

NORTH CURRY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 10th May 2023 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall Meeting Room.

Present or comments received: Mrs Tina Stodgell (Chairman), Mrs Jeanne Leader (Vice-Chairman), Mr Phil Stone, Mr Tony Turner, Mr Paul Deacon, Mr Adam Hardwick, Mr Brian Jeanes, Mr Graham Cable, Mrs Griffiths. One member of the public was present.

1. Preliminaries:

To receive and approve apologies for absence: Apologies were received from Ms Smith, Mr Dennis, Mr Wilkins, and Mr Fugett. Cllr David Fothergill also sent his apologies.

Approve and sign minutes for the previous meeting dated 12th April 2023: Mr Hardwick proposed that the minutes were a true record, Mr Stone 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):* Mrs Leader declared an interest in item 6.

2. Matters Arising:

Policing matters: None.

Update on defibrillator for the Village Hall: Still waiting on a delivery date, currently a nationwide shortage.

Update on Wrantage SIDs: Mr Deacon has circulated a report. Currently waiting to hear from Highways as Police have approved locations. Sorting out how to fix the west end sign, whether to fix the post or replace it. Rumble strips have also been recommended leading up to the SIDs to help reduce speed further.

Update on flooding on Broad Lane: No further updates, the Clerk will correspond with Cllr Fothergill.

Update on Queen Square line markings: Clerk shared there have been no further updates, but work wasn't expected to be done before June.

Update on car parking at Cricket Cottages: This is still a problem. Mrs Leader asked if a strip of land could be bought to use as a Village car park with CIL money. Mr Jeanes will make an informal inquiry. The Chairman also stated that when the Parish Council paid towards re-tarmacking the Village Hall car park it was agreed it could be used as a short stay car park, and could be used for School pick up times. The Clerk will ask the PCSOs to patrol the area.

Update on Windmill Hill obstruction: Correspondence (A7413) was received from a resident concerned about the obstruction still being in place. There is a worry others will follow suit; it should be removed until it is given permission. The Clerk will email Cllr Fothergill to see if this can be arranged with Highways. Another resident also complained that the Parish Council aren't doing enough for speeding and the SIDs aren't working; the Clerk responded with why the SIDs are off and listed what the Parish Council has done for speeding in the Parish. Mr Deacon shared that the SIDS still collect data while the display is off and so far, the incidence of speeding hasn't increased!

Update on a possible tree planting initiative within the Parish: Mr Stone will prepare a report for next month's meeting.

Update on shrubs in Queen Square Garden: Mr Jeanes and Mr Turner have spoken to Mrs Gibbs who as a volunteer does general maintenance in Queen Square Garden, she was already planning to prune the shrubs. However, some are in a conservation area and will require planning permission to be cut down. The Chairman proposed they go ahead with submitting a planning application, Mrs Leader seconded, and all were in favour. Mr Jeanes and Mr Turner will liaise with Mr Stone, our Parish Council Tree Warden.

County Cllr. Report: weekly update being forwarded by email.

4. Report from Annual Parish Meeting:

There was poor attendance of parishioners. Currently unsure how to attract more people. Ideas were discussed from experience of other Parish's meetings. It was agreed that more organisations and groups should be invited, especially those the Parish Council has given grants to, which should interest and encourage improved attendance next year.

a. To discuss whether to investigate producing a Neighbourhood Development Plan: A sub-committee would need to be formed if this is to go ahead. This was abandoned last time due to lack

of interest and volunteers. The Parish Council at that time produce a smaller document forwarded to all Deane Councillors which they hoped would provide more information regarding planning in our Parish. Mr Jeanes will ask someone he thinks may be interested. Mr Turner believes a professional should be brought in. Mr Hardwick and Mrs Leader are happy to be involved but not lead the project. This will be back on the agenda next month.

