

# CURRY RIVEL PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 12TH MAY 2011 @ 7.30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

**PRESENT:** - Cllrs Stephen Beney, Janet Calder, Peter Crosland, Peter Goodenough, Steve James, Peter Goodenough, Clare Simpson and Derek Yeomans. County Cllr Derek Nelson was also in attendance. Lee Walton, Planning Officer, and Greg Venn, Conservation Officer, from South Somerset District Council were in attendance until the planning applications had been discussed

550). **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

Nominations were requested for the post of Chairman. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley proposed Cllr Peter Goodenough and this was seconded by Cllr Clare Simpson. There being no other nominations, Cllr Peter Goodenough was duly elected Chairman for the ensuing year.

551). **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

Cllr Steve James proposed Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley to serve as Vice-Chairman. This was seconded by Cllr Stephen Beney and there being no other nominations, Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley was duly elected as Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

In taking the Chair, Cllr Peter Goodenough wished to place on record a vote of thanks to the retiring Chairman, Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley, for her service during her term of office. He had enjoyed working with her.

The Chairman extended a welcome to Cllrs Janet Calder and Peter Crosland, the two newly elected Parish Councillors.

552). **THE BELL HOTEL PLANNING APPLICATION No. 10/03012/FUL and LBC**

The Chairman advised that it had been decided to obtain the views of those who had attended the informal meeting held prior to this meeting to discuss The Bell Hotel planning application.

Robert Crowley wished to raise the question of traffic on the main road. If the car park area next to the One Stop Shop was to be developed, there would be less parking available for the shop. This would result in a plethora of parking with the added problem of a Bus Stop on the other side of the road and he thought this concern should be brought to the attention of the highways.

Laraine Rae said she thought it would result in a lot more business on the road through Curry Rivel. She was concerned about the number of people living there going in and out and felt that they were not looking at the eastern end of the property in the right way. She considered the proposed development to be over-development.

Alexander Folds felt that too many dwellings were proposed which would result in a big increase in vehicles driving in and out of the development.

Janet Garland advised that her dwelling faced the old skittle alley. The proposed development would result in a loss of privacy for her as the windows in the new property would overlook her property. She was also worried about the parking issue, particularly about having a café outside her front door. She was concerned about heavy lorries delivering goods. She had conveyed her observations to Lee Walton and Greg Venn.

Julian Moore expressed his concern because the proposed new development in the car park area would overlook his property across the road. Lee Walton advised that it was not intended for it to be a two storey development

**The views of the Parish Councillors**

Cllr Derek Yeomans considered it to be over-development and he objected to the plans as they stand at the present time

Cllr Madelaine –King Oakley agreed with these comments and was of the opinion that quality of life was important.

Cllr Peter Crosland felt it was gross over-development. The applicants were trying to put too much into too small an area.

Cllr Steve James agreed with the views already expressed.

Cllr Janet Calder also agreed that it was over-development with insufficient parking provided.

Cllr Stephen Beney expressed concern about further problems in respect of parking in Wiltown. Drivers do come round that corner very fast and asked whether yellow lines might be the solution.

Cllr Clare Simpson agreed with the comments about over-development and parking problems on the main road. She was particularly concerned in respect of the safety of children crossing the road to go to the Primary School.

Cllr Peter Goodenough said that taking into account the various comments made in respect of this planning application, it would appear that it was felt right that the area is suitable for development but, at a lower level of development.

553). **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

554). **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Kathleen Gardner and District Cllr. Terry Mounter.

555). **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 7th APRIL 2010**

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

556). **MATTERS ARISING**

a). **ECO Homes proposed at Wick**

The Clerk had contacted Cara Naden, Sustainability Advisor, to Sustainable Buildings, Lifestyles and Communities, concerning a presentation she wished to make to the Parish Council about the ECO Homes proposed at Wick. Ms Naden would let the Clerk know whether this would be made at the June or July meeting.

b). **Invitation to the Youth Group SYRP**

It was the intention to invite representatives of this Group to attend the June Council meeting.

c). **Registration as a Small Business**

Cllr Peter Goodenough said that he had looked on the HMRC Website for information relevant to the Parish Council registering as a Small Business. On reaching the section dealing with Parish Councils, it had asked for a national insurance number and address of the employer. Cllr Goodenough would investigate the matter further and report back.

d). **Grant Application Form**

It was agreed that Cllr Peter Goodenough would draw up a Grant Application form utilising the information contained in the new form proposed and the existing form used in previous years. A copy would be circulated to the members.

