

CURRY RIVEL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THE 6th OCTOBER 2011 @ 7.30 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllrs Peter Goodenough (Chairman), Stephen Beney, Janet Calder, Peter Crosland, Kathleen Gardner, Steve James, Madelaine King-Oakley and Derek Yeomans. District Cllr Terry Mounter was also in attendance.

628). **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllrs Steve James and Madelaine King-Oakley declared an interest in respect of the grant application submitted by Curry Rivel Speedwatch. Cllr Stephen Beney declared an interest in respect of the grant application submitted by the Guides.

629). **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

630). **RESIGNATION OF CLLR CLARE SIMPSON**

Cllr Peter Goodenough reported the resignation of Cllr. Clare Simpson for personal reasons and advised that he had sent a letter of acknowledgement. The Clerk was asked to send an official letter on behalf of the Parish Council thanking Cllr Simpson for her services during her term of office and in particular for undertaking the submission of the Monthly Shorts to the Curry Rivel News.

The vacancy would now be advertised and the proper procedure followed for it to be filled.

631). **MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON THE 15TH AUGUST 2011**

The Minutes of the meeting, having been circulated and posted on the Community Website, were unanimously approved on the proposition of Cllr Peter Crosland, seconded by Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley and signed by the Chairman.

632). **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 1ST SEPTEMBER 2011**

The Minutes of the meeting, having been circulated and posted on the Community Website, were unanimously approved on the proposition of Cllr Janet Calder, seconded by Cllr Kathleen Gardner and signed by the Chairman...

633). **MATTERS ARISING**

a). **Complaint previously raised by Mr Terry Harris (Min 618(b) 1st Sept refers)**

Cllr Stephen Beney advised that Mr Harris had written to Lee Walton and David Heath, MP with photographs showing the problems that were being experienced with the accumulation of commercial rubbish on his neighbour's driveway. To date a reply had not been received to either letter. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley had contacted him and we will continue to send letters and photographs to show the deterioration and hopefully this will result in some response.

The Clerk advised that as it was commercial waste it had been allocated a Case No. 07/005533/USE and an Enforcement Order had previously been drawn up but, as the site was improved, the Order was not served. Since then the problem had become much worse and she was waiting for a report from Lee Walton.

b). **Faulty manhole cover adjacent to Peel Barton Lane (Min 629(d) refers)**

Cllr Stephen Beney pointed out that County Cllr Derek Nelson was going to look into this matter and the Clerk would make further enquiries

634). **GRANT APPLICATIONS**

Before considering the grant applications submitted for approval, Cllr Peter Goodenough pointed out that it was necessary to approve the following Resolutions:-

- a). **It is resolved that the decisions of the Council with regard to funding can be different from that requested i.e. the amount of money granted may be less or more than that requested. This will be decided by voting on a proposal from a Council member to vary the funding amount from that required.**

On the proposition of Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley, seconded by Cllr Derek Yeomans it was unanimously agreed to approve this Resolution.

- b). **It is resolved that those grant applications receiving less than 15% of the available score will automatically not be funded.**

On the proposition of Cllr Kathleen Gardner, seconded by Cllr Janet Calder it was unanimously agreed to approve this Resolution.

The procedure to be followed would allow applicants three minutes to speak in support of their project and bring out any details that were not included in their written application. The two main criteria to be considered were the benefit to the community as a whole and the cost benefit ratio would also have to be taken into account. The councillors would then have three minutes to consider the application and ask questions for clarification purposes or make comments and then they would allocate marks for that project and move on to the next application. The applications would be dealt with in the order specified on the Agenda and the relevant marks allocated at the end of each presentation.

1). **Grant Application 003 – Ridgeway Hall Disabled Group**

Cllr Derek Yeomans offered to speak on behalf of this application if their representative did not wish to speak. Cllr Peter Crosland questioned whether Cllr Yeomans should declare an interest if he had indicated his support for this group. Cllr Peter Goodenough drew attention to the fact that it had been advertised on the Community Website that if an organisation did not have a representative to speak on its behalf, they could ask a member of the Parish Council to act as its 'champion' and so avoid discriminating against people with disabilities.

