

MINUTES OF MEETING
held on Thursday 1st AUGUST 2019
@ 7.30pm
in the Village Hall

**Curry
Rivel
Parish
Council**



Above the levels

PRESENT: Cllrs Andy Anderson, Robert Atkins, Peter Goodenough, Tony Greenaway, Les Hood, Simon Scarborough, David Wadeson, Derek Yeomans and County Cllr Clare Paul.

642). **RESIGNATION OF CLLR. TINA PAUL**

Cllr Andy Anderson said that, unfortunately, Cllr Tina Paul had to resign as she was having to move away to Cornwall because of family illness. He has accepted her resignation and Cllr Tony Greenaway would advertise the vacancy on the website with a view to filling it as soon as possible.

Cllr Andy Anderson said that Tina had written to him apologising for not being able to attend the meeting tonight and wished the councillors all the best.

643). **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

644). **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr Les Hood had apologised for the fact that he would be a little late.

645). **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 4TH JULY 2019**

The Minutes of the meeting, with a minor amendment from 'SCOUTS' to 'SCAT' on minute number 627 having been circulated to the members, were approved on the proposal of Cllr Robert Atkins, seconded by Cllr David Wadeson. Cllr Tony Greenaway abstained from the vote as he had not been present at that meeting.

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

a). **Repair of damage to fencing panel on lane from the Car Park to the main road.**

Cllr Andy Anderson said that he had received an email advising that someone had kicked in one of the fencing panels on the lane leading from the Car Park to the main road. The Clerk would obtain a quotation to repair the fence which was the responsibility of the Parish Council. She had also spoken to Steve Osmond about repairing the lighting unit in the lane which was adjacent to where the damage had been caused.

b). **Hedge – track adjacent to the meadows off Townsend**

Cllr Les Hood said that he had been advised by the Highways Department that it was not their responsibility and it was not considered to be the responsibility of the Parish Council. mentioned in her deeds. Cllr Derek Yeomans said that if it was not on the definitive map,

there was not anything we could do about it. The Clerk to write to the resident asking them to cut back their hedge back.

c). **Parish Online Training, 26th September 10am/noon and 1300-1600 hrs, Edgar Hall Somerton.**

The Clerk had forwarded the email concerning this Online Training to the councillors for information. Cllr Robert Atkins advised that the morning session was an introduction to what is on offer and the afternoon session is for people who have already bought into it. He felt that only the morning session would be of interest to us. He felt it was worth a look.

d). Cllr Andy Anderson said that he had received some correspondence which he needed to discuss with the councillors on completion of the meeting. Because of the sensitive nature of this information, the public would be excluded during discussion of this item.

e). **Dumping of waste between Dyers Road and Maple Road**

A substantial amount of waste has been thrown by the residents into the hedges together with grass cuttings and branches. This has been on-going for some years and it is now about ten feet high. The smell is awful and everything is rotting. Cllr Derek Yeomans said that if the ditch was adjacent to the road there was the possibility that the District Council might clear it, providing that it did not contain tyres and old television, etc. If it is garden waste only, it can be re-cycled. Cllr Tony Greenaway suggested that it should be reported on the District Council Website and photographs provided if they are available. There was the question of how the residents could be prevented from using the area for the dumping of rubbish in the future. Cllr Derek Yeomans said that in the interest of residents, that ditch should be kept clear. Cllr Andy Anderson said that if someone could design a leaflet or give him some ideas so that he can get someone to design it, he could get them printed and drop them in. Cllr Simon Scarborough would design a leaflet and place it on the Website.

f). **Damaged Swing at Westfield**

Cllr Les Hood advised that one of the cradle swings seat was badly damaged. He would have taken the seat off but, thought it might be dangerous if they started to hang on the chains. The Clerk was requested to place an order for a replacement cradle seat only with bush fixings from the Environment Services at the District Council.

g). **The footpath down to Wick Rhyne**

Cllr Les Hood said he had been approached by William Mowat about this footpath. Cllr Peter Goodenough said that the bridge over the Rhyne has been out for a very long time and it forms a bridge between Curry Rivel and Aller. Mr Mowat has also been in touch with David Mayor, the Chairman of Aller Parish Council. It features a long way down the list for attention. He wants us to work with Aller to try and raise money to deal with the list of repairs. Cllr Les Hood said that we would have to get the Footpaths Officer involved.

