

NORTH CURRY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 10th April 2024 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall Meeting Room.

Present or comments received: Mrs Tina Stodgell (Chairman), Mrs Jeanne Leader (Vice-Chairman), Mr Mike Dennis, Mr Ian Fugett, Mrs Helen Griffiths, Mr Adam Hardwick, Mr Brian Jeanes, Ms Cecilia Smith, Mr Phil Stone, Mr Tony Turner, Mr Maurice Wilkins. Unitary Cllr David Fothergill. One member of the public present.

1. Preliminaries:

To receive and approve apologies for absence: Apologies were received from the Clerk, Mr Cable, Mr Deacon, and Unitary Cllr Cavill. Mrs Leader will write the minutes in the Clerk's absence.

Approve and sign minutes for the previous meeting dated 13th March 2024 and 27th March 2024: Mr Jeanes proposed both sets of minutes were a true record; Mr Stone seconded, and all were in favour. They will be signed tomorrow.

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.

2. Matters arising: see project tracker.

Windmill Hill obstruction: Update received from the resident- a possible lining solution has been proposed and it was suggested that he talks to Highways. The Parish Council need to see a written statement from Highways to clarify the current situation- the Clerk will email them and copy in Cllr Fothergill.

3. County Cllr. Report: Weekly update being forwarded by email. Somerset Council are still trying to close the funding gap. A report will be circulated in the morning.

4. To discuss the North Curry Sport Ltd draft renewal lease: The Clerk has sent the letter to the Tacchi Morris Trust written by the solicitor and is awaiting a reply. NCSL are waiting on this reply before finalising their thoughts on the draft lease.

5. To agree the wording to go on the Allotment Produce Box: Mrs Leader proposed 'Bring, Take, or Swap local veg/fruit'; Mr Stone seconded, and all were in favour.

6. To discuss the possible implementation of a Highways Warden scheme and associated concerns: Mr Dennis shared the details of the meeting at Langport 21st March; 8 Parish Councils were represented, and many people from Highways present. Statutory responsibility will still be with Somerset Council. There was no cost to the Parish Council's on Exmoor for the pilot study, but still not all of them signed up for it. There are 33,500 in our LCN so how many miles or roads to cover? Mr Dennis is happy to continue monitoring the group and reporting back. A person, van, and tools would be supplied along with a list of jobs that can be undertaken. Unsure how the costs would be divided up, lots still to be decided.

7. To decide whether to proceed with setting up councillor email addresses: No further updates. Many Parish Councils now use .gov.uk. This needs more investigation.

8. To discuss ideas and plans for the APM, and confirm invitees and draft agenda: Tables will be set up for drinks and snacks. Arrivals at 7:15pm for drinks beforehand, ready for 7:30pm start. 100 glasses and 12 bottles or red and white, and crisps and biscuits will be bought from the Post Office on sale or return by Mr Turner. Most reports will kept to a 5 minute time limit, can be adjusted on the night. The two sports groups still need to confirm attendance.

9. To discuss alternatives to the Village Volunteer Taxi service: Hatch Community Car Scheme are registered with Somerset Council and have their own insurance, paid for by the Parish Council. 95% of car insurance companies are happy with this arrangement and business cover is not required as long as no profit is made. Hatch are happy for North Curry drivers to join the scheme. For those that have a bus pass, the service is half price as it can be claimed back. The Chairman proposed to advertise the scheme, Mr Dennis seconded, and all were in favour.

10. To discuss a blocked water pipe by the Methodist Church: Mr Jeanes has circulated a report; he is currently trying to find out who is responsible for the blocked section.

11. Finance:

a. Monthly accounts: EV chargers and increase in Village Hall VAT payments were discussed. Mr Jeanes will look at solar panel records to see if there is some leeway in the increase in our charges. The Chairman proposed to accept, My Turner seconded, and all were in favour.

- b. Payment list:** An additional payment of £1,177.66 is needed for Stuart Todd Associates for Neighbourhood Plan assistance. Mr Stone has also spent £516 on trees for the tree planting initiative, £16 over the agreed budget (however the Coffee Shop also donated £500 to this project so could cover the overspend); Mr Jeanes proposed to pay the full amount, the Chairman seconded, and all were in favour. A new cheque is needed for the Baptist Church burial ground grant. Mr Jeanes proposed to proceed with all payments, Mr Dennis seconded, and all were in favour. Mr Hardwick abstained due to being a payee.

