

Minutes of the North Curry Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 28th September at North Curry Village Hall Meeting Room.

This meeting is to replace the Council Meeting cancelled (Wednesday 14th September) due to the national mourning period of Queen Elizabeth II.

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, Mr Paul Deacon, Mr Adam Hardwick, Mr Brian Jeanes, Mr Ian Fugett, Mr Maurice Wilkins, Mr Graham Cable, Cllr David Fothergill (County Councillor).

5 Members of the public present.

1. Preliminaries:

The Chairman thanked everyone for their kindness, cards, emails, and support following such a sad time for her. The Chairman would like to minute her thanks for the exceptional work Mr Brian Jeanes has undertaken, not only while without a clerk, but also covering while she stood back for a while, and Mr Tony Turner in helping to keep everything running smoothly.

To receive and approve apologies for absence: Apologies were received from Mrs Helen Griffiths, and Cllr Sue Buller. Cllr David Fothergill advised he would be late.

To approve and sign the minutes for the previous Parish Council Meeting dated Wednesday 10th August: Mr Tony Turner proposed the minutes were a true record and this was seconded by Mr Brian Jeanes. All were in favour.

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 declared.

2. Matters arising:

Policing matters: A picnic bench in the playing field was set on fire Tuesday evening. Mr Tony Turner will report this to the police.

Update on The Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebration Plaque: The stone is being sourced to do the carving. It should be finished early next year. Mr Duncan Varley has committed to doing the whole job, thanks given again to Lady Mary Stewart Wilson for funding.

Update on SIDs: Thanks to Mr Ken Octon for his knowledge and help in assisting Mr Phil Stone with the installation, using his experience setting up SIDs in Fivehead. The plan is for the SIDs to stay in place permanently and just be turned on at certain times.

> Mr Maurice Wilkins arrived at 19:37pm.

Update on bus shelter- Oxen Lane: Concrete kerbs are now in place. Currently waiting for tarmac, to be completed by the contractor Mr Rob Case.

Update on allotment progress: Mr Phil Stone has been clearing the overgrown allotment, but now requires a mini digger to remove the extensive roots and brambles. He will bring quotes for this to the next meeting. Thanks were given to Mr Brian Jeanes and his team for their help.

Update on lime trees- Church Road: Waiting for approval from Somerset West & Taunton to go ahead.

Update on EV charging points: Work is due to start on 10th October, still waiting for the £1500 grant to come in. Mr Phil Stone will chase this. Mr Brian Jeanes will produce, and circulate for approval, a letter to the Village Hall absolving them of responsibility and costs relating to the EV charging points.

Update on Coffee Shop sign: Nothing new to report.

Update on Moor Lane Environmental Agency site: Mrs Jeanne Leader explained it is being used as a staging site for the railway bridge work at Athelney. Mr Phil Stone proposed this area could be used as a car park once work has finished and will compose a letter asking if this is possible.

County Cllr. Report: Will be circulated before Octobers Council Meeting.

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

24/22/0037/T: *Notification to fell one Birch tree within North Curry Conservation Area at 12 Church Road, North Curry.*

Mr Tony Turner explained the principle of the application, and the applicants were also present to explain the need for the removal of the tree.

Mr Tony Turner proposed to support the application with the following statement:

North Curry Parish Council support the application and is pleased to hear a replacement tree is being planted.

Mrs Jeanne Leader seconded the proposal, and all were in favour.

The applicants also expressed their thanks to Phil, Jeanne, and Brian for their efforts with the allotments, stating it was much appreciated by the allotment holders.

24/22/0040: *Replacement and enlargement of porch to the front, widening of central dormer and replacement of uPVC windows with double glazed casement windows at Hunts End, Greenway, North Curry.*

Mr Tony Turner explained the application and proposed to support the application. Mr Maurice Wilkins seconded, and all were in favour.

