

MINUTES OF MEETING
held on Thursday, 2nd NOVEMBER 2017 @ 7.30pm
in the Village Hall

**Curry
Rivel
Parish
Council** 
Above the levels

PRESENT: Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley (Chairman), Cllrs Andy Anderson, Mike Cousins, Paul Deacon, Tony Greenaway, Tiffany Osborne and Derek Yeomans. County Cllr Clare Aparicio Paul was also in attendance.

491). **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

492). **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Robert Atkins and Peter Goodenough

493). **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THE 5th OCTOBER 2017**

The Minutes of the meeting, having been circulated to the members, were approved and signed by the Chairman on the proposition of Cllr Paul Deacon, seconded by Cllr Derek Yeomans.

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley advised that we would be switching items 6 and 7 on the agenda as there was a visitor who would be giving us a short report on the Get up and Get Together Group

494). **MATTERS ARISING NOT ON THE AGENDA**

a). **Curry Rivel in Bloom**

Cllr Tiffany Osborne said that at the Area North Committee Chris Cooper and SSDC Streetscene had said that they would be very happy to support whoever takes on the responsibility of organising 'Curry Rivel in Bloom'

Cllr Tony Greenaway said that Cllr Peter Goodenough had asked him to present a statement on his behalf. However, Cllr Tony Greenaway wanted to make it clear that the statement did not necessarily represent his own views and that a proper debate should take place'

"Just so you have time to think about the item before tomorrow, my concern is that I am disappointed that the PC was not given a proper debate about how to take the organisation of Curry Rivel in Bloom forward in the future. The decision to go ahead with setting up a completely separate group was taken before the PC knew the result or was given the opportunity to discuss the pros and cons of how we organise in the future. I see two main pros for having CRiB operated by the PC, one it is a huge positive public relations gain for the PC to be able to show how we have taken the precept and restored a publicly owned area well enough to win a regional award. Why are we not shouting about this in the local press? This should not be given up lightly to a volunteer group, as subsequent efforts must now maintain a very high standard and any failures would discredit the PC and if a success is achieved why should we not take the plaudits, it was our idea after all.

Secondly, if a completely separate group is setting up a separate finance system then this is a huge waste of precept money, any money spent would immediately attract 20% vat tax which is not the case at present, also much volunteer time would be wasted setting up bank accounts, keeping accounts up to date, getting audits etc. I see no cons with CR in Bloom staying as part of the PC.

A simple way forward would be that the volunteers would form a sub-committee of the PC and the PC could monitor the plans, finance and publicity. The Parish Clerk could be a part of the group and do the finance.

Cllr Paul Deacon said that the vat issue was a very good point. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said the answer to the vat question is that the grant application is much reduced from the last meeting because we are able to also grant aid purchases. They have a major plant purchase of about £400 coming up and if we pay for that rather than give them all of the budget, we are able to claim back the vat and it is all the ad hoc purchases as well. All the finance and getting of invoices has been a burden on the Clerk with various invoices flying around and that was one of her views as well.

Cllr Tony Greenaway said that when Cllr Peter Goodenough had asked him to present his statement, he did not disagree with his concerns but, neither did he agree with his way forward. However, he had suggested that we should have a full debate at a Parish Council meeting. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that unless it was felt that it had not been done properly, there is a group set up. Every time we have a sub-committee you must have a Clerk there. Secondly, it comes back to us to do all the talking, whereas I can only give the example of the allotments which used to be the responsibility of the Clerk to collect rents, etc. They are now run perfectly well by the Allotments Association.

Julia Jewel said that she was one of the residents who did some of the displays on the High Street last year. It was left to us to choose the plants required and we were not looked over or criticised for anything. As long as the colours were the requisite colours, all she had to do was choose plants, submit an invoice and it was then paid for and that is how it worked so easily. If, to some degree, they could be left to their own devices but, have some idea of what the budget would be for the plants, the work-loaded is reduced considerably.

