

# CURRY RIVEL PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THE 4<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2011 @ 7.30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

**PRESENT:-** Cllrs Peter Goodenough (Chairman), Stephen Beney, Peter Crosland, Kathleen Gardner, Steve James, Madelaine King-Oakley, Clare Simpson and Derek Yeomans.

601). **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

602). **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence had been received from Cllr Janet Calder.

603). **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 7<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2011**

The Minutes of the meeting, having been circulated to the members and posted on the Website, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

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

There were no matters arising.

### ADJOURNMENT TO ALLOW PUBLIC COMMENT

*Maurice Benton and Joanne Goody-Orris were in attendance and said that they had been told that if a grant application was requested it would be opposed. Cllr Peter Goodenough pointed out that he did not want the Grant System to be subverted by things that pre-empted it. It had been designed so that people put in grant applications and that if questions needed to be answered we could talk to the applicant/s on the night. It was the intention that the process should be clear and transparent. He was disappointed that they had been told not to submit an application and they said that, in the circumstances, they would submit a grant application.*

605). **REPORTS FROM COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

District Cllr Terry Mounter said he had recently been elected and although he had been a District Councillor before he had found that an immense number of changes had been made, which he was getting to grips with gradually. He had the attitude towards the District Council that it was there to support the Parish Council and not the other way around. He wished to assist the Parish Council in any way he could and said that he was approachable if anyone had any particular initiatives they wished to discuss with him.

606). **LAW & ORDER**

a). **Community Emergency Plan – Nick Gould was in attendance to speak to this item**

The Chairman welcomed Nick Gould, who lives in Long Sutton and is a Parish Councillor. He had been associated with the United Kingdom Warning and Monitoring Organisation until it was disbanded at the end of the Cold War and he was enormously experienced in emergency planning.

Mr Gould said he had been invited to give a report on how Long Sutton operates its Community Emergency Plan. Emergency Planning is not new and it has been recycled over the years. Once again we are in an era where emergency planning is being encouraged. He pointed out that there is no statutory obligation for parishes to undertake emergency planning. However, it is a good neighbour policy and good practice to have some basic contingencies plans in place. He stressed that Community Emergency Plan was not a replacement for the Emergency Services. The Emergency Services are the primary responders to any major incident. However, the Parish Council has a role in co-ordinating the community response to any major incident and liaising with County and District Councils and category one responders, who are basically the primary emergency services and the local authorities. The plans we make are based around community resilience; a stronger community can deal with a variety of scenarios and the idea is to provide a framework that, in the event of an incident which means that the emergency services are overwhelmed or delayed, allows the Parish to provide some immediate response until the emergency and local authorities deliver their response. In addition, once they do respond, the Parish can continue to play a supporting role.

Long Sutton has grouped Neighbourhood Watch, Community Speed Watch and Emergency Planning under the broad banner of Community Safety. These organisations have been grouped together because it makes it easier to identify volunteers in the event of a crisis who have knowledge of procedures and the correct responses to ensure community safety. It is Parish Council led though obviously with the help and support of the community to follow through.

Our Parish Council would organise the Curry Rivel Emergency Plan and the initial action would be to carry out a Risk Assessment of the various threats to the Parish; threats such as floods, fire, severe weather, the lack of electricity, gas, telephone, etc over a long period and the need to provide emergency accommodation. Disruption to, and diversion of, the A303 is another area that could cause problems, particularly bearing in mind the increased traffic during the Olympics next year. The effect caused by a major crime or murder and the Press involvement could be something that would hit the very fabric of the community. The Parish Council as leader would have a part to play in the management of that. The Risk Assessment would need to look at managing that whole process. However, the Plan has to be flexible and so the Parish Council needs to look at the following elements. The immediate response from the Parish would be based on templates created with action cards indicating how the Parish Council and volunteers would respond in certain scenarios, also draft press releases and draft resolutions would be set up. For example, with draft resolutions in place, a decision concerning expenditure would be simplified. The plan would also assist with identifying the other parish services and resources that would be available if there was a demand, such as doctors, nurses, generators and other equipment, etc. Mr Gould suggested that a flyer could be circulated to the parishioners asking them to indicate what services or resources they might be able to offer. A Resources Register could be created containing all this information, making it simple to identify all the resources available in a time of crisis. He also recommended the setting up of warning and informing plans so that parishioners can be warned locally and kept informed. This could be done by poster, Parish Meeting, email etc, with information getting out to the community as soon as possible. The key thing is to liaise with the Police, District Council and County Council. The County Council has a Civil Contingencies Department with a Community Officer who works with Community Plans.

