

NORTH CURRY PARISH COUNCIL – PLANNING COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE PLANNING MEETING HELD ON 29th NOVEMBER 2023 AT 7:30PM AT NORTH CURRY VILLAGE HALL

Present: Mr Tony Turner (Chairman), Mrs Jeanne Leader (Vice Chairman), Mrs Tina Stodgell, Mr Adam Hardwick, Mr Graham Cable, Mrs Helen Griffiths, Mr Ian Fugett, and Mr Brian Jeanes. No members of the public present.

- 1) **To receive and approve apologies:** Apologies were received from Ms Smith.
- 2) **To approve the minutes of the last planning meeting held on 25th October 2023:** Mr Hardwick proposed that the minutes were a true record, Mr Cable seconded, and all were in favour.
- 3) **Declarations of interest:** None.
- 4) **Matters arising:** None.
- 5) **Applications for comment by North Curry Parish Council:**

14/22/0051: *Installation and operation of solar farm together with associated works, equipment, and infrastructure on land at Ham Farm, Creech St Michael.*

The Chairman explained the application and highlighted that the only difference was the complete removal of the lithium storage batteries. After a discussion the Chairman proposed the following comment “As per our comment in December 2022, North Curry Parish Council still finds it difficult to support this application; whilst the Parish Council appreciates the environmental need for solar farms, we consider the site is too large. The parish Council is pleased that the battery storage has been removed from the amended application”. Mr Cable seconded the proposal, and the majority were in favour with two abstaining.

24/23/0044/T: *Application to carry out management works to one field maple tree and one birch included in Somerset West and Taunton (North Curry No.1) Tree Preservation Order 2022 at 2 Overlands, North Curry (SWT65).*

The Chairman explained the application and after a discussion proposed that there was no need to make a comment, Mr Jeanes seconded, and all were in favour.

24/23/0042: *Widening of access with laying of hardstanding, siting of shipping container as welfare unit and installation of 15 No. solar photovoltaic panels with shed for battery storage at One Tree Farm, Knapp Lane, Knapp (retention of part works already undertaken) (amended).*

The Chairman explained the application and highlighted the amendment. He then proposed to leave the current comment, only made a couple of weeks ago, with no need to make a further comment; Mr Hardwick seconded, the majority were in favour with one abstention and one against.

Permission/Refusals received:

24/23/0033: *Change of use of agricultural land to domestic garden at Poplar Farm, West Sedgemoor Road, North Curry.* Decision of Conditional Approval was made on 31/10/2023.

24/23/0041/NMA: *Application for a Non-Material Amendment to application 24/22/0054 to remove the land bridge on land at Currymoor, North Curry.* Decision of Conditional Approval was made on 02/11/2023.

24/23/0007: *Erection of 5 No. dwellings (in lieu of 5 No. permitted residential barn conversions) with demolition of farm buildings at Hill Farm, Combe Lane, Knapp.* Decision of Conditional Approval was made on 07/11/2023.

24/23/0038/T: *Notification to fell one Purple Plum tree, one holly and one cypress tree and to carry out management works to one holly tree within North Curry Conservation Area at Queens Square Garden, North Curry.* Decision of No Objection - Trees was made on 10/11/2023.

24/23/0037: *Erection of 1 No. dwelling with associated works at Stoney Ridge, Langport Road, Wrantage (resubmission of 24/23/0010).* Decision of Refusal was made on 10/11/2023.

24/23/0043/AGN: *Application for prior notification for the erection of an agricultural storage building at Moredon Farm, Stoke Road, North Curry.* Decision of No Objection was made on 10/11/2023.

6) **Planning correspondence:** None.

7) **Matters for discussion:**

Mrs Leader: Has been liaising with Clerk about the poor state of the Nine Acre Lane site; the access is a mess and the road is breaking down. The Clerk has been trying to find contact details for the contractor. The Chairman will help.

Mr Jeanes: Has started a dialogue with Somerset Highways about the feasibility of creating a car park behind Cricket Cottages, pre-application advice may need to be applied for. There has also been a complaint about the leaves on Church Road- the Clerk will contact Somerset Council to see if they can send out a road sweeper. Mr Hardwick asked if the road sweeper may be able to do Portmans too.

The meeting concluded at 8:22pm.