5. **King Charles III Coronation:**

- a. **Coronation mugs- consider ordering one more box (36) due to high demand:** The Clerk shared that all of the mugs had been reserved and some who had not ordered previously were left disappointed. A further box of 36 mugs would cost £246 + VAT. The Chairman proposed to order one more box of 36, Mr Hardwick seconded, and all were in favour.
- b. **Summary of celebration event:** The Chairman reported that there was a good turnout from all ages, and it was a great event!
- c. **To consider plaques for Commemorative trees:** The metal plaques can be bought from Timpson's, Mr Turner agreed to get the plaques once the wording has been agreed. Suggestions were 'to commemorate the Coronation of King Charles III on 6th May 2023' and 'to commemorate the long life of Queen Elizabeth II 21st April 1926 – 8th September 2022'. The Clerk will email to everyone to comment on. A budget of £100 was agreed.
- d. **To choose 3 photos to submit for Somerset Council Archive:** Some photographers were present at the Big Lunch; the Chairman and Vice-Chairman will contact them and choose up to three photos to submit.

6. **Consideration of contributions towards new tractor at White Street Sports:** Mr Laurence Leader from North Curry Sport Ltd was present and explained the breakdown of funding. In October a grant from The Parish Council of £5,000 was agreed, and November a further £6,239 was agreed. Both amounts were subject to the funding application being accepted. The application was unsuccessful, but the money potentially proposed from the Parish Council is still available. It's a parish facility, ideal use for CIL money. The Chairman proposed to go ahead with contributing £11,239 from CIL money Mr Hardwick seconded, all were in favour bar Mrs Leader abstaining due to a declared interest. It was mentioned that the grass cutting grants should be looked at for each sport facility, and Mr Stone will explore the option of the two sharing the tractor.

7. **To discuss creating a new Welcome Booklet:** Several people have now asked for a new edition. The Clerk will ask Mr Fugett if he would still like to do it, if he doesn't, Mr Deacon will consider it. Previously, there was a small committee that helped.

8. **To discuss purchasing two 'Thank you for driving carefully through our Village' signs:** Mr Stone suggested a sign saying 'these people thank you for driving carefully through our Village' with a picture of a cyclist, horse rider, and parent and child. He will investigate pricing.

9. **To consider the listing of North Curry Community Coffee Shop on the Parish website:** Mr Jeanes explained that the Coffee Shop would like to be listed under amenities as well as businesses. The Chairman proposed to go ahead, Mr Jeanes seconded, and all were in favour. Mr Cable will make the change.

10. **To consider switching from PlusNet to BT Business due to PlusNet business ending:** The Clerk shared the prices offered for standard and fibre. Mrs Leader proposed to go ahead with the fibre option for £34.95 per month, Mr Deacon seconded, all were in favour.

11. **Finance:**

- a. **To approve the final accounts for 2022-23:** Mr Jeanes presented the accounts and explained there will be a slight difference due to an incorrect split shown between CIL and footpath money used for the kissing gates. He explained that these are now the final figures, and proposed to approve this as final accounts, Mrs Griffiths seconded, and all were in favour.
- b. **To approve and sign the AGAR form section 1:** Mr Jeanes reported that the internal audit went well, Mr Cullwick was happy with improvements made in the last year. Mr Jeanes proposed to sign section 1 of the AGAR form, Mr Turner seconded, and all were in favour. The Chairman and Clerk signed the form.
- c. **To approve and sign the AGAR from section 2:** Mr Jeanes explained this section of the AGAR form and proposed to accept as true for section 2, Mrs Leader seconded, all were in favour. The Chairman and Clerk signed the form.

