

CURRY RIVEL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THE 3rd NOVEMBER 2011 @ 7.30 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

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

649). **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

650). **APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE**

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

651). **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 6TH OCTOBER 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 Kathleen Gardner and signed by the Chairman.

652). **MATTER ARISING NOT ON THE AGENDA**

Car Parking Opposite The Elms

The problems concerning the parking of cars had been discussed with the owners of The Elms and they had advised that the vehicles belonged to a company called Crimson Hill.

Flag Poles

It was necessary to arrange for someone to bring the flag poles back to the Village Hall where Cllr Derek Yeomans had erected a bracket in which they could be permanently stored. He advised that the Union flag was usually erected on the day before the 11th November and it requires someone to assist who knows how to operate the flag pole. The Clerk had the flags.

Weight Restriction Langport Bridge

Cllr Peter Goodenough advised that he had been in touch with the Police who had advised that, as far as they were concerned, this was a matter which should be dealt with by V.O.S.A. a government agency. He had tried unsuccessfully to contact them on the various telephone numbers given.

Adjournment to Allow Public Comment

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

County Cllr Derek Nelson's Report

He offered his congratulations to District Cllr Terry Mounter on his election.

He advised that Roger Wootton had put in a 215 Notice to the neighbour of Terry Harris concerning removal of the waste and he was awaiting a response. They were on the case and also looking for a longer term solution so that it was not necessary to keep going down this road.

Concerning the faulty manhole cover adjacent to Peel Barton, he had spoken to Neil McWilliams who did not think it was dangerous but had been in contact with Wessex Water concerning this matter.

He referred to the winter services and the fact that Drayton had already obtained a supply of salt and had sent out a notice saying that you can clear paths providing you take the necessary precautions. There is an open evening on the 10th November at Yeovil where you will be able to meet the guys doing the work. The situation had dramatically improved since the previous year with farmers being brought back in tow, etc. Generally, the winter services are well prepared.

Negotiations were still taking place about pensions, Unison and GMB's etc. They have been negotiating with the Unions at County and we have made them another offer to improve the voluntary redundancy with a view to reaching an amicable agreement.

A 98 page document has been drawn up in respect of the future Car Parking Strategy which is available on the internet for consultation purposes. The consultation period goes on until sometime in January 2012. A hard copy can be viewed at County Hall.

He was disappointed that the Appeal had been lost in respect of Acre Cottage in Stoney Lane. He had noted that an Appeal had now been lodged in respect of Perham Farm.

The County Council has to submit a proper document proposal to the Boundary Commission by the 14th November, but they are not bound by the County Council's suggestions.

Largely due to Cllr Derek Yeomans and others making protests to the Rights of Way Team they are, for the first time, issuing a list to every County Councillor with Rights of Way issues in terms of bridleways etc., and on his patch he has 25 which puts it into perspective. Cllr Derek Yeomans said that County Councillors would now be informed as soon as an application was accepted and put on the register which heretofore had not been the case.

District Cllr Terry Mounter's Report

We have had discussions regarding The Bell Hotel Section 106 Agreement which might generate some capital. The Parish Council might be able to make use of this in the future. During discussion, the view was expressed that not everyone received their fair share and Cllr Mounter was of the opinion that District Councillors should do what they can to ensure that Parish Councils get a fair deal.

654). **VACANCY**

The Clerk confirmed that a Notice of the Vacancy had been posted in the Official Notice Board, in the Post Office and on the Community Website. Unless a request for an Election to be held is submitted in writing to the Proper Officer of South Somerset District Council at the Council Offices by Thursday 17th November 2011 by ten electors for the Parish, the Parish Council will proceed to fill the vacancy by Co-Option.

655). **COMMUNITY SAFETY**

a). **Community Emergency Plan**

Cllr Peter Goodenough reported that a very productive meeting had been held on the 25th October. This is an Advisory Committee and Dan Crilley was duly elected as Chairman. He has been very busy and a further meeting was due to be held on the 21st November. Mr Crilley has already produced a Section 1 Rationale Emergency Plan and a Section 2 Emergency Plan Operational Procedures, which gives us an embryonic plan for the village. The Minutes of the first meeting would be posted on to the Community Web Site. By the end of the month we will have an Emergency Plan which would enable us to focus on the actions to be taken during bad weather with the provision of salt bins, etc.

b). **Police Report**

Reported crimes for the month of October 2011

- Theft – of Pedal Cycle that was unsecured outside an address
- Second, report of another Pedal Cycle that was stolen from outside an address.
- Burglary non-dwelling - unsecured shed was broken into and a stereo was stolen from a drawer.
- Burglary non-dwelling - unsecured Garage was broken into and a chain saw was stolen.
- Theft – of a spare wheel, this was attached to a motor vehicle.
- Theft – of lead from a church roof
- Criminal Damage – Passengers door and window were deeply gouged.

