

**Minutes of the North Curry Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 08<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at North Curry Village Hall (Meeting Room)**

**Present or comments received:** Mrs Tina Stodgell (Chairman) Mr Phil Stone (Vice Chairman), Mr Mike Dennis, Mrs Jeanne Leader, Ms Cecilia Smith, Mr Tony Turner, Mrs Helen Griffiths, Mr Paul Deacon, Mr Adam Hardwick Cllr Norman Cavill, (County Councillor), Cllr Sue Buller (District Councillor)

**Maria Perry (Clerk) and 3 Members of the public.**

**1. PRELIMINARIES**

**To receive and approve apologies for absence.** Mr Graham Cable, Mr Ian Fugett, Mr Brian Jeanes, Mr Maurice Wilkins, Cllr. David Fothergill.

**Approve and sign minutes for the previous meeting dated: 11<sup>th</sup> May 2022 (AGM & PCM).** The Chairman invited any amendments or comments to the minutes for the Annual General and Parish meeting, none were made. Mr P Stone proposed the minutes as a true record of the meeting, this was seconded by Mrs J Leader 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:**

**Policing Matters: Corr A7926:** The Chairman explained recently there was a break in at one of the sheds on Greenway Allotments, this was reported to the PCSO's who work in the Parish to note and they asked for a paragraph to be placed in the Pink Sheet asking Parishioners to be extra vigilant. The Clerk to process the entry to the Pink Sheet.

**Flooding Matters:** Nothing to report. Mr P Stone explained there is a video that the SLA have created about flooding risk and is was very interesting. He would send to all Councillors for their information.

**Update on the A358: Corr: A7297:** The Chairman thanked Mr R lander for attending the meeting to update us on latest developments of the A358 and she confirmed all Councillors had been sent the information prior to the meeting. After discussion including Mr P Stones concerns about the barriers across open countryside not in keeping with the area suggesting naive trees etc. which Mr Lander agreed and would add to his letter. The Chairman proposed and Mr Stone seconded was that the amended letter be sent to the office for her signature and forwarded to NR. All agreed.

**Mr A Turner arrived at the meeting 19.44pm.**

**Update of the Queen's Jubilee Celebrations: Corr: A7298** the Chairman explained the Beacon was an outstanding success and great feedback received thanking Mr M Dennis, Mrs C Vaughan and all the volunteers. Mr M Dennis explained we are very lucky to have had all the help from many volunteers. The attendance at the Beacon was much greater than expected, 160 replies were received and many more than that figure were in attendance. The total funds raised are yet to be confirmed but hoping to be in the region of £1,600 after costs to donate to the Church Bells. Mrs Griffiths volunteered to report the donation to the PCC. The Chairman clarified the funds should initially be paid to the Parish Council and then forwarded to the PCC. The Chairman request a thank you entry for the Pink Sheet.

**Update on SID:** The Chairman stated the two SID units have been delivered. Mr P Stone explained we are waiting for the poles to be fitted at both locations agreed before we can install the units. Mr P Stone confirmed he would chase Somerset County Council for the work to be done.

**Update on Oxen Lane Bus Shelter: Corr A7298.** The Chairman thanked Mr P Stone for taking on the project and explained the Bus Shelter had now been installed and a thank you letter from Mr C Brown had been received. Mr P Stone explained works are still in progress for the finishing and the tarmac of the groundwork and he will contact the contractor to complete as soon as possible, Mr J Leader suggested some hazard tape to be place around the Bus shelter to ensure it is not used until safe to do so.

**Update on Grass Cutting tender:** The Chairman explained the Contract has been awarded to Mr J Williams who is now back from his Holiday and kindly cut the grass in Church Road on the day of his return in readiness for the Jubilee weekend.

**Fingerpost Signs:** Mr P Stone explained the Clerk had been chasing for the works to be done but there was a supplier problem with new signs which was delaying the progress. This is now rectified and works should commence in due course.

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

Somerset County Council Cllr Norman Cavill introduced himself and is currently going through training the Chairman thanked both him and Cllr S Buller for attending the meeting.