It is essential to liaise with outside bodies when developing the Curry Rivel Plan to avoid duplication. Somerset County Council has a new process of asking parishes to develop Emergency Accommodation Centres. This is something that Long Sutton is working on. It would help to identify what accommodation the Parish would have available if there was a major county or national incident. Long Sutton is organising training in conjunction with the Red Cross and the WRVS to learn how these centres would be run. The County Council is keen to encourage parishes to work together and Long Sutton would be happy to work with Curry Rivel in terms of training and sharing experiences. It is good to have volunteers but it is necessary to keep them active and Mr Gould suggested that an event could be organised to utilise their talents.

In terms of technology, one thing Long Sutton did in conjunction with the District Council and the Police was to develop a version of the Ringmaster System so that in the time of crisis they have soft ware that can send out SMS messages to parishioner's mobile phones, speech messages to land line phone and general emails. Parishioners can go on the website to provide their details as part of the warning and informing package.

Hopefully we will never have to use these plans but, with contingency plans the Parish Council can lead and support its community in a crisis. Another aspect was insurance. Long Sutton Parish Council's policy allows volunteers for emergency planning purposes but it does not insure volunteers' vehicles. They have to sign a disclaimer. However, if the Parish Council undertakes the Emergency Accommodation Scheme, the County Council has a policy which covers volunteers. When draft resolutions necessitate expenditure, the County Council have a scheme of reimbursement from Central Government. Mr Gould advised the council to talk to the County Council about the financial side of things. If the Parish Council decides to apply for grant aid he recommended the new Community Foundation and he would be happy to pass on the details.

Cllr Steve Beney asked whether it was necessary to have CRB checks when providing accommodation and was advised that this was not necessary as it was a temporary measure and with a Rest Centre there would be a Police presence.

The Chairman said that taking into account all the advice given, the first step was to set up a Steering Committee to implement the necessary action. Mr Gould advised that representatives from the County and District Councils should be invited to an initial meeting with a view to preventing duplication of effort and for the Parish Council to understand what they would be providing in respect of response. The Parish Council's response would include checking on the elderly, making sure the vulnerable were alright and basically following a good neighbour policy. Looking at what you consider are the risks for this Parish and what resources you have to deal with them.

Cllr Peter Crosland asked what was available in the way of a County Communication Plan bearing in mind the problems that had been experienced in Curry Rivel recently. It was considered that technically it is the responsibility of British Telecom. However, if problems were experienced with mobile phones and the land lines were out, it was suggested that someone with a satellite phone should be identified or, if not, it may be a case of appointing runners to relay any messages.

It was noted that the following people had indicated that they would be willing to cover various areas in the community. They were Cllr Janet Calder, Cllr Clare Simpson, Cllr Derek Yeomans and Dan Crilley

The Chairman thanked Nick Gould for his very informative presentation and those present were asked to show their appreciation in the usual way.

b). **Police Report**

The following crimes had been reported for the month of July

- 1 x Criminal Damage - stones thrown on roof causing damage to tiles.
- 1 x Theft of copper wire from electric pole.
- 1 x Theft of four wheel trims from a vehicle
- 1 x Theft of B.T cable
- 1 x Burglary none dwelling - tools stolen from a barn

**Arrests**

1 x Arrest connected to theft of SCRAP

**Anti Social Behaviour**

4 reports of ASB regarding neighbours dispute.

c). **Neighbourhood Watch Report**

Michael Cook was in attendance to present a report. He advised that having noted the fall in the number of Ringmaster crime alert and crime prevention messages due to a reduction in police resources, they had written to David Heath MP to express their concern. He took up the matter with the Chief Constable and the Home Office, who offered assurances about the commitment to Neighbourhood Watch; subsequently it was learned that approval had been given to use volunteers to update and operate the Ringmaster system.

They were able to participate in a small way in Neighbourhood Watch Week, accompanying a Police Community Support Officer on a walk around part of the village identifying those properties obviously unoccupied or with evident security weaknesses. A notice identifying these concerns was left at the properties. This was a useful exercise which we would like to repeat when police resources allow.