County Cllr Clare Paul said that a discussion had also taken place at Aller Parish Council and, as a word of caution, she felt it was very difficult for us as lay people to understand why such a simple thing may end up costing the taxpayer twenty thousand pounds. You cannot just go and put a couple of 'sleepers' down and hope for the best. Through the Rights of Way we can look to see if there is anything that can be done to raise it as a more important job somewhere down the line. Cllr Peter Goodenough said that we ought to try and work with Aller to raise money because the County Council will not have any money available for a

long time. It was agreed that Cllr Peter Goodenough would contact David Mayor with a view to working together on the project.

Adjournment to Allow Public Comment

A representative from Speedwatch said he gets a lot of support from the members of the public, which is great. There is a growing feeling that we are wasting our time because Speedwatch is very limited in what it can do. There are two sessions a week and there is plenty of time for people to speed otherwise. He has been encouraged to see what we can do about that. Cllr Andy Anderson said there was something he wanted to discuss with Highways about SID's so that we can be in a position where we could erect SID's so that we can actually count the number of speeding vehicles going through our village. This would provide the evidence necessary in order to change the number of incidences. This is something he would be taking forward. He felt the only option was to record the number of incidences that are travelling over 30mph to provide the necessary evidence. Cllr Derek Yeomans referred to the wires that they used to put across the road which recorded the speed of traffic accurately. Drivers roaring through at 60mph did not see the first wire and the second wire placed further up told exactly how fast they had been driving. Cllr Andy Anderson said that we need to identify the number of vehicles that speed through the village and he thought that SID's were a good idea even if they only flashed up 'SLOW DOWN'. It prompts a driver to take a course of action that will hopefully reduce their speed.

County Cllr Clare Paul said that a lot of her parishes have now used their Precept money to purchase SID's and they seem to be popping up everywhere. If as a Parish Council you want to purchase SID's, she has had two companies who have made presentations at Drayton, Kingsbury and Huish Episcopi. Kingsbury has now made a purchase. It is important to place them where they maximise those true figures. County Cllr Clare Paul would email details of the two companies.

647). PLANNING REPORT

Application No. 19/01866/HOU

Alterations and erection of single storey extension to form a granny annexe. Cranmere, Townsend, Curry Rivel, Langport, Somerset, TA10 0HU.

On the proposition of Cllr Derek Yeomans, seconded by Cllr David Wadeson, it was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council had no objections to raise in respect of this planning application.

Application No. 19/01861/FUL

The erection of two dwellings with garages and new vehicular access. Land adjoining Kirkholme, Back Lane, Curry Rivel, Langport, Somerset.

The Clerk advised that this planning application had only arrived in the post today and that she had contacted the Planning Department to request an extension until the day after our next meeting on the 5th September.

648). COMBINED CHARITIES

Cllr Derek Yeomans reported that he had attended the recent Combined Charities meeting. The next meeting would be on the 23rd October, when they will discuss what money they are going to hand out. There is a limited amount of money available. They do give £200 to the Primary Schools in Curry Rivel and Hambridge. They also give out little parcels of money to deserving people in the village. So, it is on-going and it is helping.

649). **REPORT FROM THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

County Cllr Clare Paul said that from a District perspective, she had pointed out how difficult the new Website through the transformation process of the District Council was proving. The portfolio holder of the administration was, to be fair, acknowledging that the transformation was not going as planned. It was then followed by a lot of reports to say how good it actually is, which rather annoyed her. Mainly because with the Local Plan Review, when we are going around the district engaging with communities, they are forgetting that there is an environment policy and none of them are dovetailing in. When trying to find a simple route to the planning applications it is not as easy as previously which is causing problems. District-wise there are a couple of things on-going. One is about Parsonage Place. Chris the Leader of Street Scene is working with different avenues dealing with weeds etc.

