

CURRY RIVEL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THE 7TH JULY 2011 @ 7.30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT:- Cllrs Peter Goodenough (Chairman), Janet Calder, Peter Crosland, Kathleen Gardner, Madelaine King-Oakley, Clare Simpson and Derek Yeomans. Also in attendance was County Cllr Derek Nelson.

584). **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
There were no declarations of interest.

585). **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs. Steve James and Stephen Beney.

At this point of the meeting, the Chairman wished to make a statement. He said that for better or worse, in years gone by we have perhaps not been as formal as we should be at some of the meetings. From now on we were going to be a little more careful about how the meetings are run. If any member requests a 'fully recorded' vote this means that every councillor has to be listed alphabetically indicating which way they voted. If councillors leave early during the course of a meeting this will also be recorded.

586). **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 2ND JUNE 2011**
The amended Minutes had been emailed to the members and together with a revised page six circulated to the members at the meeting which included a 'fully recorded' vote in respect of **Minute 579 - Public Groups Reconciliation Panel**, as requested by Cllr Peter Crosland, the Minutes were approved on the proposition of Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley, seconded by Cllr. Janet Calder.

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

a). **Dumping of rubbish on public rights of way footpath Townsend**

The Clerk advised that she had written to the Rights of Way Department at County Hall, drawing attention to the dumping of garden waste on to a footpath by an adjacent property owner and the damage caused to a five-bar gate. Photographic evidence of the problem had also been submitted. She had now received a response advising that they were looking into the matter

b). **Retirement of Tony Potter as Editor of the Curry Rivel News**

As instructed, the Clerk had written a letter to Tony Potter expressing the Council's appreciation in respect of his excellent editorship of the Curry Rivel News and his input into the setting up of the very successful Community Web Site.

Adjournment to Allow Public Comment

Fun Run

David German wished to thank the Parish Council for supporting the Fun Run which had taken place last Saturday as part of the Church Fete and had been started by Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley. He also extended an invitation to attend a guided walk around an unimproved meadow on Sunday morning.

Planning Application No. 10/04525/FUL – Peel Barton Lane

Mr Leggett wished to draw attention to the fact that the District Council failed to carry out the full requirements in respect of this application. They should have put a notice up on the site so that people could make comments. They then passed the application which had been rejected twice and they failed to take into account the government rules in respect of back garden grabbing. Since the application was granted, the site has been sold to a third party. The new owner has chosen to ignore the conditions laid down in the granting of the application. The works stipulated by the County Highways Department must be completed prior to the commencement of work on the site but, the builder was still is working on the site. He had complained to both the Planning Department of the District Council and the County Highways Authority regarding the breaching of the conditions laid down. He understood that the Planning Officer has now notified the developer that he has to cease work on the site until the conditions are met in full. The Highways Authority state that if the developer continues to ignore the conditions a Default Notice would be issued to him.

Cllr Peter Goodenough said that he had spoken to the Planning Officer, Lee Walton, and he had been assured that work on the site would stop tomorrow. What Mr Leggett has said is perfectly correct and SSSC are trying to move forward to ensure that the developer complies with the conditions stipulated in the planning approval. They intend to

enforce the rules laid down. It was agreed that a letter of support should be sent from the Parish Council insisting that the conditions laid shown should be implemented.

No. 11/01790/OUT Outline application for the erection of a single storey dwelling (GR: 339722/125522). Land adjoining 12 Churchway Close, Curry Rivel.

Mr & Mrs Treasurer were present to express their concern about this planning application. They already have a shared driveway and the entrance to the proposed development would have to go alongside their house. Their main concern is that the garden is raised and if they build a bungalow it will look straight down into their garden and it should be noted that the dimensions on the original plans were incorrect. Bearing in mind that the area was originally a quarry, any extra digging and excavation could cause problems for adjacent properties. The volume of Radon was very high in their house and they already experienced problems with the existing sewerage system. The Chairman said that these comments would be taken into account when this planning application was discussed later in the meeting.

588). **PROPOSAL FOR LOW IMPACT AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT**

Cara Naden of Sustainable Buildings, Lifestyles & Communities was in attendance together with Ian McNabb, owner of the land and Dymitri Guskov to speak to this item. They were looking at building eight houses at Portfield having identified the need for affordable housing in the area. It was noted that Langport had a problem with flooding. There are people looking for affordable housing and we are trying to propose a project which offers affordability and sustainability. The project would be self-build and the proposal was at a very early stage.

Mr McNabb said that he had been approached concerning the project some years ago and he had been prepared to let the land go below the normal price because he believed in the project.

