

Minutes of the North Curry Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 9th March 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, Ms C Smith, Mrs J Leader, Mrs H Griffiths, Mr I Fugett, Mr A Turner, Mr G Cable, Mr M Wilkins, Cllr David Fothergill (County Councillor), Cllr Sue Buller (District Councillor)

Kelly de Silva (Stand in Clerk) and 1 Member of the public

1. PRELIMINARIES

To receive and approve apologies for absence. Ms E Turney, Cllr B Hall

Approve and sign minutes for the previous meeting dated: 9th February 2022. Mrs C Stodgell proposed the minutes were an accurate record of the meeting; PS seconded the motion, 1 abstained, 9 in favour; **Motion carried.** The minutes are signed by the Chair.

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: Mrs Stodgell refers to correspondence **A7426** from PCSO Tony Wearmouth regarding a break in and theft within the village 3 weeks ago. Mrs Vaughan states members of the community should remain vigilant citing an image of the perpetrators has been published by the Police.

Flooding Matter: Nothing to report.

Trees Church Road: Mr Stone reports planning application 24/22/0001/T has been approved (10/01/22) to carry out management works to one 'Purple Birch Tree' within the conservation area on Church Road. PS states caution must be exercised with the amount of pruning to the tree and agreed to supervise contractors carrying out the works.

Bus Shelter – Oxen Lane: Mr Stone reports no response on a lead time has been received, despite being chased by the Clerk. Mrs Stodgell expresses it was hoped the bus shelter works would commence before the end of March.

Farmers/Contractors tractor activity throughout the village: Mr Dennis reports he has left voicemails with one of the local farmers who appears not willing to engage and the NFU Liaison Officer has done the same, but he stressed will continue to engage in communications.

SIDS Update: Mr Stone reports a communication has been sent today (09-03-22). Mr Stone informs SCC Highways recommended consulting residents in the proposed Greenway Junction for the SID – this has raised 2 objections from local residents. He continues there may be 2 other possible locations; outside the Stable – but this central location does not resolve the issues along Windmill or by the 20mph sign by Chapel Close; but both could have implications due to parking, telegraph poles, issues with SCC Highways and require a further TPO. Cllr. Fothergill agrees if the zone is moved or extended, it will require another TPO. Cllr Fothergill recommends either discussing with the objectors to possibility of a 12month leeway period for the installation to commence or relocate the SID further up the hill and set to 30mph slowing vehicles down before the 20mph zone. **Mr Stone to discuss the options with Mr Meehan**

SALC Grant Funding: Mr Stone reports the grant application for £1,500 to SALC has been awarded towards the renovation of the finger sign posts in the Parish. Mrs Stodgell expresses gratitude to Mr Stone for his work on the matter.

County Councillor Report: Weekly updates being forwarded by email, please see attached.

3. Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations Progress Report

Mr Dennis reports plans for the Jubilee celebrations are progressing well, citing Liz Chruikshank has expressed a keen interest to assist with the beacon event; with an itinerary currently being planned. Mr Dennis confirms this will be circulated to the PC with identification of any obstacles that may arise. Mr Dennis informs the fund raising of this event will contribute to the Jubilee Bell. Mrs Vaughan reports plans for the 'Big Lunch' are well underway with Music entertainment now sourced. Mrs Vaughan informs the Punch and Judy show is regrettably unavailable for the event, but alternative games are being discussed with proposals of competitions for the 'best crown' and the 'best dressed table'. Mrs Vaughan reports there has not been a response from Somerset Heritage with regards to the proposed Commemorative Plaque. There has been some issues identified with listed building consent for the installation of the plaque at the Pepper pot and suggests an alternative location such as Queensway Gardens may require to be considered depending on further discussions of the project.