Cllr Derek Yeomans said that the Somerset County Council had previously funded the two Social Workers and the twice weekly meetings held in the Ridgeway Hall by the Disabled Group but, it had now been decided to withdraw funding as from next Monday, 10th October.

2). **Grant Application 004 – Curry Rivel Speedwatch**

Robert Crowter advised that for the last 4 years Speedwatch had been in existence and it was quite clear from the details on the application as to what the funding is for. He thought the community had benefited quite considerably from a general reduction in the speed of traffic through the village. Mrs Kaye Morgan had funded the administration of Speedwatch in the past and it was considered that the community, through the Parish Council, should now make a contribution. The figure of £150 represents the cost of printing, cartridges, paper, batteries, biros and her fuel used when attending meetings. When questioned he advised that at present there were 17 volunteers.

Mr. Ronald Morgan pointed out that the Speedwatch was set up under the auspices of the Parish Council when David Wilkes was Chairman.

3). **Grant Application No. 005 – Yeovil Shopmobility**

It was pointed out that although there is a National Shopmobility each individual scheme is responsible for its own funding. Yeovil Shopmobility provides equipment to people who are mobility impaired. They also provide long or short term hire. It is about being independent and doing what you want to do when you want to do it. It is not just about going shopping; you might have to attend a hospital appointment or want to go on holiday. There are 20 members that come from this Parish and 750 members in total and the scheme started in July 2006. There are 7 volunteers that actually work on a regular basis and 2 part-time staff. They have 27 various pieces of equipment which have to be maintained.

The Chairman drew attention to the fact that the application had not stated the amount of grant requested and was advised that grants received from other parishes ranged from £50 from smaller parishes to £200 from larger parishes. Any amount of grant would be welcomed. When asked if there was a specific project that required funding, it was explained that it was becoming necessary to update their equipment and this could cost from £15,000 to £20,000 and it was a question of building up the general funds that would enable this to be carried out over a period of time. It was established that they were looking at a grant of £50 to £200.

Cllr Stephen Beney asked whether there was any connection with the Links transport which was run from Langport and was advised that there was not.

Cllr Peter Crosland declared an interest because he used it frequently himself. He used the one in Taunton and the main difference is that Taunton has a lot more vehicles and the service is provided free of charge, there is on-site parking and they bring the vehicle to the side of your car. The Yeovil service is not free and he wondered whether there was any commercial involvement in the Yeovil scheme. He was advised that the Taunton scheme was funded by the Somerset County Council and the Yeovil scheme was not. It is funded by individuals, parish and town councils and other charitable events and so it was necessary to make a small charge of £2 with an annual membership fee of £10. Cllr Derek Yeomans felt that the funding for the Taunton scheme would be from Taunton Deane Borough Council rather than from the Somerset County Council.

A discussion followed on the amount of grant to be considered bearing in mind that no specific sum had been stipulated and a decision should be based on a sum of £50 to £200.

4). Grant Application 006 – 1st Curry Rivel and Drayton Girl Guides

Mrs Jane Brooks presented this application and pointed out that this Girl Guides group had been in existence since 1919 and was one of the oldest in the region. There were usually about 20 girls in the group. There was now a new Rangers Section and the age range now goes from 11 to 25. They had previously met in the Old School Room and when this was not available they had used other premises including the Primary School. Their home at present was the United Reformed Church Hall. The Guides is an all inclusive girl led association which has no barriers to race or creed. The members pay £1.50 per week of which 50p is in respect of the National Association which includes insurance cover; 50p towards the hire of the hall and 50p towards our meeting. With all the activities, it is not a lot of money to run the Guides group.