Cllr Mike Cousins said that there is a crowd of people who want to give it a go, should we not be supporting them rather than us holding the reins. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley agreed with this because it is community work. She felt that people that were involved had done us proud this year and that new people had already come forward to join them. Cllr Paul Deacon said if we had a Parish Councillor on the committee, he could report back. Cllr Derek Yeomans said that we could undertake to buy the plants and claim the vat back and sponsor the event to a reasonable degree, providing the people involved do the necessary work. Julia Jewel said that if we continued with the annual plant sale, the money raised would cover the price of all the plants. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley advised that the plant sale had raised £228.50 this year.

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley suggested that a vote be taken to say whether we allow the group to carry on this year and review the situation next year. The group has already had a few meetings and are ready to place plant orders for next spring. Gina Beacham advised that they had planted for the autumn at one or two places such as the bus stops.

Cllr Tony Greenaway enquired how many active volunteers there were and was advised that at their last meeting there had been fourteen members. They had looked at where they had fallen down on the judging this year. Everyone is very keen to take on responsibility for various areas. We need far more people involved and that is happening already. There are prizes for businesses in villages. We have scenarios for some areas in the village that they would like to work on.

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley drew attention to the fact that in 2015/2016 we had budgeted for of £1,000 and in 2016/2017 the sum of £1,500. A grant of £400 had been received from Nisa and together with the plant sale, the sum of £680.50 had been raised. It was pointed out that the total expenditure incurred by the Parish Council had included £900 for the erection of the willow fence at the War Memorial. Julia Jewel advised that the total cost for plants would be £400 plus vat and would be invoiced to the Parish Council to enable the vat to be claimed back, giving a maximum of £900 which is still in budget.

Cllr Derek Yeomans proposed that the group carry on as their own committee for this year. This was seconded by Cllr Paul Deacon and unanimously agreed.

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley proposed that we award the group a grant of £500 for general purchases because they now have a Committee with a Treasurer and a Constitution is being set up next week. This was seconded by Cllr Derek Yeomans and unanimously agreed.

Cllr Tony Greenaway said that although we have publicised the success of this year's entry locally, he had not seen any publicity about it further than Curry Rivel. He felt that we had missed out here. He was advised that they have a really good publicity person on the group, called Ivor Dixon. He knows people at the Western Gazette and he has been sending details. Gina Beacham said that she was happy to send the minutes to the Parish Council and it was suggested that they should be sent to the Clerk so that they could be forwarded to the councillors.

Adjournment to Allow Public Comment

495). GET UP AND GET TOGETHER GROUP – Gemma Lawson

Gemma Lawson said that she worked for 'CSW You Can Do' and supported 120 Active Living Centres in Somerset. It is a centre where people who are 50-plus can come, each providing an opportunity for them to enjoy the company of others, and access all sorts of information about keeping well and active. It lasts almost all day and it gets them out of the house. There is one held in Curry Rivel on a Friday and Mike, who is a volunteer, organises all the entertainment and we have Elizabeth and Annie who work in the kitchen together with other volunteers. Unfortunately, we have lost one of our volunteers and she was here today seeking more volunteers to keep it going. They were also looking for a treasurer as well. If anyone has some spare time when they can pop in and see what amazing things these guys do. They give up their time on Friday to support the group. We also provide a lovely hot two-course meal.

There was a problem with transport because transport from Links has ceased to exist because they are insolvent. County Cllr Clare said the Links Service through the voluntary association has now ceased. Unfortunately, with the resignation of the Chair of Langport Town Council this matter is not being driven as fast as we would like. She was working together with the Chair of Area North trying to find a solution to the missing transport situation. We have found someone willing to take on the vehicles and the Rotary Club is hoping to put a stop-gap in until a long-term solution had been found. Over the last few days there have been a lot of community transport situations to deal with. Rest assured they were doing all they could to resolve the situation but, trying to amalgamate all the different options that will work across the board was not easy.

