

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
held on Thursday, 9th MAY 2019 @ 7.30pm
in the Village Hall

**Curry
Rivel
Parish
Council**



Above the levels

PRESENT:- Cllrs Andy Anderson, Robert Atkins, Tony Greenaway, Les Hood, Tina Paul, and Derek Yeomans.

Cllr Andy Anderson said that there had not been sufficient candidates at the election held on the 2nd May and two vacancies remained on the Parish Council. He welcomed the two new parish councillors that had been elected – Tina Paul and Les Hood

590). **SIGNING OF ‘DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**

A ‘Declaration of Acceptance of Office’ was duly signed by the councillors in attendance and countersigned by the Clerk. Unfortunately, Cllr Peter Goodenough was unable to attend the meeting this evening and the Clerk would arrange for him to sign his ‘declaration of acceptance’ within the next few days.

591). **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

Cllr Andy Anderson proposed that he stands again as Chairman and asked if there was anyone else that wishes to stand. There were no other candidates for the Chair and Cllr Andy Anderson was duly elected as Chairman for the ensuing year.

592). **CO-OPTION OF TWO NEW COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Derek Yeomans enquired whether there was anyone here tonight who had not been on the voting form that might wish to consider being co-opting onto the Parish Council. Cllr Andy Anderson said that he had been advised that it was necessary to co-opt two additional councillors. This would be advertised on the Website and in the Curry Rivel News and it is hoped that the vacancies could be filled at the June meeting. If we did not co-opt anyone by the 27th June, he needed to inform the District Council because they may need to call an election. Attention was drawn to the fact that there was someone present tonight who had previously served on the Parish Council and could be co-opted. It was suggested to wait and see if two candidates came forward by the 27th June and if not, this person could be approached.

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

Cllr Andy Anderson advised that this item would be deferred until the June meeting because Cllr Peter Goodenough had expressed a wish to stand as the Vice-Chairman.

594). **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

595). **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence had been received from Cllr Peter Goodenough.

596). **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 4th APRIL 2019**

The Minutes of the meeting, having been circulated to the members, were approved and signed by the Chairman on the proposition of Cllr Robert Atkins, seconded by Cllr Tony Greenaway.

597). **ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

- a). **Councillor Training** - the Clerk had booked in Councillors that had requested it.
- b). **'Ice on road' signs at Red Hill** - ongoing
- c). **Village Maps** - ongoing
- d). **Insurance Claim in respect of damage to Overhead Barrier at Westfield**
The Clerk had recently contacted Zurich Insurance to find out why there was a delay in settling our Claim for damage to the Overhead Barrier. They said that they were waiting for a photograph of the damage and the name of the third party involved. The Clerk advised that a photograph of the damage had been emailed to insurers on the 3rd April, when she had informed them that the damage had been caused by person or persons unknown. She would continue to press for a settlement of our claim.
- e). **Welcome Pack** – ongoing
- f). **Neighbourhood Plan** - feature on June Agenda
- g). **Village entry signs** – Erected
- h). **Twinning Visit 3rd May** – very successful. Invoice from W.I. to be paid.
- i). **Sub-Committee for personnel – Contract and Job Description** - ongoing
- j). **Mobile Beat Surgery 17th April** – not well attended and requires more advertising.
- k). **Granny's Bench** – ongoing
- l). **War Memorial Repairs** - ongoing
- m). **Active Living Rent** – Cllr Andy Anderson advised that they had managed to obtain further grants and the rent will remain at its current negotiated rate.

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

- a). **Linton House**
Cllr Andy Anderson said that the owner had emailed him regarding someone to negotiate minor amendments to the Heads of Terms in respect of the land to the east of Linton House. Following his email to the councillors he has decided to nominate Cllrs Peter Goodenough and Robert Atkins to deal with Linton House. He would email the owner of Linton House and give him the names of the two councillors

599). **CONFIRMATION OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE VARIOUS BODIES:-**

- a). **Curry Rivel Village Hall Management Committee**
Cllr Andy Anderson said he had put himself forward to assist with the Village Hall and he would advise Roger Hampton, the Chairman.
- b). **Curry Rivel Combined Charities**
Cllr Derek Yeomans confirmed his agreement to continue as the Parish Council's representative on the Combined Charities. Cllr Tina Paul asked for information about the Charity. The Rev. Scott would notify relevant person. He advised that there used to be a clutch of charities in Curry Rivel. We have assets that enable us to give small amounts to people who are less well-off in the village. £25 grants at Christmas up to the sum of £250.
- c). **Community Website**
Cllr Tony Greenaway agreed to continue as the Parish Council's representative.
- d). **Parish Footpaths Liaison Officer**
Cllr Andy Anderson said that Paul Deacon had previously served in this post but, was moving away from the village. Cllr Les Hood asked what this post involved. It was suggested that he should speak to Paul Deacon and this item be deferred until the June meeting.