You did touch on the application that has come to District Cllr Tiffany Osborne and me as your representatives and we have come back to say there are inaccuracies in that reporting. They will have to be addressed before we can return it to the Local Plan Policy. There are lots of things in the District Scene. In the County Scene, we have had some great meetings. We are all saying the same things. There is too much traffic on our roads and our normal roads are not able to cope with them. We all have parking issues and if you alleviate the problem at one location in the community you are probably just moving it to another part of the community. We had a positive Audit Report and the accounts were signed off. The one thing they have delayed is what they term as ‘the value for money’ report and that is delayed until the September Audit meeting.

Cllr Simon Scarborough said he had noticed that on the footpath between Curry Rivel and Langport the tarmac is covered in many places with brambles, and grass etc., and he felt there was a safety issue there now. County Cllr Clare Paul agreed and it would be brought to the attention of the Highways Department.

650). **PARISH COUNCIL LAND – CAR PARK & SURROUNDING AREA – update**
The Chairman advised that there was no update available.

651). **LAND AT HELLARDS HILL LANE – Cllr Peter Goodenough to report**
Cllr Peter Goodenough advised that he had been in touch with South Somerset District Council and they have encouraged him to go for a ‘Community Right to Bid’. They suggested that we should fill in a ‘Community Right to Bid’ nomination form as it’s a device that gives us a moratorium on the sale of the land for a period of time, possibly six months, during which we could attempt to raise £60,000. If the Parish Council was willing, he was prepared to take a lead on trying to raise that amount of money. He pointed out that we had managed to raise sufficient money for the extension of the Village Hall relatively easily within that time. There are also lottery grants for under £10,000 and over £10,000 available. Cllr Peter Goodenough thought that the over £10,000 grant was restricted to buildings. He pointed out that we have a ‘climate emergency’ declared by South Somerset District Council. The planting of trees is important and there is a session that he would be attending with Cllr Derek Yeomans on the planting of trees. He would like the Parish Council to commit to planting one thousand trees over the next five years. Cllr Peter Goodenough would put in a ‘Community Right to Bid’ nomination form. Cllr Derek Yeomans asked if we have any idea of the timescale that we have and how close it is to the actual auction time when they try to sell the land. Cllr Peter Goodenough said that if we get it in by tomorrow there would be a moratorium on the owners. Cllr Derek Yeomans said that they would have to agree to that. He had spoken to Charlie Fields and he thought they would agree. Cllr Derek Yeomans said

that we would have to get water over the field if we are going to plant trees. Cllr Peter Goodenough said fortunately, there is a water main available a few yards away.

When asked, County Cllr Clare Paul said that she would give it her full support. When she is sitting here in six months' time, please raise that money by then because in six months' time that land valuation may well have gone up.

652). **ROAD MARKINGS ON JUNCTION OF MAPLE ROAD EXITING ONTO STANCHESTER WAY - update**

Cllr Andy Anderson said that this was an issue that he needed to bring up with the Highways Department.

653). **LOCAL PLAN**

Cllr Andy Anderson asked the members if they have had a chance to read the strategic objectives within the consultation document? We need to respond by the 18th September and because none of us has read this document, we do need the parish councillors to respond to this consultation process. He would send the document out to the members and convene a meeting in mid-August to discuss specifically our consultation process and our submission to the Committee about the middle of August. To finalise the document during our meeting in September, in much the same way as we did the consultation last year and then submit it by the 18th September.

Cllr David Wadson said he met someone who lives in the village who is a planning officer in Dorchester and she was willing to come along and offer some technical advice. Cllr Andy Anderson thought this would be a good idea if they could attend a meeting to be held, possibly, on Thursday, 15th August during the day.

