

## NORTH CURRY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meetings held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall Meeting Room.

**Present or comments received:** Mr Paul Deacon (Chairman), Mr Graham Cable, Mr Mike Dennis, Mr Ian Fugett, Mrs Helen Griffiths, Mr Adam Hardwick, Mr Brian Jeanes, Mrs Tina Stodgell, Mr Phil Stone, Mr Tony Turner. Unitary Cllr Norman Cavill. Four members of the public present.

### 1. Preliminaries:

**To receive and approve apologies for absence:** Apologies were received from Mrs Leader (Mr Deacon will Chair the meeting in her absence), Mr Wilkins, Ms Smith, and Cllr Fothergill.

**Approve and sign minutes for the previous meeting dated 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024:** Mrs Stodgell proposed that the minutes were a true record, Mr Turner 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 Fugett declared an interest in item 4 and will refrain from discussion and voting.

### 2. Matters arising: see project tracker.

**Queen Square line markings:** These have faded again already. An email was received from a resident showing how faded the 20mph road markings are again too; the Chairman will speak to Highways about the durability of the markings.

**Windmill Hill obstruction:** Still no updates- the Clerk has sent another email to Highways with no response.

**North Curry Sport lease:** Still looking at the draft lease with NC Sport and the PC working group to iron out a few details. Also have begun discussions with Tacchi Morris- the solicitors are now working on this. They began to discuss biodiversity in the draft lease, but this is a complicated area.

### 3. County Cllr. Report: *Weekly update being forwarded by email.* Somerset Council are looking for £84 million in one-off funding to reduce the difficulty of next year. Gas canisters (such as BBQ ones) must not be put out for recycling, but can be taken to recycling centres. Ham sewage works; phosphate removal has increased from 33% to 71%, it is hoped to reach zero- come 2027-28 phosphate mitigation targets are likely to be halved. Netflix has been fined for failing to use proper traffic management, as has Airband for operating unsafely on highways without due authority. Since the meeting about Airband, additional funds have been gained, and work will soon commence to connect houses with poles outside; currently no timescale for this.

### 4. To review quotes and decide whether to proceed with Broad Lane culvert works:

Two quotes have been received with totals between £12,000 - £14,000 + VAT. The level of work quoted for is similar to the standard done historically and up to Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA) standard. There is £9,600 of CIL money technically expired, and around £10,000 not yet expired. Somerset Council have said that the expired money isn't going to be requested as the Parish Council have plans for it. There was a discussion about how to proceed. The SRA is introducing grants to help Parish Council's with flooding projects, and are looking for a pilot scheme. Mr Stone is happy to explore whether we could become a pilot scheme; with two Parish Council's involved (Stoke St Gregory PC) and a long history of problems and quotes already received, it could be hopeful. The Clerk will also speak to Highways about point 6 on the map of problem areas to see if they will be willing to help. Mr Stone proposed to earmark up to £7,000 from the available CIL money towards this one-off flood prevention scheme at Broad Lane, with hopes that Mr Stone will be able to get grant funding from the SRA; Mr Jeanes seconded, and all were in favour bar Mr Fugett who abstained.

### 5. To approve installation of a new (funded) kitchen for North Curry Sport, advise on disposing of the old kitchen, and nominate a Councillor to oversee the project:

After a discussion and explanation of the Howdens award, Mr Turner proposed to support the project as long as the new kitchen is of similar or better standard to the current kitchen, but the Parish Council would like to see design photos; in terms of disposal the Parish Council are happy for NC Sport to dispose of the current kitchen but would like any white goods go to charity where appropriate; Mr Hardwick seconded, and all were in favour. Mr Stone volunteered to oversee the project as required.

### 6. To discuss a request to install a pedestrian gateway at the rear of Angel House, on Parish Council owned fence, and decide how to address the current state of the fence:

After a discussion Mr Hardwick proposed no objections to the installation of a pedestrian gate; the Chairman seconded, and all were in favour. The current fence, owned by the Parish Council, has been leaning for quite a while however the boards are in good condition. If the new gate is installed with substantial posts this could help to support the fence; the Clerk will

ask the resident if they could install a few posts behind the fence to stabilise it, and also ask that the Parish Council are shown the design for the gate before work goes ahead.

7. **To approve renaming the Stable Committee to the Stable Management Panel:** Mr Jeanes explained that this is a formality, so the Stable Committee don't have an obligation to post agendas and minutes; all decisions come back to the Parish Council, so this seems unnecessary. Mrs Stodgell proposed to accept this name change; Mrs Griffiths seconded, and all were in favour.
8. **To discuss the closure of the Bird in Hand which is listed as a Community Asset:** The Clerk explained the Community Asset status and what this means; as the pub is currently not up for sale there is nothing that needs to be done. The Community Asset status expires in November 2025, it cannot be renewed but must be re-applied for. The Clerk will find out if this can be done before expiry. For now, the situation will be monitored.
9. **Finance:**
  - a. **Monthly accounts:** The Clerk presented the accounts; Mrs Stodgell proposed to accept them, Mr Dennis seconded, and all were in favour.
  - b. **Payment list:** The Clerk presented the payment list and two late additions; £20 to Mr Case for strimming the allotments today, and the May Fair requesting the agreed £400 towards the road closure. Mr Turner proposed to proceed with all payments including the late additions; Mr Hardwick seconded, and all were in favour.