A question was raised as to whether it was self-build or community-built and the members advised that it was proposed that a manufacturing company would be responsible for the module building. This would reduce the disruption of the development on that land. When asked if they would expect the houses to be all the same, Cara advised that it was important that they blended in.

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley asked if they had approached any of the people living adjacent to the land and was advised that an approach had been made several years ago when the project had first been considered. They would be carrying out a community consultation to speak to others directly. Cllr King-Oakley also asked whether they had looked at any other sites. The answer was yes and Portfield near Wick was the nearest available land. When asked if there was a specific group involved, Cara advised that it was initially people on the Langport housing register. It was open to anyone on the Housing Register and they could be approached to see if they were interested. Cllr Derek Yeomans pointed out that Portfield had problems with sewerage and this was a point to bear in mind

County Cllr Derek Nelson asked if someone wished to purchase a house without an allotment, would this be possible and was advised that this was the case. He asked how it was intended to regulate the site to make sure that it does not look like a farmyard and was advised that each property would have a tenancy agreement.

When Cllr Janet Calder asked if people would be using vehicles she was advised that there would be normal parking facilities made available. Whilst building took place, caravans would be available to live in or not.

Cllr Kathleen Gardner referred to an article in the Daily Mail which had referred to a similar development in Wales which had drawn attention to the fact that the resulting site was not very pleasant. Cara advised that there will be a design concept and the intention was to deliver a project that everyone would be proud of.

Cllr Peter Crosland felt that we were getting into too much detail. It was necessary to discuss it in principal. Ian McNabb said that he would not let the project go ahead unless he approved of it. He believed more and more in its integrity

Cllr Peter Goodenough pointed out that the Parish Council would like to be kept advised of developments in respect of this project.

589) **REPORT FROM COUNTY CLLR DEREK NELSON**

He reported that the temporary closure of Fivehead Post Office was imminent. Curry Rivel and Curry Mallet would now be the nearest. Ilton was also losing its Post Office. There was not enough money passing through to keep it going.

Colin Fletcher had agreed to ask Taunton Deane to provide an extra sign at Thornfalcon to persuade lorry drivers to continue on the A358 rather than going through Curry Rivel and Langport. They are also going to review the weight limit within the next 12 months. He recommended that the Council should write to Colin Fletcher expressing concern about the size and volume of traffic passing through Langport with a recommendation that restrictions should be tightened up to provide a reduction in traffic flow.

He referred to a project called 'Giving it to Youth' where grants of up to £5,000 were available with a view to promoting the setting up of Youth Clubs.

There is an issue about flooding. Nearly £160,000 of funding will be given to Somerset County Council by the European Regional Development Fund. The Council is keen to hear from Somerset residents about the type of information they would like to receive about flood related matters. A survey will be launched in July, but in the meantime please contact Andrew Turner on 01823 355310 or email flooding@somerset.gov.uk for further details.

A meeting would be held on Monday morning to discuss the review of boundaries which is due to take place by the summer of 2012. There will be some more boundary changes within the District Council boundaries. He also referred to the Parliamentary Review that was coming along and parishioners would be given the chance to express their views.

With reference to the Icelandic Banks, we have £6 million at one bank and more money is coming through. We are at the top of the list and will get a fairly good return on our investment.

590). **LAW & ORDER**

a). **Community Emergency Plan**

Cllr Peter Goodenough had met with Pam Hardy of SSDC and had also spoken to Alan Bell along with Michael Cook. He understood that Long Sutton had an Emergency Plan but, had been unable to find it on the Web Site. Nick Gould who lives at Long Sutton is responsible for running its Emergency Plan and Alan Bell had spoken to him and he had indicated that he would be happy to talk to the Parish Council about setting-up an Emergency Plan. Cllr Goodenough felt that we should go ahead with this project with the support of SSDC and the Police. He felt that we could not deal with this item at a normal meeting because it would take too long. Following discussion and on the proposition of Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley, seconded by Cllr Clare Simpson, it was unanimously agreed that:-

'It is resolved that a working party/sub-committee is set up to develop a Community Emergency Plan by initially completing a risk assessment and then using the circulated pro-forma to plan a response to risks.'