4. **Annual Parish Meeting Preparations for 4th May 2022.** Mrs Stodgell reports it is the first time in 2 years the APM has been able to be held on the historical date of the first Wednesday in May. She requests invitations and report requests are issued in the near future. Reports should be requested from the following village groups – NC School, PCC, Village Hall, Playing Fields committee, NC Football club, NC Cricket Club, and the Church Bells Committee. Mrs Stodgell requests the PCSO's should be invited to introduce themselves to the Parishioners and a talk on the bells will be arranged with a guest speaker. Mrs Stodgell asks if there are any volunteers to provide refreshments for the event. **Mr I Fugett and Mrs J Leader agree to assist with refreshments. Mr M Wilkins agrees to add the event to Social Media.**
5. **May 2022 Elections** Mrs Stodgell reports she is hoping all will stand for the May 2022 Parish Elections, but also hopes to attract some new members to the Parish Council. Mrs Stodgell informs the nomination forms to stand for election are now available through the Clerk. Cllr Buller reminds the PC nomination forms require to be returned by hand to the Electoral Officer at SWT by 4pm on the 4th of April 2022.
6. **Allotment Agreements and Rent** Mr Jeanes reports a working agreement has been circulated to the members of the PC via email proposing a possible new contract for allotment tenants 2023. Mr Jeanes informs all existing allotment holders should be required to sign a new agreement for a tenancy of 10 years with rent to be paid annually. Mr Jeanes asks the PC if a deposit should be requested from holders to ensure allotments are returned to the PC in the good condition they are provided. **Mr Jeanes proposes a deposit of £25 is requested to ensure allotments are returned to the PC in good condition, Mrs Stodgell seconds the motion; all were in favour. Motion Carried.** Mrs Vaughan questions how 'good condition' will be defined. Mr A Turner agrees citing a maintenance issue may be as a result of personal circumstances or ill health. Mrs Stodgell responds in these circumstances common sense should be applied. Mr Turner asks how the deposits will be accounted for and if they will require a separate account. Mrs Stodgell responds it should be adequate financial control to have them retained in the PC account but accounted and recorded separately. Mrs Leader requests that within the agreement a stipulation on greenhouses are included. Mrs Leader questions the use of some allotments citing they are fenced, immaculate but have an appearance more like private gardens than a working allotment. Mrs Stodgell responds the agreement cites usage of the allotments is for the primary purpose of growing food with a few flowers only acceptable. Mrs Stodgell reports a request has been submitted for a bench at the allotments, this has been declined as providing your own personal folding chair should be sufficient if a break whilst on the allotment is required. Mrs Leader enquires about the use of larger arch structures that could be used instead of canes and whether these should be permitted. Mr Jeanes responds any structures must be removable on departure of the land. Mr Jeanes advises the allotments should be allocated to tenants that reside within the village although this should not be imposed on a current holder of an allotment who have held the plot for a considerable amount of time. Mr Jeanes asks members of the PC if there is any other best practice items that should be included within the new agreement. Mrs Stodgell requests members of the PC send any queries ahead of the next meeting with the item added to the next agenda for further discussion and approval. **Members of the PC to inform Mr Jeanes of any amendments to consider, Clerk to add the item to the next agenda.** Mr Jeanes informs that current rents are sufficient to cover costs and provision of water. **Mr Jeanes proposes allotments retain the existing contract and rents are kept at the current rate, Mr Dennis seconds the motion; all were in favour. Motion Carried.**
- Mr Jeanes reports the tap box at the smaller allotments is beginning to crumble citing it is repairable, but it is not durable long-term. Mr Jeanes requests the PC consider the installation of a dip tank similar to larger allotments. Mr Turner suggests current tenants should be consulted on the matter. Ms Smith states this would deter usage of hosepipes which is not permitted. **Mr Jeanes proposes the 4 tenants of the allotments are consulted over the replacement of the tap box with a dip tank explaining the situation, water regulations and comparison to the larger allotment's usage of a dip tank. Mr Stone seconds the motion; 1 against; 9 in favour. Motion Carried. Mrs Leader to acquire the contact for the 4 allotment holders to conduct the consultation.**
7. **Purchase of Additional 20mph Bin Signs.** Mr Stone reports there have been requests from Parishioners for the PC to supply further 20 & 30 mph bin stickers. Mr Stone reports he still has a supply of the 30mph stickers. Mrs Stodgell requested a supply of some 40mph stickers for the parishioners in Wrantage. Mr Stone informs the cost approximately £30 for 18 stickers. Mr G Cable questions this use of precept citing bins are usually kept off the road for 3 weeks in between collections. Mr Fugett agrees citing it seems

like a considerable investment to be visible once every 3 weeks. Mrs Leader recommends estimating the number of properties requiring stickers and purchase 80%. **Mr Stone proposes purchasing £60 of 20mph stickers and £20 of 30mph not exceeding a cost of £100 for distribution to residents requesting them. Mrs Stodgell seconds the motion; 3 against; 7 in favour. Motion Carried.**