496). PLANNING REPORT

a). Applications Received

No. 17/04122/OUT

Outline planning application for the erection of a single dwelling and formation of associated access. Land adjoining Garland House, Townsend, Curry Rivel, Langport. Joanna Fryer, the Agent, was present to speak on behalf of this planning application.

On the proposal of Cllr Mike Cousins, seconded by Cllr Andy Anderson it was unanimously agreed that they had no objections to raise in respect of this planning application.

No. 17/03846/FUL

Change of use of land to residential, siting of mobile home, portacabin and formation of hardstanding. Land at Westfield Lane, Curry Rivel, Langport.

Cllr Derek Yeomans said that to get permission to put a mobile home on that piece of land you have to get an Agricultural Development Assessment Statement stating that there is justification for the necessity to be on site for about 220 days a year to look after the animals 24/7. Until you obtain that you will be unlikely to get permission for a mobile home on that site. On the proposition of Cllr Tiffany Osborne, seconded by Cllr Andy Anderson the Parish Council it was unanimously agreed to recommend refusal of this planning application on the absence of an Agricultural Development Assessment Report.

No. 17/03913/FUL

The erection of an outbuilding. 45 Stanchester Way, Curry Rivel, Langport.

On the proposal of Cllr Mike Cousins, seconded by Cllr Andy Anderson, it was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council had no objections to raise in respect of this planning application.

No. 17/03982/FUL

The erection of 1 No. dwelling (Revised Application). Land Adj. to The Poplars, Water Street, Curry Rivel, Langport.

On the proposition of Cllr Mike Cousins, seconded by Cllr Derek Yeomans, it was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council had no objections to raise in respect of this planning application.

b). **Applications approved with conditions**

No. 17/03491/S73A

Application to vary condition No. 02 (approved plans) of 15/03009/FUL and 02 (approved plans) of 17/01138/S73 for the reduction in number of chimneys. The Bungalow, Church Road, Curry Rivel, Langport.

No. 17/03550/FUL & 17/03551/LBC

Erection of single storey rear extension. Internal and external alterations. The Cottage on the Green, The Green, Curry Rivel, Langport.

c). **Application Refused**

No. 17/02461/OUT

Outline application for residential development (re-submission of withdrawn application 16/02698/OUT). Land Rear of Warwick House, Wiltown, Curry Rivel, Langport.

d). **Planning Application Consultation**

No. 17/02986/FUL

Demolition and erection of replacement outbuildings for domestic storage. Apple Acre, Wickmoor, Stathe, Langport - **Adjacent Parish – Aller**

PLANNING INSPECTORATE APPEAL REFERENCE – APP/R3325/W/17/3180365

APPEAL IN RESPECT OF APPLICATION DECISION REFERENCE 16/04191/OUT

Appeal Starting Date – 4th October 2017 – Written Representation – APPEAL BY – Mr Rees.

Proposal: Outline application (only access to be determined) for up to 22 dwellings, employment units up to 790 m.sq for B1 use and raising of site levels to form flood defences.

Location: Land at Willows Business Park, Westover Trading Estate, Langport

497). **FINANCE REPORT**

a). i). **Accounts for payment**

The following accounts were approved for payment on the proposition of Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley, seconded by Cllr Tony Greenaway.

Water 2 Business – Changing Rooms – Westfield

£ 17.36

Mole Valley Farmers – 6-bar gate delivery charge	£ 18.05 incl. vat
Paul Hart Welding Ltd – supply/fit handrails to War Memorial steps	£ 420.00 incl. vat
Clerk’s Wages – Month 7	£ 332.00
Julia Jewel – Britain in Bloom – water supplied and sundries	£ 100.00
Advanced Acoustics Ltd – Class ‘0’-2” Acoustic Studio Foam Panels	£ 90.74 incl. vat

ii) **Payment Received**

The Clerk advised that a cheque for £60 had been received from Heale Lane Allotments Association in respect of the annual rent.

