

NORTH CURRY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 3rd May 2023 at 7:30pm in the main Village Hall.

Present: Parish Councillors, Cllr. D Fothergill, and 9 members of the public.

1. **Welcome to the Annual Parish Meeting:** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. **Apologies for absence:** Apologies were received from Mr Phil Stone, Mr Ian Fugett, and the North Curry School head teacher.
3. **To receive and approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 4th May 2022:** Mr Turner proposed that the minutes were a true record; Revd Dr Simon Bale seconded, and all were in favour.
4. **Matters arising:** None.
5. **Chairman's report:** The Parish Council Chairman, Mrs Tina Stodgell, read her report which detailed the achievements of the Parish Council in the past year, and events that were held. She also gave thanks to the Parish Councillors, the Clerk, and the many volunteers for their hard work in improving the parish in the last year.
6. **To receive and note:**
 - i) **Parish Council Accounts:**
Mr Jeanes presented the Parish Council accounts for financial year 2022-23, explaining the income and spending for each category. Mr Jeanes asked for suggestions on what the remaining CIL money could be spent on and explained that there is a time limit on using it. A resident asked about CIL money and how it can be spent, adding that the Parish Council should try harder to think of ways to spend it, so it's not wasted. A resident asked Cllr Fothergill what other councils spend this money on; he answered that it varies greatly for the needs of individual areas. Caroline Vaughan suggested a trim track around the perimeter of White Street. A resident enquired about creating a footpath between Manor Lane and White Street, which Phil Stone was previously investigating.
 - ii) **Parochial Church Charities Accounts:**
The Chairman passed over to Revd Simon Bale to present the accounts; he started by thanking the Parish Council for donating towards the bells. He presented the PCC accounts, which were then signed by the Chairman. He then spoke about the cost-of-living crisis and how the Church has been trying to help but found difficulty in reaching those who need it. Regarding the Parochial Church Charities he asked if anyone knows of anyone eligible please refer them to the PCC for consideration to receive an annual voucher this December. £180 of vouchers has been given to households in the parish, which have been redeemed. Mrs Helen Griffiths asked about reinstalling the Reeves Feast, which was then discussed.
7. **Allotments report:** Mrs Jeanne Leader shared what has happened in restoring the tidiness of the allotments this year, including removing derelict sheds, removing small trees, fixing hedges, maintaining pathways, and digging up overgrown allotments. Mr Stan Case has kindly agreed to keep mowing the common areas for just the cost of the fuel. She stressed the importance of allotment holders keeping pathways clear, not blocking the pathways with compost bins, and maintaining their adjacent pathways. Mrs Leader explained the importance of keeping the allotments tidy and stressed the expense incurred in fixing them. She thanked Mr Brian Jeanes, Mr Phil Stone, and Mr John Boddy for their hard work in clearing the overgrown vacated allotments and overseeing the installation of new fencing. She explained that a refundable £50 deposit is being introduced for new plot holders, to deter plot holders from neglecting or abandoning their plots and leaving them in a good order when vacating them.
8. **Village Hall report:** No one present or report received.
9. **The Church Bells fundraising and completion story:** Mr Jeffrey Dart shared the story of fundraising and installing the new bells; the first in the country to have the cypher of King Charles, and possibly the last new bell with the Queen's Cypher- which was donated by your Parish Council in celebration of the Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebration of her reign. The bells have been deemed fit for purpose and glorious. The bells will be rung in the morning for the coronation, and again in the afternoon for a wedding. He thanked everyone involved in fundraising for making it possible.

Interval- tea and coffee served 20:30 – 20:50.

10. **Head Teacher's report for North Curry C of E Primary School:** The Clerk read out the report sent in by Mrs Morley about progress in the school and events of the past year.

