

**Minutes of the North Curry Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at North Curry Village Hall (Meeting Room)**

**Present or comments received:** Mrs C Stodgell (Chairman) Mr P Stone (Vice Chairman), Mr M Dennis, Mr B Jeanes, Mrs C Vaughan, Mrs J Leader, Mrs H Griffiths, Mr I Fugett, Mr A Turner, Mr G Cable, Cllr David Fothergill (County Councillor), Cllr Sue Buller (District Councillor)

**Maria Perry (Clerk) and 4 Members of the public**

**1. PRELIMINARIES.**

**To receive and approve apologies for absence.** Mr M Wilkins, Ms C Smith.

**Approve and sign minutes for the previous meeting dated: 09<sup>th</sup> March 2022.** Mr Jeanes highlighted on page 2026 item 3 Queens Platinum Jubilee progress report, initials were used LC and this should be amended to the full name Liz Cruickshank and Mrs Leader highlighted on page 2028 Item 11 Finance Payment List is states "Mrs Leader enquires" which is incorrect and all agreed to amend the minutes to say "An enquiry" . Mr P Stone proposed the minutes were an accurate record of the meeting this was seconded by Mrs H Griffiths, 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 Payment List.

**2. Matters Arising:**

**Policing Matters.** The Clerk explained she had a visit from the PCSO Tony Wearmouth and Steve Chapman, they requested if they could use the Parish office and toilet facilities at The Stable, all agreed they could. The PCSO's requested we emailed them with any issues within the Parish for them to be aware of. It was suggested they could park on the road outside the Stable so Parishioners are aware of their presence and to help slow down the traffic. Mr Meehan confirmed that the PCSO's have been involved regularly in Speedwatch and that he knew some people who would like to place some money behind the counter for them to have a coffee, Mr Jeanes agreed to speak to the committee to make them aware.

**Flooding Matters.** Mrs C Vaughan confirmed there are currently no flooding matters. Mr Meehan explained he had spoken to Mr Prosser about the flooding issue and remedial works to the drains outside the Post Office and Shambles and if the work has gone any further. Cllr Fothergill agreed to investigate and get back to Mr Prosser with an update.

**Trees Church Road.** Mr P Stone updated we have received consent for the trimming of the trees and he will obtain quotes for the work to be done. The Chairman enquired about an email from Mrs Joan Ryan regarding her door and Mr Stone explained he had replied to her email but awaiting for a reply back.

**Bus Shelter Oxen Lane.** Mr P Stone explained he has marked out the position of the Bus Shelter and has sent Mr Case detailed plans of where the shelter needs to be. We are now waiting for the work to commence. The Clerk to chase.

**Farmers/Contractor's tractor activity throughout the village update.** The Chairman explained we had received correspondence from Helen Comrie (Corr: A7261) regarding the tractor activity and speed at Greenway in the village and she asked Mr Dennis how negotiations were going between the Councillors, Farmers and Contractors. Mr Dennis explained it was proving difficult to get commitment and negotiations will remain work in progress. He highlighted the fact that Environment Agency Regulations were becoming stricter on farmers with regards to manure spreading and this in turn increases the activity at certain times. He suggested he could talk to Mrs Comrie if she wishes him to do so.

**SIDS update.** The Clerk explained she was waiting for the checking of the quotation sent regarding the purchase of two SID's. Mr Meehan had checked through the details and Mr Stone suggested it would be better if both were bought at the same time to receive the discount and enabling both the agreed locations to be set up at the same time and to avoid any price increase with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2022. Additional cost involved are £200 per pole but the costs fell in to the agreed budget and Mr Meehan highlighted ongoing cost would be replacement batteries and the download of the data collected. The two locations for the SIDS are Canterbury Drive and Windmill Hill by the path at the Methodist Church.

**APM update.** The Clerk explained the invites have been sent out. The Chairman thanked Mr B Jeanes for moving the Barn Dance Group to accommodate the APM in the Main Hall for the 4<sup>th</sup> May 2022 7.30pm following a mix up with the Village Hall bookings.