Cllr Peter Goodenough said that if the councillors could not manage to read all 233 pages, pages 23/30 were relevant and need to be well digested. Cllr David Wadson said the more people that put their views in, the better. Cllr Peter Goodenough said councillors need to read the environment strategy, employment strategy and the proposed 'villages' new strategy. Cllr David Wadson said they are talking about expansion but, they have not put in any details.

Cllr Derek Yeomans said that he went to the meeting and he knew the lady who was conducting the meeting quite well during his previous time at the District Council. We are scheduled to get twenty-two houses to the south of Maple Road. This has been hatched in as a development area and to the north and south of Maple Road there will be a total of seventy-two dwellings. He did ask if there was any word of the housing programme for the large field outside Westfield Lane but, she would not be committed on that one. He referred to the seven hundred odd houses that villages have to build by 2031. It is going to be so-called infilling and not on new fields. What we say and what we do will have little effect on the programme. Cllr Peter Goodenough said that it was a consultation document and we could put forward any views that the Parish Council wished to put forward. Cllr Derek Yeomans said that a lot of it was set in steel. Cllr Andy Anderson said that the Parish Council will submit a response to the Local Plan.

654). **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Cllr Andy Anderson said that this brought us nicely to the Neighbourhood Plan. He felt because of the consultation document for the Local Plan into 2031 it is actually driving forward the need for a Neighbourhood Plan to enable us to have some more influence over

planning considerations. We might need to start thinking about the re-generation of this particular process. He felt that this was something that we needed to take forward quite swiftly. He knows it is a drawn-out process and there is a lot of work to do but, if it is successful and adopted by the District Council, it would be of benefit to the village. We need to re-invigorate.

Cllr Tony Greenaway said that he had been to a couple of towns that had Neighbourhood Plans in place. He felt that the key to the success of this is to have an independent group of people in the community. It might be driven and led by a councillor. As a starting point we should put out feelers for people who would like to be part of this. Cllr Andy Anderson said it was really important that we try to get people in the village involved. If they are willing to give us their time it is important. Cllr Peter Goodenough said that we need to have an Open Day when people can just drop in to tell them what the Neighbourhood consultation is about and also the Local Plan. Cllr Andy Anderson said that we should do a flyer and we need to have a proper plan with a timescale and agree who is going to do it. Cllr Tony Greenaway was asked if he would be willing to lead it. He said he would be willing to try but, he would need some support from his colleagues and Cllr Les Hood offered to assist.

655). **SSDC ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY – ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

Stephanie Gold had advised that there were five themes that the Strategy would be planned around:-

Waste, recycling and resource management - Natural Environment - Built environment, Energy (efficiency and renewable) - Travel and transport

For each item SSDC want to know:- What do we think are key environmental issues for Curry Rivel – What are you already doing within Curry Rivel to address the key issues – What are the top three things we should aim for (in terms of desired outcomes) – What are the three key things SSDC could do to achieve these outcomes.

- 1). Cllr Derek Yeomans said that a leading company were just about to build a new shredder that could deal with plastic boxes and trays. They are looking at the various ways of dealing with plastics which is a matter of extreme urgency. They also have to have a complete revision of how they deal with domestic batteries and small electrical gear. We want to get all the food waste out because that is a major factor for generating our own electricity.

Cllr Peter Goodenough said that putting all the counties waste that currently goes to landfill to the incinerator being built at Avonmouth is a huge plus and the re-cycling seems to be working well, so Theme 1 seems well covered.

- 2). Natural Environment number two on the list. Cllr Peter Goodenough said to designate new woodland in every Parish. Let each Parish find their own champion environmental asset and encourage them to enhance that, hopefully leading to a network of joined-up wildlife corridors.

Cllr Derek Yeomans said that we were over the hump and almost at the stage when we cannot stop climate change. We must get on with it now because there is no point in waiting for the 2023 Environmental Bill.

County Cllr Clare Paul said that sometimes you have to go through this laborious process. For instance, plastic is a very hot topic. However, no council can make itself a hostage to

fortune by saying they will get rid of plastic by luck, when you look at the implication of how waste products come into our health system. When we are looking at the entire picture, you cannot simply say, yes we will get rid of plastic straws in the canteen. It goes a lot broader than that.