A preliminary discussion followed on the way grant applications should be dealt with. If considered in open session the applicant can say why they were applying for a grant and the members would be able to ask them questions. The decision could be helped by Councillors using an objective points based ranking system to quantify and separate the applications before discussion and voting.

e). **Allotments**

Cllr Stephen Beney drew attention to a request from the Allotments Association to considerably prune an ash tree on the south side of the allotments, bordering a farmer's field. The centre appeared to have rotted and that, along with the amount of water the tree uses and the shade it generates over one particular allotment are issues. Following discussion, it was agreed that the tree should be cut down to about 2 feet above the ground and that this work should be carried out by a fully insured contractor.

f). **Report of the Royal Wedding Event**

Cllr Stephen Beney reported that the day had consisted of three separate events. A seniors' luncheon and family party at Eastfield during the day and a Rhythm & Blues band with a hog roast at the Cricket Ground in the evening. All three events had proved to be very successful. The luncheon had been attended by fewer people than expected but, those present and enjoyed the entertainment that had been provided. Over two hundred had attended the afternoon event which had included games for the children and the provision of food. The Rhythm & Blues music started at 8 o'clock and the hog roast had proved to be very popular as well as the Bar. The events of the day included all of the age groups.

A profit of £1,321 had been made and £400 had been allocated to the various groups who had been involved. It was wondered whether we would be able to cover the costs involved and this was not the case due to the people who had come forward to help. The group organising the event had only held four meetings between January and the event itself.

Cllr Derek Yeomans said he had been extremely sceptical about the whole thing but, he had to admit it had proved to be quite incredible. He extended congratulations for their efforts and felt they had done a huge amount for the community. He expressed a vote of thanks on behalf of the village.

557). **CONFIRMATION OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FOLLOWING BODIES**

a). **Robert Sewers Hall Management Committee**

Cllr Kathleen Gardner currently represented the Parish Council and it was unanimously agreed that she should continue as our representative.

b). **Charity Trust**

Cllr Peter Goodenough represented the Parish Council on the Trust and confirmed his willingness to be re-appointed. His re-appointment was unanimously agreed.

c). **Neighbourhood Watch**

Cllr Steve James currently represented the Parish Council. He advised that it was not always possible to attend the meetings due to his work. Cllr Peter Crosland offered to stand in for Cllr James provided he had sufficient notice and this was unanimously agreed.

d). **Curry Rivel News Group**

Tony Potter, the Editor, advised that the Curry Rivel News was now completely self-sufficient and did not need to have a representative from the Parish Council. They had not had one for the last three years. Cllr Stephen Beney would be responsible for the Church Pages for the next four months. It was decided not to have a representative from the Parish Council on the Curry Rivel News.

**Adjournment to Allow Public Comment**

***The Royal Wedding Event***

*Tony Potter wished to add his thanks to everyone involved in the organisation of the day. He had attended the three events which had been well planned and were thoroughly enjoyed. There would be four pages in colour featuring the event in the June issue of the Curry Rivel News.*

***Natural Environment***

*David German had written to the Parish Councillors requesting their views on the following questions:-*

- 1). *Bearing in mind the contents of his letter, did they agree that the Parish Council should support the policy of protecting the natural environment.*
- 2). *To make clear the Council's commitment, did they agree that the minutes of all Council meetings should record in some way how the Parish Council is contributing*

*He expressed his thanks to those Councillors who had replied and he would study the comments made to see how to go about it. It was suggested that he could supply the Council with a short report.*

558). **PLANNING REPORT**

a). **Application Received**

**No. 10/03012/FUL and LBC**

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

*Taking into account the comments made by the public during the informal meeting and the views expressed by the councillors, it was agreed that, although the Parish Council felt the site was suitable for re-development, the plans before it, if approved, would result in unacceptable over-development. The plans were also inadequate as far as parking and increased traffic was concerned.*

b). **Planning Application Consultation**

**No. 11/01693/FUL**

Formation of an agricultural gateway and access (GR: 340009/124922). Land OS 0004 Drayton, Langport.

**Parish: Drayton**

*This application was in respect of an adjacent Parish and it was agreed that the Parish Council had no comments to make,*

c). **Applications Refused**

**No. 11/00739/S73**

Application to vary conditions 20, 28, 29 and 36 of planning application 10/01337/FUL (GR:340018/127033). Perham Farm, Wick, Langport

**No. 10/05122/FUL**

Temporary permission for the siting of a mobile home (retrospective). Old Oak Farm, Back Lane, Curry Rivel.

**No. 11/00059/OUT**

Outline application for the erection of 4 No. dwellings and garages. Land adjacent to Acre Cottage, Stoney Lane, Curry Rivel.

d). **Certificate of Lawfulness**

**No. 10/05171/COL**

Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for existing D1 use of building. Unit 4 Westover Trading Estate, Langport.

559). **REPORTS FROM COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

County Cllr Derek Nelson reported that the High Street is going to be surface dressed in the relatively near future. Church Street would not be resurfaced until November but they would carry out patching as they go along.

He felt that 'Future Roots', a draft proposal for sustainable, affordable, self-build rural Co-Housing Co-operative needed a lot of thought. It contains some very difficult issues for the village and in particular for the existing properties below.