No Anti-Social Behaviour Orders

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

The Chairman reported that he and Mike Cook have been very busy putting together a statement to appear in the December issue of the Curry Rivel News together with the assistance of Cllr Peter Crosland, Sir Peter Wallis and Sergeant Alan Bell. Sergeant Bell has had quite an input into the final wording. It would explain what a Cold Calling Awareness Zone is and advise that people should contact Mike Cook by the 23rd December if they have an objection to the Curry Rivel Cold Calling Awareness Zone. This was going ahead well and should be set-up before Christmas. Cllr Steve James raised the question of possible financial support. Would it be supported by the Parish Council and treated as a grant or would an invoice be submitted to the Parish Council? Would it be necessary for it to be authorised before it goes ahead? Cllr Peter Goodenough said that finance had not yet been discussed and he would take up these points with Mike Gook. A question was raised as to whether the necessary signs would be provided free of charge or if the Parish Council would have to purchase them. Cllr Goodenough felt that the involvement of Sergeant Bell was a key factor and that he would be able to sort out some of these questions.

Brenda Sempala-Ntege, Secretary of Neighbourhood Watch, advised that there were still some areas that were not represented. Letter drops had been tried with little result and it was considered that personal contact would be more effective.

656). **YOUTH SURVEY**

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley advised that Laura Johns at the Somerset Rural Youth Project (SRYP) had led on the survey for Curry Rivel but, unfortunately, she was unable to attend this meeting. John Addicott was in attendance in her place. He said that two or three months ago it was agreed that a new Survey should be carried out and a few changes had been made to it. Forty-eight responses had been received. Unfortunately, it had not been possible for the Guides to submit a response but, the Survey could be updated when this was received.

Following a detailed discussion, the following decisions were made:-

- If the Brownies return their forms, the survey results are to be updated accordingly.
- Send a breakdown of costs to the Parish Council via Cllrs Stephen Beney and Madelaine King-Oakley by the next meeting on 1st December, for setting up and conducting the feedback session during the February half term. (Room hire not to be included.)

The objective of the session, unless advised by SRYP otherwise, is to

1. Get further feedback and get the top 3 priorities of our youths so that we can get their priorities implemented.
 2. Also, to see if there are any youngsters who would like to be their champions and/or are willing to help implement the priorities
- SRYP are to create an A5 flier to hand out to the Curry Rivel youths with the highlight of the results. This will have to go out after December 1st. It can then advertise the session to set their priorities if the Parish Council approves the additional expenditure.
 - An article should go to the Curry Rivel News about the results at the beginning of December.
 - Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley to find a source of data of the breakdown of the residents of Curry Rivel by age. This would give us a good idea of whether the numbers in the survey were representative. Also, will help towards any grant applications.
 - Derek Nelson suggested that we consider, when setting the precept, allocating some funding for the youth projects.

657). **PLANNING REPORT**

a). **Applications Received**

No. 11/03940/FUL

Installation of a velux balcony window on rear elevation of dwellinghouse (GR 338690/125074). Hillards Cottage, Townsend, Curry Rivel

It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council had not objections to raise in respect of this planning application and recommend that it is approved.

No. 11/03919/FUL & No. 11/03920/LBC

Conversion of existing public house/hotel into six self-contained dwellings and one commercial unit and provision of associated landscaping and car parking area (Revised Scheme) (GR 339184/125174). Bell Hotel, High Street, Curry Rivel.

It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council had not objections to raise in respect of this planning application and recommend that it is approved.

No. 11/03970/FUL

Demolition of rebuilding of existing fire damaged garage/store (GR 339036/125145). Chanctonbury Cottage, High Street, Curry Rivel.