b). **Quotations for repairs to the Westfield Dug-Out**

Cllr Paul Deacon advised that he had obtained a quotation to replace the missing corrugated sheets in the sum of £370 plus vat and a quotation to repaint the dug-out in the sum of £235 plus vat. This will give us a dug-out that is complete again with the replacement of the missing sheets; the exposed edges covered with an angle section to stop them from being sharp and a new coat of Hammerite paint. It will not look like a brand-new dug-out but, it will make it secure and tidy. Cllr Paul Deacon proposed acceptance of the two quotations. This was seconded by Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley and unanimously agreed.

c). **Quotations for costs of new markings and signs in the Car Park.**

At the last meeting a discussion had taken place about the problems being experienced on the hatched section of the Car Park. Cars were being parked on this section making it difficult for the residents to get cars out of their garages. It was suggested that the words ‘strictly no parking’ could feature on the hatched area which should be marked more clearly. It was also suggested that a sign could be fixed to a wall adjacent to this area advising that there is no parking on that area and the owner has agreed to this. Cllr Paul Deacon said he would look into this matter. He would obtain a price and proposal for the next meeting.

498). **PERSONNEL SUB-COMMITTEE – report of meeting held by Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley**

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley advised that a few of the councillors had met to discuss the setting up of a sub-committee. If it only met once a year where it could discuss salary and progress of the Clerk away from a public meeting. Those attending seemed to think it was unnecessary at the moment and decided to leave this matter in abeyance until next year.

499). **DEFIBRILLATOR – weekly check lists – volunteers required – update**

Cllr Tony Greenaway said that Cllr Andy Anderson was carrying out weekly checks and he recently carried out the monthly check. There is another person who came on the training course that is interested in becoming involved. Everything was working well at the moment and if a problem did arise, they could bring it to the attention of the council.

500). **SHORTLISTING FOR PLAY EQUIPMENT TO REPLACE THE SLIDE FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION.**

Cllr Paul Deacon said that we were very restricted by the size of the land that the slide currently occupies. A lot of the smaller items that rotate need a 7metre diameter soft surface. He circulated detailed of the only two items he could find that would work within the space that we already have. One was the COR2020 Kompan which was expensive at £4,950 incl. delivery but, excluding installation. The other was the HAGS-SMP Amazon basin small. Special offer price £1,735.50 incl. delivery. **(Incl. £850 reduction if ordered before 7th December 2017)** but, excluding installation. He was waiting to meet with the man who does our installation work to give him a quotation for taking the slide out and put the swings in.

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that we are restricted as to what we can put into that space. She felt that the Kompan Swings would enable the youngsters to climb up the framework and look into people’s gardens again. Cllr Derek Yeomans said he felt that the Kompan Swings were very dangerous because youngsters could try to climb up the frame and fall through injuring themselves

very badly. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley felt that it would be difficult for youngsters to climb up the HAGS-SMP single pole swings and they would not be able to stand on the top of it. Following further discussion during which various points of view were expressed, it was decided to defer a decision until the next meeting.

501). **CAR PARKING AROUND THE VILLAGE GREEN AND ON THE HIGH STREET**

Following a number of complaints to the Parish Council about parking issues, adjacent to the Village Green, Cllr Andy Anderson said he had volunteered to look into the reported problems with the view of trying to establish possible solutions. His 'Terms of Reference' were to investigate and report back to the Parish Council with recommendations. In addition to the Village Green, Cllr Anderson was also asked to look into the congestion and parking issues around the High Street.

Concerns had been raised regarding the increase in the volume of vehicles that were being parked around the Village Green. On occasions this was causing disturbance to local residents by vehicles being parked across or close to driveway accesses thus causing access and egress issues with the owners of those properties. In addition, inconsiderate parking was also reported by the residents as creating problems for traffic servicing local businesses. Finally, concern was also expressed regarding pedestrian safety, especially around school time, where parked cars were obscuring the visibility for passing cars, who on occasions were also speeding and this added to the possibility of an accident. The village green is located within a 20mph zone.