**Spring Litter Pick update.** Mr Jeanes explained the Litter Pick was not well supported this time only seven people turned up but they managed to collect several bags to keep the Parish cleaner and tidier.

**Outreach Mobile Bus.** The Chairman explained the Outreach Bus is arranged for the 17<sup>th</sup> May 2022 between 10am-2pm offering advice on training and employment, she explained there is currently a problem with the bus so they will come in a car and use a gazebo in the car park. It was agreed to advertise this in the Pink Sheet, website, notice board and Facebook.

**Update on replacement of taps for dip tank.** The Clerk explained she sent letters to all allotment holders on Loscombe Meadows explaining the replacement of the tap for a dip tank. Mr Jeanes had spoken to one holder who understood why we wanted to do the above and the Clerk confirmed no other responses had been received. It was agreed to place on the next Agenda to ensure no further replies are received and then to approve for the replacement to take place.

**County Cllr. Report** – weekly updates being forwarded by email

3. **Planning Applications for comment by North Curry Parish Council. 24/22/0013/CQ Prior approval for proposed change of use from agricultural buildings to 3 No. dwellings (use Class C3) and associated building operations at Moredon, Stoke Road, North Curry.** Mr Turner explained the location and the application in depth. He explained on a previous application the front entrance to the development was a little hazardous and the resubmission of the plans now show a change to comply with these concerns. Mr Turner proposed that North Curry Parish Council supports the application and are pleased to see that the applicant has included improvements to the visibility slay in Stoke Road and we wish to see this being a condition of any planning approved, this was seconded by Mr Fugett, which was carried. 1 abstained.
  4. **Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations progress report.** Mr Dennis firstly updated the council on the Beacon Celebrations another meeting was held by the Jubilee Committee and due to the date fast approaching he shared an advert via email to all and this advert once approved to be entered in to the Pink sheet to publicise the event and its details. He explained the committee have ask for Parishioners to ring in with numbers of those who wish to attend the event and any specials needs they may have. After much discussion it was agreed to contact Zurich Insurance to inform them of the two Jubilee events even though we have received information from them that confirms we are covered providing the attendance is under 500 people. Mrs C Vaughan explained she had been contacted by Sasha Herriman who owns a company called The Common Players they were looking to perform a Queen in Wonderland as an event Mrs Vaughan spoke to Sasha Herriman to explain as it was a private business they would need to arrange the event and contact the necessary venues independently. The Clerk to email them too, to explain to do their own thing. On Sunday at the Pavilion everyone to bring their own table, chairs, gazebo, food and drink and Gary Hogg will play some music, there will be children's entertainment and competitions. It was discussed and agreed the pavilion Car park can be used but Mr Turner raised it would need to have Marshalls to ensure the correct areas are being used. It was agreed that there be no BBQ's of any kind. The Chairman thank Mr Dennis, Mrs Vaughan and all involved for all their hard work. The Jubilee plaque which is being donated by Lady Mary Stewart-Wilson was discussed, pictures of the plaque were handed around to show possible locations the Chairman proposed it would be best placed on The Stable building as it is a Community building and would be very visible to all on the front wall by the road, this was seconded by Mr I Fugett, which was carried. Mr Jeanes mentioned the possibility of having to obtain planning permission as it is in a conservation area, it was agreed for the Clerk to write to Somerset West and Taunton Planning to ask what we need to do to not break any rules. The North Curry Society have sent an email to explain that the proposed Jubilee footpath map is beyond their means and are unable to continue with the project. Mr P Stone said he would like to investigate the footpath map located in the Bus Shelter to update it and make it clearer and would come back with some details for the next meeting. Mrs Vaughan requested that we purchase a big Jubilee Flag from the Royal British Legion to fly in Queens Square Gardens throughout the Jubilee Weekend. The Chairman proposed that we purchase the Flag for the amount of £15.99, this was seconded by Mrs J Leader, which was carried. The Clerk to order.
- Cllr D Fothergill and Cllr S Buller left the meeting.**
5. **Further discussion of Allotment agreements and rent for 2023.** Mr Jeanes had previously sent all Councillors the draft Allotment agreements for 2023 for comment. He explained a deposit of £25.00 had been added to the agreement. The Chairman proposed as no further comments were made, we adopt the agreement the beginning of 2023, this was seconded by Mr G Cable, which was carried. The Clerk explained she had spoken to Mr J Boddy who would be happy to liaise with the Allotment Warden and Greenway Allotment holders to gain better