It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council had not objections to raise in respect of this planning application and recommend that it is approved

b). **Notification of Appeal Decision**

Town & Country Planning Act 1990 – Section 78

Appeal In Respect Of Application Decision Reference - 11/00059/OUT

Planning Inspectorate Appeal Reference – APP/R3325/A/11/2156282/NWF

Appeal Starting Date 7th July 2011

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

Allowed subject to conditions

c). **Solar Roof Panels**

Cllr Steve James referred to the increased number of solar roof panels and asked whether it was necessary to apply for planning permission to install them. He was advised that unless it was in a conservation area it was not necessary to apply for planning permission.

658). **FINANCE REPORT**

a). **Accounts for Payment**

The following accounts were approved on the proposition of Cllr Derek Yeomans seconded by Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley

Clerk's monthly wages Month 7	£229.27
Arien Signs – the Dog Ban Sign	£438.00
Wessex Water Rates – Changing Rooms	£396.10
Crown Endeavours Ltd – Climbing Wall	£468.00
EDF Car Park Lighting (direct debit)	£ 42.63

b). **Car Park Lighting**

The Chairman said that he was very keen to stop the payment to EDF Car Park lighting because the units are un-metered and EDF chose the charge made. We are not paying for the electricity we use but simply a fee. I would like to consider having the units metered and put on PIR's. He felt that there was sufficient illumination supplied by other lighting units in the Car Park and that if infra red sensors were fitted to the two units serving the footpath this would prove a saving for the Parish Council. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley asked how much it was likely to cost and was advised that enquiries would have to be made. It was agreed that enquiries should be made and the Chairman would arrange for this to be done.

c). **Changing Room Electricity**

Cllr Kathleen Gardner drew attention to the fact that, although the Changing Rooms had not been used since a previous meter reading she had taken, the current meter reading showed a use of 78

units. A detailed discussion followed during which various suggestions were put forward and it was agreed that arrangements should be made for the meter to be checked. It was also agreed that enquiries be made concerning the installation of a meter that could be operated by tokens.

d). **Refund in respect of relief on Non-Domestic Rates on the Car Park**

The Clerk advised that a refund of £255.60 had been received in respect of the Car Park rates. This credit had been carried over from the previous year and the charge of £1,022.40 for the current year cancelled.

d). **Indemnity Insurance Eastfield**

Cllr Peter Goodenough said that he had emailed the insurance document received from Aviva which indicated that on the basis that no planning permission is required and including an escalator clause, they envisaged a single premium of £312.50 inclusive of Insurance Premium Tax based on a limit of indemnity of £20,000.00. Alternatively, if an escalator clause is not required the single premium is likely to be £250.00 inclusive of Insurance Premium Tax. On reflection he thought that the inflation proofing offered for 10 years would be very useful as this is the most likely timescale over which a future Parish Council will decide on the final use of the land and inflation being what it is land prices are bound to escalate. Following discussion it was proposed by Cllr Derek Yeomans and seconded by Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley that a single premium of £312.50 inclusive of Premium Tax be approved.

A vote taken resulted in four in favour (Cllrs Stephen Beney, Peter Goodenough, Madelaine King-Oakley and Derek Yeomans) with three objections (Cllrs Peter Crosland Kathleen Gardner and Steve James).

e). **Curry Rivel Combined Charities – Accounts for 2010/2011**

The Clerk had received a letter from John Hunt in which he stated that in accordance with statutory requirements, he enclosed a copy of the Charity's adopted accounts for the year ended 31st March 2011 for the information of the Councillors. He had also enclosed a short fact sheet explaining what the Charity does. Due to the dire interest rates prevailing at the present time, the Trustees are unable to consider any further requests for Grants at the present time. These documents would be circulated in the 'black box' for information. The Chairman pointed out that the Charity still gives a small amount annually to both Curry Rivel and Hambridge Primary Schools and £15 to 50 people at Christmas.

f). **Grant Applications**

i). **Citizens Advice Bureau**

The Clerk advised that a grant application had been received from the Citizens Advice Bureau and would be kept on file until April 2012 when the next round of grants would be considered.

ii). **Curry Rivel Village Hall**

Cllr Derek Yeomans advised that he would be applying for a grant of £2,000 in respect of improvements to the Village Hall which would be necessary to enable the release a possible grant of £5,000 from South Somerset District Council.

g). **Parish/Town Councils Precepts 2012/2013 and the Council Tax**

The Clerk had received the Precept Application Form for 2012/2013 which should be submitted no later than the 31st January 2012. Following discussion it was agreed to defer the setting of the Precept until the January 2012 meeting, bearing in mind that further cuts were likely to come down the line.

