

Minutes of the North Curry Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 09th February 2022 at North Curry Village Hall (Main Hall)

Present or comments received: Mrs C Stodgell (Chairman) Mr P Stone (Vice Chairman), Mr M Dennis, Mr B Jeanes, Mr A Turner, Mr G Cable, Mr I Fugett, Mrs C Vaughan, Mrs H Griffiths, Ms C Smith, Cllr D Fothergill.

2 Members of the public.

The Chairman explained item 10 on the Agenda regarding the Stables recommendations of rent and service levels will be discuss in a closed committee at the end of the meeting, when non Councillors will be asked to leave.

1. PRELIMINARIES

To receive and approve apologies for absence. Mrs J Leader, Mr M Wilkins, Ms E Turney, Cllr S Buller and Cllr B Hall.

Approve and sign minutes for the previous meeting dated: 12th January 2022. Mr Jeanes proposed that the minutes were a true record of the meeting, this was seconded by Mr P 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): **NONE.**

2. Matters Arising:

Flooding Matters: Mr Meehan asked on behalf of the Post Office who to contact on the council regarding flooding outside the shop the Chairman confirmed Mrs C Vaughan or Cllr D Fothergill. Mrs C Vaughan agreed to contact Mr Prosser.

Trees Church Road: Mr Stone explained the planning application has been received by Somerset West and Taunton Planning and we are awaiting a decision before the work on the trees can commence.

Bus Shelter Oxen Lane: Mr P Stone explained the contract has been agreed for the groundworks of the bus shelter and the Clerk has been chasing a lead time for when the works will commence. Mr P Stone also confirmed the second stage fingerpost signs contract has also been agreed and waiting works to commence.

Farmers/Contractors tractor activity throughout the village: Mr Stone confirmed he had been in contact with Stoke St Gregory Parish Council regarding joining in the discussions with all parties involved in the proposed discussion group, the invite was declined. Mr Dennis explained he had been in touch with the NFU and the liaison officer agreed to contact the farmers and he will also continue to work towards engaging talks.

Climate Emergency Fund Survey: Mr Jeanes explained the application for the survey for the Village Hall was almost complete and he will send it to the clerk to send off in due course.

Poppy Wreaths: Corr A7231. The Chairman explained Mr Franks was asked when the poppy wreaths will be removed from the War memorial. After a discussion, it was agreed by the Council, as they still look good and other Parishes are still leaving wreaths on display, we will remove them once they start to look tired. Mrs C Vaughan agreed to take them off once they start to deteriorate.

Allotments: The Chairman explained Mr Leader has recently taken on an allotment in Loscombe Meadows and he has asked if he can erect a greenhouse on the plot. The details of the greenhouse had been forward to all Councillors. After a discussion, Mr Jeanes proposed we agree only one Greenhouse can be erected on a plot no larger than 8ft X 6ft with polycarbonate glazing;, this was seconded by Mr P Stone, which was carried. The Chairman proposed the greenhouse frame should be made of aluminium, this was seconded Ms C Smith, which was carried. Mr Leader asked if poly tunnels were permitted on allotment plots it was agreed that cloches can be used and not poly tunnels.

Other Matters Arising: Mr B Jeanes confirmed the signs for the Lockyers Field footpath have arrived and been mounted. He explained the tap box at Loscombe Meadows is crumbling and he was not able to fit the replacement hinges for the door on the box, but he will work out a solution to protect the tap. The Chairman thanked Mr Jeanes for his work.

County Cllr. Report: weekly updates being forwarded by email (see attached)

3. To discuss and decide on the purchase and erection of SIDS in the Parish. The Chairman introduced Mr Meehan and thanked him for all his work including the updated report regarding SIDs, which was sent out to all Councillors. Mr Meehan explained the SIDs system in great detail and the regulations of having them in situ within the Parish. As the Speedwatch representative he stressed the need of something to deter the vast amount of speeding that occurs in the village. The current proposal is to purchase two

devices located in the entrance of Canterbury Drive looking down towards Stoke Road and the other one at the junction of Greenway by The Pavement. The estimated cost of both SIDs is approx. £5,000 the SIDs will flash asking motorist to slow down but other variations will be available, further on going costs would be to find someone to carry out the data download and to change the batteries as required. Mr Meehan suggested that we purchase one SID initially to see how things go with a view of purchasing the other at a later date. The Chairman proposed we set a budget of £5,000 to purchase one solar SID initially at a cost of £2,500, to be located at Canterbury Drive, this was seconded by Mr P Stone, which was carried.

8.10pm Mr G Dart Arrived at the meeting.

8.15pm Mr A Meehan left the meeting.