Adjournment to Allow Public Comment

A resident wished to refer to the new village signs that have recently been erected to replace the old signs. You cannot read them on approach and the layout of them is frankly amateur. There is no thought process. Cllr Andy Anderson said that the council had gone through a careful process to select them. The resident referred to the sign at Hambridge for which he considered such a poor material had been used. He asked Cllr Andy Anderson if he had driven passed the sign and whether he could read it. Cllr Andy Anderson said that he drove passed the sign every day and he could read it. Cllr Robert Atkins said he had no difficulty in reading the signs. Cllr Andy Anderson said that one of the objectives of the Parish Council is to deliver value for money. The resident asked how much it would cost to replace them with proper signs and was advised that they were proper signs. Cllr Andy Anderson said he would note the comments made and look into the quality of the signs.

Robert Crowley said that the URC had helped Active Living financially in the past and he had been in touch with Ray Etheridge who is now Chairman of the new committee and things are going well from that point of view. He was glad to hear that more funding will be available from other sources.

Robert Crowley said that they have discussed various things we might look into to make the road through Curry Rivel safer. He wondered whether there were any further developments to discuss with the Highways. Cllr Andy Anderson said that the last couple of months have been extremely busy and there has been no contact with the Highways Department. He would re-invigorate that and take it forward with the Highways and put something on the agenda regarding Speedwatch, etc.

600). **PLANNING REPORT**

a). **Planning Application Received**

Reference 19/00963/HOU

Dorniford House, Heale Lane, Curry Rivel, Langport, TA10 0PQ

Replacement of existing pool structure and creation of new gym.

Cllr Andy Anderson took the members through the details of the proposed work to the existing pool structure and creation of the new gym. He felt that the proposed development would be a vast improvement on what was there at present and recommended approval. This was seconded by Cllr Derek Yeomans and unanimously agreed.

b). **Proposed application to build two bungalows - Mullens Yard**

A request had been received for the views of the Parish Council on the building of two bungalows adjacent to the River Parrett before submitting a planning application to the District Council. The following email was sent in reply:-

During discussion, attention was drawn to the fact that the proposed properties would be very close to the main sewage conduit which serves Langport and the numerous villages around it. It runs under the river and comes out at a pumping station just beyond where that boundary realigns. It was felt that the possibility of flooding would be much increased because the land would have to be raised to make it imperviable. With the loss of that small patch of absorptive and flood plain, it could increase the chances of the Great Bow Wharf being flooded when the river is in spate. Concern was also expressed about the access to and from that site onto the main road.

601). **PARISH COUNCIL LAND - Car Park and Surrounding Area**

a) **Sandpits Heating's proposed porch**

Cllr Andy Anderson said that this item was to deal with Sandpits Heating concerning its application to build a porch and the fact that it is on Parish Council land. The Parish Council has suggested that, because it is part of the Parish Council land, we need to draw up a licensing agreement between Sandpits Heating and the Parish Council for a nominal rent to be paid. Sandpits Heating could then go ahead and build the porch. The legal fees for that will also have to be met by Sandpits Heating when we consult our solicitor. That is the position of the Parish Council. We would need to come to

some sort of agreement to set-up that licence. You could then proceed with building the porch once you have signed the licensing agreement and the Parish Council receives a nominal rent annually. Cllr Derek Yeomans said that by paying an annual wayleave to build the porch, you are acknowledging that the land belongs to the Parish Council. Mr. James Macey asked how we could set the wheels in motion to get this process going. He was advised that the Parish Council would need a written approach detailing exactly what was proposed for submission to its solicitors. Mr. Macey said he would instruct his solicitors to write to the Parish Council to say what the proposal is.

b). **Complaint about the Firehouse**

A resident said that The Firehouse was situated right opposite her house and in thirty years they had never had a problem until recently when it has become very popular. It is an asset to the village. However, the tables and chairs outside the Firehouse are causing immense problems with up to twenty-five people sitting outside the pub on that parish land at about ten and eleven o'clock at night making a lot of noise. It is ruining our lives. Sometimes it can be up to a quarter to twelve.

Cllr Andy Anderson said that he does sit in the Car Park and monitor the situation. They usually put the tables and chairs away at 10 o'clock but, there have been occasions when they have not been put away at 10 o'clock and no-one is using them. He has spoken to the manager before about removing the tables and chairs at 10 o'clock to assist the neighbours and the manager has assured him that he does do that. The resident said that last week-end they were there until 11 o'clock. Cllr Andy Anderson said he would speak to the manager again. He has also raised the problem about the bad language and smoking that occurs. We have approached the school and parents of children at the school and there are no reports of adverse behaviour. A resident said that her daughter hates walking down the footpath when coming back from school and other neighbours have spoken to her as well.

