

Minutes of the North Curry Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 8th March 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, Mr Ian Fugett, Mr Mike Dennis, Mr Maurice Wilkins. Cllr Buller and Cllr Fothergill. Six members of the public were present.

1) Preliminaries:

To receive and approve apologies for absence: Apologies were received from Mrs Leader and Ms Smith. Mr Jeanes will be joining the meeting later.

Approve and sign minutes for the previous meeting dated: 8th February 2023: Mr Hardwick proposed that the minutes were a true record, Mr Fugett 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 Greenway allotment progress: The overgrown allotments have now been cleared, bar one who's owner needs to be contacted. Thanks were given to Mr Jeanes, Mr Stone, and Mr Body for their hard work in clearing the allotments. The Clerk shared that another plot has now been taken, leaving four still vacant.

Update on dip tanks at Loscombe Meadow allotments: This work has now been completed by Mr Jeanes.

Update on Coffee Shop sign: The sign has now been put up.

Update on defibrillator for the Village Hall: Still waiting for the electrical work to be done to allow for installation of the defibrillator.

Update on footpath map: Five copies have now been printed in PVC, but with a slight overspend. The total cost was £80; the budget was £50 so the £30 overspend is within the remit of the Financial Regulations and footpaths budget. Mr Deacon and Mr Stone will now arrange putting the maps up on display.

Update on Wrantage SIDs: Mr Stone and Mr Meehan met with Highways in Wrantage and agreed on locations at either end of the village. The next step is talking to adjacent house owners to check they are also happy with locations. Mr Deacon is taking charge of this SID project; the Parish Council thanked Mr Deacon for taking on the project.

Update on car parking at Cricket Cottages: The Clerk has emailed PCSOs who have said they will investigate when they are next in the area. An item will be put in the pink sheet reminding people to park considerately.

Update on obstruction on Windmill Hill: The Clerk explained what has been happening with the obstruction. Cllr Fothergill stated it has been reported and there doesn't seem to be Highways involvement in creating the obstruction, it is suspected to be a traffic calming measure taken by the resident. Mr Fugett will go and speak to the occupant and see what's going on, then report back.

County Cllr. Report: Vesting day is still set for 1st April 2023 for the new Unitary Council; there is still a significant overspend. The 'Step up to Social Work' programme offers a generous bursary to help people start a career in Social Work, including a 14-month training programme. Route 1 Advocacy is seeking volunteers to support and spend time with young people; full training is provided.

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

24/23/0006/LB: *Installation of thermal insulation to external walls with associated building regulation requirements at The Warren, Stoke Road, North Curry.*

Mr Turner explained the application; the applicants previously applied to convert the derelict building into living accommodation, which was supported and is going ahead, this is the next stage.

Mr Turner proposed to support the application and add that the Parish Council is pleased to see that this redundant building is being brought back into use as a dwelling. Mr Stone seconded, and all were in favour.

24/23/0008: *Erection of car port to the side of Manor Barton, Stoke Road, North Curry.*

Mr Turner explained the application and there was a brief discussion. Mr Turner proposed to support the application, the Chairman seconded, and all were in favour.

24/23/0009: *Demolition of shed and porch and erection of a single storey extension to the front of Clematis Cottage, 19 Greenway, North Curry.*

Mr Turner explained the proposal in which the extension will be in the same footprint as the current shed. Mr Turner proposed to support the application, Mr Hardwick seconded, and all were in favour.

24/23/0004: *Conversion of skittle alley into 3 No. en-suite letting rooms at The Canal Inn, Langport Road, Wrantage.*

Mr Turner explained the application and a brief history of the site regarding planning. There was a discussion on how this would help support the pub business and provide accommodation where it is lacking, but that it would also be a shame to lose a skittle venue.

Mr Turner proposed to support the application but state that the Parish Council has great regrets that it is losing a skittle alley in the parish. Mr Cable seconded, and the majority were in favour, with one against.

24/23/0011: *Installation of 24 No. panel solar array in garden, erection of steel portal framed garage and erection of dormer to the loft over garage for ancillary accommodation at Wheelwrights Bungalow, Langport Road, Wrantage.*

Mr Turner explained the proposal and that the solar array will be in the garden, out of sight. The new garage will be smaller than the existing one by one meter, therefore hiding it. Mr Turner proposed to support the application, Mr Fugett seconded, and all were in favour.