- 8. Spring Litter Pick** Mr Jeanes proposes holding the Spring Litter Pick on Saturday 9th April, Mrs Vaughan seconds the motion; all were in favour. **Motion Carried.** Mr Stone requests that Lillesdon is included as there is an increasing amount of litter in this area.
- 9. Village Grass Cutting Applications** Mrs Stodgell informs 3 contractors for the grass cutting have been contacted with one declining and only one responding with a quote of £70 per cut (average of 14 cuts required per year). Mr Jeanes informs he is currently charging £30, and states one quote is insufficient to make a decision on awarding the contract. Mr Turner recommends contacting the contractors used by the playing fields and John Attwood. Mr Jeanes agrees to do a final cut at an hourly rate whilst a contractor is sourced. Mr Dennis informs he may have some suggestions and will email the Clerk the details. **Mr Dennis to email Clerk possible contractor details. Clerk to contact Playing Fields contractor and John Attwood for a quote. Clerk to add the item to the next agenda**
- 10. Discuss and Approve Dog bin Quote 2022/23** Mr Jeanes reports currently the cost for the SWT invoice (included in item 11 for authorisation) is; 4 x dog bins emptied weekly at £6.00 per unit = £1,248.00 + VAT £249.60 = £1,497.60. He reports the quote obtained by the Clerk for the 2022/23 financial year would be; 4 x dog bins emptied weekly at £6.66 per unit = £1385.28 + VAT £277.06 =£1,662.34 an increase of 10%. Ms Smith states the bins were installed as a long-term arrangement with emptying costs being unavoidable. Mr Fugett cites a 10% increase considering the rises in fuel costs for the service is not a great deal. **Mr Jeanes proposes accepting the quote from SWT of £6.66 per unit, per week to empty the dog bins. Ms Smith seconds the motion; all were in favour.** Mr Dennis would like to remind people of the importance of picking up after their dog after Toxocariasis has led to 7 lambs on his farm being still born; which is a very distressing situation.

Councillor Fothergill, Councillor Buller and one member of the public leave

- 11. Finance Monthly Bank Report** Mr Jeanes reports on the bank reconciliation with amendments made for the following payments; £500.00 Grant for North Curry Sports Club, £225.00 Grant for Greenway. -£11.39 – IT clerk refunded an overpayment for the Zoom payment, £40.00 Sign for Lockyers Field footpath signs and £36.00 CPRE subscription. **Mr Jeanes proposes the report is a true record, Mrs Vaughan Seconds the motion; all were in favour**

Payment List

Monthly Payment List - March 2022	Cheque No.	Total	VAT
Clerk-Maria Perry - March 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
Water2business QSGarden 28/08/21-17/02/2022	DD	14.41	0.00
Water2business Greenway 02/09/21-21/02/2022	DD	24.64	0.00
Water2business Loscombe 02/09/21-17/02/2022	DD	13.28	0.00
North Curry Village Hall - Hire 09/02 Invoice 3625	BACS	14.21	0.00
SW&T Invoice 63793239 Dog bin Collection for the period 2021/22	BACS	1248.00	249.60

An enquiry was raised why the Village hall is listed as a DD payment rather than BACS. Mrs Stodgell informs this is a clerical error that will be amended. Mr Jeanes informs there is a payment of £12 for the Clerks Councils Direct Subscription to be included. Mr Jeanes notifies the PC of the £500 upcoming expenditure that has been agreed previously for the transferral of the Loscombe Footpath.

Mr Jeanes proposes all payments are made; Mrs Stodgell seconds the motion; all in favour. Motion Carried.

12. Correspondences

A7248 Heritage List Project – Identifying Local noteworthy buildings. Mrs C Smith suggests the Pepper pot and War memorial could be included. **All agree for the Clerk to respond.**

A7249 Road Closures – A358 16th March – 1st April – Night road Closures Knapp Road 21st March for 3 days

A7250 Outreach - Proposal to bring a bus to NC that provides training and job search information. Mrs Stodgell asks if there would be a requirement for this in the village. Ms Smith suggests publicising it in the Pink Sheet to gauge interest. **Clerk to check availability of the Village Hall Car Park for a proposed date.**

A7251 Mrs A Finn has reported a blockage on the Drove at Helland – Green Lane. Mr Stone responds this is a disputed Right of Way, although the blockage is disappointing, he is unsure of the legal position. **Mr Stone to contact SCC Rights of Way** Mr Stone reports the gates at Knapp are blocked. Although there is a horse gate, it is situated next to a ditch and could be dangerous for riders using it. Mr Stone suggests a remedial solution could be to install a fence between the gate and the ditch. Mr Fugett asks if a third post could be installed with the gates closed when moving cattle and open for the rest of the time. **Mr Stone to suggest installing a third post to SCC Rights of Way Mrs Stodgell to write to reply to Mrs A Finn.** Mr Dennis notes that as the droves have no ownership, blockages and access can be difficult to enforce. Mr Stone enquires about the proposed footpath map installation by The North Curry Society. Mrs Stodgell responds all information about the proposal has been circulated. North Curry would like to install a new footpath map to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee and have been liaising with Mr Stone. Mrs Stodgell informs the map would be consistent with the one installed at the Community Woodland. Mr Fugett suggests the path by the Church could be considered as a suitable location. **Mr Stone to liaise with the society to ascertain the proposed sizing and request it is in keeping with the existing appearance of maps currently in the village.**

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

Footpaths – Mr Stone reports he has met with the newly appointed Rights of Way Officer, Sarah Cresswell. They have highlighted several issues that require addressing including the bridge at Newport that the RoW Officer is attempting to remedy as well as issues at Rodwell Lane.

