

## NORTH CURRY PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall Meeting Room.

**Present or comments received:** Mrs Tina Stodgell (Chairman), Mrs Jeanne Leader (Vice-Chairman), Mr Paul Deacon, Mr Tony Turner, Mr Graham Cable, Mr Phil Stone, Mrs Helen Griffiths, Mr Adam Hardwick, Mr Brian Jeanes, Mr Mike Dennis, Mr Maurice Wilkins. Unitary Cllr David Fothergill was also present. No members of the public were present.

#### 1. Preliminaries:

**To receive and approve apologies for absence:** Apologies were received from Ms Smith and Mr Fugett.

**Approve and sign minutes for the previous meeting dated 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023:** Mr Jeanes proposed the minutes were a true record, Mrs Leader seconded, 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 4 planning application 24/23/0033 and will refrain from voting.

2. **Matters arising:** see project tracker. One missed update; the Queen Square road markings have been done in the last week, but the roundels haven't been done yet.
3. **County Cllr. Report:** Weekly update being forwarded by email. Includes information on registering to vote, registering children for schools, 'Go Green Scheme' grants for businesses, recycling updates, call for young people to join the Youth Parliament, calls for people to host Ukrainian families, information on Green Libraries, news that BT has been prosecuted for working without adequate traffic management or a street works permit, and an advert for the Wells Christmas Market.
4. **Planning applications for comment by North Curry Parish Council:**  
**24/23/0033:** *Change of use of agricultural land to domestic garden at Poplar Farm, West Sedgemoor Road, North Curry.*  
 Mr Turner, the planning Chairman, explained the application and after a discussion proposed to support it; Mr Wilkins seconded, and all were in favour.
5. **To discuss a written complaint from a resident regarding the location of the new SID installed in Wrantage outside their residence, and whether to purchase a post from Highways so the SID can be moved:** Mr Deacon and the Chairman have both visited the residents, who have since agreed that the SID could be illuminated for short periods until a new post can be installed, so it doesn't have to be taken down. Highways can't do anymore work until April 2024, Mr Deacon will investigate whether there are any ways to get it done sooner. All agreed that the new post at £250 is within the budget for the SIDs project.
6. **To discuss progress on the Neighbourhood Development Plan:** Mrs Leader shared that the steering group has their first meeting on Monday 16<sup>th</sup>, and a local consultant who has worked on other local NDPs has agreed to come on board; Mrs Leader has a free initial meeting set up with him. The Neighbourhood Area must be designated as a first step; after a discussion on whether it should be just North Curry village or the whole parish, Mrs Leader proposed it should be the whole parish; the Chairman seconded, and all were in favour. In terms of finance, £5,000 is usually put on the precept each year to cover it, grants are available but have to be applied for and spent by March 2024. The Clerk will ask SALC if CIL can be used to fund a NDP, and if three quotes are needed for an advisor.
7. **To decide on a replacement tree for the Prunus tree being removed at Queen Square Gardens:** Mr Stone will look for 4 or 5 suitable tree options and bring photos to the next meeting.
8. **To decide the purchase and number of fruit trees for Greenway and Loscombe allotments:** Mr Stone thinks 10 fruit trees will fit well on Greenway allotments, and excess fruit can be put in the produce box. Loscombe Meadow allotments could have at least 3 but this will be assessed by Mr Stone and Mrs Leader. Prices could be around £25 per tree, they could be planted in March. Money is available for this in the tree fund. Mr Stone proposed a budget of £350 for 13 trees, Mr Jeanes seconded, and all were in favour. The trees will be planted by Mr Stone, Mr Jeanes, and Mr Deacon.
9. **To discuss purchasing 'Thank you for driving carefully through our village' signs:** It was decided that a discussion with Highways was needed before going any further with this.
10. **To discuss potential signpost maintenance around the Parish:** Mr Deacon has surveyed the signposts around the Parish and shared photographs. Possible expense and alternative options were discussed, it could be done as a rolling project a few at a time. The Clerk will contact the company who last did this and get a quote for

Borough Post, Rock Hill, and White Street for an initial idea of cost. The one in Queen Square could potentially just be cleaned for now.

- 11. To discuss preparations for the Remembrance Sunday service and decide on donations to the Royal British Legion, bugler, and organist:** Last year £200 was donated to the Royal British Legion, £50 to the organist, and £40 to the bugler. Mr Turner proposed to do the same this year, Mrs Leader seconded, and all were in favour. The wreaths will be taken down at Easter again. The Clerk shared that preparations are going well. Mr Hardwick will help to transport the keyboard to the War Memorial for the service.
- 12. To discuss the inter-parish Tug of War event for next June, and agree the volunteer panel from North Curry Parish Council:** Mr Wilkins and Mr Dennis volunteered to be on the panel; the Clerk will share their contact details with Creech Parish Council.
- 13. Finance:**
- Monthly accounts:** The Clerk shared the monthly accounts; Mr Turner proposed, the Chairman seconded, and all were in favour.
  - Payment list:** The Clerk presented the payment list and Mr Jeanes explained that £2,000 should be taken early from the yearly Stable payment to the Parish Council account to cover payment until the £15,000 transfer arrives from the Cambridge and Counties account at the end of October. The Chairman proposed to proceed with the transfer from the Stable account, Mrs Leader seconded, all were in favour. Mr Jeanes proposed to proceed with the listed payments, Mr Wilkins seconded, all were in favour.

