

CURRY RIVEL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 2nd JUNE 2016 @ 7.30pm IN THE VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllrs Madelaine King-Oakley (Chairman), Robert Atkins, Mike Cousins, Peter Goodenough, Tony Greenaway, Tiffany Osborne and Derek Yeomans. PCSO Ben Middleditch was also in attendance.

218). **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

219). **APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence had been received from Cllr Paul Deacon.

220). **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 2nd MAY 2016**

The amended 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 Derek Yeomans. Cllr Tony Greenaway abstained from the vote as he had not been present at the meeting.

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

a). There were no matters arising.

Adjournment to Allow Public Comment

222). **PLANNING REPORT**

a). **Applications received**

No. 16/02051/FUL

Single storey rear extension to create storage area (part retrospective). The Olde Forge Inn, Church Street, Curry Rivel, Langport.

On the proposal 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

No. 16/02052/LBC

Single storey rear extension to create storage area (part retrospective). The Olde Forge Inn, Church Street, Curry Rivel, Langport.

On the proposal 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

No. 16/02279/S73A

Application to vary condition 2 (approved plans) of planning approval 13/02721/FUL to allow the substitution of plans; to alter the design of the dwelling on Plot One and provide a detached garage to match that approved for Plot Two instead of an integral garage. Land adjacent to Breach Cottage, Currywoods Way, Curry Rivel. Langport.

This application had only been received today and it had not been possible to advertise it or for the site to be visited. An extension would be requested and it would be discussed at the July meeting.

b). **Applications approved with conditions**

No. 16/00826/FUL

Change of use of Post Office and ancillary rooms to residential use in connection with existing dwelling house (re-submission). Curry Rivel Post Office, High Street, Curry Rivel, Langport.

No. 16/01596/FUL

Proposed loft conversion. Havering, Portfield, Langport.

15/05492/OUT

Outline application for the erection of a single storey dwelling and detached garage with the provision of a vehicular access, all matters reserved (GR340233/125981). The Oaks, Sandpits Hill, Langport.

(The Parish Council had recommended refusal of this application and had been advised that the case officer's recommendation did not accord with the views of the Parish Council. The application was, therefore, referred to the local Ward Member under the scheme of delegation procedure. The Ward Member had accepted the case officer's recommendation and the application had been approved).

15/03009/FUL

Demolition of former commercial buildings and residential bungalow and erection of four dwellings (GR:339098/125299). The Bungalow, Church Street, Curry Rivel, Langport

15/03457/FUL

Erection of bungalow and formation of shared access on land at Acre Cottage, Stoney Lane, Curry Rivel (amendment to existing planning permission 13/00310/FUL granted by appeal Ref: APP/R3325/A/13/2200991 dated 17th December 2013 (GR:338811/124898). Acre Cottage, Stoney Lane, Curry Rivel, Langport.

- c). Cllr Derek Yeomans expressed concern about the pre-application lay-out for development proposed on land adjacent to Linton House. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that Diccon Carpendale had advised that it would probably be at least three months before we see an application. Cllr Derek Yeomans felt that there were major reservations to it.

223). **FINANCE REPORT**

a). **Accounts for payment**

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

Chalmers Chartered Accounts – Internal Audit	£402.00 incl vat.
Clerk's Wages - Month 2	£326.80
Then Media – Community Website design and build – deposit	£400.00

b). **Approval of year end Internal Audit Report prepared by Chalmers & Co. Chartered Accountants**

They had no comments to make concerning the qualitative aspects of the Council's accounting practices and financial reporting. There were no significant findings from the internal audit to draw to the attention of the Council. Amendments had been made on the Annual Return due to the fact that the total figure in respect of the Precept should be broken down with the Council Tax Reduction Support Grant being under Total Other Receipts. The Clerk's expenses were considered to be an administrative cost rather than costs of employment.

The recommended practice regarding the fidelity guarantee is that it should be set at an amount equal to reserves plus 50% of the Precept. This year the amount would be £53,885 and our present cover is only £50,000. It was recommended that the Council should reconsider this cover.

Chalmers & Co. did not propose any modifications to its audit opinion and hence would be issuing a clean audit report.

It was agreed that the Clerk should contact Zurich Insurance about increasing the Fidelity Guarantee cover as recommended by the auditors.

