

**Minutes of the North Curry Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at North Curry Village Hall Meeting Room.**

**Present or comments received:** Mrs Tina Stodgell (Chairman), Mr Mike Dennis, Mrs Jeanne Leader, Mr Tony Turner, Mr Paul Deacon, Mr Adam Hardwick, Mr Brian Jeanes, Mr Graham Cable, Mrs Helen Griffiths. County Cllr David Fothergill. 4 Members of the public present.

**1. Preliminaries:**

**To receive and approve apologies for absence:** Apologies were received from Mr Wilkins, Ms Smith, Mr Fugett, and Mr Stone.

**Approve and sign minutes for the previous meeting dated 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022:** Mr Deacon proposed the minutes were a true record, Mr Hardwick seconded, and 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 11 due to his name being on the payment list.

**2. Matters arising:**

**Policing matters:** Nothing to report.

**Update on SIDs:** Report has been circulated prior to meeting. There has been correspondence from a resident of Moor Lane Close, through the Village Agent, concerned about speeding and asking if a SID could be moved there in the future. This will be considered.

**Update on allotments progress:** In Loscombe Meadow allotments a dead tree has fallen onto an allotment plot. The plot holder has said he will cut it up and remove it; Mrs Leader will organise help if needed. Once this is done, the fencing can be repaired. The mini digger hasn't been hired yet due to poor weather.

**Update on Lime Trees- Church Road:** Work now complete.

**Update on EV charging points:** All up and running, and people have been spotted using them!

**Update on Coffee Shop sign:** Nothing yet, Mr Jeanes reported it should be looked into further in January.

**Update on Warm Room/ Talking Café:** The Church have reported it is mainly the usual coffee morning goes coming to the event but are hoping in January when the hours are extended and soup is provided, more will come. The Village Agent has been present at each event. Other venues were discussed as the Church hasn't been the warmest of spaces and is soon to be very expensive to heat which is concerning the Church; the Pavilion may be used in the new year.

**County Cllr. Report:** Financially, there is still a £21.5 million pound 'black hole', set to increase to £40 million next year. Vesting day for the new Council is 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023; they are currently looking at policies including council tax reductions, and council rent housing schemes. The new logo has been launched. There is also an appeal for people to rent spare rooms to Ukrainian refugees, with a £1000 thank you payment for doing so. Cllr Fothergill also gave a reminder to get flu jabs. Mr Deacon asked if there are plans for anymore social housing, Cllr Fothergill stated that more will be built in time.

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

**24/22/0054:** *Formation of artificial badger sett including associated earthworks on land at Currymoor, North Curry.*

Mr Turner explained the proposal, and shared correspondence from the NFU voicing concerns about TB. There was a discussion on the environmental and agricultural impacts.

The Chairman proposed to object on the grounds we don't feel the provision of the artificial sett will prevent the badgers from dispersing into other new sites in the area. Mr Dennis seconded, the majority were in favour, with one against and one abstention.

**24/22/0056 and 24/22/0057:** *Erection of straw store on land at Newport Farm, Wrantage, North Curry.*

These applications were discussed together, due to being two parts of one proposed barn. Mr Turner explained the application, and the applicant was also present to discuss and answer questions.

Mr Turner proposed to support the application but note that the Parish Council would like to see some tree screening on the Northeast elevation. The Chairman seconded and all were in favour.

**24/22/0059/LB:** *Installation of twin wall flue through the roof of Longs Cottage, White Street, North Curry.*

This application was a late addition. Mr Turner explained it was the same as a previously discussed application (24/22/0044) but should have been submitted as a listed building consent application. Mr Turner proposed to comment saying we considered this with the previous application (24/22/0044) and have no further comments to add. Mr Jeanes seconded, and all were in favour.

**4. To consider funding two defibrillators; to be sited on the outside of the Village Hall, and possibly to replace the one outside the Post Office.**

Mr Jeanes explained that he considered the defibrillator outside the post office doesn't need replacing for another 2-3 years when the battery is due to run out; it is still perfectly functional. Mr Jeanes proposed to go ahead with the SWAST 4-year agreement for £1,800 + VAT for one defibrillator to be sited outside the Village Hall, with the Village Hall funding the electricity supply; Mrs Leader seconded, all were in favour. Mr Jeanes also noted he had replaced the children's pads for the defibrillator outside the Post Office as they had expired.

**5. To consider replacing damaged fencing at the Greenway allotments.**

It was decided to leave this item until January; Mr Jeanes, Mrs Leader, and Mr Stone will investigate it and bring more information to the January meeting.