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

**24/22/0020 Erection of 1 No. dwelling and garage on land of The Warren, now known as the Wilderness, Stoke Road, North Curry (retention of works already taken).** Mr A Turner explained the application and its location. The original application for the proposed dwelling and garage were submitted in 2018, it was successful and we supported it with some comments. Since then Mr & Mrs Guppy in 2021 submitted a new application which has been ongoing until the planners ask to reduce the size of the dwelling by 20% to make it more acceptable and at the last planning meeting the new application was discussed and we supported it and made comment. The application above is the successful original application (2018) which had expired. After discussion Mr A Turner proposed to remain consistent and North Curry Parish Council again supports the application with the same comments made on the previous application; The Parish Council would like to see the following conditions of approval: The planting of additional screening for neighbours along Stoke Road. Any trees that are removed are replaced in a more suitable location with others of a native species. To maintain screening, any trees lost on the boundary between the house and Manor Field are replaced by additional native trees on that boundary, this was seconded by Mrs J Leader, which was carried. 7 supporting the application, 1 against and 1 abstained.

**Mr A Hardwick arrived at the meeting 20.07pm.**

**Mr M Taylor left the meeting 20.21pm.**

**24/22/0011 Erection of single storey extension to the annexe, installation of external flue and formation of pedestrian access and walkway at Wisteria House, Greenway, North Curry.** Mr A Turner explained the application and its location and advise the planners have asked to revise the plans to have a brick work finish and a normal pitch roof with two roof lights and an additional small window. After discussion Mr Turner proposed we support the application with the same comments we made on the previous application; we wish to ensure the annexe remains tied to the main house, this was seconded by the Chairman, which was carried.

**4. To discuss Footpaths updates and any queries, consider purchase of seat for Loscombe Meadows footpath** – (Cllr. P Stone, Public path Liaison Officer) **Corr: A7299** Mr P Stone explained the access to the field at new bridge and reported that we should keep an eye on the access before taking any action. He requested if the Loscombe meadows seat can go on the next Agenda in July as he had not had time to investigate properly. Mr P Stone reported he and Mr P Deacon were working on the footpath map which would replace and update the map in the Bus Shelter.

**5. Confirmation of the Parish Council Committees etc. (to be proposed, seconded and agreed)** The Chairman apologised at the last meeting the confirmation of the Parish Council Committees were not proposed and seconded. The Chairman explained the Clerk would read out the members of each committee she proposed en bloc the following:

**Planning Committee:** Mr A Turner, Mrs C Stodgell, Mrs J Leader, Mr I Fugett, Mr G Cable, Mr B Jeanes, Ms C Smith, and Mrs H Griffiths, this was seconded by Mrs H Griffiths, which was carried.

**Financial Advisory Panel:** Mr B Jeanes, Mrs C Stodgell, Mr A Turner and Mr M Dennis.

**Community Stable Committee:** Mr B Jeanes, Mr A Turner, Mr P Deacon and Mrs TC Stodgell, this was seconded by Mrs H Griffiths which was carried.

**Representatives of other bodies.** Footpaths (PS) Playing Field (AT) Village Hall (BJ) Tree Warden (PS) Allotments (JL) Stable (BJ) Flood Warden (CV) White St. (PS) Wildlife Group (PS) Speedwatch (AM) Speed Policy Group (PS) Facebook (MW). The Chairman proposed the following representatives en bloc, this was seconded by Mrs H Griffiths, which was carried.

The Chairman proposed Mr A Hardwick to join the Planning committee, this was seconded by Mr A Turner, which was carried.

**6. To discuss and approve adoption of the new Code of Conduct.** The Chairman explained following on from the last meeting whereby we adopted the old Code of Conduct, SALC have advised that we adopt the new Somerset Code of Conduct. The Chairman confirmed all councillors had seen the new code of Conduct and the tracked changes. With no comments made the Chairman proposed we adopt the New Code of Conduct, this was seconded by Ms C Smith, which was carried.

**7. To discuss and approve reviewing the Website including Disability Access Statement.** The Chairman explained it was highlighted at the Annual Internal Audit that it is necessary to have a Disability Access

statement on the website and a sample of the a statement had been sent to all prior to the meeting for all to look at with the view of adopting it for the website. Mr M Dennis pointed out the statement refers to a u tube page which does not apply, the Chairman proposed to remove this item from the statement, which was seconded by Mr P Stone, which was carried. Mr M Dennis then proposed to adopt the Disability Statement which was seconded by Mr P Stone, which was carried.

- 8. Electric Vehicle Charging points.** Mr B Jeanes in his absence sent a report regarding the electrical charging points explaining more information was required on a secure Wi-Fi facility he would need to investigate this further. The Chairman suggested we add the item to the Agenda next month, all agreed. Mr A Hardwick explained he could help with this and willing to speak with Mr Jeanes before the next meeting.
- 9. To discuss Various Roads within Somerset West & Taunton District Electric Scooter Experimental Order 2022** Cllr S Buller explained the system of the experimental order and after discussion it was agreed to take no action regarding this until August. The Clerk to place it on the Agenda for August.
- 10. To discuss and approve a contract for works to the Limes Trees on Church Road.** Mr P Stone explained he managed to get four quotations for the work the lowest being £340 plus VAT a total of £425 from Arbortech all other quotes were a lot higher despite having the same specification. He explained at the same time they carry out the work he will get them to look at a couple of trees which have cavities. After Discussion Mr Turner proposed for the work to be carried out by Arbortech with a contingency of 40% for extra costs, if any further work needs to be carried out, this was seconded by the Chairman, which was carried.

