

Minutes of the North Curry Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 12th October 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, Mr Paul Deacon, Mr Adam Hardwick, Mr Brian Jeanes, Mr Graham Cable, Cllr David Fothergill (County Councillor).

4 Members of the public present.

1. Preliminaries:

To receive and approve apologies for absence: Apologies were received from Mrs Helen Griffiths, Mr Maurice Wilkins, and Mr Ian Fugett.

Approve and sign minutes for the previous meeting dated: 28th September 2022. Mr Brian Jeanes pointed out a spelling error on page 2051 which will be amended. Mr Phil Stone proposed the minutes were a true recorded, Mrs Jeanne Leader seconded this, 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*). Mrs Jeanne Leader declared an interest in item 11 (North Curry Sports funding request for a tractor) and that she will abstain from discussion and voting on the item.

2. Matters arising:

Policing Matters: Someone very kindly donated £50 to the Coffee Shop to fund people's drinks, the PCSOs have been in for theirs!

Update on SIDs: A report and the first set of data were shared by email ahead of meeting. Mr Phil Stone explained that the SIDs cost £4,280 and there were some small extras, totalling £70.85. He explained that a ladder is needed for climbing the pole safely. Also, extra 20mph signs are needed due to visibility issues with current ones, which would total around £100. This is all within the original £5000 budget.

Update on Bus Shelter- Oxen Lane: Now complete, and invoice received.

Update on Allotments progress: Thanks were given to Mr Phil Stone for his hard work. He now requires a mini digger to tackle overgrown roots. A discussion was had on prices, deposits, and insurance details. The Chairman proposed to accept renting a mini digger in principle, Mrs Jeanne Leader seconded, all were in favour. Mr Phil Stone will make further inquiries for the next meeting.

Update on Lime Trees- Church Road: No further updates.

Update on Electric Vehicle charging points: Mr Brian Jeanes presented his draft letter absolving the Village Hall of responsibility for the chargers, he proposed to send the letter, Mr Adam Hardwick seconded, all were in favour. Mr Jeanes reported work is underway and should be finished by 20th October (unsure of commission date), but some extras are needed; a 10-watt LED downlight to cover the area which would be on an automatic timer, this would cost £365.69 to complete, and three signs to advertise the location of the chargers, which would cost £50- £60. Mr Phil stone proposed to provisionally go ahead with the purchases, Mr Tony Turner seconded, all were in favour. This will be finalised at the next meeting.

Update on Coffee Shop sign: Highways replied to request saying they will assess when next in the area. Cllr. David Fothergill will chase this up.

Update on EA site- Moor Lane: The Chairman and Mr Phil Stone have agreed a letter to send regarding the possibility of turning the site into a car park once work has finished, this letter will be circulated for approval. There was then a discussion about the surfacing on the drove, concerns were raised that cars could start using it, and the environmental impact. Mr Brian

Jeanes reported the EA are going to fit a gate to prevent cars using it. Mr Phil Stone will draft and circulate a letter passing on North Curry Parish Council's concerns.

County Cllr. Report: Cllr. David Fothergill reported that Taunton Town Council will be set up from 1st April 2023. There has been a consultation on SEN, and the creation of Innovation Zones. The lease from Dillington House will be passed back after end of next summer. He also mentioned a reminder about flu jabs and COVID boosters, as well as Stoptober advice.

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

The Chairman passed this item to Mr Tony Turner, Planning Committee Chairman.

24/22/0041: *Prior approval for proposed change of use from agricultural building into 1 No. dwelling (Use Class C3) and associated building operations at Barn A, Listock Barn, West Sedgemoor Road, North Curry.*

Mr Tony Turner explained the principle of the application, and a brief discussion was had regarding additional screening. Mr Turner then proposed to support the application with the following statement:

North Curry Parish Council supports the application and would like to see a planting scheme to soften the appearance of the barn, and the finish should be of a suitable subdued colour to blend in with the surroundings.

Mr Adam Hardwick seconded the proposal, all in favour.

24/22/0043: *Erection of a summerhouse at Brettell Barn, Stoke Road, North Curry.*

Mr Tony Turner explained the application and proposed to support it. Mrs Jeanne Leader seconded, and all were in favour.

24/22/0044: *Installation of twin wall flue through the roof of Longs Cottage, White Street, North Curry.*

Mr Tony Turner explained the principle, and the applicant was also present and involved for the discussion.

Mr Turner proposed to support the application, with a request that the projecting flue from above the roof is coloured black. The Chairman seconded, and all were in favour.