He has conducted a number of visits (around 50+) and there is quite an issue with parking. As well as many visits to the Village Green, he has been consulting with the residents. There are also adverts in the Curry Rivel News on the Community Website asking for emails. He has had a number of emails coming in from various people with helpful and not so helpful suggestions. However, he has come up with some possible solutions which he would go through.

The first one would be to enforce parking restrictions around the Village Green. This would be expensive and would require consultation prior to it being approved and there is no guarantee that it would be. In his view it would move the problem to other parts of the village. **This solution is not recommended.**

Installation of painted white lines. The exploration of this solution would only be possible for implementation outside the multiple car access in Water Street. The painting of white lines outside individual properties is only approved in exceptional circumstances and therefore is not likely to be a suitable solution for those bordering the village green. **This solution is not recommended.**

The one solution he strongly recommends is to explore the provision of an additional car park within the village to accommodate the increase in traffic around the village. This solution is subject to identifying available land and then purchasing it for a car park. This could prove expensive but, could be a long-term solution to the problem. It is **strongly recommended** that the Parish Council continue to explore this possibility.

He recommends that we write to local businesses and ask them to remind their staff to be considerate when parking their vehicles outside of an allocated car park. He has already spoken to the businesses on several occasions and they assured him that they do. Whilst new and popular businesses provide employment and encourages visitors to our community, they also bring with them the mode of transport to get to here; this is unavoidable and with our current lack of parking will result in both employees and patrons parking in adjacent residential streets. This is perfectly acceptable provided they park legally and with consideration for other road users and adjacent residents.

He would also recommend that residents report incidents of obstruction to the police on their 101 non-emergency line if the problem persists. This will permit the police to take the appropriate action against the offending vehicle owner and will hopefully discourage future episodes of inconsiderate

parking. Similarly, illegal parking, such as on school zigzags, should also be brought to the attention of the appropriate authorities. **Recommended.**

Although not a solution to the problem a possible contributor to reducing the speed around the village green would be an increase in the frequency of speed watch within the vicinity of the Village green.

We write to the Devon and Somerset Police Force to request a visit to the area to target illegal parking and take the appropriate action. **Recommended**

502). LOCATION OF NEW NOTICE BOARD

The new notice board had been delivered and was going to be erected on the left-hand side of the car park where there is a large sign at the top and some posts. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that when they started to put it up, they realised that any car that backs in could crash into it and smash it. It was not an ideal place to locate it. Cllr Tony Greenaway had suggested that we could erect some posts and have it further back towards the garden centre. There is a no parking area in the corner. The idea is to draw people's attention to it. It was still not an ideal location when it was fully parked. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley wished to raise another suggestion. The Parish Council notice board beside the One Stop Shop is quite old. The one we have purchased is twice the size so that we would use it much more as a village notice board as well as the smaller section for displaying official notices. She has tried to contact David Macey who owns that building to see if he had any objections but, had been unable to speak to him yet. When the original one is removed, it could be put someone else in the village; maybe Westfield near the play area. The Bus Shelter at Townsend was another suggestion. Following further discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley that the original notice board should be erected in the Bus Shelter at Townsend. This was seconded by Cllr Tiffany Osborne and unanimously agreed.

503). PROPOSAL FOR A CHRISTMAS TREE ON THE VILLAGE GREEN WITH LIGHTS

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley would approach Green Shutters to see if they would be willing to donate a Christmas Tree as they have in the past. Mr. Dudar of the garage would be approached concerning the lights for the tree.

504). REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY – 12th November

The wreath for Remembrance Sunday is ordered by the British Legion who will then invoice the Parish Council. Arrangements would be made for the Union flag to fly at half-mast by 11am on Saturday 11th November on the Village Green. It would remain until the Service on Sunday. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that the British Legion are organising a Lunch in the Village Hall after the Church Service for which the charge is £12.