4) To discuss issues regarding local flooding:

- a. **Flooding on Broad Lane:** Mr Fugett explained that he believes Highways should be responsible for clearing the ditch on Broad Lane that is the main route for the lane's floodwater, and that historically it was done by Highways. Cllr Fothergill will need to find out who owns the ditch and will investigate the issue.
- b. **Management of the flood gates:** A discussion was had about the chaos caused organising the opening and closing of the flood gates on Moor Lane. A resident who lives near the flood gate was present to share their experience too. Cllr Fothergill agrees the system needs to be improved, and suggested organising a meeting with Highways and will send the Clerk the contact details. The Chairman proposed to go ahead and arrange this meeting, all were in favour.

5) To discuss the grass cutting contract for Queen Square Garden: The Clerk read out the quotes received, and the Chairman proposed to instruct the current grass cutter to continue as they offered the best price; Mr Deacon seconded, and all were in favour.

6) King Charles III Coronation:

- a. **Coronation mugs:** The Clerk shared that 75 mugs have been ordered already by parishioners. The Clerk has spoken with the supplier who advised to get orders in soon to avoid disappointment. It was decided to purchase up to 180 mugs, depending on order numbers by the closing date of 15th March. Any leftover mugs can be sold at the Coronation celebration event.
- b. **Commemorative tree:** Eight comments had been received from parishioners; the Community Woodland was the favourite, however there are already a lot of oaks there. Loscombe Meadow and Lockyers Field management companies have agreed to a tree if the location is chosen. Mr Stone suggested Loscombe Meadow as the better location. Longs Field was mentioned as another option. Two trees could be purchased; one to commemorate the late Queen, and one for King Charles III. The Chairman proposed to purchase two large oak trees, offering one to Loscombe Meadow to commemorate the Coronation of King Charles III, and the other to Longs Field to commemorate the late Queen, with a budget of £500, and that Mr Stone can go ahead immediately when he finds the trees at the right price. Mr Hardwick seconded, and all were in favour.
- c. **Celebration events:** One suggestion has been received from Mrs Leader; producing a commemorative quilt. The Chairman proposed to speak to Mrs Leader about getting permission to hang the quilt in the Church, being the most open location. Mrs Griffiths seconded, and all were in favour. It was decided not to play the Coronation on the big screen in the Village Hall; this was proposed by Mr Fugett, seconded by Mr Hardwick, and all were in favour. Mr Turner has provisionally booked the Playing Field for the Afternoon Tea event on the Sunday.
- d. **To decide whether to purchase Coronation bunting:** The Clerk showed the bunting and the pricing; The Chairman proposed to instead ask if the May Fair would consider putting their bunting up a week early so it can also be used for the Coronation. Mr Dennis seconded, and all were in favour.

7) To further discuss replacing a section of fencing at the top of Greenway Allotments: The fencing quotes came back higher than the previous budget of £2,500, with the best quote being £2,750 for the section of fencing including badger netting. Mr Jeanes has kindly dug a superficial trench along the area to help reduce labour costs. The Chairman proposed to go ahead with the work quoted at £2,750; Mr Cable seconded, and all were in favour. Mr Stone also suggested filling in a gap in the hedge with around 20 trees and shrubs at roughly £2 each, totalling £40. Mr Jeanes proposed to go ahead with this with a £40 budget; Mr Stone seconded, and all were in favour.