Monthly Payment List - October 2023	Cheque/ BACS/DD	Net	VAT	Due Date
Stable utilities bill (Inv 14)	BACS	£198.59		
NCVH EV recharge August and underpayment catch up (Inv 3033)	BACS	£116.29		
SLCC membership renewal (Inv 24522-1)	BACS	£177.00		PAID
Josh Williams- grass cutting x 2 (Inv 25)	BACS	£150.00		
Zurich insurance renewal	BACS	£1,306.74		PAID
Clerk salary (October)	BACS			31-Oct
NCVH room hire (Inv 4099)	BACS	£14.22		
PKF Littlejohn audit fee	BACS	£315.00	£63.00	
Somerset Council dog bin emptying	BACS	£381.16	£76.23	
HMRC NI (July - September)	BACS	£598.52		
SALC membership fee (Inv 2520)	BACS	£488.78		25-Nov
BT EV phone line (Inv M013 24)	DD	£29.27	£5.85	
IONOS Website (203038253314)	DD	£4.00	£0.80	
IONOS HiDrive (203038146744)	DD	£3.00	£0.60	
BT office broadband (M003 7C)	DD	£35.94	£7.19	

**14. Correspondence:**

**A7483:** North Curry Sport would like to renew the lease and review the terms. A solicitor will be needed to do this. The Clerk will tell North Curry Sport that the Parish Council are willing, in principle, to liaise and move it forward, and to let us know of any potential changes that may be desired.

**A7484:** An email was received from a resident asking to clarify whether planning permission was in place for works going on at One Tree Farm. The email will be copied to the Planning Enforcement Officer to see if he is aware of developments and asking him to investigate if not.

**B7485:** An email was received asking the Parish Council to join and support the Climate and Ecology Bill. A discussion was had about whether this would be appropriate; the Clerk will forward the email to all ready for a decision at the next meeting.

**15. Committee /Delegate reports:**

**Allotments (JL):** An allotment is potentially overgrown; Mrs Leader shared the location, and the Clerk will investigate.

**Tree Warden (PS):** Mr Stone has been to see the residents concerned about the Lime trees on Church Road; they would like some of the lower branches trimmed. Mr Stone will look into it.

**Footpaths (PS + PD):** The Clerk will chase the kissing gates which have yet to be delivered.

**Stable (PD):** The alarm control box will be changed in December.

**Road Safety/ Speed Policy/ SIDs (PD):** Mr Wilkins has taken over from Mr Meehan as speed watch co-ordinator. The Clerk will add "Speedwatch (MW)" to committee/ delegate reports on the next agenda. The Chairman asked the Clerk to write a letter to Mr Meehan thanking him for his dedication and hard work over his years as co-ordinator.

**North Curry Sports Ltd (PS):** A large plastic tank has been bought to take water from the roof to stop it making the ground wet; the water will be used for watering in the summer. £6,000 was made from the Big Bash, the event was sold out! They are planning to do it again next year. The fencing on the Stoke Road side will be renewed soon as it is falling apart.

**Environment Group (PS):** Apple Day is being held on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> at 2pm.

**16. Publicity Inputs:** Will include reminders to vote and register children for schools, calls for young people to join the Youth Parliament and for residents to host Ukrainian families, a parking reminder for the Remembrance Service, and a piece about the tree planting initiative from Mr Stone.

**17. Matters for Discussion:**

**Mrs Griffiths:** Would like to look into a village taxi service run by volunteers for the village, this will be on the next agenda.

**Mr Stone:** Would like to discuss creating a footpath from the Village Hall to the Pavilion gates. It is part of the school route that has no pavements on the roads and would be a good link between the two facilities. Could be a use of CIL funds. A fence may be needed between the footpath and play area. Mr Turner and Mr Hardwick will discuss this with the Pavilion at the next committee meeting and it will be put on the next agenda.

**The meeting concluded at 9:34pm.**

Project	Latest progress	Still to do
Helland to Huntham drove		Liaise with involved parties to re-open.
Lime trees, Church Road		Phil to speak to residents concerned and share the management scheme.
D-Day 80 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Beacon		Adam speaking to local veterans to see if they'd like to organise something.
Wrantage and Moor Lane SIDS	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.
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	<i>Highways have acknowledge the request, as well as to repaint the roundels and provide more speed limit signs. Line markings have been done.</i>	Waiting for roundels 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. Winning quote has been chosen.</i>	Date for work to go ahead. Decide on replacement tree.
Neighbourhood Development Plan	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.
Welcome Leaflet	<i>Paul has been contacting groups and organisations listed in previous version to update contact info. Paul has made final welcome letter.</i>	Continue contacting organisations, groups, and businesses.
Cricket Cottages potential car park	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.
Windmill Hill obstruction	Another response from Highways; the obstruction has their permission.	The drain will be covered by Highways.
Village Hall defibrillator		Done.