24/22/0045: *Erection of an outbuilding to be used in connection with the use of the children's home in the garden to the rear of The Orchard, Helland, West Sedgemoor Road, North Curry.*

Mr Tony Turner explained the principle of the application and purpose of the building. Mr Tony Turner proposed to support the application with the following statement:

North Curry Parish Council supports the application, however, has some concerns that the location of the cabin could cause noise problems for the neighbours. Mr Mike Dennis seconded, and all were in favour.

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

[Mr Mike Dennis asked for this item to be advanced due to members of the public waiting to speak, this was accepted]. Mr Dennis and Mrs Jeanne Leader reported they had visited the toddler group meeting, and that it is very well run. There was a discussion on ways to support the group, and how they could formalise the group more.

Mr Dennis proposed the Parish Council pays the groups rent to the Village Hall directly for 6 months (from 1st November to end of May), at £10.24 per week. Mr Phil Stone seconded, and all were in favour. Mr Dennis will continue relationship with the group to help their growth.

5. (A) To Discuss possible provision of Warm Rooms/ Village Agent Talking Café:

Mr Paul Deacon reported he has been discussing plans with the Churches and will keep the Parish Council updated. Mr Deacon will ensure there is information on benefits, heating costs, and support available in the Warm Rooms, due to his informal connection with Citizens Advice Taunton- which is also interested in being involved with warm rooms. Mr Deacon will send a report for the next meeting.

Mr Tony Turner reported that following last weeks discussion, the Pavilion would have very limited hours to provide a warm room due to the number of current bookings.

(B) To Discuss funding request from the Village Agent:

Information could be posted on Facebook and the Website. The Chairman proposed more information is required on the purpose of the funding requested and that it may be beyond the remit of the Parish Council; Mr Graham Cable seconded, and all were in favour.

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

The Chairman reported that no responses were received from the item in the Pink Sheet. There was a discussion on what sort of things could be offered, like a Youth Club, or a space for young people to meet.

A member of the public was invited to join the discussion due to their experience in this area, and explained a professional would realistically be required to make it work. The Parish Council discussed this and came to no current conclusion, stating it may be beyond the remit and for higher authority levels involvement. Cllr. David Fothergill stated this could be a LCN issue in the future.

7. To discuss Remembrance Day arrangements and donations to the bugler, organist, and British Legion. Also, to discuss the Order of Service:

The Clerk provided an update on progress, which is going well. The Chairman explained that last year £200 was donated to the British Legion, £30 to the bugler, and £50 to the organist. The Chairman then proposed this stays the same, apart from increasing the donation to the bugler to £40 to cover increased fuel costs and recognise his commitment over the years. Ms Cecilia Smith seconded, and all were in favour.

Mrs Jeanne Leader asked to agree on a date for the wreaths to be removed. It was decided the British Legion will be consulted to see if there is a recommended protocol, which will be discussed at the next meeting.

The Chairman explained the proposed changes to the Order of Service which include; altering 'God save the Queen' to 'God save the King', adding a name to the Roll of Honour which has been added to the War Memorial in recent years, correcting the position of 'placing of the wreaths' on the Order of Service, and changing the final hymn to 'I vow to thee my country' which is more widely known and reflects the choice of the Armed Forces. These changes were approved by the Vicar. The Chairman proposed to approve all the changes, Mr Phil Stone seconded, and all were in favour.

Mr Mike Dennis kindly offered to print the updated copies of the Order of Service, the Chairman proposed he goes ahead with this, Mr Phil Stone seconded, and all were in favour.

8. To consider replacing one fence post beside the War Memorial:

Mr Brian Jones reported he was happy to do the work if the cost of the oak is covered, which would be around £60. The Chairman proposed Mr Jeanes go ahead with the work and the Parish Council should fund the oak, Mrs Jeanne Leader seconded, and all were in favour.

9. To discuss the consultation on Local Community Networks:

Mr Phil Stone presented the options and his thoughts on them; a discussion summarised the Parish Council is still unsure on the groupings offered and that none are a great fit. A letter from another local Parish Council was read out, which calls for a 'Levels LCN'. There was a discussion on how grouping town and rural areas together could work. Mr Stone will create and circulate a letter considering the new option, and reminded the councillors that approval is needed soon.

10. To discuss purchasing four kissing gates:

Mr Phil Stone showed the locations for the proposed kissing gates, and suggested that CIL money could be used, or the footpath fund. The cost would be £1,642.

The Chairman proposed to use £1,000 from CIL, and up to £700 from the footpath fund to purchase four kissing gates; Mrs Jeanne Leader seconded this, and all were in favour.