- 11. Greenway Playing Field's report:** Mr Tony Turner shared that Mr Adam Hardwick has joined the Pavilion and Playing Field committee. Christmas in the Square returned with a great turnout, and some profit was raised towards future developments. Acoustic panelling has been fitted to the ceiling of the Pavilion. The new play equipment is currently being installed. Mr Turner asked if anyone, maybe a young person, would like to join the committee. Financially the committee is still quite stable; COVID actually helped as they were able to claim a small grant as a business. The preschool moving out has reduced the income significantly.
- 12. North Curry Sport Ltd (White Street Sports Ground) reports:** Mr Laurence Leader presented his report. He stated that there are 14 acres of grass to mow, and the tractor is deteriorating. The Parish Council has been supporting the mission of buying a new tractor, which the volunteers are looking forward to driving! The changing room has suffered a hot water leak just below the floor; an insurance claim is underway. Mr Phil Stone has installed a bench by the football playing field, the fence has been repaired and maintenance has been done on the cricket field. Mr Leader expressed that NC Sport is very grateful to the many volunteers for their tremendous efforts in various aspects. The Big Bash returns in August- they will be experimenting this year with a Village party with food, a band, dancing, and a bar. Historically it has been a very successful event, this will be the first one since COVID. Keep an eye out in the pink sheet for details.
- 13. North Curry Coffee Shop report:** Mrs Katherine Jeanes presented the Coffee Shop report as one of the original volunteers, on behalf of chairman. There have been no major events, but they have been busy. The food health and safety rating was maintained at 5 stars. Lots of training courses have been done including first aid, food hygiene, and allergen courses. The new online rota system is going well. Wi-Fi has now been installed. There was a summer party in pavilion last summer for volunteers, which will be repeated this year. Finances are steady, winter is quieter, but summer gets much busier. The new summer menu now in place. Cycle Somerset awarded the Coffee Shop the 'Stop of the year award 2022' and a £100 cheque. The new veranda glass panel is to be installed soon. There is a new sign directing people to coffee shop. The Coffee Shop is deeply grateful to the volunteers for their hard work! More volunteers are always needed, and the coffee shop committee also taking suggestions for charities to make donations to. Mr Tony Turner thanked coffee shop for donation to White Street playing fields.
- 14. Community Speedwatch Report:** Mr Ken Octon, a representative of speed watch, presented a report. He shared data from Avon and Somerset police; the percentage of speeders in north curry over the 26mph threshold are the worst in the county! Data shows 88.4% of vehicles are below the threshold in Canterbury Drive, the SIDs record speed in the opposite direction and 'outgoing speeders' are higher. The maximum speed by Canterbury Drive incoming was 53mph, max outgoing 76mph. Windmill Hill data is similar. Only one car has been clocked over 70mph but several have been going above 50mph. Drivers seem to be responding to the SIDs, but once they pass the SID they don't think they're being monitored. The more data is given to the police, the more likely we are to see a police presence as a 'speed trap'. Two new SIDs are coming to Wrantage, and one for Moor Lane is in progress. He explained that the SID display is currently off, as it is an obligation to turn the screen off occasionally, but they are still recording data. Speedwatch is still ongoing but can't do speed tests while SIDs are operating, and weather has been an issue. Volunteers are essential but numbers are low; the last Speedwatch mission was in September last year. Tractor speeds were also discussed, but there is no notable data on this currently. The Parish Council Chairman thanked the Speedwatch group for their hard work.
- 15. Parish affairs- open forum:**
Mr Ken Octon reported that tractors are destroying the verges along Stoke Road; with a foot or 18 inches on both sides being destroyed, and newly repaired potholes are starting to crack again. There was a discussion on what could be done on this issue, which is mainly that tractors are too big for the size of the road. Currently no one knows of a solution to this. Most tractors are driving safely and carefully, with only a few causing issues. A resident asked if intention is there to do a detailed Neighbourhood Plan. The Chairman explained that it's down to volunteers and takes years to do. The Parish Council could fund the work instead if there is a lack of volunteers. A Neighbourhood Plan brings in CIL income and protection against some planning applications. The Chairman agreed it can be looked into and will go on the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting. It was agreed that North Curry has a lot of heritage and history to protect.

The meeting closed at 9:40pm.