659). **WESTFIELD/EASTFIELD**

a). **SSDC Inspection Reports**

The Clerk drew attention to the fact that the two junior football posts featured in large type as HIGH RISK and Cllr Kathleen Gardner advised that the following items required attention:-

b). **Details of maintenance require for inclusion in a Tender Document**

Below are the items Cllr Kathleen Gardner would wish to be included in a Tender Document:-

MUGA

Cover lid missing for hole in tarmac adjacent to the tennis net pole fitting
Corners of the cross bars in basketball area badly corroded
Paint peeling from posts. Metalwork corroded
Goal section posts loose in the ground

PLAY AREA

Climbing panel – top bolts loose and parts are chipped. Graffiti on the back
Swings – several bolts working loose
Slide – several steps are corroded underneath. Graffiti scratched along sides.
Entrance gate coming loose in the ground

Following discussion, it was agreed that three estimates should be obtained in respect of repairs to the above and the Chairman undertook to identify three companies.

Cllr Kathleen Gardner drew attention to the dug-out on the football field where two large pieces of corrugated iron had been ripped out laid on the ground. These needed to be removed.

She was also keeping in touch with Mr McQuillan concerning the problems he was having with footballs going over onto his land and the damage that he had suffered to his property. She suggested that if a football club was to be started in the future, consideration could be given to the erection of wire mesh, as used by Ruishton Football Club, to prevent footballs going over the fence. There was still a dead tree that needed to be removed and she also suggested that consideration could be given to asking the Woodland Trust to plant some trees in that area. Problems were also being experienced with badgers but, there was nothing that could be done and rabbit holes were also causing problems on the football pitch itself.

It was necessary for the football post to be put into the container and Cllr Stephen Beney also requested that the Marquee should be stored in the container.

c). Quarterly Inspection Reports

The Clerk advised that a letter had been received concerning Operational Playground Inspection Services. It stated that for many years SSDC had provided an Operational (Quarterly) Playground Inspection service without any charge to help support not for profit organisations that provided play areas within South Somerset. With the increased pressure on their limited budgets, it had been decided to introduce a financial charge for organisations wishing to access this service after the 31st March 2012. The Clerk pointed out that the Parish Council at present pays for a weekly inspection of Westfield and an Annual Inspection at an additional cost which replaces one of the weekly visits. Cllr Derek Yeomans advised that we paid for a weekly inspection because it absolves the appointment of a councillor to carry out a weekly inspection and take responsibility for any shortcomings. Following discussion it was felt that this did not affect the Parish Council.

d). Quotations for grass cutting and general maintenance

It was necessary to obtain three quotations for the coming year and the Clerk advised that she had received communications from Greenacres Garden & Estate Management and Gary Alleyne Grounds Maintenance which could be borne in mind when seeking tenders. She would draw up a detailed list of the areas at present maintained in order that this information could be provided when seeking Tenders.

e). Formation of a Recreation Committee

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that we do spend a lot of time talking about Westfield and Eastfield at these meetings. Sometimes we do not appear to know all of the answers and we have lots of outstanding work to be done on the two grounds. Also there is a Section 106 payment potentially coming our way. With a lot of other Parish Councils they have a separate Recreation Committee with groups of people who do the day to day stuff. There are two types of committees; with one where you do not need to be all Parish Councillors and can use members of the public as part of the committee. She wanted to ascertain whether the members felt that it was a good idea to look at setting one up and getting other people on that committee. There should be at least two members of the Parish Council which should include either the Chairman or the Vice-Chairman.

The Clerk pointed out that the Committee would have to come back to the full Council with any recommendations, particularly if they involved finance. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that in Taunton they are allowed in the region of £250 for emergencies that could be dealt with immediately.

The Chairman said that over the last year we have lost a lot of money through the cost of water and electricity. He would like to see a set-up with a clearly defined aim that after a year we were breaking even with the cost of Westfield being met by fees paid by teams using the facilities. Cllr Stephen Beney felt that we have a lot of property and equipment which does not get used very much and is not bringing in any income.