The Chairman would invite Nick Gould to attend the next meeting if possible and if in the meantime members felt they would like to be involved in the sub-committee they could put their names forward.

b). **Police Report - June 2011**

The following offences had been reported:-

- 1 x Burglary in a Dwelling – Wooden door damaged, No entry gained, Nothing stolen.
- 1 x Theft – Trailer stolen from Farm yard, value under £1,000.
- 1 x Burglary in an outbuilding – Damage to wooden door frame and security equipment in changing rooms on playing field, value approx £2,000

Arrests

3 x Arrests connected to the Islemoor Ward
1 x Arrest connected to the Curry Rivel Ward

Anti-Social Behaviour

2 reports of anti-Social Behaviour - Curry Rivel Ward

Now that the warmer weather and lighter nights are here, please be conscious when leaving windows open when you go out, when asleep and also when you are working in your gardens, open windows make properties insecure and a golden opportunity for would-be thieves and burglars.

c). **Cold Calling Awareness Zone**

Cllr Peter Goodenough had spoken to Alan Bell who had advised that the setting-up of a Cold Call Awareness Zone had resulted in a cut in opportune crime. Godfrey Townrow has been successful in setting up a zone in Curry Mallet and Alan Bell will talk to him about giving a ten minute piece on the setting-up of a scheme jointly with Neighbourhood Watch. If we can get a bit more involvement with the people of Curry Rivel this might cut down some of the crime we have experienced recently. We have to remember that there are different sectors in Curry Rivel and we are going to need representatives in each of these areas. Following discussion and on the proposition of Cllr Clare Simpson, seconded by Cllr Peter Crosland, it was unanimously agreed that:-

"It is resolved that the Parish Council will form a joint working party/sub-committee with the Neighbourhood Watch Group to set up a cold calling awareness zone."

The Chairman said it was hoped that Godfrey Townrow would be able to attend our next meeting and in the meantime members could decide whether they wished to volunteer to serve on the sub-committee.

591). **PLANNING REPORT**

a). **Applications Received**

No. 11/00496/COU

Change of use of area of pasture to domestic curtilage (GR: 339084/125834). Land at Dyers Farm, Dyers Road, Curry Rivel.

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

No. 11/02318/FUL

The use of existing outbuilding as an annexe ancillary to Old Heale Cottage (GR: 338612/125781). The Annexe Old Heale Cottage, Dyers Road, Curry Rivel.

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

No. 11/02340/FUL

Change of use of land from agricultural to domestic and erection of a single storey extension to rear of dwellinghouse (GR: 338537/125738). Russelet, Dyers Road, Curry Rivel.

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

No. 11/02370/LBC

The carrying out of internal alterations (GR: 341234/126491). Hurds Hill House, Langport Road, Curry Rivel.

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

No. 11/01790/OUT

Outline application for the erection of a single storey dwelling (GR: 339722/125522). Land adjoining 12 Churchway Close, Curry Rivel.

It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council considers that approval of the above application would result in over-development on a cramped site and would extend outside the building line. It is also considered that access would be too restricted with cars passing in front of the existing bungalow. Bearing in mind that the land is unconsolidated (having been a quarry), it is felt that the ground may well prove too weak to support conventional foundations and piling may be needed, this could cause long term displacement movement in adjacent properties that do not have the benefit of deep piling. We would also draw attention to the problems already experienced with the existing sewerage system. For the above reasons the Parish Council is of the opinion that the proposed development is totally unacceptable

No. 11/02529/FUL

Demolition of existing buildings and the erection of a detached dwelling with garage, the closing up of existing access and the creation of a new access (GR: 338651/125639). Land and buildings South of Old Heale Cottage, Water Street, Curry Rivel.

A vote taken on this application resulted in 8 for and 1 abstention.

The Cllrs voting in favour were Janet Calder, Kathleen Gardner, Peter Goodenough, Madelaine King-Oakley, Clare Simpson and Derek Yeomans. Cllr Peter Crosland abstained.

b). **Application Withdrawn**

No. 11/01938/FUL

Erection of a single storey extension to rear of dwellinghouse. Russelet, Dyers Road, Curry Rivel.

592). **FINANCE REPORT**

a). **Accounts for payment**

On the proposition of Cllr Derek Yeomans, seconded by Cllr Kathleen Gardner, it was agreed that the following accounts be approved for payment.

Philip Fouracre - Changing Room Repairs	£165.60
Curry Rivel Village Hall – Rent	£140.00

The Clerk's quarterly payment was also due but, because she was now employed it was necessary to operate a payroll and deduct tax at source and this would most likely be on a monthly basis as opposed to quarterly as at present. Now the Parish Council had been registered for PAYE she would be able to download the basic payroll tools on the Inland Revenue site.

b). **Grant Application Form**

Following discussion it was unanimously resolved, on the proposition of Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley, seconded by Cllr Peter Crosland, as follows:-

That the Parish Council pay £15 to the Curry Rivel Webmaster to put the Grant Application Form onto the Curry Rivel Community Website in such a way that it can be completed online and despatched electronically to the Clerk.