505). CURRY RIVEL LIVE 2018

This would be held on the 16th June next year and would again be held in Westfield. The Britain in Bloom group would be asked to rope off the parking area as they did last year.

Cllr Tony Greenaway said that Curry Rivel Live had been approached about what fundraising will go towards and he had suggested a second Defibrillator for the village but, Simon Champion wanted to know what the Parish Council would thought any fundraising should go towards this year. The members were asked to think about where they would like funding to go. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that Simon Champion was very keen for groups to be there with a view to raising money and getting involved with the event.

506). CLOTHING BIN IN THE CAR PARK AGREEMENT

We have had a Service Level Agreement in respect of the Clothing Bin in the Car Park. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that her first thought was that if it was removed we would have another parking space. She suggested that it could be moved to Westfield where we have a car parking area. It was agreed to move the bin to Westfield and Cllr Paul Deacon said that we required a couple of days' notice before it is moved.

507). **PROPOSAL FOR A STAND PIPE AT THE WAR MEMORIAL**

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that the cost to install a stand pipe would be in the region of £364 plus £43 per linear metre for moving it to the nearest mains location. Following discussion, it was agreed that a quotation should be obtained.

508). **COMMUNITY SAFETY**

Robert Crowley advised that Speedwatch was still operating in the village and the police at Portishead have asked Speedwatch Groups to have a 'day of action' on the 21st November and there will be three Speedwatch sessions on that day. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that on behalf of the Parish Council she wished to thank Robert Crowley and his team for the work that they do. It has made a difference.

509). **CORRESPONDENCE**

- a). Winter Service 2017 – Grit Bin Filling
- b). Review of South Somerset Local Plan (2006-2028) – issues & consultation
Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley urged the members to read this document. One of the suggestions that is really disturbing is that perhaps we do not want all our housing in Yeovil, Chard etc. They were thinking about having some villages upgraded and Curry Rivel is on that list. Cllr Mike Cousins said that he had attended the recent meeting held on planning and that is different to what had been said there. Cllr Derek Yeomans said that everything was changing very fast.
- c). Revised Collections – Christmas Bank Holiday
- d). Somerset River Authority half-year Report

510). **REPORTS**

a). **County Cllr Clare Aparicio Paul**

Advised that the Blue Sheet had gone out today. She had attended the Somerset Water Management meeting today and SuDS, sustainable drainage systems that provide an alternative to the direct channelling of surface water through networks of pipes and sewers is becoming a huge thing. The biggest issue is that the local planning authorities do not have the funds to force the majority of the developers once they have put in place drainage systems. At the end of the day, they are now going back on their word on fixed agreements or they argue as to why they cannot do it. What we really need to try and do ourselves is to make sure that the word gets out there and whether it is one house or twelve or two hundred, we are encouraging any water maintenance to be put into the plans. It is not a question of where water ends up, it is a question of where it comes from in the first place.

b). **District Cllr Tiffany Osborne**

Advised that her monthly report would feature in the Curry Rivel News.

511). **COUNCILLORS' – updates**

Cllr Mike Cousins had attended the recent training session on planning and had found it very interesting. He referred to the CILs which would cover every single property and 15% comes to the Parish Council. Cllr Derek Yeomans said that it was not nearly as effective as the 106's. The 106's will be targeted for the properties that are most affected and they cannot go strategically anywhere else. Therefore, they are going to be much more manageable for the building people who can now say we do not want to pay that. The bottom line is that CILs which will be targeted at all houses except public buildings, hospitals, nursing homes and other places that are actually excluded from CILs will not be sufficient to provide the infrastructure which is necessary for the building of the various areas. CILs which are based on £42 a square metre is not going to be sufficient. To put it up any higher, the builders are going to say they are not going to build the houses.

CHAIRMAN _____ **DATE** _____