Looking to the future Neighbourhood Watch would like to work with the Parish Council to explore the possibility of establishing a 'No Cold-Calling Zone' for the village.

**No Cold-Calling Zone**

Michael Cook advised that it was now well established that distraction burglaries and rogue trading, bogus workmen, high-pressure sales people and bogus officials are interlinked – the uninvited doorstep seller may well be checking out a property with a view to a re-visit to carry out a burglary

Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinating committee is keen to set up a joint working party with the Parish Council with, say, two Parish Councillors and two Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators to progress the project and to involve the police, trading standards, local council and other agencies as necessary. As soon as they had nominations for membership of the working party they would set up an initial meeting with the Curry Mallet scheme to get the project under way.

Following discussion, Cllrs Peter Crosland and Peter Goodenough volunteers to serve on the working party together with Michael Cook and Sir Peter Wallis of Neighbourhood Watch.

607). **PLANNING REPORT**

a). **Applications Received**

**No. 11/02564/COU**

Change of use to serve as a retail unit for general trade and home hardware (GR:341454/126530). Unit 2 Westover Trading Estate, Langport.

*It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council had no objections to raise in respect of this planning application.*

b). **Advice of Appeal Receipt**

**Town & Country Planning Act 1990 – Section 78**

**Appeal in respect of Application Decision Ref. 11/00059/OUT**

**Planning Inspectorate Appeal Ref. – APP/R3325/A/11/2156282/NWF**

**Appeal Starting Date – 7<sup>th</sup> July 2011-07-29**

**Appeal by – Mr J R Kitchen**

**Appeal Type – Written Representation**

**Proposal – Outline application for the erection of 4 no. dwellings and garages (GR:338851/124883). Location Land adjacent to Acre Cottage, Stoney Lane, Curry Rivel.**

Should the Parish Council wish to make additional comments, write to The Planning Inspectorate, 3/19A Eagle Wing, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, BRISTOL, BS1 6PN or email [pcs@pins.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:pcs@pins.gsi.gov.uk) quoting the appeal reference – **APP/R3325/A/11/2156282/NWF**  
Enclosing 3 copies, within 6 weeks of the appeal starting date quoted above.

*It was agreed that the Clerk should re-iterate the Parish Councils objections submitted following the February and March Parish Council meetings. It was further agreed that the Chairman should refer to the Planning Inspectorate's Report previously submitted with a view to establishing additional points to be included in the Parish Council's response to the Appeal.*

c). **Application Granted With Conditions**

**No. 11/02340/FUL**

Change of use of land from agricultural to domestic and erection of a single storey extension to rear of dwellinghouse. Russlet, Dyers Road, Curry Rivel.

**No. 11/00496/OUT**

Change of use of area of pasture to domestic cartilage. Land at Dyers Farm, Dyers Road, Curry Rivel.

**No. 11/02075/FUL**

Biological sewage treatment plant and horizontal reed bed system. Land OS 9800 Wick, Langport.

**No. 11/02318/FUL:**

The use of existing outbuilding as an annexe ancillary to Old Heale Cottage. Location: The Annexe, Old Heale Cottage, Dyers Road, Curry Rivel.

d). **Additional Planning Report**

Cllr Madelaine-King Oakley drew attention to the fact that four clear days should be allowed from receipt of an application before it could be considered by the Parish Council. As the two applications contained in this report did not meet this criterion, consideration was deferred until the September meeting and the Clerk would request an extension for the Parish Council's comments.

608). **FINANCE REPORT**

a). **Accounts for Payment**

The following accounts were approved for payment on the proposition of Cllr Derek Yeomans, seconded by Cllr Clare Simpson.

Andrew Jones – removal of Poles and Septic Tank at Eastfield	£ 250.00
Arien Signs – Dog Ban Notices	£1,014.00
Moore Stephens – External Auditor	£ 162.00
Keystrokes Web Hosting Services -	£ 15.00
D Yeomans re. Screwfix – padlocks, keys etc.	£ 29.58
EDF – Changing Room Electricity (£155.11 total cost) balance o/s paid	£ 87.63 DDR
EDF – Car Park Lighting	£ 42.63 DDR

The Clerk advised that she had now been able to set-up a payroll on the Inland Revenue's Web Site by way of the Basic PAYE Tool provided and had drawn four month's wages in respect of April to July, as detailed below.