- 8) **To discuss a grant request from North Curry Church towards the North Curry Music Festival:** The North Curry Music Festival Committee asked to clarify that this was not a Church event, but a separate community event put together by the committee. Committee members were present to explain details of the event and reasons for the grant request. The Saturday family event will cost £550 to run, assuming 20 tickets were sold at £5 each, a net of £450 will be left. They asked for £200 to go towards this event. A discussion was had about whether funding this was within the remit of the Parish Council, it was decided it was due to it being an event for the community, not a fundraising event. Any excess funds from the event will be ringfenced for future repeats of the event. Mr Stone proposed to donate £250 towards the family event, the Chairman seconded; most were in favour, with one abstention and one against.
- 9) **To consider a request from the Pavilion and Playing Fields to replace the lease with a management agreement, and use the Parish Office as a postal address:** A report had been circulated which details what the management agreement would entail, and why it is needed. The Chairman feels legal advice is necessary for the Parish Council. Little Herons leaving the Pavilion and Playing Field (P&PF) was a large financial loss leading to a yearly deficit. The running costs and income were examined. The P & PF would like the Parish Council to make up the yearly deficit. The P & PF are investigating transitioning to a Community Interest Company instead of a Charity, to remove financial liability from the committee members. The Chairman proposed that the Parish Council are happy to look into this in principle and view draft documents prepared by the P & PF, then further discuss how to proceed. Mr Dennis seconded, and all were in favour.
- 10) **To discuss a possible tree planting initiative within the Parish:** The Chairman proposed to go ahead and investigate further, Mr Hardwick seconded, and all were in favour. Some grants may be available, and proper maintenance of the planted trees needs to be discussed. This item will be postponed until May.
- 11) **To discuss possible purchase of 'Thank you for driving carefully through our village' signs:** This item will be postponed until May.
- 12) **Finance:**
- To decide whether to renew the CPRE membership at £60 or £36 per year:** Mr Dennis proposed to continue with the £36 membership, the Chairman seconded, and all were in favour.
 - To decide whether to renew the Clerks and Councils Direct magazine subscription at £14 per year:** The Chairman proposed to renew the membership at £14 annually, Mr Jeanes seconded, and all were in favour.
 - To approve quote for dog bin emptying for 2023-24:** The Chairman proposed to renew the contract this year but investigate other options for next year, Mr Fugett seconded, and all were in favour.
 - Monthly accounts:** The Chairman proposed the accounts were a true record, Mr Turner seconded, and all were in favour.
 - Payment list:** The Clerk explained that one of the £10,000 donation payments would need to wait until the Cambridge & Counties transfer is completed later this month; Mr Turner was happy for play equipment donation to be delayed. Mr Turner proposed to accept the payment list, the Chairman seconded, and all were in favour.

Monthly Payment List - March 2023	Cheque No.	Net	VAT	Due Date
Clerk Salary (March)	BACS	£657.27		31-Mar
Playing Fields- play equipment donation	BACS	£10,000.00		
Bells fund donation	BACS	£10,000.00		
NCVH- Toddler group (Inv: 3934)	BACS	£30.72		
NCVH room hire (Inv: 3930)	BACS	£23.27		
Clerks&Councils Direct annual subscription	BACS	£14.00		*
CPRE Membership	BACS	£60.00		*
Nest- Clerk pension (February)	DD	£17.45		
Wessex Water- Loscombe (Inv: 3005267338)	DD	£14.53		
Water2Business- Greenway (Inv: 3062320575)	DD	£33.33		
Water2Business- QSG (Inv: 3062306887)	DD	£16.38		
IONOS- HiDrive (Inv: 203034914779)	DD	£3.00	£0.60	

- 13) **Correspondence:** Most correspondence has been covered throughout the meeting. Mr Stone noticed that the Lillesdon bus shelter needs the roof re-felting, which he is willing to do. The Chairman proposed to go ahead and buy some roofing felt, Mrs Griffiths seconded, and all were in favour.

A resident on Stoke Road wants their white lines removed from the middle of the road as it affects their parking. Parking is getting difficult in this area. This is beyond the remit of the Parish Council, it needs to be sorted with Highways.

14) Committee reports:

Footpaths (PS): Haymoor bridge has floated away and still has not been found. Mr Wilkins will put a note on Facebook warning of the danger. The permissive footpath by Cricket Cottages would like to lock their gate and would like a Bristol gate. Rights of Way can't provide one, so maybe one of our kissing gates could be used instead.

NC Sport (AT): The current tractor is almost out of action due to its state. It was suggested that NC Sport could consider buying a second-hand tractor if they cannot afford a new one. It may be an idea to reconsider the tractor; it could also be used to cut grass on the P & PF to help them save money too.

Wildlife Group (PS): A leaflet is being produced about a new group.

15) Publicity inputs: Items for the Pink Sheet will include a reminder about parking considerately, and advertising that Tina Talbot Village Agent being in the Parish Office every third Friday of the month.

16) Matters for discussion:

Mr Fugett: Highways should be contacted about redoing the white lines around The Square.

Mr Hardwick: The manhole by the surgery has finally been covered!

Meeting closed at 10:30pm.