

MINUTES OF MEETING
held on Thursday 1st December 2016 @ 7.30pm
in the Village Hall

**Curry
Rivel
Parish
Council** 
Above the levels

PRESENT: Cllrs Madelaine King-Oakley (Chairman), Andy Anderson, Robert Atkins, Mike Cousins, Paul Deacon, Peter Goodenough, Tony Greenaway, Tiffany Osborne and Derek Yeomans.

322). **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

323). **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

324). **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 3RD NOVEMBER 2016**

On the proposition of Cllr Derek Yeomans, seconded by Cllr Tiffany Osborne, the minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd November were approved and signed by the Chairman with one correction to paragraph three under 'adjournment to allow public comment'. The name of Rick Deadman amended to Rik Deadman.

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

a). **Complaint about a fence that has been erected - Minute 319(b)**

Cllr Paul Deacon referred to this item and questioned whether planning permission was required. Cllr Tiffany Osborne said that planning permission would be required because it is adjacent to a main road. She had contacted SSDC and they would most likely get retrospect planning permission for the erection of this fence.

b). **Complaint about overhanging trees and broken metal fence – Minute 319(d)**

Cllr Paul Deacon said that he had spoken to SSDC Rights of Way Team about this and they are going to organise the provision of a gate.

c). **Footpath to the Car Park**

The Clerk had received an email from Mrs. Linham in which she advised that, after having a site meeting it had been brought to her attention that the fence the council erected is not in the right place. The Council had, in effect, used over the 5 ft. `given`, as the fence should have been incorporated in the said 5ft and not next to it. The width of the opening from the car park is nearer 6ft. and the main road side starts off at approx. 10ft, narrows to approx. 6ft and then nearer to 5ft. As it has been stressed to me, more than once over the last couple of months, that the strip of land `given` has to be 5ft, I feel it should be measured properly to everyone's agreement, the fence re-aligned and sited onto the said 5ft and the land my side of the fence made good. I would like to point out that the deeds do not say `the footpath` has to be 5ft wide but `the village` could have a 5ft wide strip of land to use.....not 10ft or 6ft. This should be done as soon as possible but no later than 30th April 2017.

Cllr Derek Yeomans advised that we should go through the Deeds and make sure of the exact position. If it has to be 5ft then we do it and she would have no complaints. Cllr Peter Goodenough pointed out that when the Car Park was registered, that strip of land which is the footpath was not included. He agreed with Cllr Derek Yeomans and suggested that we do as she has asked but, also

get that piece of land registered to the Parish Council to close the matter. Registration of the footpath to be actioned by the Clerk.

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley asked how we were going to re-measure the land to make absolutely certain that it is 5ft. Cllr Peter Goodenough said that the fence on the other side is very well demarcated and we could measure 5ft from that fence all the way along. Cllr Paul Deacon said that if decided on where the 5ft should be and mark it out, could we get her to sign an agreement that she is happy with that before we actually spend more money. Cllr Derek Yeomans said that we should register the land and make sure that the support poles for the fence, if they happen to be on her side are exactly 5ft from the other side. Cllr Mike Cousins would undertake the re-measuring and marking out, assisted by Cllr Derek Yeomans. It was agreed that the Clerk should reply to Mrs Linham's email advising that we would be re-measuring the footpath and marking it out. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley advised that any cost involved with the fencing would be the responsibility of the Parish Council and we would have to obtain quotations.

d). **Complaint about problems experienced in the Car Park and notification of a caravan parked on Westfield**

The Clerk had received an email from Diane Willey enquiring who the Car Park was meant for. Taking her twin grandchildren to playschool she had experienced a safety issue when getting out of her car with a lorry parking in the way and other cars trying to get in and out of the Car Park. She had to wait for ten minutes to be able to exit the Car Park without a word of apology. Later in the week works vans were loading up during the day, is this not meant to be carried out earlier in the morning. She also referred to the fact that people were parking on the zig zag lines outside of the School. Is this because they cannot get into the Car Park?

She also drew attention to the fact that there was a caravan parked on Westfield where the BMX track used to be. It has been there for a few days and someone appears to be living in it. Cllr Derek Yeomans said that he was endeavouring to get a barrier gate erected on Westfield to prevent problems such as this and he would continue to chase this up.

The Clerk said that when we had previously complained about delivery lorries, a reply had been received advising that they would monitor deliveries to ensure they did not coincide when children are being dropped off or collected. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley proposed that we write to Sandpits Heating reminding them that they had promised to keep their deliveries outside of school hours.

Action for the Clerk.

