

Minutes of the North Curry Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 9th November at North Curry Village Hall Meeting Room.

Present or comments received: Mrs Tina Stodgell (Chairman), Mr Phil Stone (Vice Chairman), Mrs Jeanne Leader, Mr Tony Turner, Mr Paul Deacon, Mr Adam Hardwick, Mr Brian Jeanes, Mr Graham Cable, Mrs Helen Griffiths, Mr Maurice Wilkins. **5 Members of the public present, including Tina Talbot the Village Agent.**

1. Preliminaries:

To receive and approve apologies for absence: Apologies were received from Ms Smith and Mr Fugett. Mr Dennis sent belated apologies. Apologies were received from our County Councillors.

To approve and sign minutes for the previous meeting dated 12th October 2022: Mr Deacon proposed the minutes were a true record, Mr Cable seconded, 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*): Mr Jeanes declared an interest in item 8, with his name being on the payment list. Mrs Leader declared an interest in item 5. Both agreed to refrain from voting on these items respectively.

2. Matters arising:

Policing matters: Nothing to report.

Update on SIDs: Mr Stone has been investigating whether to move the SIDs to different locations throughout the year. Options were discussed. Somerset West & Taunton have already agreed to a move to Canterbury Drive or Moor Lane. It was discussed that the SIDs are recording speed while drivers are still in the 30mph zone, possibly falsely stating they are speeding. Mr Stone will investigate at what point the SIDs record speed, to find out if the data is being skewed by this.

Update on allotment progress including possible hire of mini digger: Mr Stone had previously circulated three quotes for a mini digger and stated that Bradfords appeared to be the best option. Mr Jeanes asked whether insurance was included, Mr Stone will check. The Chairman proposed to go ahead and hire the mini digger from Bradfords at £217 + VAT, plus £950 deposit, and £100 for diesel and insurance if required. Mrs Leader seconded; all were in favour. Mrs Leader then discussed that some plots appear to be abandoned, the Clerk will contact the owners and enquire. She also discussed that the fence repair will need to be done soon and will get some prices for the next meeting. The Chairman stated that allotment fees may need to be increased.

Update on Lime Trees- Church Road: Mr Stone reported that permission has come through and work will be done on the 24th of November.

Update on EV charging points including possible purchase of LED light and signs: No progress since last meeting, wiring is connected but not commissioned. Currently sorting out bay markings. The LED light will cost £365.69, extra signs will cost £115. The Chairman proposed to go ahead with both, with a budget of £500. Mr Turner seconded; all were in favour.

Update on Coffee Shop sign: Nothing to report.

Update on EA site- Moor Lane: Mr Stone had circulated a response from the EA, stating that a way forward would be contacting the owner of the plot. Liability, insurance, and logistics were discussed for turning it into a car park. Mr Stone will contact the owner to explore the idea and feedback.

Update on War Memorial fence repair: Mr Jeanes has kindly completed the repair, thanks were given. He will hand in the invoice for the oak soon.

Final update for Remembrance Service 13th November: The Clerk shared that everything is organised and ready. Mrs Griffiths will be provided with a keyboard and stand this year instead of an organ; a source of electricity nearby will be needed. Mr Jeanes will ask some local houses. Thanks were given to Mr Dennis for printing the new Order of Service booklets. The Clerk has spoken to Alex Drake about when to take down the wreaths; he suggested Easter time, although there are no rules on this. The Chairman proposed to take down the wreaths by Maundy Thursday unless they are significantly deteriorated; Mrs Leader seconded, and all were in favour.

County Cllr. Report: None.

Clarification of flooding procedures: An email was received from Mrs C Vaughan chasing up our request from SCC Highways for clarity of how to organise putting up signage and closing flood gates, after mistakes last year.

The Chairman will email County Cllr. David Fothergill. There was a discussion about purchasing a sign stating 'road flooded ahead- no turning space' as no result from our enquiries. Mr Deacon will look into this.

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

The Chairman passed this item to Mr Turner, the Planning Chairman.

24/22/0048/T: *Notification to carry out management works to one Mulberry tree, one Quince, one Holm Oak and one Walnut within North Curry Conservation Area at Monksleigh, The Fosse, North Curry.*

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

24/22/0049/T: *Notification to carry out management works to one Parrotia Persica tree within North Curry Conservation Area at West Cottage, Queens Square, North Curry.*

Mr Turner explained the application and the applicant was also present for discussion, stating that SW&T were happy with the requested tree work. The Chairman proposed to support the application; Mr Cable seconded, and all were in favour.