24/22/0031: *Application for prior notification for the formation of an agricultural track at Hill Farm, Combe Lane, Knapp, North Curry.*

Mr Tony Turner explained the principle of the application and read a letter explaining that North Curry Parish Council did not need to make a comment and why. He then proposed there was no need to make a comment, all were in agreement.

Mr Phil Stone will assess the trees in the area that could be affected, and will notify the council if there could be any problems.

4. To discuss possible provision of Warm Rooms/ Village Agent Talking Café:

The Chairman introduced the item, explaining its importance during the cost-of-living crisis. Members of the public Mr Owen Cullwick and Mrs Ann Williams explained the plans the Church has made, and their interest in working with the Parish Council. There was then a lengthy discussion on possible locations, times, and logistics of providing warm rooms. It was also discussed how the Parish Council could possibly support this with a grant for room hire and refreshments.

> Cllr Dave Fothergill arrived at 20:15pm and joined the discussion.

Mrs Tina Stodgell suggested forming a combined Church and Parish Council committee that should meet to discuss locations and logistics and share their ideas at the next meeting. It was decided this committee will comprise of The Village Agent (Mrs Tina Talbot), Mr Owen Cullwick and Mrs Ann Williams from the church, and Mr Paul Deacon from the Parish Council.

5. To discuss possibility of village amenities for young people in the Parish:

It was discussed that lack of volunteers has previously been a limiting factor in creating more activities and amenities for young people. The Chairman proposed to promote what is already present in the Parish, and provide a questionnaire in the Pink Sheet asking what young people would like, and asking for volunteers. Mr Ian Fugett mentioned the possibility of trying to get the Young Farmers Club going again, which was previously very popular. The Parish Council will look into possible ideas and formulate a questionnaire for the Pink Sheet in November.

6. To discuss grant request from North Curry Toddler Group:

Mrs Kelly Thwaite was present to represent the Toddler Group and explain their request and the difficulty the group has been having. There was a discussion about the possibility of fundraising and asking for toy donations, and improving advertising methods, and the vagueness of the current grant request was mentioned as an issue. It was stressed that the Toddler Group is very valuable and should be supported, Mr Mike Dennis proposed he would help the group come up with a viable grant application to be shared at the next meeting. Mr Adam Hardwick also volunteered to help improve the application. A grant could come from CIL money if agreed by the Parish Council.

7. To discuss the Autumn litter pick:

Mr Brian Jeanes explained the litter pick will be on the 29th of October, starting at 10:30am at the village hall. The rubbish will be left at the Pavilion entrance again, and collection needs to be organised by the Clerk.

8. To discuss Remembrance Day arrangements:

The Clerk explained the current progress in arrangements, and what is still left to do. This will be done in the coming week. The road closure application has been sent off, and progress on this needs to be checked.

9. To discuss the consultation on Local Community Networks.

Cllr David Fothergill explained the background of the project, and how it would work. Mr Phil Stone then showed the three possible map options of how the local councils would be grouped. There was then an elaborate discussion on how local councils were grouped, how the LCN could work for North Curry, and how decisions within an LCN would be made and carried out. It was decided what further information would be needed before completing the questionnaire, and that this would be completed by the Council as a whole. It was unanimously decided that, at the moment, it appears the Parish Council favours map option one if North Curry can be joined with the Langport grouping. The questionnaire will be circulated so answers can be planned.

10. To discuss North Curry Playing Field request for funds:

Mr Tony Turner discussed the application and shared images of the proposed new equipment, and Play Equipment Report condemning the current fort. Quotes were discussed, with the best option being £23,174 from Kompan UK Ltd., although it was noted the quote is only valid for 30 days. Mr Ian Fugett mentioned the local woodworker who made the current fort, and will ask if he would be interested in providing a quote for a new one. Mr Turner explained the sources of funds being looked at, and that he has been advised CIL money could be used for this item. The Chairman proposed that initially £10,000 be given from the CIL money, Mr Graham Cable seconded, and all were in agreement aside from two abstentions.