**11. Allotments.**

**1) To discuss clearing/tidying of Greenway Allotments:** Mrs Leader explained she had sent her report on the Allotments for all to see regarding issues which needed to be resolved. Mr Boddy was in attendance of the meeting as Allotment Liaison Officer. The first issue Mr S Case is happy to continue to keep cutting the grass. There are overgrown allotments, two of them are especially bad and starting to effect the plots next to them and the back hedge is in need of repair. The Chairman explained Mr Jeanes had looked at the hedge and would need to be repaired in September time.

**2) To discuss the demolition of the Greenway allotment Sheds.** Mrs Leader explained at present there is an idea that a team of people could demolish and tidy the shed area and use a skip to discard all waste. Mr Boddy would also speak with allotment holders to ask if anyone is willing to volunteers where he has already had positive feedback. Mr Boddy asked for a date to be given for this to take place and he will then seek volunteers from the allotment holders. Mr Deacon suggested the wrought iron could possibly be of some value and has asked for a scrap dealer to look at it, he will chase this idea and report back at the next meeting.

**3) Any other Allotment business.** Mr Boddy explained some discussions already had with allotment holders who ask is there a need for individual shed on the allotment or could communal sheds be considered. Once the clean-up is complete it is hoped this will encourage other allotment holders to take more pride in individual allotments. The Chairman proposed a budget of £500 to help with the clean-up and demolition of the sheds, this was second by Mrs J Leader, which was carried.

**Cllr N Cavill and Cllr S Buller left the meeting 21.01pm**

- 12. Finance: Monthly Account and Payment List:** The Clerk presented the monthly Bank Report, the Chairman proposed this was a true record, and was seconded by Ms C Smith, which was carried. . The Payment List (see below) was read out by the Clerk, additional late invoices were also received to add to the list, SALC Invoice 0932 for training £25.00, Jubilee Expenses to be reimbursed to Mrs C Vaughan £73.68 and Viking Invoice for a First Aid Kit £18.32. The Chairman proposed to approve the payment list, this was seconded by Mr P Stone, which was carried.

Monthly Payment List - JUNE 2022	Cheque No.	Total	VAT
Clerk-Maria Perry - June 2022 (Inc overtime)	BACS	TBC	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
North Curry V.Hall - Hire 04/05 11/05 & 25/05 Inv3714	BACS	52.86	0.00
Viking stationery Inv 8909843	BACS	58.79	11.76
IONOS website builder Inv 203031169376	BACS	4.00	0.80
NC Stable Charge - Gas 01/03-31/05 Inv 2022/1/04	BACS	19.45	0.00

NC Stable Charge - Elec 01/03-31/05 Inv 2022/1/05	BACS	69.25	0.00
1Jobs.com Clerks Advert reimburse to Brian Jeanes	BACS	380.00	76.00

- a) **To approve Town Farm Stable Budget.** The Chairman presented the Stable Budget and proposed the Parish Council accept the budget, this was seconded by Mr A Turner, which was carried
- b) **Finance Panel meeting** – nothing to add other than what has been discuss.
- c) **To reaffirm the revised Financial Regulations.** The Chairman explained at the Finance Panel meeting the Financial Regulations were discussed and agreed to no change was required. The Financial Regulations had been seen by the Councillors. Ms C Smith proposed that we reaffirm these and go forward another year, this was seconded by Mrs H Griffiths, which was carried.
- d) **To reaffirm the revised Risk Assessment Schedule.** The Risk Assessment Schedule had been seen by all the Councillors. The Chairman proposed that we reaffirm the assessment and go forward another year, this was seconded by Mr P Deacon, which was carried. Mr A Turner highlighted at Finance Advisory Panel meeting it was discussed we should review the Assessment over the next few months.
- e) **Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) update.** The CIL report had been seen by all Councillors. The Clerk explained have monies unallocated to spend and this has to be spent within a time limit and to be aware of these limits. She asked if anyone had any ideas on clear on projects we can considered in the future, to ensure their costs will be covered and maybe consider assisting the Playing Fields and North Curry Sports in improvement projects they may undertake in the future.
- f) **To adopt Internal Control Statement.** The Clerk explained the Internal Auditor, Mr Owen Cullwick recommended we adopt an Internal Control Statement. A copy of the statement had been seen by all Councillors, the Chairman proposed we adopt the Internal Control Statement, this was seconded by Mr A Hardwick, which was carried.
- g) **To adopt Lone working guidelines.** The Clerk explained again the Internal Auditor, Mr Owen Cullwick recommended we adopt a Lone Working Policy. A copy of the Policy has been seen by all Councillors, the Chairman proposed we adopt the Lone Working Policy, this was seconded by Mr P Deacon, which was carried.
- h) **To discuss and approve, in principle, an application to transfer funds from Cambridge & Counties with a view to place funds in a new deposit bank account.** Mr Turner explained at the Annual Parish Meeting it was raised by a member of the public we had more than £85k in our Cambridge & Counties bank account and not covered by Financial Regulations Guarantee Scheme. He explained Mr B Jeanes has been researching for a second deposit account and was seeking approval to move forward with this. Mr P Stone proposed we go ahead with the new account and raise a notice of withdrawal to Cambridge & Counties for withdrawal of funds above the £85k to move to a new deposit account, this was seconded by Mr A Turner, which was carried.