communication he asked for a list of names and contacts which was agreed and Mr P Stone said he would speak to him about the sheds on the allotments to see if they can be taken down. Mrs Williams asked if she could have a shed on her allotment which was agreed as already stated in contract she explained the location of where she will place the shed which was discussed and agreed. Mr P Stone suggested a copy of the 2023 agreement should be sent to Mr J Boddy.

6. **To discuss and agree village grass cutting tender.** The Chairman explained we are still in receipt of only one tender after inviting contractors and advertising a couple of times. Mrs Vaughan said she may know someone who may be interested in placing a tender it was agreed to wait for this tender and Mr Jeanes will kindly continue to cut the grass until we discuss again at the next meeting.
7. **Electric Vehicle update.** Mr Jeanes explained he is still struggling to get quotes one he has received today £4,000 for doing the wiring but not the unit itself, he agreed he will continue to investigate and report back next month. The Clerk to add it to the Agenda for May.
8. **To discuss Knapp Drove usage.** Mr P Stone explained we had received a complaint from the Bridleway Association regarding Huntham Lane and Knapp Drove the email was sent to Rights of way who have come back to say they are not rights of way even though an application has been put in to try and change that status. Mr Stone said the drove is well used and asked if we accept this and maybe support the Bridleway Association. All agreed for Mr P Stone to investigate further.
9. **Finance: Monthly Bank Report, Payment List and Provisional Accounts 2021-2022:** The Clerk reported the Monthly Payment List, the Chairman proposed this was a true record, this was seconded by Mrs C Vaughan, which was carried. The Clerk explained the IONOS Annual fee for this year of £144 for Domain name, Emails and Website had a loyalty discount applied of £64.64.

**Payment List:**

Monthly Payment List - April 2022	Cheque No.	Total	VAT
Clerk-Maria Perry - April 2022	BACS	647.28	0.00
Plusnet (bill not issued as yet)	DD	20.00	0.00
Service Charge	SO	115.25	0.00
IONOS monthly Hi Drive Storage fee	DD	3.00	0.60
IONOS Annual Fee for Domain Name Website etc	BACS	66.13	13.23
HMRC - NI & PAYE + Stable tax Jan Feb Mch	BACS	78.00	0.00
NC Stable Charge - Elec 01/12-28/02 Inv 2022/1/02	BACS	75.79	0.00
NC Stable Charge - Gas 01/06-28/02 Inv 2022/1/03	BACS	22.79	0.00
Kelly de Silva - re minutes for PC mtg 9th March 2022	BACS	104.00	0.00
Somerset Woods 4th Payment	BACS	140.00	0.00
NC Stable Charge - Water 25/08-24/02 Inv 2022/1/01	BACS	15.90	0.00
SALC - Preparing for Elections Event Inv 0727	BACS	20.00	0.00
North Curry V.Hall - Hire 09/03 30/003 Inv3656	BACS	28.42	0.00
B & K Jeanes - Grass cutting Mch 2022 Inv 21154	BACS	36.00	0.00

The Clerk continued the Payment list with some late invoice payments: Evolis £5016.00 for the two SIDs Unit, Post Office Stamps £34.90 and Amazon dustbin speed signs for £59.39 Mrs C Smith proposed that all payments are made, this was seconded by Mrs H Griffiths, which was carried.

**Provisional Accounts 2021-2022:** Mr B Jeanes reported on the year end draft accounts for 2021-2022. He explained the sundry spend was high and this was due to the legal fees being placed in there but will show as a separate item. He reported the provision Facilities Development Fund was quite low and proposed a transfer of £12k to be made to increase the figure to £20k to spend on anything that maybe required, this was seconded by the Chairman, which was carried. On the Balance Sheet £14k showing in the Stable Account which is an error will be investigated for when the accounts go to the next Finance Advisory Panel meeting and to the next Parish Council meeting 11<sup>th</sup> May 2022, to be signed off.

