

CURRY RIVEL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 2ND JUNE 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, Clare Simpson and Derek Yeomans. Lyndia Barnes of SRYP was also in attendance to speak in respect of the Somerset Rural Youth Project.

568). **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

A declaration made by Cllr Clare Simpson in respect of Planning Application No. 11/01700/FUL was duly recorded in the Declarations of Interest book and she would take no part in the discussion of this item.

569). **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

570). **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON THE 12TH MAY 2011**

The Minutes of the meeting, having been circulated to the members and posted on the Community Web Site, were approved subject to the following small amendments:-

Min. 562'*fencing panels should read fencing wire*'.

Min. 563.....'*it had subsequently been noted that there were 'four waste bins and not two at the top of the Cemetery' as stated at the meeting.*

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

a). **Low Impact affordable housing**

The Clerk had contacted Cara Naden, Sustainability Advisor for Sustainable Buildings, Lifestyles and Communities to confirm that she would be attending the July meeting to give a presentation and answer any questions concerning the low impact affordable housing project proposed at Wick.

b). **Friday Club Active Living Centre**

A card, signed by all the members, had been received thanking the Parish Council for the grant of £150 recently approved.

Adjournment to allow public comment

The Chairman advised that he had received only one request to speak during the adjournment

Maurice Benton and Joanne Goody-Orris wished to congratulate the organisers of the Royal Wedding Event, especially the Morris Dancers. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley advised that letters of thanks had also been received from the residents of Parsonage Place and John & Frances Hunt.

Cllr Derek Yeomans wished to place on record the Parish Council's thanks to Tony Potter who would shortly be retiring from his editorship of the Curry Rivel News. The Parish owes him a great debt for all the hard work he has put in during his time as editor. He was also responsible for the conception of the Community Web Site, which has proved to be a great asset to the village.

572). **SOMERSET RURAL YOUTH PROJECT**

Lyndia Barnes of the Somerset Rural Youth Project was in attendance to talk about the work of this organisation. SRYP works with communities in order to help young people to work together with all ages, to strengthen their community, support joint fund-raising activities to provide new services, amenities and/or facilities. It encourages young people to take the lead in practical projects, with community support for their involvement. It can initiate community surveys and help to improve communication between young people and adult members of the community. She had brought some literature which members could study later.

When she had recently met with members of the SSDC Youth Steering Committee she had been advised that it was looking at youth provision changes within the youth services. Her role in the SRYP organisation included carrying out consultations, preparing surveys and organising events if requested by parishes. She had brought along a sample survey form which could be used as a basis for the Parish Council to work from. It could establish a breakdown of young people, indicating whether they attended school, were unemployed or seeking a volunteering opportunity. It

would also establish what kind of transport was available to them or not; what they did with their evenings and weekends and what facilities they would wish to see provided.

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley asked for some idea of the cost involved and was advised that a complete Survey would cost £600. However, they receive funding so would be able to do it for £150. This involves meeting with young people over a period of 4/5 weeks, say, after school or at the school bus stops and run an event to give feedback to the youngsters. Lyndia Barnes pointed out that young people were a great asset for obtaining funding, especially when the survey is completed, for example from the Princes Trust.

A very detailed discussion followed during which the information provided by Lyndia Barnes was taken into account and members asked if they would be willing to sit on a task force. Cllrs Stephen Beney, Clare Simpson, Madelaine King-Oakley and Janet Calder indicated their willingness. It was suggested that a Survey should be carried out in the autumn which would offer the opportunity to analyse the results in the half-term.

On the suggestion of Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley, it was proposed by Cllr Derek Yeomans and seconded by Cllr Stephen Beney that the sum of £150 be set aside for a Survey. This was unanimously agreed.

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

Cllr Derek Yeomans advised that the County Council had been allocated £30 million from the Government to install Super-Fast Broadband in Somerset and parts of Devon. The total cost would be £100 million. The County Council would have to provide £10 million more to match this grant. It is now going out to other sources with a view to raising the rest of the money required against its implementation within the next five year, which was rather ambitious.

£7m is now being spent on Smart Office and they are going to reduce their outstations and various buildings from 35 to 5. This will mean that everything is going to be more centralised, very much more computer driven, with many more emails. Being able to talk to a council official 'face to face' will diminish and you will probably find yourself talking to a computer. It is essential for savings to be made and to have someone sitting at a desk costs £15,000 a year.

The District Council has to find £2.7 million savings. The accounts are very favourable at the moment. Most of them have a small surplus but, there is going to be a fairly strong trimming of the cost of the District Council. Some of the services you had in the past will not now be there. There will be more and more cuts including manpower cuts.

He said that the coalition with East Devon is going to be a very long term project, if it ever happens and it seems the enthusiasm is not there any more.