Monthly Payment List - June 2024	Cheque/ BACS/DD	Net	VAT	Due Date
Neighbourhood Plan website	BACS	£155.04		PAID
West Monkton PC- tug of war contribution	BACS	£200.00		
Josh Williams- QSG grass cutting (Inv 51)	BACS	£79.00		
North Curry Music Festival grant	BACS	£300.00		PAID
SALC- councillor refresh training (Inv 3170)	BACS	£25.00		
SALC- councillor refresh training (Inv 3163)	BACS	£25.00		
SALC- chairman training (Inv 3190)	BACS	£35.00		
Stable- utilities (Inv 22)	BACS	£172.72		
BT EV charger line (M021 &P)	DD	£31.98	£6.40	
IONOS- Website Builder (203042186458)	DD	£4.00	£0.80	
IONOS- HiDrive (203042073863)	DD	£3.00	£0.60	
BT- Office broadband (M011 46)	DD	£39.65	£7.93	

## 10. Correspondence.

**A7574 and A7575:** Two residents have emailed complaining about mobile phone blackspots in the Parish. The reason no one is offering to provide another mast is that provider maps falsely show good coverage. There are concerns that with landlines being phased out, and 3G being cut off, without good mobile signal the Parish could be cut off from emergency services in a power cut. The Church would be an ideal location for a mast; Mrs Griffiths will talk to the PCC about this. The Clerk will contact OFCOM to see if we can push lack of coverage unlike shown on the map.

**A7576:** A complaint from a resident of Chapel Close; Somerset Council currently cut the area of grass once a year and the residents would like it done more often so have asked if the Parish Council will cover the cost of around £300 per year. This area is the responsibility of Somerset Council, and their policy is to cut once per year unless causing a visual obstruction. Mr Turner proposed to respond stating that as the area is owned and maintained by Somerset Council the Parish Council feels unable to undertake this in their stead as it would create a precedent for the rest of the Parish; Mr Fugett seconded, and all were in favour.

**A7577:** A complaint from an allotment holder about the length of the grass; Mr Case has now cut the grass- it was left to grow for No Mow May.

**A7578:** A complaint about the size and position of road signs for the Rising Sun after difficulty finding the pub. The Clerk will reply referring them to Highways.

**A7579:** A complaint regarding the May planning minutes; Mr Turner explained that inappropriate information had been left in the minutes, the Clerk has already replaced the minutes with this information deleted, and has apologised and thanked the resident for pointing this out.

**B7580:** A notice from a resident about their dead tree which will soon be felled and replaced.

**B7581:** A request for support for a bill on lithium-ion battery safety; the Parish Council feel it inappropriate to get involved in political items such as this.

**B7582:** An email explaining £100 funding is available to help Parish Councils set up GOV.uk websites; Mr Hardwick explained that this is unlikely to cover much of the costs, but it will be kept in mind.

**Extra:** An email regarding extending the 40mph zone to Stoneyhead Hill following another speed-related collision. Speed restrictions are very costly and extensive consultation with Highways is needed. Mrs Stodgell explained the history of the 40mph zone, and that the 50mph zone was needed to slow traffic prior to the 40mph zone. Mrs Stodgell proposed to ask Highways to look into this, Mr Jeanes seconded, and all were in favour bar one abstention. The Chairman will speak to Highways about this when asking for an update on the SID posts.

#### **11. Committee /Delegate reports:**

**Playing Field (AT):** The AGM took place last night; currently no permanent treasurer or chairman. They are investigating the management structure. Local football groups are going to be using the Playing Fields next season, and would like to make use of the MUGA in the winter, but the surface has deteriorated. Re-laying the surface is going to be very costly, the football groups may be able to help with obtaining funding, and the Parish Council might be approached.

**Allotments (JL):** The Clerk shared that someone has taken on a plot where the deposit has been kept due to it being abandoned, and asked if it would be appropriate to reduce the deposit for the incoming person as they will have a lot of work to do. It was decided to reduce the deposit to £25 as a goodwill gesture.

**Tree Warden (PS):** Mr Stone has circulated a draft response regarding the Church Road lime trees; everyone is happy with it so the Clerk will send it to the resident.

**12. Publicity inputs:** Reminder not to put gas canisters out for recycling, a note about fly tipping on West Sedgemoor, and a reminder to keep hedges cut.

#### **13. Matters for Discussion:**

**Mr Jeanes:** Wessex Water report that Knapp Bridge is one of few sites that is rated as good for relatively low phosphate levels. The half barrier on Loscombe Nine Acre Lane footpath hasn't been done yet, it will be done next month.

**Mr Turner:** A resident has suggested that planning applications received by the Parish Council should be shared on Facebook (signposting to the Somerset Council planning website) so everyone can be aware. Mr Turner proposed that all planning applications (just application number and brief description) should be posted on the Facebook page; Mr Hardwick seconded, and all were in favour.

**The meeting concluded at 9:30pm.**