/22/001/T Works to Purple Birch tree at Guyan Cottage, Church Road, North Curry. The application was to trim some branches from the tree to keep it maintained, Mr Turner proposed to support the application providing the Local Authority Tree Officer is satisfied with the work, and this was seconded by Mr Dennis, which was carried.

- 4. To discuss and decide on the purchase and erection of SIDS in the Parish.** The Vice Chairman explained he had contacted Kate Brown at Somerset County Council for the second location of the SID and was awaiting a reply. The Clerk to add as an Agenda item for further discussion at February meeting.
- 5. To discuss and approve the second stage of Fingerpost refurbishments and costs.** The Vice Chairman explained he had circulated the quotes to all Councillors for the second phase of refurbishment for the Fingerpost signs at Knapp, Helland and the one at Thornfalcon. The Vice Chairman proposed that we go ahead with all the schemes using Somerset Forge as per his report, this was seconded by Mr A Turner, which was carried.
- 6. To discuss and approve costs for Bus Shelter at Oxen Lane.** The Vice Chairman explained he had sent out information to all regarding two quotations received for the groundworks for the Bus Shelter. After discussion the Vice Chairman proposed we ask Mr R Case to do the work as per his quotation, this was seconded by Mr B Jeanes, which was carried.
- 7. Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations progress report.** Mr M Dennis reported work has been ongoing towards the arrangements of the jubilee celebrations, Mrs C Vaughan has been talking to various volunteers, Mr Dennis has now registered the one beacon for North Curry Parish. He suggested we deal with the arrangements of the Beacon initially, hopefully to incorporate fund raising for the Church Bells and come to the next meeting with a plan for the evening. Mrs C Vaughan explained she had liaised with volunteers and the suggestions for the celebrations are the Beacon on the Friday, Parishioners to have their own gatherings on the Saturday and Sunday to hold the Jubilee Lunch at the Greenway Playing Fields, where people bring their own lunch, with music provided. Mrs Vaughan has liaised with Lady Mary Stuart Wilson, she would like to see something visible placed in the Parish to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Mrs Wilson suggested a plaque which she is happy to donate but the question was raised where to place it. After a discussion it was suggested to place it on a Parish Building, in queens Square Gardens or even in the centre of the Pepper pot on a plinth but investigate the possibilities with Heritage Services and bring findings to the next meeting for discussion.
- 8. Farmers/Contractor's tractor activity throughout the village update.** Mr M Dennis explained Mr Stone had started conversation with Stoke St Gregory Parish Council to see if they would like to be included

in future talks regarding tractor activity within the Parishes. Mr Dennis had been in touch with the NFU to start up dialogue and he would directly contact the local Farmers and Contractors inviting them. He suggested the meetings should be regular talks not just one off conversation, all agreed.

- 9. To discuss North Curry Sports Ltd application using S106 Grant monies.** The Vice Chairman had requested to add this to the next Agenda when more information has been gathered.
- 10. Playing Fields Committee.** Mr A Turner (Playing Field representative) suggested once Mr M Wilkins had placed the recruitment campaign for more members on Facebook, further discussions can then take place.
- 9.00am Cllr D Fothergill left the meeting.**
- 11. Finance: Monthly Bank Report, Payment List:**

Monthly Report: The Clerk presented the monthly report, the Vice Chairman proposed the report was a true record, this was seconded by Mr T Turner, which was carried.

Payment List: The Clerk presented the Payment List below and explained that the Zoom payment had been cancelled and removed from the Monthly Payment List for January 2022. Mr Jeanes proposed to approve the Payment list, this was seconded by Miss E Turney, which was carried.

Monthly Payment List - January 2022	Cheque No.	Total	VAT
Clerk-Maria Perry - January 2022	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 January 2022	S/O	11.99	2.40
White Street - annual grass cutting - Grant	BACS	500.00	0.00
Greenway Playing Fields - grass cutting - Grant	BACS	225.00	0.00
NCVH - Printing of Pink sheet July-Dec 2021 Inv 3022	BACS	245.00	0.00
North Curry V.Hall - Hire 08/12 Inv 3571	BACS	14.21	0.00
Amazon 20mph bin stickers reimburse to M`Perry	BACS	31.47	0.00
GTH - Valuation Fees for White ST & Stable Inv 22769	BACS	300.00	60.00
HMRC - NI & PAYE + Stable tax	BACS	78.00	0.00