Cllr Paul Deacon said that he did not think that the parking on the zig zag lines was due to not being able to get into the Car Park. It would appear that as long as you are sitting in the car keeping the engine running, you are not parking. The School is concerned and the Police have come along in the past but, the problem continues.

e). **Overgrown trees and hedges along Holdens Way**

Chris Weeks, Assistant Highways Service Manager had been contacted by a resident about the trees and hedges along Holdens Way which are very overgrown. They are not being touched by the landowners of the plot and possibly the new owners of Garland house. The trees are so bad that lorry drivers are refusing to go through, to deliver. Ones that do try end up damaging the vehicle. He could write to Garland House but, without going to Land registry (last resort due to cost) unable to identify owners of the plot of land. Are the Parish Council aware who may own this plot? It may be that this has had planning applied for which can be found on the SSDC planning portal and I will put on my list for 2017. However, if any PC members are aware then any help appreciated.

Cllr Paul Deacon said that he was not aware of any problem and this was supported by Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley.

f). **Smart Meters**

Centre for Sustainable Energy advised that Smart Meters were being rolled out across Britain, mainly from 2017 onwards. Would the Parish Council and parishioners be interested in a short informal talk or Q & A session about smart meters before the end of 2016? It would also be an opportunity for householders to find out about other support it could offer. It was suggested that the people organising the Big Breakfast might be interested.

g). **Defibrillator**

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley reported that the Defibrillator at the petrol station had been stolen. Cllr Peter Goodenough drew attention to the fact that the British Heart Foundation want the defibrillators in unlocked cabinets. Several had been stolen and they are obviously being stolen to order. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that the petrol station has CCTV and they are examining their records. She felt it was unlikely we could claim on insurance because the cabinet was unlocked. The Clerk pointed out that it had not been included on our insurance policy because it was sited on the petrol station property. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that we need to consider whether we are going to purchase a replacement and it would have to be locked so that we could insure it. Cllr Peter Goodenough said that when the defibrillator had been delivered we had written to the British Heart Foundation saying that we wanted a locked cabinet. They had replied that they required them to be unlocked because they considered that lives could be lost if they were locked. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that a training course had been arranged for Monday and another machine could be used for that.

Adjournment for Public Comment

Rik Deadman referred to the Smart Meters and advised that he was a gas engineer and four years ago an application had been made to the National Grid to see how we could get gas into Curry Rivel. Apparently, 75% of residents need to indicate that they would be interested. With regard to the Smart Meter he said that they are offering a Smart Meter free until 2020. To people who are already on a Smart Meter they are offering free electricity for a Saturday or Sunday. He felt that rather than having a session at the Big Breakfast it would be preferable for this to take place at a Parish Council meeting where you might get a more open view. Mr Deadman also drew attention to the fact that the minutes used to be made available at the Post Office and were not available at the petrol station. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that a notice board was going to be provided in the petrol station and we could pin a copy of the minutes to that board. We would take Mr Deadman's comments on board.

326). **PLANNING REPORT**

a). **Applications received**

No. 16/04139/REM

Application for reserved matters (access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) following outline approval 15/05429/OUT for the erection of a single storey dwelling and detached garage with provision of a vehicular access. The Oaks, Sandpits Hill, Langport

Cllr Derek Yeomans proposed that the Parish Council had no objections and this was seconded by Cllr Robert Atkins. A vote taken resulted in eight in favour (Cllrs Andy Anderson, Robert Atkins, Mike Cousins, Paul Deacon, Tony Greenway, Madelaine King-Oakley, Tiffany Osborne and Derek Yeomans) with one against (Cllr Peter Goodenough).

No. 16/043318/FUL

Erection of garage extension and conversion of existing garage to residential accommodation. 12 Blackdown View, Curry Rivel, Langport.

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

b). **Applications approved with conditions**

No. 16/04190/FUL

Erection of single storey rear extension. Bramley Cottage, Honeylands, Curry Rivel Langport.

No. 16/04229/TPO

Notification of intent to carry out tree surgery work on 1 no. mature Cedar of Lebanon tree in the SSDC (CURI 1) TPO 2008. Acre Cottage, Stoney Lane, Curry Rivel, Langport.

c). **Application refused**

No. 16/04236/OUT

Outline application for the erection of a dwellinghouse and garage seeking approval for access, with all other matters reserved. Land North of Stoneleigh House, Heale Lane, Curry Rivel, Langport.

327). **FINANCIAL REPORT**

a). **Accounts for payment**

The following accounts were approved for payment on the proposal of Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley, seconded by Cllr Peter Goodenough.