We are raising funds to re-carpet the United Reformed Church Hall because we recently had an accident on it and have had to be careful as to the kind of activities we undertake. A quote had been obtained in the sum of £1,500 in respect of the carpet. Various events have been organised by the Guides and the girls had raised just over £1,000. It was hoped that the Parish Council would approve a grant towards the final amount.

The Chairman and the Clerk would now examine the scores allocated by the members in order to establish the level of support in respect of each application.

i). Grant Application No. 006 – 1st Curry Rivel & Drayton Girl Guides

The Chairman advised that the highest scoring application was for the Girl Guides and asked whether there were any questions. Cllr Derek Yeomans enquired whether the grant was in respect of the Guides or in respect of the damaged carpet. He was advised that it was for the replacement carpet. A lengthy discussion followed during which Cllr Derek Yeomans said he would be happy to support a grant of £500 if it was for the Guides activities but was not happy if it was for another purpose that did not support the Guides. In the circumstances, Cllr Derek Yeomans proposed a grant of £300 and this was seconded by Cllr Kathleen Gardner.

A vote taken resulted in seven in favour (Cllrs Janet Calder, Peter Crosland, Kathleen Gardner, Peter Goodenough, Steve James, Madelaine King-Oakley and Derek Yeomans, with one abstention (Cllr Stephen Beney who had declared an interest).

ii). Grant Application No. 004 – Curry Rivel Speedwatch

Cllr Peter Crosland proposed that the full amount of £150 be approved and this was seconded by Cllr Janet Calder.

(This proposal was carried with six votes in favour (Cllrs Stephen Beney, Janet Calder, Peter Crosland, Kathleen Gardner, Peter Goodenough and Derek Yeomans) with two abstentions (Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley and Steve James who had declared an interest in this item)

Robert Crowter expressed a vote of thanks on behalf of Speedwatch.

iii). Grant Application No. 003 – The Ridgeway Hall Disabled Group

Cllr Derek Yeomans proposed that a grant of £300 be approved and this was seconded by Cllr Janet Calder.

A vote taken resulted in seven in favour (Cllrs Stephen Beney, Janet Calder, Kathleen Gardner, Peter Goodenough, Steve James, Madelaine King-Oakley and Derek Yeomans) with one abstention (Cllr Peter Crosland).

iv). Grant Application No. 005 – Yeovil Shopmobility

Cllr Kathleen Gardner proposed a grant of £50 but this did not receive a seconder. Cllr Derek Yeomans proposed a grant of £100 and this was seconded by Cllr Stephen Beney.

A vote taken resulted in six in favour (Cllrs Stephen Beney, Janet Calder, Peter Goodenough, Steve James, Madelaine King-Oakley and Derek Yeomans) with one vote against (Cllr Kathleen Gardner) and one abstention (Cllr Peter Crosland).

The Chairman advised that the next Grant round would be held in April 2012 and that grants can only be made to organisations and not individuals. The amount of grant aid for the financial year April 2012 to March 2013 would be included in the Precept set for that year.

Adjournment to Allow Public Comment

Weight Restrictions for commercial vehicles over the bridge at Langport

Robert Crowter had previously raised the question of weight restrictions for commercial vehicle. The Chairman said that he had recently spoken to PC Bell who said he would get back to him concerning this matter. He had not yet

done so and the Chairman would follow this up. Cllr Derek Yeomans said that you cannot stop vehicles crossing because they have need of access. Mr Crowter felt that if vehicle checks are carried out in other parts of Somerset, they could be carried out in Langport.

