

## NORTH CURRY PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall Meeting Room.

**Present or comments received:** Mrs Tina Stodgell (Chairman), Mrs Jeanne Leader (Vice-Chairman), Mr Tony Turner, Ms Cecilia Smith, Mr Phil Stone, Mr Adam Hardwick, Mr Brian Jeanes, Mr Mike Dennis. Unitary Cllr Noman Cavill was also present. Nine members of the public were present.

#### 1. Preliminaries:

**To receive and approve apologies for absence:** Apologies were received from Mr Deacon, Mrs Griffiths, Mr Fugett, Mr Wilkins, Mr Cable, and Cllr Fothergill.

**Approve and sign minutes for the previous meeting dated 9<sup>th</sup> August 2023:** Mrs Leader proposed that the minutes were a true record, Mr Hardwick 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*): None declared.

2. **Matters arising:** *See project tracker.* Regarding the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP), Mrs Leader shared who the steering group will comprise of so far. It is possible to put £5,000 per year (usually takes 2-3 years) onto the precept, and substantial grants are available. The Chairman proposed to go ahead with the NDP; Mr Turner seconded, and all were in favour.

Mr Cullwick was present to share that the bell ringers are having an open day on the 28<sup>th</sup> of October at the church, from 1pm – 4pm, where people can see the bells and have refreshments. Mr Cullwick also thanked Mr Stone for his work clearing a hedge recently.

3. **County Cllr. Report:** The full report was forwarded by email. Somerset Council are still working on improving their financial position and budget gap. Bus services are being subsidised to safeguard their future until Spring. Covid-19 vaccines are being brought forward by one month and offered to those at high risk. Flu vaccines are also being rolled out to those most vulnerable. Police are investigating a suspected arson attack at Silk Mills Park and Ride that destroyed seven minibuses. Local businesses are being invited to take advantage of roundabout sponsorship to advertise goods and services. Somerset Council are reviewing their Gambling Policy and conducting a consultation. More single use plastic items are being banned from 1<sup>st</sup> October. A pilot scheme is collecting soft plastics for recycling.

4. **To consider issues surrounding the use of the drove from Helland to Huntham by walkers and horse riders:** The issue was discussed at length, with the landowner and several users of the drove sharing their arguments surrounding the Bridleway application and current blockage of the drove. The landowner does not want to maintain the drove until the application and its implications on who are excluded use of the Drove has been withdrawn. Mr Stone proposed that the Parish Council liaise with the various parties with an aim of opening up the drove to restore previous access; Mr Hardwick seconded, and all were in favour. Mr Stone and Mr Dennis will do the liaising.

5. **To decide how to proceed with management of the lime trees on Church Road:** Mr Stone has circulated a report. The current approach is to monitor the trees and either remove them (then replace with a smaller tree) or arrange tree surgery when they become dangerous or problematic. The tree surgeons and Somerset Council Tree Officer don't consider any of the lime trees problematic currently. Mr Turner asked whether a rolling replacement of the trees with a more suitable type, starting next year, was an agreement that had been made historically. Mr Stone would like to continue with the current programme. Mrs Leader suggested Mr Stone should visit the concerned residents to explain the management programme.

6. **To agree on a quote for tree works for Queen Square Gardens:** Mr Jeanes shared the three quotes, after discussion, he proposed to go ahead with the cheapest quote of £585 including submitting the planning application; Mrs Leader seconded, and all were in favour. The Clerk shared that North Curry Archives have no record of the Prunus tree being dedicated to anyone. The replacement tree will be decided upon at the next meeting.

7. **To decide whether to purchase some more fruit trees for Greenway and Loscombe allotments:** Mr Stone has been looking at planting some fruit trees in Greenway allotments where the sheds previously were, and has had enquiries about whether fruit trees could be included in the tree planting scheme. He will investigate the costs and possible number of trees for next months meeting.