The Clerk had prepared a form which could be used by applicants who did not have access to a computer.

c). **St Andrews PCC - Old School Room Grant**

On the 3rd February the Council had approved a grant of £650 in respect of the Old School Room which had not yet been released. Their funding from other sources was now coming through and we now need to release these funds. It was unanimously agreed that the grant of £650 previously approved should now be released with the cheque being made out to the Old School Room Appeal – St. Andrew's PCC.

d). **Play Day – 24th September 2011**

Confirmation had been requested of the £400 grant previously offered in respect of payment for the Climbing Frame to be rented for this event. The members were advised that in order to enable the vat to be reclaimed in respect of this equipment, the Parish Council would be invoiced directly. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley asked if a letter of support could be sent which would help the Play Day with obtaining other funding.

e). **VAT Refund**

The Clerk advised that she would be submitting the annual VAT return in respect of a refund in the sum of £1,603.40. She drew attention to the fact that if the Parish Council started to charge for the use of the Changing Rooms and the annual income exceeded £1,000 per year, then we would have to register for VAT.

f). **Grant Applications**

The Chairman pointed out that under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, it states quite clearly that grants cannot be made to individuals and we may well have been in error in the past. Bearing this in mind the wording on the Grant Application would be amended to read by removing the words "the wider community".

593). **PUBLIC COMPLAINT**

The Chairman pointed out that we had received a lot of complaints from Sue Harwood about the Church Road nameplate. He had spoken to Denise Wallace at the District Council who had advised that for financial reasons she would not be replacing the sign again. He had written to the properties covered by the TA10 0HG and TA10 0HF post codes and Church Road did not feature in any of their official postcode addresses. The only property using Church Road in its address was Parsonage Barn. He had accordingly advised Sue Harwood of the situation.

594). **WESTFIELD/EASTFIELD**

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

The Clerk drew attention to the latest inspection report which still referred to the corrosion on the corners of the cross bars and basketball hoop supports on the MUGA. As requested she had contacted the manufacturers for a quotation to supply the necessary materials to carry out a repair and a quotation to carry out the necessary repairs. They were as follows:-

To supply materials only:-
Gloss Paint £17.00 per litre plus vat
Undercoat £17.00 per litre plus vat
Zinc Rich Primer £25.00 per litre plus vat
Carriage charge if under £100 - £11.50

To carry out the repairs:-

To rub down & treat isolated corrosion areas only (1 days work) £320 plus VAT

To rub down and treat both sets of support frames and hoops (1 1/2 days work) £480.00 plus VAT

During discussion, Cllr Derek Yeomans, suggested that the basketball equipment could be dismantled and the necessary repairs carried out locally at less cost and that the necessary paint could be purchased at a lower cost. Following discussion, during which Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley volunteered the services of her husband, it was unanimously agreed to ask him to carry out the necessary work.

b). **Eastfield Development Plan**

i). **Resolution** – It is resolved that the Parish Council will accept the best estimate of three for removal of the telegraph poles and semi-sunk tank from Eastfield.

The Clerk had identified three general builders and arrangements were being made for them to be met on site by Cllr Kathleen Gardner with a view to quotations being obtained for removing the telegraph poles and the semi-sunk tank. Cllr Peter Goodenough advised that he had contacted Andrew Jones for a quotation and had been given a price of

£350 to undertake this work, with a reduction of £100 if he could retain the telegraph poles. He felt this was a reasonable price for the work involved.

ii). **Grass Cutting**

It was necessary to arrange for the grass to be cut on Eastfield and it was proposed to ask Stuart Heale to undertake the grass cutting as he did last year. It was suggested that we should look into the question of using the arisings to be made into small square bales which could be used for the event to be organised for the Diamond Jubilee and also offered for sale. Following discussion, it was unanimously agreed to leave the final decision to Cllrs Peter Goodenough and Madelaine King-Oakley.

595). **CEMETERY**

The Chairman had obtained a quotation of £75 for a verbal report from Alan Kennit who had advised that there was not a problem and waived his charge. However, if he was asked to submit a written report it would cost £200. Following discussion Cllr Kathleen Gardner proposed that we did obtain a written report for record purposes and this was seconded by Cllr Peter Goodenough. A vote taken resulted in 5 against and 2 for as follows:-

***Voting against - Cllrs Janet Calder, Peter Crosland, Madelaine King-Oakley, Clare Simpson and Derek Yeomans
Voting for – Cllrs Kathleen Gardner and Peter Goodenough***

It was decided not to proceed with the original resolution that the Parish Council will accept the optimum estimate of three presented by the Chair for a structural survey of the Lych Gate.

