

Minutes of the North Curry Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 8th February 2023 at North Curry Village Hall Meeting Room.

Present or comments received: Mrs Tina Stodgell (Chairman), Mr Phil Stone (Vice Chairman), 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 Buller and Cllr Fothergill. Four members of the public were present.

1) Preliminaries:

To receive and approve apologies for absence: Apologies were received from Mrs Leader and Mr Wilkins.

Approve and sign minutes for the previous meeting dated 11th January 2023: Mr Jeanes proposed that 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 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: None.

Update on allotment progress: Mr Stone had circulated a report prior to the meeting. Mr Jeanes shared that the mini digger may be hired next week, or the following week, depending on weather. Hire price is still the same, and insurance is £27 for a £500 excess.

Update on Coffee Shop sign: Mr Jeanes reported that Highways is currently very busy filling in potholes but will get to the sign soon.

Update on Warm Room/ Talking Café: The Warm Room has been cancelled due to lack of volunteers, and lack of attendance. The Parish Office is soon going to be used as a Talking Space by the Village Agent, once per month on Friday afternoons from 2pm to 4pm.

Update on defibrillator for Village Hall: Mr Jeanes had circulated a report prior to the meeting. A new electrician is being looked into for and by the Village Hall so hopefully installation can go ahead soon.

Update on footpath map: Mr Deacon reported that the design is finished, but not yet printed on PVC. Mr Stone shared that the owner of New Barn Farm is happy for his unofficial footpath to be shown as a permissive footpath.

Update on playing field equipment: Mr Turner shared that the equipment has been ordered, the deposit paid, and asked if the agreed grant from the Parish Council could be given before the end of March.

Somerset County Cllr. Report: Financially, there is a £23 million overspend and £12 million will be needed from the reserves to help close the gap. LGR is still heading for April 1st, tier two appointments are in place and tier three interviews are taking place in March. Money has been awarded to junction 23 at Bridgwater, with lots of road works going on. An evening bus service is being trialled; it needs to be used if it is to continue. There is a recruitment call for more carers. Business mentoring schemes are being set up to support business in Somerset. Mr Turner asked Cllr Fothergill about the Planning Consultation document that has been shared, and a discussion was had about the possible changes being planned. The Clerk will share the document to all Parish Councillors to begin forming opinions.

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

24/22/0056: Erection of a straw store on land at Newport Farm, Wrantage, North Curry (amendment) and

24/22/0057: Erection of a straw store on land at Newport Farm, Wrantage, North Curry (amendment):

The above applications were discussed jointly due to being two parts of one proposed straw store. Mr Turner explained that the applications have previously been discussed and pointed out the amendments that had been made. After a discussion, Mr Turner proposed to support the application (both parts) but request that a planting scheme be put in place preferably inside of the road boundary to screen the development. The Chairman seconded, and all were in favour.

Planning correspondence: Last minute correspondence was received regarding application 24/21/0059 an appeal against refusal for removal of the agricultural tie in place. A discussion was had about the decision and reasons to keep it in place. Mr Turner proposed to add the following comment:

North Curry Parish Council reiterate their original objection. It is the Parish Council's normal practise to object to this kind of application as the Parish Council wishes to retain this category of property for people in agriculture at an affordable, lower than market value, price. Had it not been for the agricultural tie, the

bungalow would not have received planning permission and been built in the first place. The Parish Council believes that there is still a need for this category of property. Mr Hardwick seconded, and all were in favour.

- 4) To consider fence repair and installation of a new length of fence at Greenway Allotments:** One section needs repairing, and the other is hedgerow that needs new fencing. Firstly, Mr Jeanes shared photos of the broken section of chain link fence. Currently the best price out of two quotes is £1,780 + VAT to replace a post and the damaged chain link section and remove the old fencing. Mr Jeanes is still waiting on a third quote. Mr Jeanes proposed in principle to go ahead with repairing this section of fencing, using the best quote once the third one is in, with a budget of £1,800 + VAT. Mr Turner seconded, and all were in favour.

Secondly, there is a large gap in the hedge fencing at the rear of the allotments that needs fencing as deer are getting in. There was discussion on what sort of fencing would keep out both deer and badgers. It was decided that 5-foot badger fencing would be used, with 1 foot underground, leaving it 4 foot above ground. This would cost £348 for just the badger fencing. Mr Jeanes stated that the quote he had for this section would need to be updated due to the additional labour for digging in badger fencing. The Chairman wondered if digging could possibly be done when the mini digger is on site. Mr Jeanes and Mr Stone will make a start on digging ahead of installation day. Mr Jeanes proposed to source a new fence, with badger netting, and using concrete posts, with a budget of £2,500 using the best quote. Mr Graham seconded, and all were in favour.