4. **Church Bells Appeal:** The Chairman welcomed Mr G Dart from the Church Bells Committee. After much debate regarding the appeal. Mr Jeanes proposed in view of the community benefit gained from the refurbishment of the bells and bell frame in the parish church this council considers it appropriate to purchase a bell (the Jubilee Bell) for £10,000 from s137 funds under the provisions of the Local Government Act 2011, this was seconded by the Chairman, which was carried. Mr Jeanes also proposed that this money is to be held until such times the appeal target is reached and the contract has been commissioned, this was seconded by the Chairman, which was carried.
5. **Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations progress report.** Mr Dennis explained the Jubilee committee and Rev Simon Bale had a meeting held at Nythe Farm to discuss basic plans and to ensure there was no duplication of ideas or dates. He confirmed the Beacon was registered for Thursday 2nd June 2022 and arrangements were ongoing for the plans for the Beacon Celebrations. There is a specific Agenda that can be adopted if deemed necessary. The plan is to make the Beacon Celebration as a fundraising event towards the Church Bells Appeal. He explained the idea was raised, after the Beacon had been lit, to eventually plant a Willow Crown in the same location. Other possible events for the rest of the jubilee weekend are as follows:
 Friday 4th June – Church Service to be confirmed.
 Saturday 5th June - Open Gardens/do your own thing.
 Sunday 6th June – Big Jubilee Posh Lunch at the Greenway Playing Fields.
 He explained the North Curry Society has been in contact as they wished to donate a footpath map to the Parish to mark the Celebrations. After much discussion, it was agreed to place a small itinerary in the Pink Sheet to advertise the proposed events and to confirm further details are to be announced. The Chairman thanked Mr Dennis and Mrs Vaughan for all their hard work.
6. **May 2022 Election:** The Chairman explained due to the process of the Somerset Unitary of all district Councils, the elections have been brought forward this year to May 2022, although this is subject to the Unitary bill being passed by the Government 14th March 2022. In a previous meeting the Parish Council agreed to bring forward our Councillor elections to fall in line with Somerset Unitary. She explained the clerk will receive the application forms and she will pass to all Councillors and any Parishioners who may be interested in becoming a Councillor. Once the forms are completed each Councillor has to submit their application by hand to Somerset County Council. The position will be for a five year period to fall in sync with the usual election dates. Mr Jeanes proposed that we should advertise for new Councillors to encourage them to join the Parish Council to ensure we have a full council. It was agreed for the Clerk to action the article for the Pink Sheet.
7. **To discuss North Curry Sports Ltd application using S106 Grant monies.** Mr P Stone informed the council North Curry Sport Ltd has no progress with applying for monies for maintenance machinery. After discussion, it was suggested initially North Curry Sport Ltd should apply for the S106 Grant and then come back to the Council if further help is required.
8. **To discuss Allotment agreements and rent for 2022/23.** The Chairman explained the clerk had sent out a copy of the present Allotment Contract Agreement for their information. She proposed we consider updating the annual agreement to an ongoing agreement to save on time and costs each year. The new contract to include charging a returnable deposit, annual rent and introducing a notice of agreed period of notice to vacate the plot. The Chairman and Mr B Jeanes will prepare the wording of a new document (to be checked by the solicitor) and bring the revised documents for the next meeting for approval, this was second by Mr P Stone, which was carried.

- 9. To receive report from the Stable Committee re Fire Risk Assessment and consider related decisions and costs.** Mr B Jeanes explained he had sent the report out to everyone, the fire risk assessment was carried out recently and several issues were raised. After discussion, Mr B Jeanes proposed the Parish Council should be the responsible person to for the fire management policy required, this was seconded by Mr Turner, which was carried (1 abstained). Mr B Jeanes explained there are several things that have to be done to comply with the risk assessment such as fire doors, fire extinguishers and servicing, fire safety training plus the initial fire assessment cost of £300 the Stable Committee have agreed to pay these initial costs. Mr Turner proposed to the Parish Council to continue to comply with the fire risk assessment the Stable Committee will pay the costs. However, this will affect the usual £5k Annual transfer to the Parish Council this year will change to approx. £4k depending on total costs involved and requested the Parish Council to sanction this agreement, this was seconded by Mr B Jeanes, which was carried.
- 10. To consider the Stable committee's recommendations on Rent and service Charge levels for the coming year.** Mr Jeanes explained usually the Annual Rent increase is decided in January every year and implement with effect from the 1st April. This year the rent increase should have increased by 5.4%, however, the Stable Committee recommended we waive the increase this year due to the pandemic. After discussion Mr B Jeanes proposed we keep the rent the same for 2022/23, this was seconded by Mrs T Stodgell voted 5 for 4 against, which was carried. Mr Jeanes proposed that the Service Charge should go up by 10%, this was seconded by Mrs C Vaughan, which was carried.
- 11. Update on electric vehicle chargers at the village hall.** Mr Jeanes explained he is still awaiting updated quotes for the electric chargers. He also explained there is a £1,500 grant available from Somerset West and Taunton Council but the project has to be completed and paid for by the end of March 2023 to qualify.
- 12. Finance Monthly Bank Report, Payment List:**
- Monthly Report:** The Clerk presented the monthly report, the Chairman proposed the report was a true record, this was seconded by Mr B Jeanes, which was carried.
- Payment List:** The Clerk presented the Payment List below. Mr Jeanes proposed to approve the Payment List, this was seconded by Mrs C Vaughan, which was carried. The Chairman explained that the Clerks salary increase for 2021-22 had not yet been agreed by SALC and Mr Jeanes added hopefully this will be agreed in time to discuss at next the Finance Panel Meeting. The Clerk explained we had received the renewal documents for The Countryside Charity membership, the fee being £36.00. After discussion the Chairman proposed to pay the renewal of £36, this was seconded by Mrs C Vaughan, which was carried.

