

**Minutes of the North Curry Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023 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, Ms Cecilia Smith, Mr Ian Fugett, Mr Mike Dennis. Cllr Hall. Four members of the public were present.

**1) Preliminaries:**

**To receive and approve apologies for absence:** Apologies were received from Mr Wilkins. Cllr Fothergill and Cllr Buller also gave apologies. Mr Jeanes will be attending just part of the meeting, so the Chairman proposed to move item 10, the precept proposal, forwards so Mr Jeanes could be present; all were in agreement.

**Approve and sign minutes for the previous meeting dated: 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022:** Mr Hardwick proposed the minutes were a true record, Mr Turner seconded, and all were in favour.

**Declarations of interest:** (*Members to declare any interests, including Disclosable Pecuniary interest 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:** Nothing to report.

**Update on allotment progress:** The Clerk shared that two overgrown allotments have been taken on by two couples today, free of charge until the renewal in April 2023. Mr Stone is going to try and rotavate these plots.

**Update on Coffee Shop sign:** Mr Jeanes has circulated the final design of the sign, and all are pleased. The sign should be fitted soon.

**Update on Warm Room/ Talking Café:** The Warm Room will be moving to the Village Hall and taking place on Monday's, instead of the previous arrangements at the Church. The hours may be extended to 4pm but this is still in progress. The Village Agent will now be attending monthly instead of weekly.

**Update on defibrillator for Village Hall:** Mr Jeanes has circulated a report.

**Update on footpath map:** One has been printed on A2 paper to check over. Mr Deacon and Mr Stone would like to sort out a permissive pathway before printing the PVC copies.

**Update on playing field equipment:** The Clerk explained that unfortunately the Parish Council cannot buy the play equipment to then be refunded by the Playing Fields, due to rules surrounding VAT. The equipment will be ordered by the Playing Fields tomorrow.

**County Cllr. Report:** Weekly updates being forwarded by email.

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

**24/22/0061:** *Erection of a single storey extension to the rear with conversion of garage into ancillary accommodation at 5 Chapel Close, North Curry.*

The Chairman handed over to Mr Turner, the planning Chairman, who explained the proposal. After discussion Mr Turner proposed to support the application, Mr Stone seconded, and all were in favour.

**4) To consider replacing a section of fencing at Greenway Allotments:** This item was postponed until the February meeting so more information and possible prices can be gathered.

**5) To discuss repairing a section of fencing along Loscombe Meadow footpath:** Mr Stone explained that a section of the fencing was falling over, likely due to posts rotting. He suggested a post and rail fence may be better than panels; he will have a closer look and bring it back to the agenda in February.

**6) To consider purchasing a Speed Indication Device for Wrantage:** The Chairman expressed her thanks to Mr Meehan who has been working to get quotes together and contacting people. Mr Stone explained that the cost would be £2399.99 including shipping (ex. VAT); this price includes a £500 discount as Mr Meehan has been recommending the supplier to other Parish Councils. The need for a SID in Wrantage was discussed, which summarised that it is a very fast road, which the Community Speedwatch Team aren't very active in due to lack of volunteers, and there have been at least five fatalities over many years. The SID would be placed on an existing post between the Feed Mill and the Pub, as this post needs replacing anyway. A second post could be erected near where the Post Office used to be, and the SID could move between the two posts. Mr Stone proposed to go ahead with investigating purchasing two poles and one SID, Mr Hardwick seconded, and all were in favour. Mr Fugett shared that he was informed another Parish Council got a SID for free through the police; the Clerk will investigate eligibility.

Mr Jeanes arrived at 20:11pm in time to share that he has budgeted for another SID in the precept proposal.

**7) To decide on allotment fees and deposit amount for April 2023:** Mr Jeanes has circulated the updated allotment agreement which contains some slight changes. All were happy with the new agreement, and Mr Jeanes was thanked for his work updating it. The need for a deposit and increase in rent was discussed. It was decided that

the deposit should only apply to new tenants, as current tenants have been taking care of their allotments well so it seems unfair to apply this to them. Mr Jeanes proposed that a £50 deposit be required from new allotment holders, existing holders will be exempt, and two allotment agreements will be made for the current tenants and for future new tenants. Mrs Leader seconded, and all were in favour.

It was also decided that the allotment rent should increase; the inflation rate is around 10% and it was suggested this should guide the increase. The Chairman proposed that Greenway allotments should increase by £1 to £11 per plot per year (previously £10), and Lockyers and Loscombe allotments should increase by £2 to £22 per plot per year (previously £20). Mrs Griffiths seconded, and all were in favour.

- 8) **(10c) Precept proposal:** As previously agreed, this item was moved forward so Mr Jeanes could leave early. Mr Jeanes presented the precept proposal and explained the small changes he had made. The changes included allowing for the Clerk's pension, the new defibrillator, and a new SID for Wrantage. The figure with a £19,000 precept left nearly a £4,000 deficit. There was a discussion on the possibility of raising the precept by £1,000 which would equate to around an extra £1 per household. Mr Fugett proposed to raise the precept to £20,000, Mr Stone seconded, and the majority were in favour with one abstention. Mr Jeanes then proposed to move £15,000 from the Cambridge & Counties account to the Co-op account to cover upcoming payments; the Chairman seconded, and all were in favour.

Mr Jeanes and Ms Smith left the meeting at 8:50pm.