**13. Correspondence. Corr: A7296-A7302** – already covered.

**A7303** – The Chairman explained pot hole repair requests had been send by the Clerk and others regarding Curry Moor and works had now been completed. It was highlighted there is a specific website to use now to report any issues and this can be used by any member of the public.

**A7304** – Mr P Stone had been informed of a possible illegal Motor Cycle event at Knapp unfortunately this issue cannot be dealt with by the Parish Council and it should be reported directly to the Police. The Clerk to inform our local PCSO Tony Wearmouth.

**A7305** – Road Closure at Rock Hill, Wrantage for 5 Day commencing 27<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

**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 reported the Council are now cutting the green lanes which they are responsible for. He explained the footpath stiles are very overgrown and he is trying to keep up with the maintenance of them. Next week he will install a Kissing gate in Helland and hoping to install a couple of other gates shortly.

**Playing Field (AT):** Mr A Turner reported the Pavilion have now recruited more members for the Committee and a couple more people have said they are happy to help at events but not join the Committee.

**Village Hall (BJ):** The report and recommendations from the free energy survey of the building has come through; essentially in the short term the most important thing to address is the heating of the main hall—ensuring that it is only on when needed and perhaps to turn down the thermostat. In the longer term,

replacement windows and a different heat source could be investigated but currently these would be unjustified. The Village Hall have their AGM on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

**Stable (BJ):** We have just recently held a Fire Safety Training session, given by Justin Plaw of Safefire with representatives present from the Archives, Hair Salon, Coffee Shop and, of course, Maria from the parish office. The most important things to be addressed were considered to be to ensure that all coffee shop volunteers should be made aware of the risks of a fire and of the procedure in such an event, and also the need to establish an efficient means to monitor how many people are in the Archives at all times. This latter point is critical as they are the ones most at risk should there be a fire anywhere in the building; it is being addressed jointly by the Coffee Shop and the Archives. We have now, after many weeks of trying, found a carpenter who we hope will be able to address the problems with ill-fitting fire doors; all being well, this will be completed relatively soon.

**North Curry Sports Ltd (PS):** Mr P Stone reported Cricket is busy with recent matches being played by over 50's Somerset Vs Devon & Cornwall and good to see they have choose our ground and the Youth Football training is busy.

**Wildlife Group (PS):** Mr P Stone reported he is trying to move forward with merging some other groups such as the Environment Group and see if interested in taking part.

#### 15. Publicity Inputs.

Policing Matters – Paragraph from PCSO to place in the Pink Sheet.

Jubilee Celebrations- Place in the Pink Sheet a thank you to Mr & Mrs Dennis for hosting the Beacon and Celebrations and a thank you to all the volunteers who made it a success. Also to thank Mrs C Vaughan and all the helpers who organised the Posh Picnic in the Park.

Hedges – Remind Parishioners to maintain their hedges in the growing season.

16. **Matters for Discussion.** Ms C Smith raised the issue of the map situated in Church Road she explained the sign was looking in need of repairing/revamping it was agreed to write to North Curry Society to kindly ask if they could do the necessary work. Mr P Deacon requested if Christian names could be used on the minutes to help get to know Councillors, all agreed. Mr Turner asked if the new contact list was ready to send out the Clerk explained she was in the process and would send out as soon as all information was received.

**There being no further business the meeting was closed at 21.55pm.**