- 8. To decide whether to provide a ‘produce box’ for Greenway allotments:** Mr Deacon has very kindly offered to build the box if it is to go ahead. Mrs Leader proposed to go ahead, Ms Smith seconded, and all were in favour. The box will be built over winter ready for next spring.
- 9. To consider a date for training for the new AED at the Village Hall:** The training date has now been booked for Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> of October at 9:30am. All are welcome.
- 10. To agree a date for the October litter pick:** The litter pick will be Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October meeting at 10am at the village hall. The Clerk will organise collection of the litter.
- 11. To consider how best to manage the height of the Greenway hedge to prevent obscuring of road signs:** Mr Stone has recently cut this hedge, as it was obstructing the 20mph sign. It’s usually cut once a year, and Mr Stone will continue to maintain it.
- 12. To discuss issues surrounding flooding on Broad Lane:** Mr Jeanes needs to meet with the landowners, who were identified. We may be able to get a grant from Somerset River Authority to clear the areas if the landowners agree to it. This will be back on the agenda once Mr Jeanes has spoken with the landowners. The flood meeting took place on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September with Unitary Councillors, our Flood Warden Mrs Vaughan, and Mr Tom Jeanes. Somerset Council are considering a new system of controlling the opening and closing of the gates on Moor Lane that includes liaising with Mrs Vaughan and Mr Tom Jeanes. Somerset Council recognise that the current system where the EA tells them when to open and shut the gates is often inaccurate, so resident volunteers could be liaised with to make this more accurate.
- 13. Finance:**
- Monthly accounts:** The Clerk presented the monthly accounts; Mr Hardwick proposed, Ms Smith seconded, and all were in favour of accepting the accounts.
  - Payment list:** The Clerk presented the payment list and added that Mr Case had strimmed the allotments twice so was due £20. The Chairman proposed to proceed with the payments, including Mr Case’s; Mr Jeanes seconded, and all were in favour.

Monthly Payment List - September 2023	Cheque/ BACS/DD	Net	VAT	Due Date
Clerk Salary (September)	BACS	£681.18		29-Sep
Josh Williams grass cutting (Inv 1)	BACS	£150.00		
SALC training (Inv 2477)	BACS	£20.00		
SALC training (Inv 2365)	BACS	£30.00		
B&Q postcrete for kissing gates (Refund to Phil)	BACS	£25.60		
NCVH EV recharge July (Inv 3032)	BACS	£65.67		
NCVH room hire (Inv 4070)	BACS	£23.27		
Screwfix- hose clips (refund to Paul)	BACS	£36.65	£7.33	
ElanCity- three SIDs	BACS	£6,600.00	£1,320.00	<b>PAID</b>
Wessex Water- Loscombe Allotments (Inv 4016728963)	DD	£38.06		
Water2Business- Greenway Allotments (Inv 4063672340)	DD	£130.08		
Water2Business- Queen Square (Inv 4063663624)	DD	£29.23		
BT EV phone line (Inv M012 ZI)	DD	£29.27	£5.85	
Ionos Website Builder (Inv 203037781819)	DD	£4.00	£0.80	
IONOS HiDrive (Inv 203037675150)	DD	£3.00	£0.60	
BT Office Broadband (M002 3Q)	DD	£35.94	£7.19	

- To consider renewing SLCC membership for £177 per year:** The Chairman proposed to go ahead and renew the membership; Mr Hardwick seconded, and all were in favour.
- To consider insurance quotes:** The Clerk shared that she’s had a hard time trying to get quotes. The renewal prices from Zurich, the current insurer, were £1,777.83 for one year, or £1,633.46 for a 3 year agreement. Mr Turner proposed to accept the Zurich 3 year quote for £1,633.46 unless the Clerk can find a substantially cheaper quote before the 29<sup>th</sup>; The Chairman seconded, all were in favour.

**14. Correspondence:**

**A7463:** SALC are encouraging Parish Councils to light a beacon in memorial of the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day. Mr Hardwick will speak to local Veterans to see if they would like to organise something.

**A7464:** The Clerk explained the advantages of having separate Parish Council emails. Mr Hardwick will investigate this with Mr Cable and Mr Walton to see how it could be done, and let us know when it is ready for the agenda.

