

NORTH CURRY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 12th July 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, Mr Mike Dennis, Ms Cecilia Smith, Mr Maurice Wilkins, Mr Ian Fugett. County Cllr Norman Cavill was also present. 10 members of the public were present.

1. Preliminaries:

A short public notice: Two members of the public were present to explain that they have recently purchased some land outside Knapp. They regret not announcing this earlier on as it has caused great concern seeing works going on in that area. They are building a low impact, sustainable farm, and hope to live on the land eventually, if planning allows. They will be hosting an open day on the 24th for people to come and meet them and see what they are doing.

To receive and approve apologies for absence: None received.

Approve and sign minutes for the previous meeting dated: 14th June 2023: Mr Hardwick proposed the minutes were a true record, Mr Dennis 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*): Mr Dennis declared an interest in item 3, application 24/23/0029 for family reasons and will leave the room for discussion and voting. Mr Hardwick declared an interest in a correspondence item about parking on Queen Square due to living in the vicinity.

Ms Smith arrived at 7:40pm.

2. Matters Arising:

Policing matters: Fly tipping has been spotted at the top of Sedgemoor Drove, seems to be a large amount of roof tiles. It was mentioned that a roofing job is going on in the village with similar looking tiles. There are also rumours of the pile containing asbestos. This will be passed on to the PCSOs.

Update on defibrillator for the Village Hall: No further updates.

Update on Wrantage and Moor Lane SIDs: Waiting for Highways to arrange and install post, approximately three-month waiting time. SIDs will be ordered once pole has been placed due to very short lead times. An e-mail was received from a Stoke resident asking advice on whether the SIDs and 20mph zone have worked, Mr Deacon will speak to him.

Update on flooding on Broad Lane: No responses yet from the letter sent to Wessex Water, the Clerk will send another. Mr Stone and Mr Jeanes have visited the area and will visit some landowners that may be able to make alterations to help ease the flooding. Cllr Fothergill has also been in touch to arrange a meeting about management of the flood gates on Moor Lane; Friday is a possibility, Mrs Vaughan the Flood Warden and Tom Jeanes will also attend.

Update on Queen Square and other line markings: Still waiting, but we are in the queue. There is a long back log of work.

Update on tree work planning application for Queen Square Garden: Mr Stone and Mr Jeanes met with the Tree Officer of Somerset Council; he is happy for the work to be done so long as shrubs are replaced. Some other trees need work so will be included in the application. Three quotes will be sought, and whoever is successful will likely do the planning application also.

Update on Neighbourhood Development Plan: Mrs Leader has emailed some contacts but so far had no replies. She has had a look at the rough process and what's involved. There seem to be a few willing volunteers in the village. Mr Deacon shared that Ordinance Survey data could also support the NDP.

Update on Welcome Leaflet: Mr Deacon is in the process of contacting people from the previous welcome booklet but having a lot of trouble getting responses.

County Cllr. Report: Weekly update being forwarded by email. Cllr Cavill further explained the large deficits and the plans to negate them.

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

24/23/0025: Replacement of extension to the rear of Manor Farm, Stoke Road, North Curry, and

24/23/0026/LB: Replacement of extension to the rear of Manor Farm, Stoke Road, North Curry:

These applications have been combined as they both relate to the same property. Mr Turner explained the application and proposed the following comment “North Curry Parish Council support the application and trust that the Conservation Officers will ensure the new proposal will not harm the listed building”. Mrs Leader seconded; all were in favour.

24/23/0028: *Variation of Condition No. 02 (approved plans) of application 24/22/0020 for the re-orientation of the dwelling and amendments to the design at The Wilderness, Stoke Road, North Curry:*

Mr Turner explained that the application for the original house is approved already, but the phosphate license ran out which prevented work going ahead. The applicant explained that the neighbours were happy with the design and position of the house. Mr Turner proposed the following statement “North Curry Parish Council support the application and hope that these changes can be approved as the Parish Council would wish to see this development approved”. Mr Hardwick seconded, and the majority were in favour bar one abstention, and one against.

24/23/0029: *Erection of a two storey and single storey extension to the rear and porch canopy to the front of Poplar Farm, West Sedgemoor Road, North Curry:*

Mr Dennis left the room. Mr Turner explained the application and proposed the following statement “North Curry Parish Council support the application and asks that the new roof tiles be second hand double roman to match the existing roof tiles. The Parish Council is pleased to see that the property is being modernised by a young local couple”. Mrs Stodgell seconded, and all were in favour.

Footpath T17/61: *Diversion of the stated path so that it runs further from a house.*

Mr Dennis returned to the room. Mr Turner explained the application and previous diversion. Mr Turner proposed the following statement “North Curry Parish Council support the diversion but found it difficult to relate the diversion in relation to the proposed development”. Mrs Leader seconded, and all were in favour.