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|---|--------------------|
| The Sign Shed Ltd – Dog Signs | £ 99.00 incl. vat |
| Grant Thornton – External Auditor | £ 240.00 incl. vat |
| Crown Endeavours – Grant for Climbing Wall at Children’s Play Day | £ 552.00 incl. vat |
| Clerk’s Wages – Month 8 | £ 326.80 |
| LBS Worldwide Ltd – Garden Trays for Britain in Bloom | £ 324.90 incl. vat |
| Royal British Legion – Wreath for Remembrance Sunday | £ 17.00 |
| Renewal of membership fee to Society of Local Council Clerks | £ 99.00 |
| EDF Energy re Changing Rooms (direct debit payment) | £ 35.00 incl. vat |

b). **Proposed new station in Somerton or Langport**

The Clerk had received a letter from David Warburton MP advising that Somerset County Council are currently unable to provide any funding. The District Council have said they are ‘very much in favour’ and are looking in detail at their own ability to provide funds. Alongside these efforts, he was writing to ask if it was possible for Curry Rivel Parish Council to make any contribution towards the feasibility study that will get this project moving in earnest. It was agreed that this should feature on a future Agenda for discussion.

c). **Local Council Advisory Service Seminars 2017**

An invitation had been received from Zurich Risk Engineering to attend one of the seminars to be held in January and February 2017. The agenda for these seminars would cover Accident & Claims Review, Managing Events Safely, Manual Handling and a Health and Safety Quiz. There are various venues and if any of the councillors would like to attend a seminar, they should advise the Clerk.

d). **Letter of thanks from Curry Rivel Village Hall Committee for the grant received**

On behalf of the Committee of the Village Hall, I would like to thank the Curry Rivel Parish Council for funding the repairs to the front doors of the hall. The joiner has done an excellent job, and it has made a vast improvement to the appearance and security of the hall. Many thanks. We also invite you to come to the Big Breakfast on Sunday 18th December, and see for yourselves how you have helped us. All profits from the Big Breakfast will be used to redecorate the hall.

328). **PARISH PLAN**

a). **Update on proposed telephone mast on the Church**

Cllr Paul Deacon said that the Rev Scott had suggested that it should be installed inside the Church Tower and not on top. Cllr Peter Goodenough said that he had called in at the EE shop looking at the coverage that the mast behind him gives and 4G coverage is absolutely fantastic all over Hellards Hill for the rabbits etc., but it does not reach into the village.

b). **Britain in Bloom – update**

Cllr Peter Goodenough reported that in the week following the Remembrance Day Service, work began on clearing the War Memorial garden site. Thanks are due to Paul and Carole Crocker, Gina Beauchamp, Annette Stein, Naomi Powell, Sylvia Goodenough and himself for three days of work to remove those plants that could be replanted and plant them in a holding site, chainsaw a large amount of overgrown tree growth and cut up the material produced so that the debris could be collected by the Parish Council's contractor. These same contractors will be removing the two large yew trees on either side of the garden at the beginning of December and then a final clearance of any remaining debris can be done before the start of the ground preparation for 2017's floral display. Many thanks also to an anonymous local resident who bought some of the larger logs for fuel and for the biscuits that he gave to the group. Finally, thanks are due to Peter Wallis for allowing the use of his electricity to power the chain saw – in this way no cost has accrued to the Parish, and in fact we have made a profit, in doing the work so far.

c). **Welcome pack – update**

Cllr Peter Goodenough said that the development of a workable plan to identify newcomers to the village and deliver a welcome pack to them is underway; there are challenges as it needs a network of people willing to continually monitor changes that are happening and also to physically deliver packs. A meeting will be held on the 6th December for volunteers to identify the challenges and how to face them. If anyone wishes to help newcomers to the village, they could contact him. Cllr Derek Yeomans said that there is notification when the house goes up for sale and the Welcome Pack could be put through the door so that it is on the hall table when the new people arrive.

329). **PARKING AROUND THE VILLAGE GREEN AND ON THE HIGH STREET**

At the November meeting the contents of emails received from Greg Phillips in respect of parking around the Village Green and from Angela Webb concerning traffic congestion on the High Street had been brought to the attention of the members. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that it had been suggested that a meeting should be arranged between Sandpits Heating, The Firehouse and the Primary School to reach an agreement. Secondly, tentative arrangements like the contaminated land which is behind the school, which is not ours. It is a problem that has to be solved. Cllr Peter Goodenough suggested that we start the ball rolling by making three proposals. Firstly, double yellow lines around the Village Green so that there is no parking at all. Secondly, a residents' permit scheme so that residents only can park and thirdly, concreting over the Village Green to make extra parking available.