- 12. Precept 2022/23.** The draft Precept had been circulated to all Councillors. A discussion was raised asking if the signpost and election figures should be amended. It was eventually agreed to keep them as per the draft proposal. Mr Jeanes proposed to keep the Precept figure for 2022-23 as £19,000, this was seconded by Mrs Vaughan, which was carried. The Clerk to complete and send off the Precept Form.
- 13. Opening up safely and Reconnecting Communities Fund (Stage 3).** The Vice Chairman explained we had received correspondence regarding the third stage of the grant. The Clerk was ask to send the criteria and application form out to all Councillors for their information. He explained the closing date was the end of January 2022 and asked for further project ideas for the funding.
- 14. Correspondence.**

A7260 – Mrs Vaughan raised the issue of the slippery path in Church Road which was already highlighted in Mrs Ryan’s email, she informed the Councillors a couple of parishioners had slipped on the path in the last week it was agreed the clerk to arrange Somerset County Council to clean urgently.

A7210 – Local Advisory Government Advisory Board meeting to be attended by the Clerk and one Councillors.

A7211 – SALC re Online Meetings petition, It was agreed to support having Parish Council meetings remotely and to sign the petition, the Clerk to action.

A7212 – SCC Community Buildings Team Omicron Hospitality & Leisure Grant – email forwarded to relevant bodies.

A7213 – Climate Emergency Community Fund – Free Energy Survey this is a grant for one Parish building to have free of charge an energy survey and recommendations for improvements; it was agreed the Village Hall to be asked initially because it is the largest building, Mr Jeanes was asked as the representative to approach them and report back the outcome.

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

Footpaths (PS) Mr Stone informed the council we had received two notifications that the footbridge at Newport is damaged. It has rotten timbers on the walkway and in need of repair. Mr Stone has reported the damage and has requested for the repairs to be done. He suggested the Clerk to chase the request.

Allotments (JL) The Clerk explained she is in the process of hiring two plots at Greenway.

Stable (BJ): Following the fire risk assessment carried out in December by Safefire, we are still awaiting their written report outlining any measures which need to be taken to ensure the safety of the various users. A meeting with them is to be arranged. The drainage issue in the car park has been satisfactorily completed. Mr Jeanes informed the Council of the outcome of the valuations carried out by Greenslade Taylor Hunt on the Stable and the White Street Pavilion and Garage. They valued the Stable at £500,000 the White Street Pavilion at £420,000 the Clerk to inform Zurich Insurance of the updated reinstatement values.

Flood Warden (CV) Mrs Vaughan asked if we could chase the mobile flood sign to stop drivers travelling down Moor Lane when the moor is flooded, the Clerk to follow up.

North Curry Sports. (PS) Mr Stone informed us Mr & Mrs Sutton have resigned from the Youth football after 10 years and Youth Football are looking for suitable replacements.

Wildlife Group (PS) Mr Stone has done an article on Mistletoe and Orchards for the Parish Magazine.

Speedwatch (AM) Speedwatch have now resumed and have been seen on two sites in the village.

Facebook (MW): For the period – 7th December 2021-11th January 2022

Page Followers – 295, previously 285, Page Likes – 245, previously 235 – continued gradual increase.

17 posts this period, but I have included 4 posts from 3rd-8th December as the reaches for these went up by 162 since my last report. We had 2,965 people reached at an average of 141 per post and 351 total engagements. By far the most popular post was for roadworks on Windmill Hill at 760 views and a further 161 engagements. It is encouraging that although this was the Christmas period, more parishioners are using the Facebook page.

16. Publicity Inputs.

Cllr Fothergill - Appeal for Medical equipment to be returned.

Request to stop riding horses on footpaths and dog waste to be picked up and disposed in bins provided or black bins at home.

Ask Parishioners to pick up any litter/recycling left behind by the collectors in error and place in their own bins ready for the next collection.

17. Matters for Discussion.

Mr Jeanes reported he had turned off the water supply to all the Allotments. He noticed at the Loscombe allotment the hinges are ceased to the wooden door of the box the tap is in, he asked if the Parish Council were happy if he carried on and fixed the problem, all Councillors agreed.

There being no further matters to discuss the meeting was closed at 09.35pm.