Clerk's net wages May to August 2011	£ 916.81
HM Revenue & Customs – PAYE May to August 2011	£ 172.00

The Clerk had also received an invoice from Keystrokes Hosting Services for £100 in respect of the provision of 'CE30 – Platinum' for the Web Site. Following discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should contact Laurina Deacon to establish whether this was the responsibility of the Curry Rivel News or the Parish Council to meet this expenditure.

b). **Clerk's Terms of Employment**

Cllr Peter Goodenough drew attention to the fact that now the Clerk was employed, it was necessary to amend her existing Terms of Employment. He was concerned that if it transpired that the Clerk was receiving less than the minimum hourly rate, this could create a problem. At present payment is based on an annual figure incorporated in the Precept and he suggested that the Clerk should now try to keep a record of the hours she worked to establish that she was not receiving payment below the minimum hourly rate. Following discussion the Clerk agreed to endeavour to keep a record of hours worked.

c). **Grant Application Form on the Web Site - update**

Cllr Peter Goodenough proposed organising a trial run at which two mock grant applications would be presented and the procedure followed with a view to testing the procedure.

d). **Play Day – 24<sup>th</sup> September 2011**

The Clerk had contacted the Council's insurers, Zurich Municipal, to enquire whether its Public Liability insurance would cover the Play Day event and had received confirmation that it would provide contingent liability for the Play Day Event. The council should ensure those supplying entertainment etc have their own liability cover and the Clerk would obtain confirmation from Mrs Kaye Morgan. However, a claim could only be made under the Council's insurance provided that the person claiming is not entitled to indemnity from another source.

609). **WESTFIELD**

a). **Inspection Reports, general maintenance**

The Inspection reports were passed to Cllr Kathleen Gardner for information.

b). **Junior Football Posts**

The Clerk drew attention to the case reported in the National Press about the injury which had caused the death of a young lad when a Junior Football Goal and fallen over and the post had struck him on the head. When Cllr Kathleen Gardner had examined the two Junior Football Goals at Westfield, one of them had fallen over and could have caused damage. Following discussion it was agreed that the two Goals should be removed until such time as it had been possible to establish a satisfactory method ensuring that they could be safely secured. Enquiries would be made and a report presented at the September meeting.

c). **Erection of Barriers on Westfield**

Cllr Derek Yeomans had obtained a quotation for the erection of a barrier at Westfield which would consist of 2 no. poles with a lattice work barrier hinged so that it will fit across the two poles and can be locked and undone if we require to get larger vehicles in there. It will be set at 2.2 metres to prevent any white vans and caravans gaining access to the field. The quotation for supply only was £820 plus vat and the charge for installation had not yet been received. He was of the opinion that it would be in the region of £120 to £150 and the poles would have to be bedded in carefully to ensure that they are an exact distance apart to allow the trellis work to come into the latch so that a padlock can be applied. He recommended that the work was put in hand as soon as possible to prevent travellers etc., gaining access and recommended that photographs were also taken of the gate with padlock which would help to prove that due care had been taken to secure the area. If they did gain enter onto the Council's land they would be committing an act of trespass and by that token we can say they have caused criminal damage enabling them to be evicted a lot more easily.

Madelaine King-Oakley had made enquires and advised that there was a police recommended barrier available and bearing in mind that angle-grinders might be used, could this cause a problem. Cllr Derek Yeomans pointed out that the mere fact that a barrier was in place and that criminal damage had been caused would enable us to get them evicted.

The question of access for maintenance vehicles was raised and it was agreed that they would be provided with a key to the padlock.

Cllr Derek Yeomans proposed that once the written estimate had been received the Council should urgently proceed with the erection of the barrier and this was seconded by Cllr Kathleen Gardner. A vote taken resulted in six for, two against and one abstention.

*(Cllrs Stephen Beney,, Peter Crosland, Kathleen Gardner, Steve James, Clare Simpson and Derek Yeomans voted in favour. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley voted against and Cllr Peter Goodenough abstained).*

610). **STANDING ORDERS**

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley advised that at the recent Training Session she had attended, Peter Lacey of SALC had recommended that, because of the massive changes that were about to be implemented, Parish Councils should not spend too much time reviewing their existing Standing Orders. Following discussion it was agreed to defer discussion of this item until further information was made available.