Cllr Andy Anderson said that the Parish Council has put on a curfew of twenty-two hundred hours and that if there is not an improvement, we will review the situation. A resident questioned how many chances we are going to give them. They have a lovely beer garden, could they not persuade people to use that? Cllr Andy Anderson said that removing the tables and chairs will not stop people drinking and smoking outside the pub.

Cllr Derek Yeomans said that he thought that in the licence for the Village Hall it said that, after 10 o'clock you have to close all exterior windows to stop the noise going outside. He also wished to point out that the land belongs to the Parish Council. It is bound to be very popular if you can pop in and out of that door to refill your glass with a few steps, whereas in the beer garden you have to traipse through the hotel to get access to the bar. Your premises licence will also show your premises outlined in red, which is the area to which your licence applies. The path outside the public house is not on your licence because it does not belong to you. Technically, you are allowing alcohol to be sold to people outside your premises in breach of your drinks licence. Cllr Derek Yeomans politely suggested that they looked at this very carefully because it could be a hazard if it gets out of hand. Cllr Tiffany Osborne said that, technically, if someone wanders outside with a drink you are not breaking the rules. James Macey enquired what an ideal solution would be. A resident recommended that the table and chairs be removed

Cllr Robert Atkins said that he believed that we, as a Parish Council, should review the policy of whether we allow them to use it as an extension of the land for social purposes. They have a perfectly good smoking garden at the back. He felt we were entitled to refuse them permission to do that as they are on Parish Council property and to revoke the licence if they do not obey. It sounds very harsh but, he did not think that annoying residents around the area is acceptable. James Macey was willing to resolve this and get the tables and chairs removed for a trial period. Cllr Tiffany Osborne suggested we should see how this goes. Cllr Andy Anderson said he would get in touch with James Macey and Ed to discuss the situation.

602). **FINANCE REPORT**

a). **Grant Application – St. Andrew’s Church**

- i). **Churchyard grass cutting (6 times per year) & weed killer on footpaths (3 per year) (£1,200)**
The Rev. Scott said he would like to clear up a couple of misconceptions about the Church of England. The first misconception is that the local Church might be in receipt of Church of England funding out of central funds and that is not the case. Another misconception is that the local Church might be in receipt of National Government funding and that is also incorrect. A third more local misconception might be that St. Andrews Church is a wealthy church and has historic resources to draw upon. We are not wealthy and we do not have historic resources to draw upon. Our accounts are available for the public to view. To give you a feel of our financial situation, at the year ended 31st December 2018 we held in our General Fund just under £20,000. This year our parish share, which is what we give to the Bath & Wells Diocese for support, we have been asked for £34,000. In addition to this we have running expenses of over £10,000 per annum, alongside any other maintenance expenses for the bellringing and churchyard as they become necessary. In the previous year this amounted to over £9,000. So, you can see that despite the generous giving of the Church family which amounted to something in the region of £24,000 last year, including gift aid alongside our annual fund-raising events, things are very tight. We need as much help as we can get.

St Andrew’s Church was requesting a grant of £1,200 to assist with the grass cutting around the Churchyard as you have over the last two years at least. In terms of physically active volunteers in the parish, we are struggling to meet the demands of looking after our Grade 1 listed building and the maintenance of the churchyard. It is not only grass cutting but the care of trees and bushes. Having the burden of the grass cutting lifted by means of a grant, would enable us to put our limited energies on other areas of need.

There was a point raised at a previous council meeting about various ecologic issues and although he recognised that it was our shared responsibility to care for the environment as well as we possibly can. He felt that a regularly mowed and tidy looking churchyard was appropriate from a pastoral perspective. In his experience, he found that even if grass was left to grow for a longer period than normal in a churchyard because it has been unseasonably wet, this has led to the church receiving comments of dismay and anger because family members felt that the graves of their loved-ones were being neglected. For this reason, he would like our churchyard to be well maintained. His feeling was that that even if only sections of the churchyard were left to become meadow, this could result in further complaints. Finally, he would like to plead a special case in the terms of the use of public money for this grant. He recognised that the village with a population in excess of two and half thousand residents, our church family of sixty or seventy might seem a small niche group to receive this sort of support but, he would like to encourage people to consider the church and the churchyard as a community asset.