A senior member of the Council and the Chief Executive had met with Ed Vazey concerning bringing Super Broadband to Somerset. The meeting had gone very well and tests should be completed within the next 2/3 week when the funding from ourselves and the Government may well be in place. This was very good news for Somerset and parts of Devon.

Smart Office Programme – This would include new ways of working with flexibility of employment. There would be lots of IT staff and there was some talk of telecasting whereby members could communicate with other members from their own home. He personally was not very keen because he felt that interaction between people was a good thing. They were trying to evolve it into a better organisation and over a period of 1 to 1-1/2 years we would like to see this completed with a demonstrative element showing that we were more efficient, less bodies and financially secure.

Cllr Derek Yeomans referred to the County Plan which was now out and had been formulated over a long period of time. The opposition Liberal/Labour parties have generally approved it. Greater burdens are going to be placed on the Parish Councils. They will be expected to carry out tasks that are at present the responsibility of the District and County Councils. If parishioners wanted to find out further details they should go on to the County Council Web Site and look at the Agenda for the meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> May, where there are a lot of details concerning the plans for the future.

560). **LAW & ORDER**

a), **Neighbourhood Watch**

The Clerk reported that she had received a copy of the Minutes held on the 7<sup>th</sup> April, which would be filed in the Minute Book.

b). **Cold Caller Zone**

It was suggested that Curry Rivel should become a 'Cold Caller Zone' but, 75% of the population would have to agree. It was understood that Godfrey Townrow of Curry Mallet would be helpful in advising us on this matter. If agreed signs would be placed at the entrance of the village to say that 'Cold Calling' will not be permitted.

c), **Crime Statistics for April 2011**

The following offences had been reported:-

Oil was stolen from a tank which was situated in the back garden, in Stanchester Way.

A chain harrow and two trailers were stolen from a field in Sand Pitts Hill.

Vehicle batteries used to power electrical fencing were stolen from a field in Westover

A garden bench was stolen from a garage in High Street.

A garage was broken into, fortunately nothing was stolen.

561). **FINANCE REPORT**

a). **Accounts for payment**

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

Jean Davenport (Accountants)	£336.00
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b). **Seniors Friday Club**

It was agreed that the grant previously approved in the sum of £150 should now be released.

c). **Audited Accounts for approval**

The Clerk had prepared the financial papers for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011 and these had been submitted to Jean Davenport (Accountants) for audit purposes, prior to submission to Moore Stephens, the External Auditors. Copies were circulated to the members for information and would be filed in the Minute Book.

The accounts had been approved by Jean Davenport (Accountants) with confirmation that all of the control objectives examined were being achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of the Council.

The following recommendations to be considered by the Parish Council:

1). **Bank Reconciliation**

Although an annual bank reconciliation was prepared for internal audit purposes, it was recommended that bank reconciliations should be prepared on a quarterly basis and presented at Council meetings for approval. A copy should be signed by the Chairman or other Council member and filed with the Minutes.

2). **Correct Tax and NIC Treatment of Parish Clerks**

All Parish Councils must now register as an employer with HM Revenue and Customs and operate PAYE on the income the Clerk earns. HM Revenue and Customs will be carrying out checks in the year commencing 6 April 2011 to ascertain whether Councils are operating PAYE on clerks as required.

562). **WESTFIELD/EASTFIELD**

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

High priority still referred to the damaged fence next to the gate at entrance to car park. Another high priority had arisen because the timber bench on the mound had been pulled out of the ground. The corners of cross bars and basketball hoop supports had corroded and this was of medium priority. The reports would be passed to Cllr Kathleen Gardner for information

b). **Eastfield Fencing**

Cllr Stephen Beney reported that the fencing had now been completed. He drew attention to the fact that the cost of materials from Weavo Fencing was £300 and the erection of the fencing by the volunteers organised

through the Probation Service and had only cost £30 for two sessions. By undertaking the work in this way a saving of £600 had been achieved. They had done an excellent job and bearing in mind the work required at the Cemetery, their services could well be considered.

#### **Westfield/Eastfield**

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley reported that she had joined Cllr Kathleen Gardner at a meeting she had arranged with Adrian Moore, of the District Council, at Westfield. The discussions covered the various improvements he recommended, including the removal of the pedestrian gate next to the main car park. Cllr King-Oakley had prepared a report based on his recommendations and would email it to the Councillors for information and comment.

Cllr Stephen Beney advised that he had some fencing panels available that could be used to fill the gap.