10. **To discuss and agree appointment of Internal Auditor for 2021-22.** The Chairman explained we agreed to approach Mr Owen Cullwick to become our internal auditor for 2021-22 accounts after Mrs L Hembrow stood

down, for which he agreed. The Chairman proposed that we go ahead and appoint Mr Owen Cullwick as our internal auditor, this was seconded by Mr B Jeanes, which was carried.

- 11. Correspondence.** A7263 – Somerset Archives and Local Studies requesting pictures information of events in the Parish it was suggested we contact Colin Trim and speak to Archives. It was agreed to request pictures of the Jubilee from Parishioners in the pink Sheet.

A7264 Environment Agency, the Chairman explained we sent a letter complaining about the field next to the River Bank in Curry moor and the current state of it. We have received a reply to apologise for the state of the field but they had to pull out and are hoping to return in May they assured us the once the work is complete the appropriate planting will take place to make good the field.

A7265 thank you letter from Mr Perrott, the Chairman explained she was very happy to have receive this letter from Mr Perrott who thanked us for not increasing the Precept.

A7266 email from Mrs J Williams who wrote to us about the traffic problems in Moor Lane surrounding the building works on the extension at Lantern Cottage

A7267 the Village Hall had contacted us because they want to know if they can do anything about Business vehicles parking in the Village Hall car park it was agreed to reply and suggest that they ask the owners to park at the back of the village hall rather than using spaces in front of the Village Hall

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

**Footpaths (PS)** Mr Stone confirmed the footpath at New Bridge has been repaired and he sent pictures to all.

**Playing Field (AT)** Mr Turner explained for the purpose of the Parish Council Finance committee the Pavilion is in the process of changing banks.

**Village Hall (BJ)** It has been confirmed that the application for a free energy survey of the building was successful; they are awaiting an appointment for this to be carried out.

**Tree Warden (PS)** Mr Stone explained the pollarding on new Road has now been cleared up. **Stable (BJ)** The stable are still trying to find someone who will be able to correct the failings on the fire doors as recommended by Mr Plaw of Safefire when the Fire Risk Assessment was done.

**Flood Warden (CV)** Mrs Vaughan said she will call in to see the new people who have moved in to the house on Curry Moor to get their contact numbers and explain about the flood gates. She said she will continue to be Food Warden and email her reports.

**Facebook (MW)** For the period – 9<sup>th</sup> March to 12<sup>th</sup> April

Page Followers – 311, previously 299, Page Likes – 257, previously 255 – a big jump in followers

29 posts this period. We ‘reached’ 3,742 people at an average of 130 per post and 292 engagements.

This month, the most read post was for ‘Dog mess....’. I have included posts I made today below – but no one has read them yet.

- 13. Publicity Inputs.**

Outreach Mobile Bus visit 17<sup>th</sup> May 2022 10am-2pm to go in the Pink Sheet, Facebook and Website.

Health Check for over 40’s now available.

Somerset West and Taunton Councils alert to Council Tax refund scam.

Jubilee Celebrations to ask parishioners to send in pictures of events taking place for our records.

The advert for the Jubilee beacon and a posh picnic as a separate item full page.

- 14. Matters for Discussion.**

Mr Stone requested for Agendas to put out on the Chairs for the members of public. Mrs C Vaughan asked if a budget had been agreed for the Jubilee events the Chairman confirmed a £500 had been set. Mr Fugett asked if we could report the pot holes on Moor Lane, the Clerk to report this and rubbish has been left at the far end of Moor Lane just by the small bridge in the layby. He asked who purchased Tea, coffee and sugar, milk and biscuit for the APM, the Clerk to arrange. The Chairman gave special thanks to Mrs C Vaughan, Mrs J Leader and Miss E Turney for all their hard work in the council and mentioned they could still be co-opted if they changed their mind. Mrs Vaughan mentioned Mrs R Hill is interested in becoming a Councillor.

**There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed 10.00pm**