Monthly Payment List - April 2024	Cheque/ BACS/DD	Net	VAT	Due Date
Somerset Council- dog bin emptying (INV 30054102)	BACS	£381.16	£76.23	
NCVH- EV recharge for February usage (INV 3043)	BACS	£212.35		
Arboricare Ltd- QSG tree works inc planning application	BACS	£585.00	£117.00	
Microsoft- Neighbourhood Plan account (Jan) refund to AH	BACS	£39.20	£7.84	PAID
Microsoft- Neighbourhood Plan account (Feb) refund to AH	BACS	£39.20	£7.84	PAID
Microsoft- Neighbourhood Plan account (Mar) refund to AH	BACS	£39.20	£7.84	PAID
Josh Williams- QSG maintenance (INV 8)	BACS	£79.00		
NCVH EV recharge (December useage) Inv 3041	BACS	£233.14		
SALC social media training (INV 3027)	BACS	£25.00		
NCVH room hire (INV 4268)	BACS	£23.27		
HMRC PAYE (Jan-March)	BACS	£671.51		
Clerk salary (April)	BACS	£723.50		30-Apr
BT EV charger line (INV M019 QV)	DD	£29.27	£5.85	
IONOS basic fee and website builder (INV 203041211573)	DD	£160.00	£32.00	
BT office broadband (INV M009 V2)	DD	£35.94	£7.19	
IONOS HiDrive (INV 203041082696)	DD	£3.00	£0.60	

- c. To consider the provisional accounts for 2023-24:** The draft needs adjusting- a corrected version will be sent out. No effect on bottom line though. Interest from Cambridge & Counties and Co-op deposit accounts need to be added on. There is a finance meeting at the end of the month to review it again. Net general fund balance is £5,781.45. The accounts will be presented at the APM and finalised the following week.

12. Correspondence.

An extra email was received regarding an issue with Airband; work in the area seems to have ground to a halt with no news on when it may start again. Complaints are being raised with Somerset Council and local MPs; the Clerk will write to Somerset Council regarding this.

A7552: An email from a resident regarding the Church Road trees. Mr Stone has circulated a report and will draft a letter to the resident. The resident also questioned rationale for increase in precept, the letter will also include the reasons for the increase.

A7553: An email from a resident regarding St James Court trees; Mr Stone will visit and do some cutting.

A7554: An email from the Avon & Somerset Police regarding a new newsletter for Taunton, to be circulated.

A7555: An email from West Monkton PC asking how much we have paid so far to Somerset Wood for their records. The Clerk will let them know.

B7556: An email from Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance regarding a Coast to Coast cycling challenge. This will be forwarded to Mr Hardwick.

13. Committee /Delegate reports:

Playing Field (AH): Lots of resignations from the committee so more volunteers are needed, especially the booking clerk. Ms Smith has volunteered if no one else comes forward.

Stable (PD): The apple tree has now been pruned.

Environment Group (PS): Mr Jeanes attended a meeting on 'net gain' and will prepare a report. Mr Stone will look at the list and match what is already being done to the list. A reporting app is available. Biodiversity net gain could produce some money. It is hoped Mr Stone will have a report ready for the next meeting.

14. Publicity Inputs: Will include a reminder to register to vote (on Facebook due to deadline), advertisement of the Hatch Community Car Scheme and call for volunteers, a reminder for the APM, and advertising the new produce box at the allotments.

15. Matters for Discussion.

Mr Dennis: More material has been dumped on West Sedgemoor corner; this is an ongoing issue.

Mr Jeanes: There was a disappointing turnout for the litter pick.

Mr Fugett: Helland Hill landslips; attention needed; telephone pole affected too.

CIL money expires on 26th May; the Chairman proposed to agree in principle to have an agenda item next month to formally agree to fund drainage works just off Broad Lane as a one off to protect parishioners safety; Mr Jeanes seconded; all were in favour.

The meeting concluded at 9:50pm.

DRAFT