Eastfield

John Hunt expressed his concern that the Parish Council appeared to be tinkering with the Covenant agreed with the Aller Rugby Club. As a Parish Councillor he and Cllr Kathleen Gardner had represented the Parish Council in the original negotiations when Aller Rugby Club had very generously agreed to give Eastfield to the Parish Council. He referred to a meeting held in July 2005 with Ken Male and Jim Morris, Trustees of the Aller Rugby Club, when they had made it very clear to the Parish Council that use of the field should be restricted to Sport and Recreation. The Club had worked very hard in the mid-1980's to raise the sum of £8,000 to buy the field and none of the Club members were particularly wealthy. They had purchased the field with the express intent of using it as a sports ground and they hoped that by handing it over to the Parish Council rather than selling it on the open market, it would remain as a sports ground. For his part, any attempt to modify or set aside the Covenant might not be illegal but would certainly be immoral and at the very least it would be a substantial breach of faith. He would not like anything to be done that would impugn the integrity of the Parish Council.

Cllr Peter Goodenough, wished to raise a couple of factual points. Firstly the Covenant was taken out between the descendants of Mr Eames and the Aller Rugby Club and it restricted the use of the field to sports activities only. The Covenant was not between the Parish Council and the Aller Rugby Club. The covenant was taken out in the 1980's when the Aller Rugby Club bought the field and there is no existing Covenant between the Parish Council and the Rugby Club. Thus the Covenant was originally between two parties who had no connection with the Parish Council but, even so it is still extant. The second point is that in handing it to the Parish Council the Aller Rugby Club acknowledged that in the future it was possible that the Parish Council would use the land for something else which could include housing because it was made clear in the conveyance document that half of the accrued proceeds would have to be given to the Aller Rugby Club members. This was the so-called Uplift Clause which acknowledged that the Parish Council might use the field for other purposes and will remain in force for 20 years from the date of the conveyance. After that the Parish Council will not need to adhere to the uplift clause. The reason for taking out indemnity insurance is to protect the Parish Council in perpetuity against the situation where the field is used for something else other than sports and a descendant of the signatories of the original Covenant comes forward and takes the Parish Council to Court for breaking the Covenant. No decision has been taken as to what the field is to be used for. It is merely a case of clearing the brushwood away so that we have a level playing field. This was a legal move to protect the Parish Council who would have to meet the cost of any legal action that might be taken in the future.

John Hunt thanks the Chairman for setting his mind at rest and he personally felt that the original Covenant was now worthless and unenforceable.

The Chairman said that once the insurance is in place the Parish Council would go out to the village to see what they want to do with Eastfield.

Cllr Peter Crosland said that having accepted on the understand that it would only be used for sports facilities, it was indefensible, after such a short time, to suggest using it for something else. He felt it was deplorable. The Chairman pointed out that in the Uplift Clause it was made clear that in the future the field might not be used for sports purposes.

The Chairman said that taking into account the various points raised by the Councillors during a rather lengthy discussion, that once the legal side had been sorted out an article should feature in the Curry Rivel New asking for people to come forward with ideas and the majority view of the village would prevail. It was agreed that once the legal document was available it would be brought to the Parish Council for approval.

Parish Council Finance

Frances Hunt wished to ask the Parish Council to be a little more prudent with the parish money. Last year she had written to the Parish Council asking them not to increase the Parish Precept. She felt the Council had far too much money in its Reserve Account. A lot of people are not benefiting from the money being spent and in particular they are not benefiting from the £500 being spent on Eastfield for the running track. She would be interested to know just how many people use that track. She had looked at Westfield which was absolutely beautiful and she could not see why people could not run round the football pitch rather than the Parish Council being charged £500 to maintain the track in Eastfield. Tonight it had been stated that £2,000 was available to spend on grant applications. She wished to point out that it was money from our Precept and she would like the Parish Council to spend it mostly on people in the village.

The Chairman pointed out that grants were made for the good of the people in the Parish and a certain amount of money has been set aside for promoting useful work. The Council wants people in the village to come forward with good projects that benefit the village. It is disappointing that there have been so few applications from Curry Rivel.

What we have to do is encourage the people in Curry Rivel to be more pro-active in coming forward with useful activities for the village. He was sure she was absolutely right but, we must get more public participation. The Parish Council was looking at everything it was responsible for and , having discovered that the Council precept was being taxed by SSDC he had applied for and obtained a saving of nearly £1,000/year on Business rates on property owned by the Parish Council.