611). **COMPLAINT REGARDING BONFIRES BY RESIDENTS SOF BURTON CLOSE**

Cllr Peter Crosland advised that he had visited Mr Johnson, the resident who written concerning this matter. It was apparent that the rubbish being burnt was of a commercial nature and that the complaint should be brought to the attention of the Environment Department. He gave them the relevant telephone number and recommended that the residents should keep a diary of when fires were lit. Cllr Crosland had given Mr Johnson his card should he require any further advice and as he had heard nothing further, assumed that everything was alright. The Chairman thanked him for dealing with this matter.

612). **REPORTS FROM MEMBERS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- a). Cllr Clare Simpson had attended the recent Training Course with Cllr King-Oakley and had found it very useful. She recommended the others councillors to consider attending future courses.

613). **CORRESPONDENCE**

a). **Letter requesting funding for the Ridgeway Hall, Langport**

Cllr Derek Yeomans drew attention to the fact that the County Council had reduced Social Service funding and help from those who previously had moderate needs and only those with substantial or critical needs will get funding. This application is in respect of a group of people with major disabilities who meet twice a week in the Ridgeway Hall. As from September funding for the two social workers employed is being withdrawn. The organisers are trying to maintain this meeting which is very valuable to those who are disabled and may be housebound but, it costs £33,000 a year to incorporate everything. They are anxious that it continues and are contacting all the Parish Councils who have residents who attend the meetings to see if they would be willing to offer some financial support. In future the group will have to rely on volunteers. One of the residents attending from Curry Rivel is blind and she is not allowed to use the funding that she receives from the County Council for transport purposes.

Cllr Peter Goodenough said that he had written to Mrs Eaves, who was associated with this group, advising her of the procedure for submitted a grant application which he looked forward to receiving.

b). **Opening Access to IT and the internet for residents of Curry Rivel**

Steve Beney advised that at the Curry Rivel News' Annual General Meeting, a discussion had taken place on the possibility of the Parish Council exploring the setting up of a resource to help elderly residents in sheltered housing gain access to IT and more specifically, the Internet. It was felt that the school was not a very good venue for training and suggested that training could be set up in the Community Room with the possibility of two or three laptops being made available at Parsonage Place. The Curry Rivel News had suggested that they would be willing to offer some finance as would the URC and had asked whether the Parish Council would be willing to provide some funding to set up a service with the provision of broadband. It was a question of whether there was a need for this service and Cllr Beney considered this to be so.

A detailed discussion followed during which it was pointed out that there was a government scheme offering Laptops at £124 for those with low incomes but, suggested that the elderly might find PC's with a larger screen would be more practical. If people wanted training they could also go to the Children's Centre. Cllr Stephen Beney said it was a question of whether this would be part of the grant scheme or dealt with separately. Bearing in mind the simple Grant Application form that was available for submission on line and by post, it was felt that if an application was submitted it would warrant high marks because it is for the good of the village. Cllr Peter Goodenough would approach Rosemary Leaf with a view to her submitting an application. It was further suggested by Cllr Derek Yeomans that Yarlinton Homes might be prepared to offer a grant.

c). **Chairman's Award for Service to the Community – SCC**

A discuss took place on this item and suggestions made would be considered further.

d). **Letter received from Terry Harris**

The Clerk had received a letter from Terry Harris in which he advised that the problem he had previously experienced with commercial rubbish being deposited on his neighbour's driveway had now returned. He thanked the Parish Council for the efforts they had made in respect of the earlier problems and asked if they could again take up this matter with the District Council. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Lee Walton of the Planning Department who had dealt with the previous complaint.

e). **Prohibition of Motor Vehicles, Westfield (Part), Curry Rivel**

This would be posted on the Notice Board

f). **The County of Somerset (various roads) (Somerset) (Temporary Prohibition of driving) (Special Events) Order 2011**

This was notification in respect of The Tour of Britain 2011 which will be advertised on the 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2011.

614). **ITEMS FOR A FUTURE AGENDA**

a). **Car Park Access**

Cllr Clare Simpson said she would be talking to the various interested parties before doing anything else.

CHAIRMAN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_