4. **To consider purchasing the three ‘Thank you for driving carefully through our Village’ signs:** Mr Stone has spoken to Highways which said that they usually provide these signs themselves. This item will be deferred to next month to allow for more research.
5. **To discuss possible plans and viability of providing a village car park behind Cricket Cottages and Constable Cottage:** Mr Jeanes stated that despite his siblings owning the land being considered for a car park, he has no interest to declare at this stage as he is just acting as a go-between; his involvement will stop if/when money is discussed. Mr Stone shared four possible designs he has created, and the possible use of CIL money was discussed. There was a conversation about the designs and logistics. Highways need to be consulted before this goes any further to find out if it is at all possible, and the landowners need to be contacted to see if they might consider selling the land. Mr Jeanes will speak to the landowner and Mr Stone will figure out square meterage of the possible designs.
6. **To discuss a ‘produce shed’ for Greenway Allotments:** The Clerk shared the opinions of Greenway allotment holders in response to an enquiry email, which was overall positive but with a resounding opinion of not wanting the shed to be inside the gates to the allotments. Mrs Leader will liaise with the allotment rep to find a general consensus. Mr Jeanes suggested widening the ‘catchment area’ for the allotments as three plots are still available; a final call will be put out before this is discussed next month.
7. **To agree the Parish Council’s Local Community Network voting representative:** Mr Dennis and Mr Stone both had a chance to speak about why they would like to be the representative. They then both left the room, and a closed vote was taken; Mr Dennis had the majority of the vote so became the representative.
8. **To discuss signpost maintenance around the Parish:** This will be moved to next month’s meeting.
9. **To consider a request from the Pavilion and Playing Field to use the Parish Office post box as a postal address:** The Chairman proposed to accept the request, Mrs Leader seconded, and all were in favour.
10. **Finance:**
 - a. **Monthly accounts:** The Clerk presented the accounts, the Chairman proposed to accept them, Mr Hardwick seconded, and all were in favour.
 - b. **Payment List:** The Clerk presented the payment list, and the Chairman explained that Mr Deacon had very kindly restored the Wrantage noticeboard, which is what the refund is for. The Chairman proposed to proceed with the payments, Mr Turner seconded, and all were in favour.

Monthly Payment List - July 2023	Cheque/ BACS/DD	Net	VAT	Due Date
Stable utilities bill (Inv 10)	BACS	£185.07		
J Williams grass cutting x 2 (Inv 26)	BACS	£150.00		
Clerk Salary	BACS	£681.18		31-Jul
NCVH EV recharge April & May (Inv 3030)	BACS	£254.64		
Somerset Council dog bin emptying	BACS	£381.16	£76.23	
NCVH Room Hire (Inv 4032)	BACS	£23.27		
Wrantage noticeboard refurb materials (refund to P Deacon)	BACS	£44.00		
HMRC PAYE (April - June)	BACS	£597.81		
IONOS Website (Inv 203036855974)	DD	£4.00	£0.80	
IONOS HiDrive (Inv 203036749416)	DD	£3.00	£0.60	
Plusnet (Inv 062)	DD	£31.44	£6.29	

11. Correspondence:

A7438, Queen Square parking: An email from a resident with an idea for addressing the parking problems in Queen Square. Mr Hardwick further explained the issue. Some possible ideas were discussed. This will be further discussed next month.

A7439, flood gate meeting: An email from Cllr Fothergill arranging a flood gate management meeting. This is due to go ahead on Friday.

A7440, pink sheet item: A piece for the pink sheet from Mr Stone. This will be sent in to see if there is space for it to be included.

12. Committee /Delegate reports:

Playing Field (AH): Planning to do Christmas in the Square again this year. Would also like to clarify an injury that has occurred on the new play fort; a young child has unfortunately broken their arm while using the equipment, a review of the incident has shown there is likely no liability. Another child in the village has a broken arm and there are rumours it also happened on the play fort, but this is not true, it happened at the child's home.

Stable (PD): The Chairman reported a large crack in the stone wall by the office door, Mr Deacon will investigate.

Road Safety/ Speed Policy/ SIDs (PD): Have gathered some speed data to investigate what happens with speed when the SID displays are turned off and would like to repeat this before reporting on the data.

North Curry Sports Ltd (PS): They now have their new tractor. CIL money will be transferred to them in due course.

13. Publicity Inputs: Will include a last call for the three vacant allotments before opening up to neighbouring villages, Mr Stone's piece on the tree initiative, a reminder to collect coronation mugs, and a reminder for people to keep their hedges trimmed.

Mr Fugett left the meeting.

14. Matters for Discussion:

Mrs Griffiths: The Music Festival wind up meeting went well, they want to do it again next year.

Mrs Leader: The sad response about the eucalyptus planting scheme; Mr Jeanes will speak to the landowner.

Mr Jeanes: The Bird in Hand is basically sold, possible plans for converting the back buildings to holiday lets. Permanent lets would be better in providing more homes for the village.

Mr Stone: Is arranging a deal with Greenshutters for the tree planting scheme.

Mr Deacon: Mentioned the EA site which could be considered for more parking- this was discussed some months ago and was not a possibility.

The meeting concluded at 10:40pm.