Cllr Robert Atkins said that he understood Rev. Scott’s position. When he was driving passed the URC about a month ago he saw one of the parishioners there tending the churchyard and cutting the grass. It did seem to him that you have approximately sixty people that are attending church, surely one of them must be capable of assisting. He personally thought that £1,200 from our parish funds is an astronomical amount, Whilst, you might regard yourself an asset, you could possibly be regarded as a liability to us at £1,200 a year. He would be happy to support a lesser amount or perhaps the purchase of a strimmer for you but, he felt that they had to help themselves. Rev. Scott said that there had been a team of volunteers but, it had shrunk and it is an enormous job.

Cllr Andy Anderson said that the money that we had assigned to SSDC for grass cutting in St. Andrew's Churchyard last year was £1,500 and this year it is £1,200. Following discussion, Cllr Derek Yeomans had proposed that a grant of £1,200 be approved. This was seconded by Cllr Andy Anderson with a caveat to review the situation next year and try to find alternate solutions. This was unanimously agreed.

b). **Accounts for payment**

There were no accounts for payment

603) **GRANT APPLICATIONS (contd)**

i). **Curry Rivel PTA – School Playground Equipment - £10,000**

Cllr Andy Anderson said that he had written to Mrs Burns, the Acting Head Teacher but, unfortunately no-one from the PTA was able to attend this evening's meeting. He read out the information contained on the application form and said that it been decided to postpone discussion of this item until the next meeting when it was hoped a representative from the Primary School would be in attendance. During discussion it was pointed out that the children are the future of the village and we need to take that into account. If we do not sponsor them, others might ask the question 'why not'. The Clerk would email the information on the application form to the councillors.

ii). **Annual Curry Rivel Kids 'Free' Fun Event - £465**

This application had been submitted by Kaye Morgan for the Climbing Wall for this annual kid's event. Cllr Andy Anderson had sent an email to Kaye Morgan explaining that from the Parish Council's perspective, we are not responsible for insuring this event. She has replied that they have in the past. Cllr Andy Anderson said that we have three opinions, we could refuse the application; we could carry the grant application over until the next meeting or we could approve the grant on the condition that she provides evidence of public liability insurance for this event. Only when she provides proof will we release the grant for £465. Following further discussion, Cllr Andy Anderson proposed that we approve a grant of £465 on the condition that Kaye Morgan provides evidence of public liability covering the Annual Curry Rivel Kids 'Free' Fun Event 2019. This was seconded by Cllr Derek Yeomans and unanimously agreed.

604). **COMMUNITY SAFETY**

a). **Report on Beat Surgery held on the Village Green – Wednesday 17th April**

The Clerk had attended the Beat Surgery and initially only two people attended, although a few more wandered in as the day went on. She felt that it needed to be advertised more and that the attendance would improve as residents were aware of the opportunity to express their concerns.

605). **REPORTS FROM NEWLY ELECTED COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

District Cllr Tiffany Osborne advised that there was nothing much to report at the present time. Hopefully, there would be more to report at the June meeting.

606). **PLANNING BREACHES**

Cllr Andy Anderson said that there seems to be a lack of resources to pursue planning breaches. He is aware of some planning permissions that have not been adhered to. He had reported them to the SSDC Website. They have actually taken action on that and resolved the issue. Cllr Tony Greenaway had noticed that one of the windows that had gone into a bungalow was not the correct size and he had reported that to SSDC and this had also been resolved. He felt that from our perspective, it might be an idea if we set-up a monitoring system of planning applications on properties that are easily seen from the main road. If councillors see anything, they can report back to the parish meeting and we can take it forward to the SSDC using their website. District Cllr Tiffany Osborne said that if breaches are reported to SSDC they have to investigate and do something about it. Cllr Tony Greenaway suggested that we should extend this to include other

things we see around the village, like signs that are down or fly-tipping, dog fouling, etc. that should be reported to the SSDC website.

607). **FINGER POST PAINTING**

Cllr Robert Atkins said that about a year ago we had discussed the possibility of finding a local person who would work for a reasonable amount of money. He felt it is something we could progress with. Cllr Derek Yeomans said that the signs have to be properly treated first and then they are painted. Cllr Andy Anderson felt there was a danger in employing someone to do the work and where do we stand with insurance. Following further discussion Cllr Robert Atkins would have a look to see where we could go.

608). **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk had forwarded any correspondence. Cllr Andy Anderson referred to the Public Consultation on River Parrett Dredging Proposal which had been emailed to the members. Cllr Andy Anderson would put a copy on the notice board in case anyone wanted to comment on it.

609). **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Cllr Andy Anderson welcomed the new parish councils and hoped that they had enjoyed the meeting this evening. He put forward a suggestion that Cllr Derek Yeomans could liaise with the Clerk and assist with the Parish finances. This was agreed.

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

- a). Neighbourhood Plan
- b). Co-option of two new Councillors

CHAIRMAN_____ **DATE**_____