**6. To consider purchasing an A2 notice board to place in the village bus shelter.**

The Clerk shared quotes for several styles of notice boards. Mr Deacon offered an alternative solution; he kindly offered to refurbish the two wooden notice boards currently in the bus shelter, remove the old footpath map which will free up one of the current notice boards, which can then be used for official notices. The updated footpath map will be weatherproof so can be mounted straight onto the wall. The Chairman proposed to go ahead with Mr Deacon's plan, Mrs Leader seconded, and all were in favour. Thanks were given to Mr Deacon for his kind offer.

**7. To consider maintenance to the fencing by Loscombe Meadow footpath.**

It was decided to postpone this item until the January meeting so Mr Stone could explain further.

**8. To discuss North Curry Music Festival- Summer 2023.**

Members of the Church were present to explain their idea and what it will involve. Suitable locations for the musical picnic were discussed, and advice was given on obtaining road closure permission. The Church asked for permission to use Queen Square Garden as a location for the event. The Chairman proposed to officially support the event, the use of Queen Square Garden, and their application for the road closure. Mr Hardwick seconded, and all were in favour. The Church will keep the Parish Council updated on their progress.

**9. To consider making the annual donation to Citizens Advice Bureau.**

It was agreed this is a very important service, likely to be even more important due to the cost-of-living crisis. Mr Deacon proposed to donate £200 same as the previous year; Mr Jeanes seconded, and all were in favour.

**10. To consider printing updated A2 copies of the footpath maps, estimated to cost £50.**

Mr Deacon showed the new map and explained the various routes and stated he would like to purchase a couple of weatherproof copies of the map to display in the bus shelter. The Chairman proposed to purchase a couple of A2 copies of the new map with a budget of £50; Mrs Leader seconded, and all were in favour.

**11. Finance:**

**Monthly accounts:** The Clerk presented the monthly accounts. Mr Turner proposed they were a true record, Mr Cable seconded, and all were in favour.

**Payment list:** The Clerk presented the payment list. The Chairman proposed to proceed with the payments, Mr Hardwick seconded, all were in favour with one abstention.

Monthly Payment List - December 2022	Cheque No.	Net	VAT
Clerk Salary (December)	BACS	669.96	
Village Hall (Inv: 3848)	BACS	23.27	
Village Hall - Toddler Group (Inv: 3851)	BACS	40.96	
SALC training (Inv: 1799)	BACS	25.00	
Josh Williams Grass Cutting (Inv: 28)	BACS	70.00	
The Defib Pad- children's pads (Inv: 286224) Refund to Brian.	BACS	83.29	16.66
Stable Account service charge (Inv: 5)	BACS	161.42	
ICS EV charging subscription (Inv: 1007317)	BACS	120.00	24.00
PlusNet telephone (Inv: 055)	DD	31.27	6.25
IONOS HiDrive (Inv: 203033598381)	DD	3.00	0.60
Ionos website (Inv: 203033697319)	DD	4.00	0.80

**Precept proposal draft:** This will be reviewed ready for a decision in January. There is a need to allow for the additional defibrillator, and possibly other items. A decision is needed by January 20<sup>th</sup>. Mr Jeanes is still in the process of sorting out the Clerk's pension. Mr Turner asked about the bells fund payment, Mr Jeanes suggested it be put on the February payment list.

**12. Correspondence:** The Village Agent has passed on concerns from a resident of Moor Lane Close regarding speeding (already discussed) and asking for provision of a salt bin as the long path to the bungalows is very slippery. Mr Jeanes offered to bring some bags of salt to the resident for now. The Clerk will contact SW&T to see if they are able to provide a small salt bin, or if it needs to be purchased by the Parish Council.

**13. Committee reports:**

Most reports were circulated prior to the meeting or discussed above.

**Playing Fields (AT):** Christmas in the Square was very successful, the Post Office want to step back from running the event, so the Playing Fields are taking over gradually. The grant has also been obtained for the new play equipment, matching the Parish Council's donation. Mr Turner suggested the Parish Council could purchase the play equipment and be refunded by the Playing Fields. This will be discussed further in the January meeting where Mr Turner will also provide an up-to-date quotation. The equipment is due to be put up in the spring.

**14. Publicity inputs:**

Items for the Pink Paper were discussed and chosen, they will include New Year best wishes, advertisement of the Warm Room and EV chargers, reminder that road salt is available if needed, and a short piece on mental health and important contacts.

**15. Matters for discussion:**

Mr Jeanes gave his thanks for the Chairman's Award nomination.

Mr Cable reported that a pickup truck had come along and taken the road salt from the bin near him. Mr Turner and Mr Jeanes shared that they had seen a couple of Good Samaritans gritting the roads themselves in a pickup, so that may be where his salt went!

**The meeting closed at 9:45pm.**