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley expressed concern as to whether Curry Rivel would receive Super-Fast Broadband and Cllr Derek Yeomans pointed out that the Schools are already receiving it. Cllr Peter Goodenough suggested that the Parish Council should make representation in support of Curry Rivel receiving this service.

574). **LAW & ORDER**

a). Police Report – May 2011

The following offences had been reported:-

3 x Theft – Stolen 231 metres of BT Cable from the Street, Man Hole covers removed, value under £10,000.

1 x Making off without Payment - £80

1 x Burglary in a Building – Shed broken into, Lock removed, nothing stolen.

1 x Burglary in a Dwelling – Wooden door damaged, Nothing stolen.

1 x Criminal Damage to a Vehicle – Vehicle damaged.

1 x Theft – Garden plant/flowers stolen, value under £20.

1 x Fraud and Forgery – Bilking of Diesel £250

The Rural Crime Team

A rural crime team introduced in Somerset East is already getting great results, having made 35 arrests and recovered £100,000 of stolen plant. The team, introduced last year, focuses on offenders targeting rural communities to commit. Crimes including the theft of plant, livestock, fuel and scrap metal. Rural crime is a priority because of the high value of farm machinery and the significant impact this has on the livelihood of the victim.

Following analysis of the issues, a detailed plan was put in place to tackle them. The measures are designed to make it harder for criminals to operate by improving intelligence about the people involved and removing opportunities for them to sell the stolen items. Farms have been encouraged to sign up to Farm Watch, a scheme which provides signs, crime prevention advice and the easy sharing of information about suspicious incidents and the people involved in rural crime. There are now more than 800 farms signed up – an increase of 400% since April 2010. If you are interested in joining Farm watch, please call 0845 456 7000 as ask for further details.

Sergeant Ed Hawkins, who leads the four-strong team, said: "We have sent a clear message to rural criminals that we will not let them target our communities. I hope the results we have achieved also reassures residents that we are determined to protect them from crime. We will continue to be relentless in cracking down on rural crime and will examine all the information we get about people committing offences."

b). **Neighbourhood Watch**

Cllr Peter Goodenough advised that he and Michael Cook, the Chair of Neighbourhood Watch had written to the Chief Constable about the 'cold calling' situation, asking what the Parish Council could do to help. It has come back down the line and the Police have suggested that representatives of the Parish Council should meet with Ian Bell, the man who deals with Neighbourhood Watch and Cold Calling Zones, with a view to setting up a Cold Calling Zone as soon as possible. A meeting was due to take place with Ian Bell next Thursday in order to set things in motion and the results of this meeting would be reported back to the Council. It was noted that Cold Calling Zones had resulted in a considerable drop in opportune crime.

Cllr Derek Yeomans said the Scrutiny Committee asked of the police what they were doing about the theft of cable. He was expecting an answer imminently. Reference was made to Tony Potter's article in the Curry Rivel News and the Chairman did not think that at this stage we should have a public meeting concerning the cable theft.

c). **Speed Watch**

Kaye Morgan has asked if Speed Watch could be done on behalf of the Parish Council but, Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said if there were no objections the Chairman would advise Kaye Morgan that Speed Watch has the support of the Parish Council but, is not done on its behalf.

d). **Emergency Plan for the Village**

Cllr Peter Goodenough was of the opinion that this is something that should be given serious consideration. We should create an emergency plan covering the whole of the village. Parts of the village off of the main road have proved to be disaster zones, suffering floods, snow and ice. These events have caused problems for a considerable number of villagers and we should do more as a community to deal with these problems. The plan would include the provision of grit bins in areas of high risk which would also be monitored to establish if further assistance could possibly be offered by farmers with their vehicles. Cllr Derek Yeomans pointed out that he was an ex-local Emergency Adviser and drew attention to the various areas of co-ordination that would be required for such a plan. He still retained a copy of his file which he was happy to make available.

Following further discussion, Cllr Derek Yeomans proposed that the Parish Council should start to develop an Emergency Plan for the village and this was unanimously agreed.

Cllr Peter Crosland enquired whether the County Council have an Emergency Plan. Cllr Derek Yeomans advised that they had a Contingency Officer who dealt with terrorist attacks and other major incidents and the District Council has the same sort of set-up.

575). **PLANNING REPORT**

a). **Applications Received**

No. 11/01715/FUL

Change of use of part of Nursing Home to 2 supported car units (Class C3 (b) (GR: 338641/124978). Townsend House, Townsend, Curry Rivel.

It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council has no objections to raise in respect of this planning application and understood that this would replace the earlier application.

No. 11/01938/FUL

Erection of a single storey extension to rear of dwellinghouse (GR: 338537/25738). Russelet, Dyers Road, Curry Rivel.