- 3). Cllr Peter Goodenough said that sustainable homes should be built near employment centres. If no new employment, fight the mad ideas of central government to foist housing targets on Counties with little economic growth. Where is the environmental sense in encouraging commuting? We should encourage more investment in Nuclear power at Hinkley point, Somerset's greatest contribution to fighting climate change. Discourage the use of traffic movements, build a train station in the Langport/Somerton area. Build an electric point network using power from Hinkley. Discourage frivolous use of Bristol airport. Travel and transport, reduce by 10% a year for 5 years. Encourage shared space road usage in villages.

Cllr Tony Greenaway said that we ought to re-visit the SSDC Environmental Strategy and send our response to Cllr Peter Goodenough by Wednesday of next week.

656). **RIVER PARRETT DREDGING CONSULTATION**

The Consultation document has been advertised on the board to enable people to reply.

657). **REPORT ON DISCUSSION ABOUT PLAY DAY – Cllr Peter Goodenough to report**

Cllr Peter Goodenough said that he had a meeting with Ron Morgan because Kaye Morgan was not available and we discussed the Play Days. Kaye Morgan had told him in an email that in ten years she had only managed to get it on the SSDC map once. However, with one 'phone call, Cllr Peter Goodenough was able to get the 2019 Play Day on the SSDC map and this is an excellent result for publicity of the event. The Committee for the Play Day is in place and includes the Kaye and Ron Morgan, Simon Champion and his wife, Wendy Devereux and Gina Beauchamp. Kaye Morgan said that she really appreciated the Parish Council's involvement and asked if Cllr Hood could join the committee as a link between the Parish Council and the Play Day group.

658). **FINANCE REPORT**

a). **Accounts for payment**

The following accounts were approved for payment on the proposal of Cllr Peter Goodenough, seconded by Cllr Robert Aitken.

Clerk's Wages for Month 4	-	£348.90
Active Somerset for the Play Day Grant		£465.00

b). **Westfield Barrier repair insurance claim**

The Clerk reported that she contacted Zurich Insurance again and advised them that if our claim was not resolved we would refer it to the Ombudsman.

c). **Valuation Office Agency**

The Clerk had contacted the Valuation Office Agency in respect of the document received concerning the Car Park and advised them that car parking is free and the Parish Council does not receive any income from the Car Park. She was advised to ignore the document.

659). **CORRESPONDENCE**

Cllr Andy Anderson had received a letter from a resident concerning Roundup and he would respond at a later date.

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

a). **Risk Register and Emergency Plan**

Cllr Robert Atkins advised that he had prepared a draft of the Emergency Plan and the Risk Register, the latter thanks to the work of Alan Cockerill. He had not changed the Risk Register very much because it had been taken off a higher authority document. He felt it serves its purpose for what we need. The Emergency Plan is a little less complete; for example, there is a section where we need names of people who we could call on in an emergency. Such people may have medical skills, be trained in the use of the defibrillator and people with equipment to move snow. The Chairman asked Cllr Atkins to circulate the documents to councillors for discussion at the next meeting.

661). **CURRY RIVEL IN BLOOM**

Cllr Andy Anderson wished to express a massive 'thank you' to Gina and her team of volunteers for 'Curry Rivel in Bloom' He thought the village looked exceptional before, during and after the judging for both events. He had written to her tonight to thank her and her team. It was reported that Gina would be standing down.

Cllr Tony Greenaway said that he had met the judges on both occasions. The chief judge who happened to be the Chairman of Chew Valley Council asked what our Precept was and he said he thought it was in the region of £36,000. He said that we should double that and give Curry Rivel in Bloom an increase. Cllr Simon Scarborough said the District Council had responded very quickly to our request for the road to be cleared and they had swept through the village.

662). **REVIEW OF ACTIONS FROM TONIGHT'S MEETING**

To be circulated by Cllr Tony Greenaway

CHAIRMAN _____ **DATE** _____