Planting of Bulbs

Having noted Item 17(d) on the Agenda, it was pointed out that there were 15 people who had volunteered to plant bulbs on sites to be identified. It was also pointed out that the Woodland Trust was looking for sites to plant trees.

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

District Cllr Terry Mounter advised that he had attended the usual round of meetings. He had also attended a meeting with the Leader of the District Council together with a number of District Council Officers and had identified a number of priorities for the village. These included Social Housing, Rights of Way Paths, Cycling Routes, Recreation and Leisure. He had also attended a meeting of the Scrutiny Committee. He was particularly interested in a recent planning application from Somerton for 132 houses which was passed. This would make a considerable sum available for local recreation but, this does not have to be spent by the District Council. It could be delegated to the parishes and he was particularly interested in the movement of money and how it is spent. I think that parish councils should be aware of the sums of money that are available and should share in the spending of that money

636). **COMMUNITY SAFETY**

a). **Community Emergency Plan – Chairman to Report**

Cllr Peter Goodenough advised that an inaugural meeting would be held on the 25th October and he would report back.

b). **Police Report**

1 x Criminal Damage – Graffiti - silver spray paint on the passenger's side of the car and boot of a vehicle
Criminal damage – Graffiti on garden fence

The Clerk reported that graffiti had also appeared on one of the bus shelters and this had now been repainted.

Arrest

One person arrested for being in possession of cannabis

c). **Neighbourhood Watch and Cold Calling Awareness Zone**

Gordon Townrow from Curry Mallet had given a very interesting outline of setting-up a Cold Calling Zone at a recent meeting of the Neighbourhood Watch management team, the Chairman of the Parish Council was in attendance. Curry Mallet is somewhat smaller than Curry Rivel but, the neighbourhood Watch and parish council are jointly pushing on with the setting-up of a Zone as soon as possible.

637). **OFFICIAL SIGNING OF ALLOTMENT COMMITTEE AGREEMENT**

The Clerk had circulated copies of the draft Allotment Committee Agreement to the members. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley drew attention to the first line which stated that the Agreement commenced on the 1st October 2010. The Clerk advised that the 30th September 2011 was the end of the first year and that as soon as the Agreement was signed the Allotment Committee would release the first year's rent of £50. The Clerk would include the relevant field reference and acreage. It was proposed by Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley and seconded by Cllr Janet Calder that the Allotment Agreement should be signed.

(A vote taken resulted in six in favour of the proposal (Cllrs Janet Calder, Pet Crosland, Kathleen Gardner, Peter Goodenough, Madelaine King-Oakley and Derek Yeomans) with two abstentions (Cllrs Stephen Beney and Cllr Steve James).

Cllr Stephen Beney wished to make a short report following the Annual General Meeting of the Allotments Committee. The Committee has been operating for a year and there are 36 plots at present being cultivated. The draft Agreement was submitted and the Committee were very grateful to the Council for setting the rent at £50 for the year and a cheque would be released as soon as the signed Agreement is received. Membership of the National Association had been taken out for all the allotment holders for the coming year which increases the cost to the Association slightly. Paths have been laid and mown and a ditch has been cleared to improve drainage, with two additional plots being created. The accounts for the year 2010 to 2011 showed a total income of £1,350 against a total expenditure of £1,080.31 with a balance of £269.69 remaining.

638). **YOUTH SURVEY**

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley advised that the lady that we had met with previously had been made redundant. The task has been passed to others and they assured her that it is going to be done at the end of September. The

questionnaires were going to be sent out at half-term but she was going to suggest that they go out a little later because the PC had not had a chance to advertise it. It was hoped that there will be a meeting between the PC representative and the survey group in November. Cllr Stephen Beney pointed out that the questions suggested by the Parish Council had now been included in the Survey.