Monthly Payment List - February 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
North Curry V.Hall - Hire 12/01 & 26/01 Inv 3596	BACS	28.42	0.00

- 13. Correspondence. A7230-A7233 covered above. Corr: A7234** letter from Somerton Town Council re "Heart of the Levels" explaining we do not fall within the Local Area Network boundary and the next meeting has been postponed. Ms Smith queried the Cambridge and Counties why the reduction in interest rates.
- 14. Committee /Delegate reports –** (Please send written reports prior to the meeting and these will be included on the minutes.)
- Footpaths (PS):** Mr P Stone explained there is still a problem with the footbridge at Newport, 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.
- Village Hall (BJ): Mr Jeanes reported at the** committee meeting last week it was mentioned they are registering an Expression of Interest with SWT to apply for s106 funding towards the replacing of the wooden shed behind the Hall with a block/brick building. The AGM for 2022 will be in June this year the date to be confirmed and the intention is to bring the AGM back to April which generally is the usual

time. They have successfully applied for a government grant of £2,667 to offset some losses due to the pandemic.

Tree Warden: Mr P Stone he explained he had sent a picture of the Silver Birch Tree to everyone to report a parishioner had asked him to look at the tree and advise if work was required, he found nothing wrong with it and no maintenance work was required.

Allotments (JL) The Clerk explained she had hired out another plot at Greenway and has one more quarter plot to sort out.

North Curry Sports. (PS) Mr Stone informed us North Curry Sport Ltd have recently restored the old cricket roller.

Wildlife Group (PS). Mr P Stone explained the Wassail Gathering which took place a couple weeks ago was well attended.

Speedwatch (AM) Mr P Stone explained he had given out all the 20mph stickers to go on some bins within the Parish.

Facebook (MW): For the period – 11th January to 8th February

Page Followers – 306, previously 295, Page Likes – 253, previously 245 – continued gradual increase 23 posts this period, but the SCC briefing won't count as it only went in today. There were also an additional 111 who looked at posts from the previous period.

We had 4,030 people reached at an average of 184 per post and 1014 engagements. By far the most popular post was for roadworks on Stoke Rd at 1,600 views and a further 689 engagements (and it was only posted yesterday). It is clear that residents value the road work reports.

Mr Turner highlighted Mr Wilkins asked what was required to post on Facebook regarding the appeal for help for Village organisations, he suggested we post on Facebook asking more people to spare some time for organisations in the village who desperately need their help/support such as The Pavilion, Green Way, Village Hall, Coffee Shop and North Curry Sports Ltd.

15. Publicity Inputs.

Library Books Appeal for the return of books (no fees to pay)

Green Home Grant

Jubilee Schedule.

Advertise Elections May 2022

16. Matters for Discussion.

The Clerk explained the printer in the office was not working correctly, the ink was smudging and not sticking to the paper. She explained that she used compatible cartridges and drums and wondered if this could be the problem perhaps consider buying a new belt. After discussion the Chairman proposed we replace all compatible items with Brother parts, this was seconded by Mr Jeanes, which was carried. The Clerk explained a Parishioner came in to the office to ask about some red white and blue bunting which was made for the last jubilee she requested if it could be found and put up in the village hall for the Queens Jubilee Platinum Celebrations and explained she thought it was stored under the cupboards in the office. The Clerk to investigate to find the bunting and pass to the Village Hall. Mr P Stone explained Mr Male has raised the issue of a bench to be placed on the corner of 9 Acre Lane and Loscombe Meadows around to the right. Mr Stone suggested we talk to the Loscombe Meadows Committee initially for their thoughts. Mrs C Vaughan raised the issue of car parking outside the old people's bungalow on Moor Lane and is there anything we can do. After discussion it was agreed to ask people to park more considerately Mrs C Vaughan agreed to action. Mr Dennis raised the issue of cars parking on the junction at White Street saying it is getting more dangerous.

Ms C Smith raised the issue of CCTV on a footpath down from the old Wheelwrights at the top of Stone Hill on the right going towards Taunton and to ensure the Councillors were aware of the impact of a big barn being erected on the Wrantage road, it was noted that planning permission had been granted for the barn. Mr I Fugett highlighted he had seen electric fencing covering footpaths in a field where sheep are kept. Fusion Fostering have planted lots of plants to improve the hedge surrounding the car park

There being no further matters to discuss the meeting was closed at 10.04 pm.