11. Finance:

Monthly accounts and payment list: Mr Brian Jeanes presented the monthly account and proposed it be accepted, Mr Tony Turner seconded and all were in favour.

Mr Jeanes then presented the payment list and explained that some payments had to be paid prior to this meeting due to invoice deadlines coming before the meeting date, due to postponement. In regard to the topping on Rodwell Lane, Mr Phil Stone shared that the Bridleways team have offered to pay for the work needed on West Lane. Mr Jeanes proposed that BACS payments be paid, Mr Paul Deacon seconded, and all were in favour.

Monthly Payment List - September 2022	Cheque No.	Net	VAT	Already paid (*)
Clerk Salary	BACS	TBC		
PKF Littlejohn- Audit fee	BACS	200.00	40.00	*
J. Leader-- skip hire (allotments)	BACS	340.00	68.00	
North Curry Playing Field--Jubilee event	BACS	30.00		
SALC--Councillor training (Inv: 1399)	BACS	15.00		
J Williams--Church Road grass cutting	BACS	140.00		*
North Curry Village Hall - Room Hire (Inv 3773)	BACS	23.27		
SALC affiliation free	BACS	474.64		
SDH Groundworks- topping Rodwell Lane	BACS	200.00	40.00	*
John Merchant Electrical- PAT testing and office electrics	BACS	134.56	26.91	
Village Hall--credit note re Jubilee event tables	CREDIT	-25.00		
Wessex Water--Loscombe allotments	DD	28.94		
Wessex Water--Queen Square	DD	21.02		
Wessex Water--Greenway allotments	DD	120.84		
IONOS monthly Hi Drive Storage fee (Aug Inv: 203032322227)	DD	3.00	0.60	
Plusnet--telephone (Aug Inv: 00000910656-052)	DD	32.67	6.53	
IONOS website builder	DD	4.00	0.80	
IONOS monthly Hi Drive Storage fee (Sept Inv: 203032741662)	DD	3.00	0.60	
Plusnet--telephone (Sept Inv: 00000910656-053)	DD	31.61	6.32	

Zurich insurance renewal: The renewal was successful, but with significant delays. The split between the NCPC, Stables, and North Curry Sport has yet to be confirmed by Zurich. Other insurance providers will be looked into before next year's renewal.

SLCC membership renewal: This would cost £144 per year and provide the Clerk with useful information and resources. Mrs Jeanne Leader proposed it be renewed, Mr Adam Hardwick seconded, and all were in favour.

SAAA external auditor: Mr Brian Jeanes proposed not to opt out, and to stay with the recommended audit provider. The Chairman seconded, all were in favour.

12. Correspondence:

Most were covered throughout meeting. Item A7337- emails with Mr Johnathan Taylor discussing speeding in Greenway; The Chairman has replied suggesting he and anyone else who may be interested join the Speedwatch team to help expand coverage through the Parish. Item A7338- put forward suggestions for the Chair's Awards for Service to the Community. Item B7340 and B7341, thank you letters from the Pavilion and Playing Field for acoustic panels, and Bells Fund respectively, were read out and warmly received.

13. Publicity inputs:

Will be decided upon in the October meeting for the November edition.

14. Committee reports:

Most were circulated prior to this meeting and have been covered during the meeting. Mr Phil Stone explained he had some negative comments on the location of the next bench to be placed on the Loscombe Meadow/ Nine Acre Lane footpath, after discussion the Chairman proposed to go ahead with the decided location, Mr Ian Fugett seconded, and all were in favour.

15. Matters for discussion:

Mr Adam Hardwick reported an excessive speeding incident (60+mph) and threatening behaviour in Greenway during school pick up time, this was reported to the police who unfortunately can't do anything without CCTV.

Mr Graham Cable reported that a pole survey being conducted was for reusing existing infrastructure for new fibre by internet providers which could be done within 3 months.

The meeting was closed at 22:19pm.