Cllr Derek Yeomans drew attention to the fact that it could cost £8,000 to remove unauthorised people from our land. This would not be the case if you could prove that you have taken reasonable steps to stop egress onto your field or your land. At Kingsbury Episcopi playfield they have now put a 2.2m high gateway on steel poles, low enough to stop a caravan from entering onto the land. It was suggested that the Council should do something like this with Eastfield and also on Westfield. On the latter site there is water and electric power available. This will cost the Council in the region of £1,600 to provide the gateway but, reasonable steps would then have been taken to prevent unauthorised access. A photographic record would be made to show the locked gates and show adequate precautions had been taken; this should insure that unwanted guests could be removed without cost. Cllr Madelaine-King Oakley said she would add this on to her list and look at it as a complete project. Further discussion would take place.

Cllr Peter Goodenough would like the permission of the members to investigate with the District Council the possibilities of developing Eastfield and would seek legal advice on the basis of the Covenant. This matter would be placed on the Agenda for the next meeting.

#### 563). **CEMETERY**

Members had been asked at the previous meeting to visit the Cemetery and inspect the problem caused by fruits dropping onto the graves from two of the trees. Cllr Peter Goodenough said that they were not protected by TPO's. He suggested that we should put an item in the Curry Rivel news advising that the Parish Council is thinking of chopping these trees down because of the problem being experienced. Contact could be made with the Parish Council if there were any objections to this.

It had been suggested that the sleepers at the bottom of the Cemetery should be removed because of the rubbish that had been allowed to collect in them. There are two bins at the top of the Cemetery which could be used for rubbish but, it was agreed that a notice should be placed on them saying take your rubbish home and only use the bins when absolutely necessary.

The long term plan for the Cemetery is dealing with the Lych Gate. A report that had been received from Amanda Watmore, Senior Conservation Officer, was circulated to the members last November and it was agreed that the Clerk should circulate this again to the members. It was suggested that Lovell's, the company developing Westfield, could be approached to see if they would be willing to let us have use of a suitable machine to undertake the necessary work.

#### 564). **CAR PARK**

##### a). **Complaint received from Mrs D Linham**

An email had been received from Mrs Linham regarding a problem with access to the village Car Park and her property which she would like the Parish Council to remedy immediately. She referred to the legal deed of right of access agreed between herself and the Parish Council in 1978 and she insisted that this agreement was adhered to. She asked the Parish Council to bear in mind that this was a reciprocal agreement which could affect the continued access to the footpath from the Car Park to the High Street. The number of vehicles being parked by Sandpits Heating and the increased number of HGV vehicles making deliveries created problems, particularly when they blocked access to her property. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley had acknowledged the email and advised Mrs Linham that the matter would be discussed at this meeting. The Clerk pointed out that she had approached Mr Macey concerning the complaints and he had advised her that he had personally apologised to Mrs Linham and undertook to ensure that in future access to her property would be kept clear.

##### b). **Entrance to Car Park**

A detailed discussion took place on the problems being experienced by children using the Car Park, particularly when deliveries are being made to Sandpits Heating. The question of removing the white

markings and possibly slightly reducing the island were suggested and Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley offered to draw up a plan which could be displayed in the School and parents given an opportunity to express their views. This was agreed. It was further suggested that a form of liaison group be set up and agreed that this should feature on the Agenda for the next meeting.

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

- a). Cllr Clare Simpson advised that the Meredith Cup would next be presented on the 27<sup>th</sup> May. Following discussion, Cllr Stephen Beney volunteered to present the Cup. Cllr Simpson also asked the Council to consider the purchase of badges to be presented to the winners of the Meredith Cup. The winner only possessed the Cup for a short while because it remained at the School where it was displayed in a cupboard. The badges would be something the children could retain for posterity. The cost for 100 badges would be £200 but, the supply would last for 10 years. Following discussion it was proposed by Cllr Derek Yeomans and seconded by Cllr Peter Crosland that 100 badges should be purchased at a cost of £200. A vote taken unanimously approved this proposition.
- b). Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley advised that another meeting of the Youth Liaison Group meeting was due to be held in the near future.

566). **CORRESPONDENCE**

- a). **Letter received from Kathryn Graves**  
A letter had been received thanking the Parish Council for the grant given in respect of her visit to Madagascar. She would give a short report to the Parish Council on her return.
- b). **Letter from Langport Town Council**  
A letter had been received thanking the Parish Council for the grant given in respect of the facilities provided in the Town.

**The following correspondence to be circulated in the Black Box:-**

- a). South Somerset Strimmer Project – email  
b). Western Power Distribution Stakeholder Workshops  
c). SALC Mailing and Chairman & Councillor Training Dates

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

- a). SYRP to be invited to the June meeting  
b). ECO - Proposal for low impact affordable housing project at Wick  
c). Grant Application Form  
d). Emergency Plan for the Village  
e). Public Disputes Reconciliation Panel  
f). Development Plan for Eastfield  
g). Planning Group for the Diamond Jubilee in 2012  
h). Five year plan for the Cemetery  
i). Speed Watch

CHAIRMAN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_