

NORTH CURRY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 9th August 2023 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall Meeting Room.

Present or comments received: Mrs Jeanne Leader (Vice-Chairman), Mr Tony Turner, Mr Paul Deacon, Mr Adam Hardwick, Mr Brian Jeanes, Mrs Griffiths, Mr Mike Dennis, Mr Maurice Wilkins. County Cllr David Fothergill was also present.

1. Preliminaries:

To receive and approve apologies for absence: Apologies were received from Mrs Stodgell, Mr Stone, Mr Fugett, Mr Cable, and Ms Smith. Apologies were also received from County Cllr Cavill. Vice Chairman Mrs Leader will chair the meeting.

Approve and sign minutes for the previous meeting dated 12th July 2023: Mr Deacon corrected a mistake in item 4; he said that Highways supply speed signs, not 'Thank you for driving carefully through our Village' signs. After the correction was made, Mr Turner proposed the minutes were a true record, Mr Deacon 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 Jeanes declared an interest in item 10b due to his name being on the payment list.

2. Matters Arising: The Chairman explained that Matters Arising will be removed from the agenda from now on, replaced by a Project Tracker that will be regularly updated and sent out prior to meetings, following SALC advise. The Project Tracker was sent out before this meeting (Appendix 1).

Policing matters: None.

Update on defibrillator for the Village Hall: Further addition to Project Tracker- the AED will be installed on the 30th August.

Update on Wrantage and Moor Lane SIDs: See Project Tracker.

Update on flooding on Broad Lane: See Project Tracker. Need to respond strongly to Wessex Water again. This will be on next month's agenda.

Update on Queen Square and other line markings: See Project Tracker. Mr Deacon or Mr Jeanes will talk to Highways about the Moor Lane cut through to see if a 'concealed entrance' sign may be a good idea.

Update on tree work planning application for Queen Square Garden: See Project Tracker.

Update on Neighbourhood Development Plan: See Project Tracker. This will be on next month's agenda.

Update on Welcome leaflet: See Project Tracker. Some more items need to be added, including the Churches and sports grounds.

County Cllr. Report: Over £20 million overspend to be taken from reserves; looking into how to remedy this. Forty-eight commercial projects were bought by the District Councils which aren't making much money. Phosphate mitigation plan is coming together well- currently trialling a system in Fivehead extracting phosphate from water, currently extracting 98% so far. Volunteers are needed for children's services. Green Flag Awards have been achieved by Vivary Park and Wellington Park. Trading Standards visited 100 sandwich shops, 56 of them were found not to be labelling allergens; there will now be a big push to rectify this.

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

24/23/0032: *Erection of a two storey extension to the rear with alterations to roof and erection of a single storey link with extension to garage at Monksleigh, The Fosse, North Curry.*

Mr Turner explained the application and proposed to support it; Mr Hardwick seconded, all were in favour bar Mrs Leader who abstained.

4. To consider purchasing the three 'Thank you for driving carefully through our Village' signs: This will be discussed at September's meeting.

5. To discuss possible plans and viability of providing a village car park behind Cricket Cottages and Constable Cottage: Mr Jeanes has spoken to his siblings about possible sale of the land; they haven't written it off, and would like more details. Mr Deacon will be speaking to Highways soon to discuss feasibility. Some residents from Cricket Cottages were present wanting to know about what is planned; it was explained that this is only an exploration at the moment, and they will be consulted properly if this is able to go ahead.

6. **To discuss a 'produce shed' for Greenway Allotments:** No updates currently, an idea is to fit a box to the inside of the allotment fence so people can access the box without entering the allotments. The Clerk also explained we are unlikely to need to expand the 'catchment area' for the allotments as there has been a lot of interest.
7. **To discuss signpost maintenance around the Parish:** Borough Post signpost needs repainting as it is rusty again and leaning. Mr Deacon will do an inventory of signposts and come back with a report next month.
8. **Queen Square parking:**
- To consider parking issues and possible solutions in Queen's Square:** Some possible solutions were discussed, and how it would affect those using the Village Shop. There was a discussion on what the Parish Council want to achieve with the parking situation. The Chairman pointed out that parking will be part of the Neighbourhood Development Plan so could hold on to make it part of that. The situation will be monitored for now.
 - The Post Office request our thoughts on box markings outside the entrance to the Post Office:** The Post Office have asked for this to stop people blocking the entrances to the shop and post office, and obscuring the junction. Possible ideas were discussed including the use of hatching; Highways will be consulted.
9. **To agree on a quote for tree works for Queen Square Gardens:** Mr Jeanes circulated the quotes prior to the meeting. There was a discussion to determine exactly what is to be done, as the Prunus was possible unsafe. Mr Jeanes summarised to go ahead with removing the Prunus, the smaller Holly, and the Conifer, and trimming the larger Holly and some smaller shrubs. Although agreement was reached on the proposed works, the final decision on which quote to accept will be made next month once they are all received.
10. **Finance:**
- Monthly accounts:** The Clerk presented the accounts.
 - Payment list:** The Clerk presented the payment list, Mr Hardwick proposed to proceed with payments, Mr Wilkins seconded, and all were in favour bar Mr Jeanes who abstained.