Cllr Derek Yeomans said that before anything is decided a complete and detailed Terms of Reference needs to be in place in respect of this committee. This should include the limit of its authority, responsibility for money, the setting-up of a hire agreement in respect of the sporting equipment and the facilities in the Changing Rooms. It is not going to be a light task and could be an almost full-time job.

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley referring to the potential Section 106 for £12,000 in respect of play equipment asked who would be responsible for formulating proposals. It was agreed that the committee could draw up proposals which should be brought to the full Council for approval.

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley proposed that we should start looking into setting-up a Recreation Committee together with the terms of reference that required to be in place. This was seconded by Cllr Stephen Beney. Cllr Derek Yeomans wished to amend the proposal to say that detailed terms of reference are in place before the committee is confirmed and that a vote is taken then.

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

Reporting damage to property at Westfield

Cllr Steve James advised that the Chairman of the Neighbourhood Watch keeps a Red Book and all incidents of crime should be recorded in it. PCSO Ian Ross was present at a recent meeting and when asked if he was aware of the problems we have had in the Changing Rooms at Westfield he said that he had no idea. Cllr James concern was that with all the damage we have suffered and the money that we have spent repairing the damage, there is no crime reference number. It would appear that PCSO Ross will not drive down Holdens Way unless he knows there is a problem. If he does, his boss wants to know why. Unless we record that we have sustained damage the police are not going to get involved. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley advised that when the glass was smashed recently she had reported it to the police and had been given a crime number. However, this did not feature in the police crime report. Cllr Peter Goodenough said that if members reported any crime they could let him have sight of the police reference number and he would take it up with Police Sergeant Bell.

660). STEPS LEADING TO CAR PARK

The Clerk had obtained a quotation from Taunton Deane DLO for the steps to be painted with non-slip yellow paint in the sum of £220.00 plus vat. In view of the safety element, she had accepted the quotation in order that the work could be put in hand as soon as possible. Cllr Kathleen Gardner pointed out that they had also cleared the footpath at no charge.

661). CAR PARK SURVEY

Cllr Stephen Beney reported that following the last meeting he had carried out four hourly observations of the Car Park on two mornings when the children were going to school between 8 and 9 o'clock and two afternoons between 3 and 4 o'clock. He wanted to observe and obtain opinions and what they thought might be solutions. He had spoken to the Head Teacher, a Governor and one of the teachers at the School and also a number of parents. He had also spoken to Sandpits Heating and had yet to speak to the owners of the Old Forge. It was his intention to incorporate all the information he had gathered into a report and make a presentation at the next Parish Council meeting

662). **DOG FOULING SIGNAGE**

Cllr Peter Crosland had passed on to the Clerk a complaint he had received from a resident about dog fouling along the main road between Parsonage Place and the Post Office on the North side. The Clerk had contacted the Dog Warden who had offered to patrol this area and recommend the appropriate signage that would advise dog walkers of the penalties for dog fouling.

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

The Chairman advised that he and Cllr Derek Yeomans had prepared an article for the November issue of the Curry Rivel News encouraging parishioners to write to the Boundary Authority with their views by 14th November.

Following a very detailed discussion it was agreed that the Chairman should write to the Boundary Commission advising that although the Parish Council agreed in general with the proposed boundary, it was of the opinion that Beercrowcombe and Curry Mallet should be incorporated in the South Petherton Division because they did not fit naturally into the boundary of the Curry Rivel & Langport Division.

664). **CORRESPONDENCE**

a). Planning for Play Workshops Taunton, 12th November and Shepton Mallet, 22nd November (emailed to Councillors)

b). **The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Beacons - 4th June 2012**

Following discussion Cllr Peter Goodenough proposed and Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley seconded that we should have a Beacon for the Jubilee Celebrations and this was unanimously agreed. It was suggested that an approach could be made to Mr Schroder at Burton Pynsent for permission to site it adjacent to the monument. The Clerk would make the necessary registration.

The following to be circulated in the black-box

- c). SALC meeting on the 12th December at Donyatt Village Hall
- d). Playing Field Magazine
- e). Consultation on Somerset's Draft Countrywide Parking Strategy

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

- a). Presentation on the Car Park Survey
- b). Watching brief on the Terry Harris situation
- c). Superfast Optic Broadband

CHAIRMAN_____

DATE_____