224). **PARISH PLAN**

a). **Community Based Flood Group – Joanna Uglow in attendance to give an overview of the Hills to Levels Project as a whole and the approach to tackling flooding, as well as solving issues in Curry Rivel**

Joanna Uglow advised that there were four main river catchments in Somerset and Curry Rivel is within the Parrett catchment. The Hills & Levels Project started with the Somerset 20 Year Flood Action Plan which came about after the flooding in 2013/2014. FWAG/ SW is the key deliverer of the land management works scheme. It is proposed to look at the whole catchment with the idea that every farm, field and stream has a part to play in the flood management. We are looking at how the management practices in the hills affects the situation on the Somerset Levels. When looking at flood management historically, the idea has been to straighten channels, make concrete culverts to get the water off the land as quickly as possible out to sea. There has been a shift in thinking and they are now using softer engineering breeches. The idea is that if we can slow the water down uphill of towns and villages, then we can use that land to store that water more effectively. However, we need the right solution in the right place. How do we go about delivering flood management? First of all we need to gather all the necessary information and target where the most effective place is. One of the most important things is to gather local knowledge and we are collecting information from people who have lived and worked in the area for a long time. We can then use computer modelling to anticipate where water might flow and that will help us to find places that might be suitable to introduce natural water management. They had worked with an established flood group in West Somerset and had collected information in a form of questionnaires with the help of Parish Councils which indicated the various hot spots. Following discussion with the group, they will now go out and investigate to see if we can put some flood management into those hot spots.

With the aid of the screen, Joanna showed the computer modelling side of the process. This showed examples of known hotspots and showed a plan of where and how it should be possible to make flood management improvements. Money would be required to implement any improvements and there were various pots available. They were trying to use money from other schemes, such as the Countryside Stewardship, etc. They also have money for cattle grants from the Somerset Rivers Authority and some money from the Peoples Post Code Lottery. When we are thinking about the solutions, we first look to see if the land is suitable with the slope, the climate, the soil type and can be carried out in the most sensitive way to the environmental wishes. If not, we would have to look at other options. Tree planting is an excellent way of slowing down the flow and absorbing water. The filter fences are put in the corner of the field and at the end of the flow path. The filter slows the water down and the sediment is kept in the field and the farmer can put it on to the field. Various other methods that could be used were illustrated on the screen.

She had put together a proposal for Curry Rivel as to what she thought would work. This is just a brief outline and it is likely to change with the individuals who choose to get involved. Firstly, we need to get together a group of people who are keen to get involved and look into the flood issues. We might want to identify the roles within that. We would then have to find the organisation that would be able to help. We need to identify the hot spots and then the priority and she went on to explain how this would be done and the procedures to be followed. FWAG's main role would be to engage with the landowners and farmers. The local residents will need to take some responsibility with clearing out ditches. The Somerset Rivers Authority can make grants for natural flood management schemes. You cannot solve flooding completely but, we could work together to improve the situation, if the Parish Council was happy to form a group. She felt this should be the next step and she would be very happy to help us along the way.

Mr Granger said that the recovery part of his job had now passed. When he was first engaged he was dealing with people flooded out of their premises and had insurance issues and wanted to have a

community voice to stop it happening again. We have now moved on and he now dealt with resilience matters in respect of flooding. We deal with getting together with the meetings and asking what their experiences with flooding have been and how can we help them form a Resilience Group.

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that we need to take into account all that had been said and go away and think about it.

225). **COMMUNITY SAFETY**

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

On the Avon and Somerset system for Area North, we have had 138 investigated crimes reported for the month May 2016 and there were 25 arrests. There have been 24 reports of ASB for Area North.

b). **Police UK Report – April 2016**

The following crimes were reported:-

One or near	Dyers Road	Vehicle Crime
“	Dyers Road	Violence & Sexual crime
“	Water Street	Burglary
“	Parsonage Place	Violence & Sexual crime
“	Chatham Place	Vehicle Crime