**A7465:** Highways are assessing the condition of grit bins ready for winter.

**A7466:** A disappointing response from Highways was received about the obstruction on Windmill Hill. The Clerk will clarify whether Highways are aware that the resident has put up the obstruction, not Highways, and ask when this 'temporary solution' ends.

**A7467:** Creech Parish Council would like to set up a Tug of War event between four local parishes; a note will go in the Pink Sheet to gauge interest.

**B7473:** An email was received from a resident concerned about hot air balloons landing on the playing fields. The Playing Fields are aware of this and aren't concerned; management of safety issues is in place and a historic agreement. They will be reminded to be careful about what times this is done.

**15. Committee /Delegate reports:**

**Tree Warden (PS):** Mr Stone has been working on the tree planting initiative and has had some enquiries. The Parish Council are happy with just receiving updates, and for Mr Stone to keep a record of who has had the trees and where. Mr Stone will manage the budget and is also seeking additional funding- the Parish Council are happy for public acknowledgement of this when received.

**Footpaths (PS + PD):** Mr Stone is planning locations for the new kissing gates. Jeanne mentioned that a hedge on a footpath off of White Street needs trimming, Mr Stone will trim it.

**North Curry Sports Ltd (PS):** The Big Bash went very well; tickets were sold out. Not sure on total raised yet.

**Wildlife Group (PS):** This will change to Environment Group, as the two groups have merged.

**16. Publicity inputs:** Items for the pink sheet will include advertising the litter pick, enquiring about interest in the Tug of War, and a note about Remembrance Sunday.

**17. Matters for discussion:**

**Mr Dennis:** LCN meetings are currently not overly productive, hoping for improvement. The fly tipping on West Sedgemoor has finally been dealt with after Mr Dennis, Mr Stone, and Cllr Fothergill working tirelessly to get it removed by the relevant body.

**Ms Smith:** Wondered if we could create some boxes for free books and items. The phone box can't be used as it's still in use. There is a library box in Knap on the side of the road. Everyone will think of some ideas.

**Mr Turner:** The 'Knapp Lane' road sign has deteriorated and broken into two pieces. The Clerk will contact Highways.

**The meeting ended at 9:55pm.**

Project	Latest progress	Still to do
<b>Village Hall defibrillator</b>	AED now installed fully. Training session has been arranged.	Done.
<b>Wrantage and Moor Lane SIDS</b>	SIDs have been delivered to Paul. New Wrantage post has been installed in the wrong location- Paul is liaising with Highways to fix this.	Install SIDs- first one in late September on existing post in Wrantage. Waiting for Moor Lane post to be installed.
<b>Broad Lane flooding</b>	<i>Letter has been sent to Wessex Water. Brian and Phil have visited and identified possible issues.</i> Response received from Wessex Water.	Brian consulting with landowners.
<b>Queen Square line markings</b>	Highways have acknowledged the request, as well as to repaint the roundels and provide more speed limit signs.	Waiting for work to be done, large back log.
<b>Queen Square Gardens tree work</b>	<i>Brian, Tony, and Phil have spoken to SC tree officer who approves of proposed work.</i> Brian has gathered three quotes. Winning quote has been chosen.	Date for work to go ahead. Decide on replacement tree.
<b>Neighbourhood Development Plan</b>	Jeanne has consulted with contacts, and found some residents who would like to help. Jeanne has developed a steering group.	Keep investigating process. Create action plan. Look into hiring a consultant.
<b>Welcome Leaflet</b>	<i>Paul has been contacting groups and organisations listed in previous version to update contact info.</i> Paul has made draft welcome letter.	Continue contacting organisations, groups, and businesses to update their details on the website.
<b>Cricket Cottages potential car park</b>	Contact has been made with the landowner to begin establishing whether the land may be for sale.	On hold while preliminary discussions are had with Highways and the land owner to see if this is at all feasible.
<b>Windmill Hill obstruction</b>	<i>Liaising with Highways to understand their position on the obstruction.</i> Response received from Highways.	The drain will be covered by Highways. The Clerk will reply to Highways again.