639). **PLANNING REPORT**

a). **Applications Received**

No. 11/03524/FUL

Erection of a single storey extension and a two storey extension with dormer windows (GR:338862/124544). Beaver Lodge, Furlong Lane, Curry Rivel, Langport.

(It was unanimously agreed on the proposition of Cllr Derek Yeomans, seconded by Cllr Peter Crosland that the Parish Council had no objections to raise in respect of this application)

No. 11/03823/LBC

Alterations to windows and door openings to south elevation of house, installation of replacement windows and doors and miscellaneous internal alterations (GR:341234/12649). Hurds Hill House, Curry Rivel, Langport.

(It was unanimously agreed on the proposition of Cllr Kathleen Gardner, seconded by Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley that the Parish Council had no objections to raise in respect of this application.)

No. 11/03683/FUL

Erection of three houses and formation of associated new access (GR: 338337/124769). Land at rear of Westfield House, Townsend, Curry Rivel, Langport.

(It was unanimously agreed on the proposition of Cllr Kathleen Gardner, seconded by Cllr Derek Yeomans that the Parish Council had no objections to raise in respect of this application.)

No. 11/03697/FUL and 11/03698/LBC

Proposed repair of a listed dovecote and barn and associated proposed enabling development to construct a single storey dwelling (GR:338228/125595). The Dovecote, Heale Lane, Curry Rivel, Langport.

(It was agreed on the proposition of Cllr Peter Crosland, seconded by Cllr Derek Yeomans that the Parish Council had no objections to raise in respect of this application. A vote taken resulted in seven in favour of the proposition (Cllrs Stephen Beney, Janet Calder, Peter Crosland, Peter Goodenough, Kathleen Gardner, Stephen James and Derek Yeoman) with one vote against (Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley).

b). **APPLICATION APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS**

No. 11/02564/COU

Change of use to serve a trade sales counter (Use Class B1 and ancillary retail). Unit 2 Westover Trading Estate, Langport.

No. 11/02775/LBC

Installation of a flue and carrying out of internal alterations. Hoist House, Butt Lane, Curry Rivel, Langport.

No. 11/02909/FUL

Erection of an extension to front of dwellinghouse. Pear Tree Cottage, Townsend, Curry Rivel, Langport.

c). **APPLICATION REFUSED**

No. 11/01790/OUT

Outline application for the erection of a single storey dwelling. Land adjoining 12 Churchway Close, Curry Rivel, Langport.

Cllr Peter Crosland advised that the planning application for Taunton Road Filling Station had been withdrawn and they had been asked to carry out a detailed marketing exercise over the next eighteen months.

Cllr Peter Goodenough said he had been in touch with South Somerset District Council and had been encouraged to do a paper exercise on the possibility of the Community buying the Petrol Station. During the period of eighteen months that the owners had been asked to carry out a marketing exercise he had been encouraged to put forward a plan to have a community approach to this site.

The Clerk reported that she had received a booklet entitled 'How to Respond to Planning Applications – An Eight Step Guide'. She had only received one copy and it would be circulated in the 'black box'.

640). **FINANCE REPORT**

The following accounts were approved on the proposition of Cllr Kathleen Gardner, seconded by Cllr Derek Yeomans.

HM Revenue & Customs – PAYE Months 4/5/6	£171.80
Clerk’s Wages for month	£172.57
SSDC Inspection Reports	£211.69
Curry Rivel News Group refund re Website	£100.00
Madelaine King-Oakley – materials for repainting MUGA	£ 19.47

The Clerk had received a message from Wessex Water regarding the usage of water at the Changing Rooms. An invoice was due to be sent in the sum of £396.10 and as this was extremely high they wished to know whether there had been a leak and if so was it our equipment or theirs. The Clerk had examined earlier charges made in respect of the Changing Room and these were as follows:-

7 th May 2009	£47.30	7 th October 2010	£18.05
1 st October 2009	£43.30	7 th April 2010	£88.71
31 st March 2010	£ 9.25	Sept 2011	£396.10

Following discussion, during which it was pointed out that the leak was repaired as soon as it had been brought to our attention, it was agreed that the fault was with our equipment and, therefore, it would not be possible to make a claim against Wessex Water for the leak.