Monthly Payment List - August 2023	Cheque/ BACS/DD	Net	VAT	Due Date
NCVH EV recharge June (Inv 3031)	BACS	£58.88		
BT office broadband (Inv M001&Y)	BACS	£40.73	£8.15	PAID
Character Graphics- footpath maps (Inv 35256)	BACS	£120.00	£24.00	
DefibWarehouse- adult pads- refund to Brian (Inv 95101)	BACS	£50.95	£10.19	PAID
DefibWarehouse- AED battery- refund to Brian (Inv 95130)	BACS	£289.00	£57.80	PAID
DefibWarehouse- adult pads- refund to Brian (Inv 94544)	BACS	£50.95	£10.19	PAID
NCVH room hire (Inv 4063)	BACS	£23.27		
Richard Perry- Nine Acre Lane strimming (Inv 2770)	BACS	£195.00		
Josh Williams- QSG grass cutting x 2 (Inv 53)	BACS	£150.00		
SWAST defibrillator support package (Inv 1314)	BACS	£1,800.00	£360.00	PAID
Clerk salary	BACS	£681.18		31-Aug
BT EV phone line (Inv M011 Vw)	DD	£29.27	£5.85	
IONOS Domain and website builder (Inv 203037316615)	DD	£19.00	£3.80	
ICO renewal fee	DD	£35.00		11-Sep
IONOS HiDrive (Inv 203037210934)	DD	£3.00	£0.60	

- To consider funding the Clerk to complete the ILCA training course for £120:** The Clerk explained what was involved in the course and passed around the leaflet. Mr Jeanes explained there was enough in the training budget to cover it. Mr Jeanes proposed to go ahead and start the course, the Chairman seconded, and all were in favour.

11. Correspondence.

A7448: The Clerk received a phone call about speeding in Greenway, including a request for a SID to be installed there. There was a brief discussion about other speed reduction measures that could be more effective. The new SIDs need to be installed before we consider buying more.

A7449: An email about a parking issue with a driveway being blocked; the Clerk replied suggesting contacting the PCSOs.

A7451: An email was received with concerns about the Lime Trees as some are too large and could damage houses. Mr Stone may need to look at them again and restart the phased works. This will go on next months agenda as a tree surgeon may need to inspect them for safety.

B7457: An email was received asking about the obstruction on Windmill Hill. The Clerk will contact the PCSOs and Highways so they can prioritise the work or advise on how it can be dealt with; it is currently an illegal obstruction causing a lot of concern throughout the village.

12. Committee /Delegate reports:

Footpaths (PS + PD): Footpaths have been cleared, and Mr Stone has been installing kissing gates. Mr Dennis reported problems with gates being left open allowing livestock to escape.

Stable (PD): Mr Deacon will be monitoring the crack in the wall outside the Parish Office.

North Curry Sports Ltd (PS): Lots of tickets have been sold already for the Big Bash so get yours quickly!

Village Hall & EV Chargers (BJ): There is a new chairman who is doing very well so far.

13. Publicity Inputs: The pink sheet entry will include information about the rubble on the drove, works to happen in Queen Square Garden, a reminder to park carefully around the post office, and to shut footpath gates. Also a piece about Somerset Council needing volunteers for children's services.

14. Matters for Discussion:

Mr Dennis: The waste on the drove has been reported to PCSOs but not much progress has been made; more chasing is underway. There is now a further obstruction on the drove thought to be part of an informal right of way; discussions may be required with the land owner to keep it accessible for walkers and horse riders.

The meeting concluded at 9:30pm.

Appendix 1- Project Tracker

Project	Latest progress	Still to do
Village Hall defibrillator	<i>Electricity supply work completed. AED now available for delivery.</i>	Waiting for Village Hall electrician to make an appointment to fit the AED.
Wrantage and Moor Lane SIDS	Poles have been ordered through Highways.	Waiting for pole installation, will order SIDs once poles installed.
Broad Lane flooding	<i>Letter has been sent to Wessex Water. Brian and Phil have visited and identified possible issues. Response received from Wessex Water.</i>	Brian consulting with landowners.
Queen Square line markings	Highways have acknowledge the request, as well as to repaint the roundels and provide more speed limit signs.	Waiting for work to be done, large back log.
Queen Square Gardens tree work	<i>Brian, Tony, and Phil have spoken to SC tree officer who approves of proposed work. Brian has now gathered three quotes.</i>	
Neighbourhood Development Plan	Jeanne has consulted with contacts, and found some residents who would like to help.	Keep investigating process. Create action plan.
Welcome Leaflet	<i>Paul has been contacting groups and organisations listed in previous version to update contact info. Paul has made draft welcome letter.</i>	Continue contacting organisations, groups, and businesses.