It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council had no objections to raise in respect of this planning application but, understood that an application would have to be made for 'change of use' in respect of part of the land on which the extension was to be built.

No. 11/01700/FUL

Erection of a conservatory to rear of dwellinghouse (GR: 339597/125632) 79 Stanchester Way, Curry Rivel.

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

No. 11/02075/FUL

Biological sewage treatment plant and horizontal reed bed system (GR: 339958/126945). Land OS 9800 Wick, Langport.

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

b). **Applications Approved with Conditions**

No. 11/00971/FUL

The erection of a replacement lean-to extension to rear to form a tea-room. Sandpits Hardware, High Street, Curry Rivel.

No. 11/01225/FUL

Construction of a roof over feeding and collecting yard. Land OS 0036 South Drove, Curry Rivel.

No. 11/01298/LBC

Removal of existing internal door, installation of internal fire door and replacement of existing parquet floor in entrance hall with Bath stone floor. Burton Pynsent House, Burton Pynsent, Curry Rivel.

c). **Applications Withdrawn**

Nos. 10/03012/FUL and 10/03013/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. Bell Hotel, High Street, Curry Rivel

576). **FINANCE REPORT**

a). **Accounts for payment**

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

Westfield Advertising Specialities Ltd – Meredith Badges	£206.24
M Ludgate re Timpsons – plaque for the Meredith Cup	£ 20.00

b). **Registering the Parish Council as a ‘Small Business’**

Arrangements were in hand to register the Council as an employer and for a PAYE scheme to be set up for payment of the Clerk. It would be necessary to amend the Clerk’s current Terms of Employment and a draft document had been requested from S.A.L.C.

c). **Grant Application Form**

To enable members to study the proposed Grant Application Form, a draft had been emailed to them prior to this meeting.

Consultation Paper – Grant Assessment methods

Cllr Peter Goodenough had prepared this document, copies of which were circulated to the members. He took the members through the items on the document:-

i). **First principles**

It was agreed that the method used needed to be transparent and that to meet these criteria the methodology should be the same for each grant round.

ii). **Housekeeping**

Following discussion it was agreed that initially applications should be dealt with at a normal Parish Council meeting in October and April each year.

iii). **Attendees**

Following a very detailed discussion on this item, it was agreed that applicants could present their own case but, if they would prefer a member of the Council to act as their ‘Champion’ they could request this on the application form.

iv). **Judgement**

Each application to be judged on a 5 to 1 scale; 1 being the lowest. At the end of the presentation the figures are handed in and used to form a ranking (by the Clerk). At this stage the ranking will be revealed to the Councillors and a vote taken on the funding of each application in rank order (highest first).

v). **Notification**

The applicant would be notified directly after the meeting.

vi). **Follow-up**

The applicants would be required to inform the Council of the progress of the project and any monies not spent or replaced by other funding would need to be made available for future grant rounds. Organisations

receiving funding could be encouraged to make small donations to the grant fund in future to help fund other projects.

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley proposed acceptance of the Consultation Paper and this was seconded by Cllr Janet Calder. A vote taken resulted in 8 in favour and 1 against.

Those voting in favour were Cllrs Peter Goodenough, Stephen Beney, Janet Calder, Kathleen Gardner, Steve James, Madelaine King-Oakley, Clare Simpson and Derek Yeomans. Cllr Peter Crosland voted against the proposition.

d). **Change of Signatories in respect of Parish Council Bank Mandate**

The appropriate forms were completed for submission to the bank.

577). **WESTFIELD/EASTFIELD**

a). **Inspection Reports & General Maintenance**

The reports received were passed to Cllr Kathleen Gardner for information. It was noted that corners of the cross bars and basketball hoop supports had become corroded and the Clerk was asked to arrange for the suppliers to examine the equipment and submit a quotation for its repair.

A report had been received that a seat on the 'hump' in Westfield had been removed but, it would appear that this was incorrect and that a seat had never been placed on the 'hump'.

Cllr Derek Yeomans said that the Changing Rooms were not being looked after by the people using them. They had been left in a disgusting state after a football match and had to be cleared up. He referred to the fact that the Parish Council was paying for the water supply and electricity and the users were paying nothing. He considered this to be an unsatisfactory situation which needed to be addressed. We needed to have an agreement made out and charges paid up front.

Cllr Peter Goodenough suggested that we could establish the cost of the water supply and electricity involved which would enable us to arrive at a sensible charge for the hire of the facility.

It was agreed that this item should be included on the Agenda for the July meeting.