The Clerk pointed out that the recent electricity bill for the Changing Rooms was £483.42 from February to September 2011 and with the current water bill of £396.10, this totalled an outlay of £879.52 with no income to set against it. Cllr Derek Yeomans said it was essential to ensure that people using the facility are charged but, it was pointed out that at the present time the Changing Room was not being used which raised the question of why was the electricity bill so high. Cllr Janet Calder questioned why the Parish Council continued to maintain the Changing Rooms if they are not being used. When seeking responses concerning Eastfield we should make people aware that the Changing Rooms are available and ask people to come forward with ideas. It was proposed by Cllr Derek Yeomans that the water and electricity should be turned off and this could be done quite easily.

Cllr Derek Yeomans suggested that consideration could be given to using Eastfield for agricultural purposes. It is 5 acres of good arable land which could bring in about £50 an acre. Referring to the lady that had spoken during the adjournment concerning the planting of trees he suggested that consideration could be given to the planting of 85 hardwood trees which could be formed into a copse and called the Jubilee Copse.

Cllr Peter Crosland asked if we could move on and place this on the Agenda for the next meeting.

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley drew attention to the problem with the siting of the Flag Poles at the Village Hall. The best place for them was here and for £14 we would purchase some bars that would support them. Cllr Derek Yeomans said that if these bars were fitted they would prevent access to the cellar and that he had designed a fixture that would solve the problem.

The Clerk advised that it was necessary for members to sign a further Bank Mandate and copies were circulated to the members.

641). **WESTFIELD/EASTFIELD
Inspection Reports**

Cllr Kathleen Gardner had phoned the District Council and had met with Steve Boarder. She had asked for an explanation of all the things detailed on his reports. Although the hoops had been re-fitted in the MUGA, the cross bars were totally corroded and oxidised metal is peeling away. It was considered it needed to be treated professionally and she felt that we should get someone in to examine the problem. We have had the MUGA for 10 years and had not spent anything on it. If it was treated properly, it would then last for another 10 to 15 years without having anything else done to it. The steps to the slide in the play area are very badly corroded and the surface is now lifting up. Two bolts at the top of the climbing frame need to be tightened. There are three bolts loose on the swing seat. The council has spent nothing on the area and it needs a jolly good paint. Quotations could be obtained for this work. She had also looked at the football field and noted that the junior posts were in front of the large goal posts and had not been secured to the ground. She felt that they should be put back in their original place and that they should be screwed into the ground. It had taken her two hours to sweep the entire MUGA which was covered by shards of glass which had been caused by two bottles being lobbed from the Mount. She had met up with a representative from Arien Signs so that the latest dog ban sign could be erected adjacent to the Yarlinton Homes development and noted that they had not yet erected a bar across the road. The dog ban sign by the playing fields had been badly damaged. It would appear that the football goal posts are not examined during the inspections and she had raised the question as to whether it was necessary to have an inspection every week. This could be adjusted to once a fortnight if wished. She

suggested that we could consider having a handyman to go round once a week and pick up rubbish. Cllr Peter Goodenough suggested that Cllr Gardner should provide the council with a Tender document of the various areas we needed to put right to enable us to get some estimates. Cllr Derek Yeomans offered to go round the recreation field with Cllr Kathleen Gardner to prepare a Tender. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley enquired when quotations for grass cutting should be obtained and this should be put in hand during November/December.

Cllr Derek Yeomans advised that the 106 money from Yarlington Homes should be available shortly which would allow the council to carry out maintenance of the play area. He would like to propose a vote of thanks to Cllr Kathleen Gardner who is not responsible for cleaning up the recreation area but she does so on a regular basis. He requested that a vote of thanks should be recorded in the Minutes.