Tree Warden – Mr Stone reports the dead elms have been cleared that came down in the recent severe winds. Mrs Vaughan enquires if there has been a response from SCC Highways regarding the email sent by the Clerk informing them of the debris from the pollarded trees. Mrs Stodgell informs there has been no response. Mr Fugett informs the debris from the pollarded trees by the church have been cleared, but further up the road the debris is unacceptable; citing it is worse than the felled trees. **Clerk to contact SCC Highways to chase removal of the debris.**

Allotments – Included in agenda item 6

North Curry Sports – Mr Stone reports the new roller is working well, but the triple mower is in need of replacing. It is hoped the sports club can fund this themselves. Mr Stone reports he has recently attended one of their committee meetings and was pleasantly surprised at the size of the committee. Mr Stone has discussed with a couple of members about joining other groups in the village to provide 'new blood' and enthusiasm. They have agreed to encourage other individuals to consider joining some of the other village groups.

Wildlife Group – Mr Stone reports that Stoke St Gregory have set up an environment group that appear to be quite active and wonders whether a similar initiative could be implemented in NC – although it is very early days for this approach.

Facebook – For the period – 8th February to 8th March Page Followers – 299, previously 296, Page Likes – 255, previously 253 – continued gradual increase (I misreported followers in Feb as 306, when it should have been 296). 25 posts this period. There were also an additional **890** who looked at posts from the previous period, including 300 who looked at the Stoke Rd roadworks – taking the total to almost 2000 for that post alone We had 3,235 people reached at an average of 130 per post and 287 engagements. Again, by far the most popular posts were for roadworks, this time on Knapp Rd and Meare Green Lane.

14. Publicity Inputs

Outreach Bus Visit – if a date can be arranged as soon as possible

Dog Mess and Toxocariasis dangers to livestock

Mrs Vaughan recommends including information of the cost of maintaining the dog bins (Item 10) reiterating where the bins are located and that the cost of this provision is paid by the taxpayer's precept.

Jubilee Celebrations – Mr Dennis and Mrs Vaughan to discuss itinerary and forward to the Clerk
 Elections / availability of nomination forms from the Parish Council office
 Annual Parish Meeting
 Jubilee Bell

- 15. Matters for Discussion** Mr Dennis would like to raise the issue of the mess currently on the Curry Moor that has been left by the EA and their contractors citing it is completely unacceptable. **Clerk to contact the Environment Agency to request an update supplying information for anxious Parishioners about the objectives of the planned works, timescales, and goals Mr Jeanes to send the relevant EA contact to the Clerk.** Mr Jeanes reports a quote from T&C Taunton has been obtained for the installation of EV charging points of between £7,200 - £8,200 plus management software. It is still in a preliminary stage, but there is £2,000 grants available. Mr Fugett asks the stand in Clerk about the EV charging points installed in SSG. **KdS to obtain the information on EV Charging points and circulate to the Clerk.** Mrs Vaughan reports an obstruction of a storage box on the footpath near No8 Sycamore Row. Mrs Stodgell agrees the PC should write to the occupier to request the obstruction of the footpath is removed. **Clerk to obtain contact details from the electoral register and request removal of the obstruction.** Mrs Vaughan reports she will not be standing for re-election in May and would like to thank the members of the PC and the community. Mrs Vaughan expresses how she has enjoyed her time representing the Parish. Mrs Vaughan agrees she will continue as a Flood Warden and guardian of the AED defibrillator. Mrs Stodgell expresses the gratitude of the PC to Mrs Vaughan for her contributions as a Parish Councillor and wishes her well in her future endeavours. Ms Smith reports covid cases are still active in the area with Hatch Beauchamp School currently closed due to active case numbers. Ms Smith enquires about the BMX proposals. Mr Turner responds it was quite a big area to maintain and with no committee to manage it, no volunteers or funding the proposal could not be realised. Mrs Leader reports the path by the school still has thick, hardened layers of leaves that have not been cleared and could be hazardous for pedestrians. Mrs Stodgell informs this issue has been reported by the Clerk to SCC Highways. Mr Stone informs a road sweeper did attend the area but was unable to action the issue due to parked cars in the area. **Clerk to contact Highways to request the debris is cleared.** Mrs Vaughan reports SCC Highways were filling small potholes within the village on 6th March, but states the larger potholes seem to be getting worse. Mrs Stodgell advises people to use the SCC online reporting facility to report potholes as they endeavour to fill them within 3 working days of the issue being reported.

There being no further matters to discuss the meeting was closed at 9.36pm.