- 5) To discuss repairing a section of fencing along Loscombe Meadow footpath:** Mr Stone and Mr Jeanes have looked at the fence and believe it can be repaired. It is a relatively new fence and Mr Stone will try and get it stood straight again, it doesn't need replacing for now.

- 6) To discuss purchasing a Speed Indication Device for Wrantage:** Two SIDs at either end of Wrantage were agreed, but locations will need to be discussed with Highways. The possibility of police funding was discussed but would not apply here due to lack of Speed Watch data for Wrantage. Mr Stone would like someone else to lead this SID project. Mr Deacon will consider whether he has the time to lead the project. The budget for two SIDs instead of just one was discussed and it is affordable. Mr Stone proposed to go ahead with buying two SIDs for either end of Wrantage, with a budget of £6,000, and to go ahead as soon as a project leader is found. Ms Smith seconded; all were in favour apart from one abstention.

Two residents of Moor Lane and members of the Speed Watch team were present to explain that they are applying for a SID for Moor Lane through the police grant scheme. They have been discussing their application and believe it is likely to be successful, their next steps are needing support from Highways and North Curry Parish Council. The Chairman proposed to fully support their request for a SID for Moor Lane, Mr Jeanes seconded, and all were in favour. The Clerk will write a letter stating that the Parish Council support the project. Cllr Fothergill will write to Highways to ask for their support.

7) The Coronation of King Charles III:

- a) To decide on the purchase of Coronation mugs:** The Chairman explained that another Parish Council asks parishioners to apply for a mug, with payment if required, to ensure there isn't a surplus of mugs ordered. The Chairman proposed to go ahead with this method, Mr Stone seconded, and all were in favour. The application deadline will be 15th March. Parishioners will need to submit the name and date of birth of their child under 12, and first line of address and their postcode. Applications for older children or adults will need to submit payment with application. The Clerk shared several mug designs and prices. The Chairman proposed to go for the first design (Clerks and Councils Direct offer) at £6.39 each, sold to people aged 12 and over at £6. Mrs Griffiths seconded, and all were in favour.

- b) To discuss possible Coronation events and planting of a tree:** It was decided an Oak tree should be planted in a central location. Locations were discussed. Mr Dennis proposed to go ahead with an Oak tree, and to put a questionnaire in the Pink Sheet a choice between the Community Woodland, Queen Square Gardens, and Lockyers Field Green Space. Mr Deacon seconded, and all were in favour.

The Clerk shared Mrs Leader's ideas received by email as she couldn't be present at the meeting. No ideas were received from the advert in the Pink Sheet. Ideas were discussed; could show the Coronation in the Village Hall on the Saturday, then an Afternoon Tea event on the playing fields on the Sunday. Ideas are needed for 'The Big Help' volunteering event on the Monday. This will be on the agenda next month to finalise. An initial note will be put in the Pink Sheet.

Ms Smith left the meeting.

- 8) To discuss a possible tree planting initiative:** Mr Stone explained that many trees in the village were being lost to disease or being felled. Mr Stone is prepared to organise providing trees and advise on what trees to plant and where. The cost will likely be a couple of hundred pounds. Mr Stone proposed to come back with more details for the next agenda, the Chairman seconded, and all were in favour.
- 9) To consider donating to a local hardship fund via the Village Agent:** The Chairman and Mr Deacon explained the local hardship fund, which would be ring-fenced money held by the Village Agent, for people or families in the Parish that need support t. After a discussion the Chairman proposed not to go ahead with this as it may be beyond the remit of the Parish Council; Mr Dennis seconded, and all were in favour. Mr Jeanes stated that the Coffee Shop has donated to the fund, so is providing some support for the fund from the Parish.
- 10) To discuss the grass cutting contract for Queen Square Garden:** The current grass cutting contract is going up by £5 per cut, so tenders need to be sent out to local companies. The Clerk will do this and report back at the next meeting with options.
- 11) To decide whether to use the Deposit Protection Scheme for allotment deposits:** Mr Jeanes explained that DPS is a government scheme for safely protecting and storing deposits, currently used for The Stable tenant deposits. There is no charge for this service. Mr Jeanes proposed to go ahead with using DPS for allotment deposits, the Chairman seconded, and all were in favour. Mr Jeanes will double check the terms and conditions for moving money in and out when people need deposits back to ensure it can be done easily.
- 12) To discuss issues regarding local flooding:** This item will be moved to the March meeting, earlier in the agenda so County Councillors can be involved. There was a brief discussion about what issues will need to be spoken about. Mr Stone mentioned that a thank you letter should be written to the Environmental Agency for their quick pumping of water by bringing five additional pumps to Haymoor which made a big difference to the speed of the flood water going down.
- 13) To decide whether to organise a March litter picking event:** The annual March litter pick will be held on Saturday 25th, meeting at 10:30am outside the Village Hall kindly led as usual by Mr Jeanes. The Clerk will arrange for collection of the rubbish.
- 14) To consider replacing standpipes with dip tanks at Loscombe allotments:** Mr Jeanes explained that this was previously agreed, but prices weren't discussed. The price would be £327 + VAT for two 62-gallon dip tanks and connectors. Mr Jeanes proposed to go ahead and have them fitted at this cost; Mr Dennis seconded, and all were in favour.
- 15) Finance:**
- a) Monthly accounts:** The Clerk presented the monthly bank report. The Chairman proposed to accept, Mr Jeanes seconded, and all were in favour.