226). **PROPOSAL FOR CLLR PAUL DEACON TO WRITE REPORT CONCERNING EASTFIELD & WESTFIELD.**

Cllr Paul Deacon had advised that he would like to write a report about the balance of wild life and the use of Eastfield and Westfield which he wanted to investigate. He has been talking to various people because he felt it linked with his involvement with the public footpaths. Cllr Peter Goodenough said that on the Parish Plan one of the first long term items was going to be about the future of Eastfield and the formation of a group of interested people. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that we could look at Cllr Paul Deacon's report as a start. Cllr Peter Goodenough said that we needed to lay down what questions we wanted the report to answer and what we wanted to get from the report. Cllr Paul Deacon had said that it was the balance of the use of Eastfield for community events balanced with the conservation side of the field and he wanted to work with Kathryn Mowatt who was going to carry out a survey of Eastfield. Cllr Peter Goodenough felt that we needed to time to think about this and to formulate the questions that need to be answered. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said she was looking at it in a different way. What does Cllr Deacon think about it coming in with a fresh aspect? Cllr Peter Goodenough said that the group trying to run Eastfield/Westfield were experiencing difficulty to find uses for the two fields. He felt that everyone should be able to voice their opinion. Cllr Tiffany Osborne said that coming in with fresh eyes on an old subject, Cllr Deacon might be able to find something that we had not already considered. Cllr Derek Yeomans said that the first thing that we have to determine is what we want to use the field for. There has to be a criteria and basis of usage. If it is not maintained it would end up full of thorns, ragwort and weeds which means it will have to be mown.

In summing up, Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said, was it a waste of time or do we put forward a proposal of what we want to get out of it? Cllr Peter Goodenough said that Eastfield and Westfield were chronically under-used. They are worth a lot of money and a group of us have been looking as to how we can improve the usage. He felt that it would probably be much better if Eastfield was put in the hands of the group of people that run the wild life field next door. For them to manage it and the Parish Council to give it to them for a peppercorn rent. They would pay all the managements costs out of their own pocket. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley did not agree with this. Cllr Derek Yeomans said that Eastfield was ceded to us officially by Deed and the Parish Council could not abrogate its responsibility. Cllr Peter Goodenough felt that there was no reason why we should not sub-let it. We spend a lot of money on Eastfield and Westfield and get no income. Cllr Robert Atkins said that he supported the Chairman's view that there is nothing to be lost by getting Cllr Paul Deacon to write a report which we could then discuss. At least it give us a ground-work to start

from. So far no pen has been put to paper and there has been no sensible discussion about the use of it.

Cllr Robert Atkins proposed that Cllr Paul Deacon should write a report concerning Eastfield and Westfield. This was seconded by Cllr Tiffany Osborne.

A vote taken resulted in five in favour (Cllrs Robert Atkins, Derek Yeomans, Mike Cousins, Tiffany Osborne and Madelaine King-Oakley) with one against (Cllr Peter Goodenough) and one abstention (Cllr Tony Greenaway).

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley advised that Cllr Paul Deacon had offered to be our contact with Taunton Deane DLO to make sure that the relevant maintenance is carried out. It was agreed to take up his offer.

227). **PROPOSAL TO PLAN ANEAD FOR FUTURE VILLAGE CLEAN-UPS**

Cllr Robert Atkins said he was not sure how successful our recent village clean-up was, in terms of which areas got cleaned-up and how many people were involved. In Heale Lane it has been impossible to find anything because of the growth of the grass. He felt we should put in the diary that we would be carrying out a clean-up sometime in March. We should plan ahead and start drafting something early to advertise in the February Curry Rivel News. We could also carry out another clean-up in October.

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley advised that on the Sunday we got three bags. When she returned the equipment she had mentioned that there was someone in the village who picks up rubbish when walking her dog and they gave her a picker-upper and a yellow shirt. They will support anyone if you want to have a picker-upper that you use regularly. Cllr Robert Atkins advised that the litter behind the Townsend Bus Shelter had not yet been removed and the Clerk was dealing with this. Cllr Tony Greenaway felt we ought to run a campaign about litter through the Curry Rivel News and Community Website, advising that this equipment is available.

228). **PROPOSAL CONCERNING FUTURE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FLYING OF FLAGS AND THEIR LOCATION**

Cllr Robert Atkins felt that the location we have for the flags is quite ludicrous. He felt that they needed to be located on a building. Although we did not own the Village Hall, he thought that we could approach the Village Hall Committee to see if we could mount them somewhere on the building. Cllr Derek Yeomans said that this had previously been suggested but there was the question of whether the wall at the front of the building would take the weight of the flagpoles and with a strong wind whether we could sustain the flags. Cllr Robert Atkins questioned when we fly the flags because we had missed flying a flag on the Queen's 90th birthday. He felt that when we have a diary it should contain the dates when the flags should fly and who flies them. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley pointed out that the reason the flags had not been flown was because we had been unable to locate them. She felt that we should purchase a Union Jack flag and this was agreed. Cllr Mike Cousins would arrange for it be flown in time for the Open Gardens.