Cllr Kathleen Gardner had spoken to Darren Hill of Taunton Deane DLO because they had not cleared the footpath leading to the Car Park or painted the steps and she had not been happy with the way it had been done before. He said he would be doing this work in the half-term. The paint has to be burnt on to the steps because they are made of concrete. They had also painted the bus shelters.

642). **INDEMNITY INSURANCE EASTFIELD**

Cllr Peter Goodenough advised that we had not yet received the relevant legal documents.

643). **CAR PARK – new Committee to deal with parking and obstruction of access.**

Clare Simpson was going to head up a committee to deal with the problems being experienced in the Car Park and it was necessary to identify someone to take over from her. Complaints were being received in respect of the large vehicles creating problems. Reduction of the size of the pavement adjacent to The Olde Forge had been suggested. Cllr Peter Goodenough felt it was a question of getting the various parties together to discuss the situation rather than shouting from a distance. Cllr Steve James felt that Sandpits vehicles were causing some of the difficulties. Cllr Derek Yeomans said that now that Living Pretty had opened people were coming for miles around and the Car Park is now full the entire day. Councillor Beney volunteered to obtain the views of interested parties and report back to the Council. His suggestion was gratefully accepted.

644). **CURRY RIVEL COUNTY COUNCIL DIVISION**

Cllr Derek Yeomans advised that this was now almost firm and Somerset County Council has come forward with a proposal. Curry Rivel and Langport have been matched together. Curry Rivel Ward has practically disappeared. The boundary would include Aller, Curry Rivel, Drayton, Fivehead, Hambridge & Westport, Beercrocombe, Curry Mallet, High Ham, Huish Episcopi, Kingsbury Episcopi, Langport, Muchelney and Pitney. The District Wards would be Curry Rivel, Langport & Huish Episcopi. part of Burrow Hill, Aller, Pitney, High Ham, part of Turn Hill, part of Burrow Hill, Kingsbury Episcopi and Muchelney.

The Parish Council can submit its thoughts to the County Council until the 31st October. It can also write to the Boundary Commission with its thoughts by the 14th November. Everything will then go quiet until February next when they will then present the options as far as they are concerned. There will be a consultation period from February and they will then come out with the final decision in May/June 2012. Cllr Peter Goodenough would submit an article to the Curry Rivel News.

645). **CORRESPONDENCE**

The following correspondence had been circulated to the members by email for information and action where necessary:-

- a). Draft Core Strategy, Committee meetings Timetable – SSDC
- b). Sports Facility Funding & Training Opportunity – SSDC
- c). Renewable Energy Essentials, Saturday 8th October 2011
- d). Somerset County Council's key documents – The County Plan 2011-2013
- e). Parish bulb planting initiative – SSDC

Correspondence to be circulated at the meeting

- a). Temporary Road Closure, Red Hill and Stathe Road, Aller, Curry Rivel

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley proposed that the parish council should take up the offer of bulbs referred to in Min (e) This was seconded by Cllr Stephen Beney and unanimously agreed.

646). **RESOLUTION**

It is resolved that the final item will be taken without the presence of the press and public.

On the proposition of Cllr Derek Yeomans, seconded by Cllr Peter Crosland this resolution was unanimously agreed.

647). **THE CLERK'S CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT**

A copy of the draft Contract of Employment and been circulated to the members and the Clerk left the meeting whilst this was being considered.

The draft Contract was unanimously approved subject to a change of wording concerning the annual increase in stipend. Rather than reading that an annual increase was to be made in line with the Consumer Prices Index for September of each year it was to read that the stipend would be assessed annually by the Council.

648. **ITEMS FOR A FUTURE AGENDA**

- a). Community Emergency Plan
- b). Neighbourhood/Cold Calling Awareness Zone
- c). Indemnity Insurance Eastfield
- d). Car Park Survey
- e). Curry Rivel County Council Division

CHAIRMAN_____

DATE_____