A report had been received from a passer-by that water was pouring out of the Changing Rooms. Cllr Kathleen Gardner had ascertained that the pipework had split and had arranged for Philip Fouracre to carry out the necessary repair. He would be submitting an account.

b). **Westfield and Eastfield Development Plan.**

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley took the members through the proposed development plan which had been emailed to them and was based on the recommendations put forward by Adrian Moore during the recent site meeting. (A copy would be filed with the Minutes). She felt that it was necessary for the Council to think a few years in advance of what was proposed for the various areas in order that the necessary budgets could be put in place. With this in mind she had drawn attention to the level of priority in respect of the various areas involved and in particular to the areas covered by Items 1 to 3 on the plan, which were considered to be hazardous.

Following a detailed discuss on the plan, it was agreed that Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley should prepare a suggested time scale for the various areas of work proposed.

Cllr Peter Goodenough had spoken to Ian Clarke who had advised that it was essential to speak to the people who signed the Covenant in respect of the ex-Rugby field, or their descendants, in order that a legal document could be drawn up to enable the Council to extend the use of the area. Without this it would be possible for someone to come back to the Council and demand compensation. In order to progress this matter further, it was agreed that the Chairman should be authorised to contact the people who had signed the Covenant or their descendants.

It was also agreed that contact should be made with Neil Waddleton in respect of the Section 106 Agreement relevant to the Westfield development.

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley suggested that a saving could be made in respect of Playground Inspections if two volunteers could attend a training course with a view to replacing the weekly checks carried out by South Somerset District Council.

578). **CEMETERY – five year plan**

a). **Lych Gate**

In order to progress the maintenance of the Lych Gate, it was agreed that Cllr Peter Goodenough should arrange for structural engineers to examine the gates and for three estimates to be obtained.

Cllr Stephen Beney advised that he had contacted the Works Manager at Lovells concerning the possible use of their equipment in respect of work to the Lych Gate. He felt that in principle the Company would be happy to help but, he would have to get permission from Head Office. It would be necessary to obtain an inspection report first.

b). **Fruit Trees**

Cllr Peter Goodenough reported that an article had been placed in the Curry Rivel News advising that the Parish Council was thinking of chopping the two fruit trees down because of the problem being experienced because of fruit dropping onto the graves.

579). **PUBLIC GROUPS RECONCILIATION PANEL**

Cllr Peter Goodenough had prepared a consultation paper in which he outlined his concerns about how public comments are received and progressed by the Parish Council. In the paper he highlighted a particular case where he felt the Parish Council had not fulfilled its commitments. He had also recently received a separate representation from a parishioner in which the view was expressed that requests for help over a long period were not appropriately prioritised. When asked the name of the parishioner who had contacted him, Cllr Goodenough indicated that he needed to establish if the person concerned had written to him alone in confidence and if he was entitled to reveal the name. Subsequent checks were made and the email correspondence in full was sent to the Clerk for placing in the public domain. If public comment was to be allowed then he thought that the Parish Council should take it seriously and he considered a reconciliation panel would enable the Council to deal with matters more professionally. He laid out a method of working that was fully discussed and following a lively debate; during which various points of view were expressed a vote was taken on the proposition of Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley, seconded by Cllr Steve James that a Public Groups Reconciliation Group should be set up. The result of the vote was 5 for and 2 against.

Cllrs Stephen Beney, Janet Calder, Steve James, Peter Goodenough and Madelaine King-Oakley voted for the proposal and Cllrs Peter Crosland and Clare Simpson voted against. Cllrs Derek Yeomans and Kathleen Gardner left the meeting during discussion of Minute 579 and were not present when the vote was taken on this item.

580). **DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS**

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley reported that it was planned to hold the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations on Saturday, 2nd June 2012 and an approach be made to the Cricket Club for the use of their ground. Events would take place during the afternoon and evening. She wished to propose the purchase of one large and two small tents at a cost of £520 to be taken from the profit of £922 raised during the Royal Wedding Event. This proposition was seconded by Cllr Janet Calder and unanimously agreed. It was further agreed that the sum of £358 be allocated towards the Jubilee Celebrations.

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley further suggested that the tents could be used for future hire to the villagers and it was agreed that this was a good idea.

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

There were no reports or announcements.

582). **CORRESPONDENCE**

The following correspondence to be circulated in the 'black box' for information

- a). Further Electoral Review of Somerset – S.C.C.
- b). Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 – Temporary Road Closure, Law Lane, Drayton

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

- a). Law & Order – Resolution re. Community Emergency Plan
- b). Law & Order – Resolution re. Cold Calling Awareness Zone
- c). Finance – Resolution re. Grant Application Form on line
- d). Public Disputes Reconciliation Procedure – complaint from Parishioner
- e). Cemetery – Resolution re. Structural Survey of the Lych Gate
- f). Car Park Entrance – Resolution re. set-up of working party/sub committee
- g). Planning Group for Diamond Jubilee Celebrations.

CHAIRMAN _____

DATE _____