- d. To approve the Stable budget:** Mr Jeanes explained the budget and there were no questions. Mr Jeanes proposed to approve the budget, Mr Deacon seconded, all were in favour. The committee were thanked for their hard work.
- e. To review the Clerk's salary and pension:** Mr Jeanes shared that the Clerk is happy with her hours and proposed to increase her salary by one spinal point on the scale to £11.83 per hour, backdated to April 1st, which will increase pension in proportion to the new salary. The Chairman seconded; all were in favour.
- f. To review the Stable cleaner's salary:** The current salary is £10.50 per hour, just above minimum wage. Mr Jeanes proposed to increase to £11 per hour, Mr Turner seconded, and all were in favour.
- g. To review and approve the risk assessment:** Mr Jeanes explained the risk assessment has been reviewed with one addition of what should be done to cover the risk of being without a Clerk again. There were no other suggestions. Mr Jeanes proposed to accept and approve the updated risk assessment, the Chairman seconded, all were in favour.
- h. To review and approve the Financial Regulations:** No changes have been proposed, the Clerk shared that NALC haven't made any further recommendations since 2019. Mr Jeanes proposed to approve the Financial Regulations, the Chairman seconded, all were in favour.
- i. Finance Advisory Panel meeting report:** Quarterly accounts checks will now be done by Mr Hardwick.
- j. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) update:** The CIL funds were circulated. The tractor for NC Sport will reduce funds to be spent by the end of October.
- k. Monthly accounts:** The Clerk presented the monthly accounts.
- l. Payment List:** The Clerk presented the payment list, the Chairman proposed to go ahead with the payments, Mr Cable seconded, and all were in favour. The Clerk will check when the Toddler Group room hire grant runs out.

Monthly Payment List - May 2023	Cheque/ BACS/DD	Net	VAT	Due Date
Somerset Woods Donation	BACS	£140.00		
Greenway grass cutting grant (2022 and 2023)	BACS	£550.00		
NC Sports grass cutting grant (2022 and 2023)	BACS	£1,000.00		
Clerk Salary	BACS	TBC		31.05.2023
SALC audit training (Inv 2226)	BACS	£35.00		
Josh Williams grass cutting (Inv 63)	BACS	£75.00		
Viking- printer paper (Inv 2415416)	BACS	£62.09	£12.42	
NCVH electricity recharge (Inv 3029)	BACS	£115.06		
NCVH room hire (Inv 3982)	BACS	£23.27		
NCVH toddler group (Inv 3969 + 3971CR)	BACS	£30.72		
BT Telephone (Inv M008 HJ)	DD	£29.27	£5.85	
IONOS Website (Inv 203035927836)	DD	£4.00	£0.80	
IONOS HiDrive (Inv 203035823421)	DD	£3.00	£0.06	
Plusnet (060)	DD	£31.55	£6.31	

12. Correspondence:

A7419: An email from a resident concerned about cars idling at school drop off and pick up times; the Clerk emailed the school and Village Hall, the school sent out a parent email.

A7420: The May Fair Committee are asking for a grant towards the £150 + VAT road closure expenses. The Chairman proposed to pay the full £150 + VAT, Mr Hardwick seconded, all in favour.

A7425: Missing bridge and dead eucalyptus trees on the moors. Mr Stone has been trying to find out when the bridge will be replaced. The Clerk and Mr Stone will write a letter to the landowner. A letter will also be written to the head of the Forestry Commission Southwest about the dead eucalyptus trees; Mr Stone has written his own letter but has had no response.

Facebook: Mrs Leader saw a message from a resident that someone had struggled to use the EV chargers. Mr Jeanes will check the notice with instructions is clear enough.

13. Committee /Delegate reports:

Footpaths (PS): Mr Stone would like to order more kissing gates; this will go on next month's agenda.

Tree Warden (PS): A resident's magnolia tree has significantly moved the porch. As it is within the Conservation Area a planning application will be submitted for felling it. It was agreed a replacement magnolia tree should be put in, further away from the porch.

Playing Fields (AT): New play equipment is installed, just waiting on the rubber safety surface to be laid. There are reports that toddlers can't reach some parts of the play equipment due to lack of ramps.

Speedwatch (AM): Speedwatch are looking for a new co-ordinator as Mr Meehan is stepping down. They are struggling to find locations (not too near to the SIDs) as police have strict rules on locations. This will be discussed more next month.

14. Publicity inputs: Items for the Pink Sheet will include a brief section on the Coronation event, advertising the 36 more mugs being purchased, an explanation of why the SIDs are off, and a bit about the ringing and blessing of the bells.

15. Matters for discussion: None.

The meeting concluded at 10:07pm.