24/22/0050/T: *Application to carry out management works to one cypress tree included in Taunton Deane Borough (North Curry No.2) Tree Preservation Order 2002 at Cypress Cottage, The Fosse, North Curry (TD934).*

Mr Turner explained the application, and tree warden Mr Stone stated he was happy to see the work wouldn't be too drastic. Mr Turner proposed to support the application; Mr Hardwick seconded, and all were in favour.

> Mrs Leader left the meeting 8:12pm.

Possible planning breach: Concerns had been raised from a Parishioner that the front boundary wall of Lantern Cottage was not to same specification and alignment as the plans. Mr Turner proposed to refer this to SW&T Planning; The Chairman seconded, and all were in favour.

> Mrs Leader returned 8:15pm.

4. (A) To discuss possible provision of Warm Rooms.

Mr Deacon discussed activities currently going on in North Curry that could be publicised as pre-existing 'warm spaces', and the complications of Warm Rooms including potential DBS checks for volunteers, and safeguarding issues. Mr Deacon would also like to add a 'help with the cost-of-living crisis' supplement in the December Pink Sheet with information on sources of help.

Mr Owen Cullwick was present and shared what the Church is doing to provide a warm room, wanting to extend their pre-existing coffee morning. The possibility of starting a second weekly event at the Pavilion on a Friday was also discussed. Mr Cullwick will write a section for the Pink Sheet promoting the Church coffee morning and calling for volunteers, and Mr Deacon will write an A4 supplement of resources. The Chairman will liaise with the Pink Sheet organisers to enable delivery with them. Mr Deacon will continue to liaise with the Church and Village Agent and feedback.

(B) To discuss possible provision of Village Agent Talking Café.

The Village Agent Tina Talbot was present and explained her role and what she can provide. She kindly offered to be present at Warm Room events to provide advice and support with her Talking Café initiative.

5. To discuss North Curry Sports funding request for a tractor.

Mr Stone explained that less s106 money was available for North Curry Sport than they previously thought, and that the new amount being asked for from the Parish Council would total £11,329. Mr Stone and Mr Jeanes have assessed the Parish Council's CIL fund and showed that this amount is available. The Chairman proposed to go ahead and provide £11,329 towards the tractor should NC Sport's application be successful. Mr Wilkins seconded, and all were in favour. Mrs Leader abstained.

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

Mr Jeanes has circulated three quotes this week, all from charities; these were discussed. One option was from South West Ambulance Service Trust (SWAST); a rental service which includes replacing parts, supplying insurance, and providing annual training. Mr Jeanes explained that this is not the cheapest option over a four-year period but provides more benefits than other packages. Mr Turner proposed to go ahead with the SWAST four-year rental package at £1,800 + VAT and that it is built into the precept to cover the ongoing contract, the Chairman seconded, and all were in favour. CIL money can be used for the purchase.

Mr Jeanes will find out whether the Village Hall will fund the electrical installation and running costs for the defibrillator.

It was then suggested that the defibrillator outside the Post Office be changed at the same time, Mr Jeanes will find out if there would be discount for buying two defibrillator rental packages. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

7. To discuss request from Somerset Local Authorities' Civil Contingencies Unit for Emergency Community Contact volunteers.

The Chairman explained she has already found the volunteers to cover North Curry Village itself (Mrs Vaughan), Helland (Mr Dennis), and Wrantage (Chairman). Mr Cable proposed to accept the three volunteers, Mrs Griffiths seconded, and all were in favour.

8. Finance:

Monthly accounts: Mr Jeanes presented the monthly bank report, and proposed that the EV charging points are paid for from the Light Source fund and the remaining balance is paid from the Facilities Development fund; the Chairman seconded, and all were in favour. Mr Jeanes further explained that the Facilities Development fund had been topped up to its target of £20,000 but has since been used from for the EV chargers. He then proposed the bank report was accurate, Mr Turner seconded, and all were in favour.

Payment list: The Clerk presented the payment list. Mrs Leader proposed to proceed with the payments, Mr Hardwick seconded, and all were in favour. Mr Jeanes abstained. It was then mentioned that the donations to RBL, organist, and bugler for the Remembrance Service should have been on the payment list; all were in agreement these should be paid, nonetheless.