Cllr Tony Greenaway said that does not deal with the problem at the entrance to the Car Park and Sandpits Heating. There are cars parking right up to the corner. He felt that only the Highways Department could deal with that in terms of parking restrictions. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that a meeting had taken place with Highways when they had discussed the question of yellow lines on the High Street and one of their views was that yellow lines would result in speeding traffic through the village. Cllr Tiffany Osborne suggested that there should be spaces for people to park and then white lines where people could pull in as required. It was agreed that we should speak to Highways to look at the possibility of implementing sections of white lining along the High Street. Cllr Paul Deacon said that it was his understanding that it was illegal to park within 30 metres of a junction. Some of the properties around the Village Green have erected notices requesting people not to park in front of their entrances and these areas could be considered for white lining. Cllr Peter Goodenough suggested that Greg Phillips could be asked to get the opinion of everybody around the

Village Green. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley would arrange for a note to be put through the doors of residents on the Village Green saying what we have been approached for and these are a couple of the options we have discussed.

330). **VILLAGE LOGO**

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley projected onto the screen various layouts suggested for the Village Logo. Permission had been received from Mr Schroder to incorporate the Burton Pynsent Monument in our logo which would be used on our headed notepaper and on the Website. Following a detailed discussion during which several votes were taken, the following logo was chosen with a majority vote. Cllrs Tony Greenaway and Peter Goodenough abstained.



331). **WEATHER-PROOF BANNER TO PROMOTE THE CURRY RIVEL COMMUNITY WEBSITE**

Cllr Tony Greenaway said that they were seeking funding for the provision of a weather-proof banner to promote the Website which could be hung in various locations around the village. This would be a simple and cheap way of promoting the Website. A quotation for £75 had been obtained for a banner three metres long by ninety metres high. Cllr Derek Yeomans said that they required to be firmly fixed to prevent them being stolen. On the proposition of Cllr Derek Yeomans, seconded by Cllr Andy Anderson, the purchase of a weather-proof banner was approved. Cllr Robert Atkins abstained from the vote.

332). **COMMUNITY SAFETY**

a). **Speed Indicator Device**

The Clerk had been advised that the proposed dates for 2017 were as follows:-

A378 approach from Langport – weeks commencing 15th May and 20th November 2017

A378 approach from Taunton – weeks commencing 29th May and the 4th December 2017

b). **Report from PC Toni Lines**

On the Avon and Somerset system for Area North, we have had 155 investigated crimes reported for the month of November 2016 and there were 16 arrests. There have been 19 reports of ASB for Area North

c). Cllr Derek Yeomans advised that they will be closing the Police Station at Yeovil and they will be moving in with the Fire Brigade. This means that anyone committing a crime will have to be taken to Bridgwater to be charged and locked-up because there is no custody suite available.

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

County Cllr Derek Yeomans said that he understood that The Bell had been sold for £188,000.

334). **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said she had attended the Precept meeting at District Council and hopefully input at our next meeting. Even if we keep our Precept request for tax exactly the same, it will appear as a plus because the government grant has been reduced. We have to actually decrease our Precept if we want to keep it at a zero increase. The Clerk had supplied the councillors with an up-to-date schedule of income and expenditure for the current year.

We had not requested a Christmas Tree on the Village Green this year because it had not proved to be very successful last year. She suggested that we could put some lights on the little oak tree

adjacent to the Petrol Station. A battery-operated set of lights could be used and it was agreed that this was a good idea. The tree belongs to the Twinning Association and they had no objections.

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley to action.

A £200 grant had been requested from Nisa Local and they had approved a grant of £400 for Britain in Bloom and there will be an official presentation.

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley wished the members a very happy Christmas and it was agreed that the January meeting would be held on Thursday the 12th.

335). **CORRESPONDENCE** - the following correspondence had been emailed to the members.

- a). Somerset Sustainability Transformation Plan
- b). Somerset Rivers Authority Newsletter
- c). Superfast Broadband – Voucher Scheme
- d). Avon & Somerset Police & Crime Commissioner’s Newsletter
- e). Somerset Levels & Moors Weather update
- f). RNAS Yeovilton – weekly information

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

- a). Footpath to the Car Park – update
- b). Parking around the Village Green and on the High Street - update
- c). Caravan on Westfield – update
- d). Replacement of stolen defibrillator
- e). Britain in Bloom – update
- f). Overgrown trees and hedge at Holdens Way – update
- g). Proposed new station at Somerton or Langport – update

CHAIRMAN _____ DATE _____



MERRY CHRISTMAS