11. To discuss North Curry Sports funding request for a tractor:

The Chairman from North Curry Sports was present to explain the reasons behind the funding request, and all the sources of funding being used. The total cost would be £32,000, and North Curry Sports are asking the Parish Council to provide £5,000.

Mr Brian Jeanes proposed £5000 be given from the CIL money towards the tractor once the application has been accepted. Mr Tony Turner seconded this, and all were in favour. Mrs Jeanne Leader abstained.

12. To consider request from the Village Hall for the Parish Council to finance a defibrillator, to be sited on the outside of the Village Hall:

The Chairman explained the important of this request, due to a recent incident highlighting its need; the Village Hall are also installing a phone for emergency use. A letter was read from London Hearts which offers a £300 grant towards a defibrillator. A discussion was had on whether to fund the defibrillator entirely, or to contribute. Mr Brian Jeanes explained that the best value quote he had received was from the British Heart Foundation at £1,170 including VAT. He will continue to investigate the quotes in preparation for a final decision at the next meeting. The Chairman proposed to fit and completely fund a defibrillator outside the Village Hall using CIL money, with specifics to be confirmed at the next meeting. Mr Tony Turner seconded, and all were in favour.

The Chairman also shared that Mrs Vaughan will be stepping down from her role in monitoring the current defibrillator, and thanks were given for her contribution over the years. It was decided that the Clerk and Mr Adam Hardwick will be trained to take over the role.

13. Finance:

Mr Brian Jeanes presented the monthly accounts. The Chairman proposed to accept them, Mrs Jeanne Leader seconded, and all were in favour. Mr Jeanes then explained the Clerk would like a pension, so he will research pension schemes to present at the next meeting. Mr Jeanes and the Clerk explained they will be looking at the precept proposal in the coming weeks and stated that suggestions were welcome.

The Clerk presented the monthly payment list, explaining which items were already paid and why. It was noticed that the Clerk's Salary was missing, after apologies by the Clerk it was decided she could forward the details the following day. The Chairman proposed to accept the payments, Mr Adam Hardwick seconded, and all were in favour.

Monthly Payment List - October 2022	Cheque No.	Net	VAT	Already paid (*)
Josh Williams- Grass Cutting	BACS	70.00		
Viking- Stationary Inv 9259270	BACS	13.04	2.61	
Zurich Insurance	BACS	1,435.45		*
SW&T Dog Bin emptying- 2nd quarter	BACS	346.32	69.26	*
North Curry V.Hall - Room Hire (Inv 3799)	BACS	9.05		
SLCC Membership Fee	BACS	154.00		*
Plusnet- Telephone	DD	31.61	6.32	*
IONOS- HiDrive	DD	3.00	0.60	*
IONOS- Website	DD	4.00	0.80	

14. Correspondence:

Most of the correspondence was covered during the meeting. There was an email from Route 1 Advocacy requesting their information be put in the Village Newsletter, but it was decided it was more appropriate for the Website and Facebook. It was also resolved that a letter will be sent to Mrs Vaughan thanking her for her hard work within the community, especially maintaining and keeping the defibrillator in excellent running order and up to date for the many years since its installation, and her continued work as our exceptional Flood Warden.

15. Committee Reports:

Reports were circulated via email prior to the meeting. **Tree warden:** Mr Phil Stone visited a site to look at the trees which could be affected by a previously discussed planning application and had some concerns which will be passed on. Mr Tony Turner mentioned the recent SW&T Newsletter was offering £100 worth of trees if applied for.

16. Publicity Inputs:

A reminder about Remembrance Day, and the alterations to the Order of Service.

17. Matters for discussion:

It has been reported that a stable building behind Woodlands Care Home in Wrantage may have been converted into living accommodation. There doesn't appear to be any planning permission in place for this. The Clerk will report the information to SW&T for investigation. Ms Cecelia Smith asked if there were any updates on twinning with another Village in France. Mrs Jeanne Leader shared that the interest seems to be gone from the French side. The Clerk will investigate.

Mr Paul Deacon reported an overhanging hedge on White Street between Overlands and Longs Field. Mr Tony Turner suggested he look at the Highways website to report this. Mr Phil Stone added that the hedge outside of White Street, belonging to the County Council, needs trimming.

Mr Brian Jeanes reported that a footpath ditch on Chapel Close is being used to dump garden waste. When he emptied it, more appeared. If this happens again, he will draft a letter from the Parish Council to nearby houses requesting this stops.

The meeting was closed at 10:29pm.