Monthly Payment List - November 2022	Cheque No.	Net	VAT
Clerk Salary (November)	BACS	646.28	
Viking- Printer belt (Inv: 9377024)	BACS	74.93	14.99
NC PCC Burial Ground Grant	BACS	630.00	
Playing Fields Grant	BACS	840.00	
HMRC -Clerk & Stable cleaner NI & PAYE July - Sept	BACS	265.40	
SALC- Training (Inv: 1704)	BACS	30.00	
SALC- Training (Inv: 1708)	BACS	30.00	
SALC- Training (Inv: 1710)	BACS	30.00	
Andrew Meehan- refund for SIDs fixings (Western Bolt)	BACS	70.85	24.16
Josh Williams- grass cutting (Inv:76)	BACS	70.00	
Viking- Toner (Inv: 9460846)	BACS	84.88	16.98
Village Hall - Toddler Group (Inv: 3807)	BACS	51.20	
Village Hall (Inv: 3829)	BACS	23.27	
T & C Charge Points - EV Chargers (Inv: 000012)	BACS	6,814.40	1,362.88
Town & Parish Council Websites (Inv: 1801073)	BACS	310.00	
Brian Jeanes refund- BT payment	BACS	27.44	5.49
Plusnet (Inv: 054)	DD	31.27	6.25
IONOS- HiDrive (Inv: 203033165951)	DD	3.00	0.60
IONOS- Website (Inv: 203033265623)	DD	4.00	0.80
Methodist Burial Ground Grant	Cheque	140.00	
Baptist Burial Ground Grant	Cheque	150.00	

Precept proposal draft: Mr Jeanes presented the precept proposal draft and suggested the £10,000 donation to the Bells Fund should be done this financial year due to spending limits which this year still allows. He also mentioned that the current draft proposal leaves a slight shortfall, but for many previous years it has left a surplus. He suggested to maintain the precept of £19,000 due to threats of precept capping, and stated that if that was put in place a referendum would be needed to go over the cap. It was mentioned a new Welcome Booklet should be made soon, and that the speeding budget may need to go up as there is the possibility of installing a SID in Wrantage. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

To discuss Clerk's pension provision: Mr Jeanes has circulated two options, one at the legal minimum contribution (3%= £114.25 per year), and one he had calculated to be fairer considering the Clerk's two jobs (5.5%= £209.46 per year). Following a discussion, the Chairman proposed to go ahead with the 5.5% contribution, this was seconded by Mr Turner, and all were in favour. Mr Jeanes then proposed to go with Nest for pensions, Mr Turner seconded, and all were in favour.

Finance Panel Meeting report: Mr Jeanes reported the Risk Assessment should be updated yearly; the Clerk will send the current edition around so suggestions can be made. There is also a need for a contingency plan if the Clerk was indisposed, or Mr Jeanes in regard to financial matters. It was also discussed that the Clerk is speaking to Zurich to clarify whether kissing gates present and to be purchased are covered on the insurance. There was also the matter of quarterly accounts checks, Mrs Leader is happy to continue doing this, and the Clerk will set up a reminder system.

Reaffirmation of Standing Orders: Mr Jeanes reported that no changes were suggested by the Finance Committee, and no further issues were raised. Mr Jeanes proposed to reaffirm current Standing Orders, Mrs Leader seconded, and all were in favour.

9. Correspondence:

A 7367: The late Mr Kenneth Hutchings has very kindly left £500 to the playing fields in his will, the Clerk will contact the solicitors and see if the money can go straight to the playing fields or needs to come through the Parish Council first. **B 7368:** A Letter from the Bells Fund asking if the Parish Council would still like the late Queen's cypher or the new King's. The Parish Council donated the money for the Queen's Jubilee commemoration bell so would like to keep it as this. Mrs Griffiths will ensure this is done.

10. Committee reports:

Footpaths (PS): Mr Stone and Mr Deacon are working on updating the footpath maps and looking to officially add permissive routes by negotiating with landowners. All other reports were circulated by email prior to the meeting or covered in the meeting.

11. Publicity inputs:

Items for the Pink Paper were discussed and chosen, the Clerk will get the section written up and submitted. Items to be included are Remembrance Day thanks for attending, Christmas wishes and encouragement to put up lights, Warm Spaces advert and call for volunteers, avian influenza reminder. The A4 insert on cost-of-living crisis support will be arranged too.

12. Matters for discussion:

Mr Turner: The Christmas tree provided by the Village Shop is getting too large, it needs padding on the heritage monument to protect the monument. Could possibly create a dug down area for the tree to slot into, covered by a grid when not in use. Highways would need to be consulted for this.

Mr Jeanes: The notice board in the public bus shelter is always overcrowded. Another noticeboard may be needed on the sidewall for 'official things' from police and village agent etc. The Clerk will try and find an A2 size notice board. The gutters also need cleaning on bus shelter. The litter pick went well, there was a smaller pile of rubbish than last year, which hopefully means there was less rubbish in the village.

Mr Hardwick: Three people asked about BT works ongoing on Greenway on the pavement. The Clerk has previously reported this some time ago and will do again.

The meeting concluded at 10:05pm