- 9) **To discuss the Coronation event in May 2023:** Celebration event ideas and possible commemorative gifts were discussed. The Chairman proposed to purchase around 200 commemorative mugs that all children in the Parish under the age of 12 would be entitled to, with the few remaining mugs being sold on a first come first served basis afterwards. Mr Fugett seconded this, and all were in favour. The Clerk will bring prices to the next meeting.

It was also decided that event will take place in celebration, and a tree should be planted. An item will go in the Pink Paper for suggestions for celebration events. Options will be discussed at the next meeting.

- 10) **To discuss possible 'Keep dogs on leads' sign for some footpaths:** The Chairman reported she had received a complaint from a Parishioner about dogs off-lead snarling and snapping at people. The possibility of a 'Keep dogs on leads' sign was discussed, however the law only states that dogs must be kept 'under control', so it was decided it wouldn't be appropriate to go down this path. A reminder will be put in the Pink Sheet that dogs should be kept under control, especially if off-lead.

11) **Finance:**

(a) **Monthly accounts:** The Clerk presented the monthly accounts. The Chairman proposed to accept, Mrs Leader seconded, and all were in favour.

(b) **Payment list:** The Clerk presented the payment list and explained that the Lime Tree work invoice had been paid prior to the meeting due to the due date, and the CAB donation, as both had been approved already at previous meetings. The Clerk's salary will be reduced slightly due to pension payments, once calculated. The Chairman confirmed that the payment to the Village Hall for the Pink Sheet printing contribution is precepted each year. Mr Turner proposed to proceed with the payments, Mr Hardwick Seconded, and all were in favour. Mr Stone mentioned that we are still waiting for the invoice for the kissing gates; the Clerk will chase this up.

Monthly Payment List - January 2023	Cheque No.	Total	VAT	Due Date
Road Signs- Flood Sign (Inv: 1668707869) Refund to Paul.	BACS	£77.01	£15.40	
Clerk Salary (January)	BACS	*£669.96		31/01/2023
CAB Donation	BACS	£200.00		PAID
M Cottey Grounds Maintenance- Lime Tree work	BACS	£580.00	£116.00	PAID
Village Hall- Pink Sheet contribution	BACS	£565.00		
Village Hall- Room Hire (Inv: 3880)	BACS	£14.22		
Village Hall- Toddler Group (Inv: 3859)	BACS	£32.99		
HMRC (Oct – Dec)	BACS	£645.44		
Plusnet telephone (Inv: 056)	DD	£31.27	£6.25	
BT telephone (Inv: M003 YU)	DD	£24.95	£4.99	
Ionos Website (Inv: 203034126115)	DD	£4.00	£0.80	
Ionos HiDrive (Inv: 203034027979)	DD	£3.00	£0.60	

**12) Correspondence:**

**(A7380)** The LCN groupings have been announced; North Curry is in area 16 Levels and Moors, which is pleasing to everyone. Mr Stone is pleased that feedback was listened to in regards to grouping, and noted we were the second largest group.

**(A7381)** A resident has expressed concerns about the cut through from Church Road to Moor Lane being a blind junction when using the cut through to turn right onto Moor Lane. The Clerk will contact Highways Road Safety Team to see if an assessment can be done. It may be an idea to block off the Moor Lane end of the cut through. It was also decided that the white lines on Queen's Square need to be redone; this was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr Fugett, and all were in favour.

**13) Committee reports:**

Most reports were circulated prior to the meeting via email.

**Mr Stone- Footpaths:** The new kissing gates have arrived. The Greenway footpath towards Helland needs the first two styles replacing. This will be brought to the agenda soon.

**Mr Turner- Playing Fields:** Christmas in the Square raised over £2,000.

**Mr Stone- Tree Warden:** Dead Elm trees on the roads have been cleared up after recent winds. Mr Stone would like to start a tree planting initiative in the next season, money from the tree fund could be used. This will be on February's agenda.

**Mrs Leader- Flood Warden Liaison:** Has been posting regularly on Facebook with updates on the flooding.

**Mr Stone- NC Sports:** Unfortunately, NC Sports didn't get Government funding for the tractor, so are considering borrowing money to do so instead. They are hoping to raise more funds from the Big Bash in August.

**Mr Stone- Speedwatch:** Mr Meehan has been getting comments from Moor Lane CSW team asking for a SID. This may be considered after the Wrantage SID is installed. Mr Stone will ask the CSW team to do a basic summary of whether the SIDs have made a significant difference, using previous and current information.

**14) Publicity inputs:** Ideas for the Pink Sheet were discussed and decided upon. These will include information on Coronation mugs plus a request for suggestions for celebrations, a reminder to keep dogs under control on footpaths, an update on the Warm Room, and well wishes for those affected by the flooding.

Mr Stone left the meeting at 9:45pm.

**15) Matters for discussion:**

**Mrs Leader:** It has been noticed that a resident has had barns converted and is now selling off most of the property. People also seem to be living in the barn conversions. Mr Turner stated this does seem to be above board, as the barn had received planning permission for conversion to a house.

**Mr Dennis:** Met with the toddler group recently, and they are doing OK. They expressed their thanks to the Parish Council for the support. They have done some fundraising over Christmas and are working towards being set up more officially as a group. The Chairman thanked Mr Dennis for continuing to support them.

**The meeting was concluded at 9:50pm**