

NORTH CURRY PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present or comments received: Mrs Jeanne Leader (Chairman), Mr Paul Deacon, Mr Graham Cable, Mr Mike Dennis, Mr Ian Fugett, Mrs Helen Griffiths, Mr Adam Hardwick, Mr Brian Jeanes, Ms Cecilia Smith, Mrs Tina Stodgell, Mr Phil Stone, Mr Tony Turner. **Also present:** Unitary Cllr Norman Cavill, Mr Phil Brown (solicitor).

1. Preliminaries:

To receive and approve apologies for absence: Apologies were received from Mr Stone, Mr Fugett, and Mr Wilkins. Cllr Fothergill was also unable to attend.

The Chairman and Clerk explained that apologies need to be approved, not just noted. A code system will be created to maintain privacy. This will be trialled from the next meeting.

Approve and sign minutes for the previous meeting dated 12th June 2024: Mr Jeanes proposed the minutes were a true record, Mrs Stodgell 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*): The Chairman declared an interest in item 5 regarding North Curry Sport Ltd.

2. Matters arising: See project tracker.

3. County Cllr. Report: Weekly update being forwarded by email.

4. Planning applications for comment by North Curry Parish Council:

24/24/0030: *Change of use, for a period of 48 months, from Class C2 to Class C1 at Woodlands Farmhouse Residential Care, Langport Road, North Curry (retention of works already undertaken).*

The Chairman handed over to Mr Turner who explained the history of the care home and the current situation. After a discussion Mr Turner proposed the following comment: "Given the circumstances, North Curry Parish Council will not object to this application, but should an application be forthcoming for a future extension the Parish Council would possibly wish to object as this is a very important facility for the parish"; Ms Smith seconded, and all were in favour.

5. To review progress on the draft lease for North Curry Sport Ltd:

Mr Brown, solicitor for the Parish Council, was present to explain the latest progress. Discussions are underway with Tacchi Morris to alter the covenants, and once this is complete the working group can meet with North Curry Sport again to reach a final draft lease. Tacchi Morris have asked the Parish Council to cover the legal costs of £1,500 + VAT for the covenant alteration; this *may* not be the final figure. Mr Jeanes proposed to agree in principle to cover the legal fees of £1,500 + VAT; Mr Turner seconded, and all were in favour. The Clerk will arrange another meeting for next week to formalise this decision and discuss the details confidentially. The Parish Council thanked Mr Brown for his time and work on this matter.

6. To decide whether to proceed with setting up councillor email addresses:

This item was discussed alongside item 7 due to an overlap. The Chairman explained that this important to get set up for GDPR purposes. Mr Hardwick has researched this and found that Cloud Next is the best option, being the best value and most simple solution. The cost is £50 per year for up to 25 email addresses and hosting of a WordPress website, which also supports GOV.UK applications. Regarding item 7; the current website does not meet the legal requirement for accessibility. Mr Hardwick explained it will be much simpler to produce a new website and move data across than try and edit the current one. Cloud Next would therefore solve both problems for a minimal cost. Mr Hardwick proposed to go ahead and set up an account with Cloud Next to supply email addresses and website hosting; Mr Cable seconded, and all were in favour.

7. To review accessibility of the website and how to proceed with improving this:

See item 6.

8. To review, with a view to re-adopt, the Councillor Code of Conduct:

No changes have been suggested. Mr Turner proposed to re-adopt the Code of Conduct; Mrs Stodgell seconded, and all were in favour.

9. To review, with a view to approve, the Dignity at Work Policy:

The Clerk explained that this policy is necessary to be able to sign the Civility and Respect Pledge. The Chairman proposed to adopt the Dignity at Work Policy; Mr Hardwick seconded, and all were in favour.

10. To decide whether to sign the Civility & Respect Pledge:

The Clerk explained the background of the pledge and what is involved. Ms Smith proposed to sign the pledge; Mrs Stodgell seconded, and all were in favour.

11. Finance:

- a. **Monthly accounts:** The Clerk presented the monthly accounts; Mr Hardwick proposed to accept them, Mrs Stodgell seconded, and all were in favour.
- b. **Payment list:** The Clerk presented the payment list and explained that the already paid payments were from previously agreed budgets. Mr Turner proposed to proceed with the payments, the Chairman seconded, and all were in favour.

Monthly Payment List - July 2024	Cheque/ BACS/DD	Net	VAT	Due Date
Viking- printer toner (Inv 4347850)	BACS	£167.56	£33.51	12-Jul
Sydenhams- Queen Square fingerpost paint etc	BACS	£62.73		PAID
NCVH EV recharge (May)	BACS	£206.45		
Character Graphics NP survey printing (Inv 37678)	BACS	£70.00	£14.00	PAID
Somerset Council- dog bin emptying (Inv 30070336)	BACS	£406.64	£81.33	PAID
Josh Williams- QSG grass cutting (Inv 64)	BACS	£158.00		
NP info sheet printing (refund to A Ollie)	BACS	£25.20		PAID
Clerk Salary	BACS	GDPR		
HMRC PAYE (April - June)	BACS	£733.08		
Neighbourhood Plan- NVCH room hire (Inv 4364)	BACS	£14.20		
BT- EV charger line (Inv M022 3B)	DD	£31.98	£6.40	
IONOS Website builder (Inv 203042688532)	DD	£4.00	£0.80	
BT- office broadband (Inv M012 8T)	DD	£39.65	£7.93	
IONOS HiDrive (INV 20304257419)	DD	£3.00	£0.60	

12. Correspondence:

A 7587: Notification of increase in Village Hall room hire costs.

A 7588 + A 7589: Emails from a resident regarding overgrown trees; Mr Stone had begun to cut some branches down but the resident is not happy with result and wants the work done by a tree surgeon. The Clerk will pass this on to Mr Stone, who has mentioned he has a plan.

A 7591: Email from Somerset Council case manager for council housing in North Curry; a number of tenants at Moor Lane Close are concerned about speed of vehicles, particularly tractors, causing safety issues when pulling out of the road. He is raising the issue with Highways to ask for traffic controlling measures, and wonders if the Parish Council will support his request. This area has already been made a 20mph zone and had a SID installed. Mr Deacon will look at speed data from the SID and the Clerk will then share this.

B 7592: A thank you letter from NC Music Festival for the donation towards the Popera House children's event.

13. Committee /Delegate reports:

Environment Group (PS): Would like to liaise with a member of the steering group to get more about the environment on the Neighbourhood Plan- this will be arranged.

Neighbourhood Plan (JL): The steering group have been awarded the full grant amount that they requested- well done to the team for their work in achieving this. The deadline for spending it is March 2025.

Local Community Networks (MD): Most Parishes aren't overly interested in LCNs currently, but the new Chairman is keen to engage with Parish Council's to change this so will be coming to Parish Council meetings with his Vice-Chairman.

14. Publicity Inputs: Brief report on the Tug of War event.

15. Matters for Discussion:

Mr Deacon: Asked if there is any news from the Church regarding a phone mast- they are actively looking into doing something like this.

Chairman: The trees are overhanging so much by White Street bus stop that people aren't able to stand at it and are forced into the middle of the road. The Clerk will speak to Mr Stone to see if he is able to look at this.

The meeting concluded at 9:20pm.