Monthly Payment List - February 2023	Cheque No.	Net	VAT	Due Date
Clerk Salary (February)	BACS	£657.27		
Centrewire- kissing gates	BACS	£1,632.00	£326.40	PAID
SW&T dog bin emptying 3rd quarter (Inv: 64030164)	BACS	£346.32	£69.26	PAID
Postage Stamps. Refund to Clerk.	BACS	£7.60		
Village Hall- Room Hire (Inv: 3902)	BACS	£23.27		
Village Hall- Toddler Group (Inv: 3905)	BACS	£40.96		
Nest Clerk pension (January)	DD	£9.52		
BT Telephone	DD	£24.95	£4.99	
IONOS HiDrive (Inv: 203034456904)	DD	£3.00	£0.60	
Plusnet (Inv: 057)	DD	£33.23	£6.65	
Ionos Website (Inv: 203034559465)	DD	£4.00	£0.80	

- b) Payment list:** The Clerk presented the payment list, and Mr Jeanes added that the CPRE annual membership was up for renewal. The Chairman stated that it had previously been agreed as an indefinite membership to renew each year. The Clerk also added that the IONOS renewal was increasing by £5; Mr Hardwick said he would like to look into cheaper options. Due to potential changeover problems, the Chairman proposed that we carry on with the renewal this year and Mr Hardwick can review options ready for next year. Mr Turner seconded, and all were in favour. Mr Jeanes to accept the payment list and added that the EV charger

electricity use needs refunding to the Village Hall, and proposed to refund the Village Hall automatically every month at the agreed rate. Mr Hardwick seconded, and all were in favour.

16) Correspondence: Most correspondence was covered through the meeting. An email was also received from a Knit and Natter group that is starting in the Parish and asked for some help advertising; the Clerk has already given some suggestions.

17) Committee reports:

Footpaths (PS): Haymoor bridge has been washed away again.

Playing Field (AT): The committee would like to look at the management agreement, and requested if their post could be delivered to the Parish Office for ease due to lack of post box. These will be on next month's agenda.

Village Hall (BJ): Village Hall AGM will be held on the 4th April, they will be looking for a new Chairman.

Stable (PD): Need Parish Council to approve a 10.5% increase in rent and service charge due to many additional costs this year. Would also like to move £1,000 from the rent reserve to the service charge reserve. Mr Jeanes proposed to go ahead with the increase and movement of the £1,000; Mr Turner seconded, and all were in favour.

NC Sport (AT): The Big Bash will be going ahead in August.

Wildlife Group (PS): Wassailing happened last Sunday.

18) Publicity inputs: Pink Sheet items will include information about the Coronation event, tree, and mugs. It will also include the March litter pick, the May Fair, and a short bit about the need for more carers.

19) Matters for discussion:

Mr Stone: Would like to get some 'Thank you for driving carefully through our village' signs. This will be on the next agenda.

Mr Dennis: The toddler group have written their constitution and have done a brilliant job of it. They are almost insured, should be finalised by the next meeting.

Mr Fugett: A house on Windmill Hill has created an obstruction on the road, possibly meaning to be a traffic calming method. The Clerk shared that she had seen a Highways van parked next to it this afternoon. The Clerk will report it to Highways.

Mr Turner: An issue has been brought up about cars parking diagonally on the pavement outside Cricket Cottages, blocking the pavement. Currently unsure if this is a traffic offence or not. The Clerk will contact the PCSOs.

The meeting closed at 10:10pm.