596). **CAR PARK**

A discussion took place on the improvements proposed for the Car Park Entrance, It was recommended that the large section of pavement to the north of the entrance should be reduced in size and that the street lights should be put on to a meter, with this project taken on by a sub-committee. Consideration could be given to putting a pedestrian crossing across from the Old Forge. Consultation would take place with the Primary School, The Old Forge and Sandpits Heating in respect of any improvements made. Cllr Clare Simpson expressed great interest in this project because of her links with the Primary School.

On the proposition of Cllr Janet Calder, seconded by Cllr Peter Goodenough, it was unanimously agreed that:-

It is resolved that the Parish Council sets up a working party/sub-committee to consider the cost and desirability of changing the entrance of the Car Park, of putting the street lights on a metered supply and of putting movement sensors on said lights to cut down cost of power consumption.

597). **PLANNING GROUP FOR DIAMOND JUBILEE**

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley reported that the Diamond Jubilee Celebration would take place on the 2nd June 2112 and the organising committee would meet again when Cllr Stephen Beney returned from holiday. The event would be held on the Cricket Club land, starting at 3 o'clock with limited ticket sales for a very nice tea with music, moving on to a children's disco, followed by evening entertainment with a bar. There would probably be an all day bar. There would be a Hog Roast and BBQ but, people would be able to bring their own food if they so wished. The charge would be £2 per person and 50p for children. One tent has been purchased and is large enough to accommodate approximately 100 people. Cllr Derek Yeomans volunteered his services and, no doubt, other councillors would become involved with this event.

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

a). **Erection of framework to prevent caravans and large vehicles parking on the Council's land**

Cllr Derek Yeomans said that Kingsbury Episcopi has now put a framework across their land. He felt it important that we do have some means of restricting caravans gaining access on to the Car Park and the Play Area and recommended a 2metre high structure. This would prevent large caravans or vehicles gaining access and stop large vehicles turning and damaging the car park. It is something we have to consider bearing in mind that another three travellers sites are going up in fairly close proximity. There is water and electricity available which could prove to be a great temptation to park on the land. Chris Applin had carried out the work at Kingsbury Episcopi at a cost in the region of £2,000. It was agreed that Cllr Derek Yeomans should obtain costs for the erection of such restrictions on both entrances.

b). **Community Web Site**

Lloyd Wilton had advised that the existing software would be out of date by the middle of next year and would no longer be supported. The Chairman said that if the Parish Council was asked for funds, a grant application would have to be submitted. The question of who was responsible for the employment of the Webmaster was raised and agreed that this should be discussed with the Curry Rivel News.

c). **Speed Restriction Signs**

Cllr Kathleen Gardner said that concern had been expressed by residents about the speed of traffic exiting Langport at the Curry Rivel end of the town and they had requested that the 30mph speed limit that begins just after the bridge be extended .to just beyond The Grange. At present the 50 mph sign is situated on a sharp bend just beyond Frog Lane.

Immediately beyond this bend on the left-hand side of the road are properties with driveways leading onto the road. The first property is called Hurds Hill House and the second property is the Immaculata Nursing Home and the speed of traffic makes it difficult for drivers to exit safely. Cllr Derek Yeomans pointed out that to be able to re-site speed signs entails the Highways Department placing an advertisement in the newspapers, which is quite costly, and then there is a waiting time to allow for any objections that might arise. Following discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council supported the concerns expressed by the residents and would write to Colin Fletcher, of the Highways Department asking him to investigate this matter.

d). **Westfield Car Park**

Cllr Kathleen Gardner drew attention to the fact that the ground had sunk again on the area on which the Water Board had repaired an earlier leak. The dip was rather dangerous for cars using the car park and she asked if the Clerk would write again asking them to fill the sunken area once more.

599). **CORRESPONDENCE**

- a). Letter of complaint received from residents of Burton Close concerning the persistent lighting of bonfires by a resident.

Cllr Peter Crosland said that although this was not a matter for the Parish Council, we could give them some advice. He had previously dealt with the Environmental Health Department about another problem with bonfires and they had been very positive and suggested that a diary of events should be kept. He was happy to go and talk to the residents of Burton Close and would advise them to keep a record of dates and times.

- b). South Somerset Together, the Local Strategic Partnership invitation to attend AGM on Wednesday 13th July, (19.00-21.00) at SSDC Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil.

This correspondence would be circulated in the 'black box'.

600. **ITEMS FOR A FUTURE AGENDA**

Standing Orders

Community Emergency Plan - invitation to Nick Gould

Cold Calling Awareness Zone – invitation to Godfrey Townrow

CHAIRMAN_____

DATE_____