229). **REPORT FROM COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

a). **County Councillor Derek Yeomans**

Councillor Derek Yeomans said he had discussed at the last meeting the possibility of having a barrier fitted on the entrance to Eastfield, bearing in mind that we are now in the season when travellers are looking for temporary resting places. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley apologised for the fact that it was not on the Agenda. Cllr Derek Yeomans offered to make enquiries and establish the cost for discussion at the July meeting. Cllr Mike Cousins pointed out that it would require two barriers because of the increased width of the gate.

His monthly report had been circulated to the members for information. There were huge cuts coming down the line. He did not think there would be any Health & Wellbeing this year and he did

not think it would be available next year because it costs £275,000. If we spend this on Health & Wellbeing Budgets, we are going to have to take this sum off of something else which is not possible. The Waste Partnership has some changes to make which will affect our waste collecting services.

b). **District Cllr. Tiffany Osborne**

District Cllr Tiffany Osborne referred to a Conference being held about Bridging the Gaps in Health & Wellbeing on the 28th June, in the new Bridgwater Theatre. It will be looking at the impact of the service cuts and how committees can take action to fill the gaps.

230). **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that we had met with Gary Warren at a meeting set up by Cllr. Derek Yeomans. She wanted to apologise that the members had not been told about this before it went public. She had taken the opportunity to say that someone wanted 20mph in the middle of the village. Gary Warren advised that you cannot do this unless the average traffic speed is under 28 miles per hour. We asked about a zebra crossing up at Westfield and he said that we would have to have a really good pavement on both sides of the road. Again, it is the speed of the traffic approaching too fast because it is right at the beginning of the village. We asked about flashing lights and he said that people get used to them. We are better off with the SID's. They are irregular and they make people think about their speed. We asked about double yellow lines. He said that this would give an empty road and people would drive faster. The Highways' view is that the parked cars actually slow traffic down. There were two actions resulting from our meeting. There was one where a couple of residents had been talking to Cllr Paul Deacon about trying to widen the pavement and we asked him to talk to them again to see what is involved. Highways do not get involved and it would be up to us to purchase a piece of land or whatever is necessary to see if we can get that pavement widened. Highways do not deal with the edge of the pavement which is near the War Memorial and she believed we should bank this up because it is quite a dangerous curve. The other thing we talked about when he rang was rumble strips in the village. It was thought that residents would complain. However, he has put in an order for rumble strips at the beginning and the end of the village. She had ascertained that they would be willing to provide new Curry Rivel signs with pictures on, if we wished.

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley wished to report on what the Website Group had been doing. At present we do not have a logo for Curry Rivel on the Website and it was thought that the Monument was unique to our village and would make an excellent logo as depicted on the screen. It was also thought that consideration could be given to including this logo on any new village signs. We would need to check on the copyright.

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley also advised that we are able to have new troughs at the beginning of the village but, we would have to pay a one-off fee of £500. She had also ordered two bins; one for Heale Lane and one for Dyers Road. Having had a discussion with SSDC she had established that dog excrement and rubbish go into the same bags and they go to the same place. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that we would have some signs made indicating that rubbish bins can be used for disposing both of them.

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that it was time for her to let the members know that she and Cllr Tiffany Osborne had met with a SSDC planner and the landscape officer about a potential site in the village for a Village Hall. The owner of the land was quite positive when approached and the planner is now going off to check the location and the various details. We will await his reply and then she will approach the land owner again. She does not wish to identify the location just in case the owner changes their mind.

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley advised that she had spoken to the Chairman of Langport Town Council about the possibility of setting up a group of Chairmen with a view to learning from each other.

231). **CORRESPONDENCE (emailed to members)**

- a). Changes to Section 106 Contributions Policy - SSDC
- b). Parish Council Website – new funding announced for 2016/2017 tax year

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

- a). Barrier on the new entrance gate at Eastfield
- b). Community Flood Group
- c). Filling of the vacancy
- d). Website Promotion.

CHAIRMAN _____ DATE _____