

MINUTES OF MEETING
held on Thursday, 2nd March 2017 @ 7.30pm
in the Village Hall

**Curry
Rivel
Parish
Council** 
Above the levels

PRESENT: Cllrs Madelaine King-Oakley (Chairman), Mike Cousins, Paul Deacon, Peter Goodenough and Tiffany Osborne and Derek Yeomans.

364). **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Details of declarations of interest are recorded under Minute 368 (b) and Minute 368 (d).

365). **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Andy Anderson, Robert Atkins and Tony Greenaway.

366). **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 2nd FEBRUARY 2017**

On the proposition of Cllr Peter Goodenough, seconded by Cllr Derek Yeomans, the Minutes of the meeting held on the 2nd February were approved and signed by the Chairman.

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

a). **Barrier at Westfield**

Cllr Mike Cousins said there were two keys for the barrier at Westfield.

b). **Barrier for Eastfield**

Cllr Derek Yeomans said that the Barrier and supporting poles are now manufactured and would be installed next week. He would confirm the date.

c). **New Play Equipment for Westfield**

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley advised that the play equipment was now on order and we needed to get the Changing Rooms into a condition where the workmen can use the toilets and hand-washing facilities. This work needed to be carried out in the next two or three weeks because it was hoped that the play equipment would be installed by Easter.

d). **Request from Immacolata Nursing Home for a road crossing**

The Clerk had received an email from Sam Vandenburg in which he asked if there was the possibility of the provision of some form of road crossing between Immacolata House and The Grange on the opposite side of the road. Relatives using bus services are accommodated when travelling from the Somerton direction but, need to cross the road for the return journey. The reverse applies for those coming from Taunton/Curry Rivel. Staff using buses or walking to the home face the same problem since there is no footway along the boundary of Immacolata House. He understood that visitors to The Grange faced the same problem. He also referred to the 50mph speed limit, with the associated danger.

Cllr Derek Yeomans said that there was little likelihood of providing a zebra cross or flashing lights because of the cost involved. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley questioned whether consideration could be given to the erection of signs warning of pedestrians crossing. Cllr Derek Yeomans felt that this would be the cheapest option but, it would help if Immacolata House and The Grange were asked to write to the Parish Council expressing their concerns and we would then make a submission to Somerset County Highways. It was pointed out that The Grange was in the parish of Curry Rivel but, Immacolata House was not.

e). **Dog Fouling**

The Clerk had received an email from Lynette Osment, concerning a complaint about dog fouling in Stoney Lane and Stoneyhurst Drive despite the fact that she had put up signs and dog bins in the area. She asked if we could include an item in the Curry Rivel News advising that dog fouling is an offence. The Clerk had contacted Laurina Deacon, the editor. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that she had established what the fines were with the wording she recommends and this would be forwarded to the Curry Rivel News.

f). **Curry Rivel Website Sign**

The Clerk had been advised that this sign had been removed from the railings in the High Street by County Highways because they considered it a 'highway hazard'. This would now have to be collected from Yeovil and it was proposed to display it on the railings outside The Firehouse.

368). **GRANT APPLICATIONS**

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley advised that grants are normally made in October and April and this year we had put £4,000 into the budget. Taking into account the grants to date, we have £150 remaining in last year's budget. She noted that there were two amounts included in respect of the grass cutting for St. Andrew's Church but, the amount of £1,200 was for the coming year. The Clerk advised that the invoice for the grass cutting carried out in the previous year would have been submitted retrospectively by Taunton Deane DLO and the vat reclaimed. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that we think of it as a grant giving but did not normally think of this as part of our grant budget.

a). **Curry Rivel C of E Primary School – Forest School & Playground - £500**

Peter Staddon, the Head Teacher, advised that they had started a Forest School this year and the children have been outside all year round. They had also invested in the playground with a view to getting the children outside all year round. They had come through the winter and their existing tarpaulins had been destroyed by the weather. They wished to purchase hardy all weather tarpaulins to tie in with their Outdoor Play and Learning programme and use within their newly developed Forest School area. They have expanded the area outside and have had a donation from the Women's Institute for additional trees to provide cover during the winter and shade during the summer.

Cllr Derek Yeomans considered it an excellent project and proposed that a grant of £500 be approved. This was seconded by Cllr Mike Cousins and unanimously agreed.

b). **Curry Rivel Twinning Association – Excursion for Chevilly Twinning Assoc. guests - £260**

Cllrs Madelaine King-Oakley, Paul Deacon and Peter Goodenough declared an interest as they were members of the Twinning Association and would not take part in the discussion of this item.

An application had been received from the Twinning Association in respect of the group of 40 visitors coming from Chevilly, including about a dozen young people. As usual we have held fund-raising events regularly throughout the winter in order to be able to treat our guests well and show them some of the highlights of our area.

We are ever conscious of the expense of hosting and do our best to keep costs well within budget. This year we are having an evening party in the Robert Sewers Hall with a local caterer, local music provider and the Guides to assist with preparations. On Sunday 30th April we hope that some of our guests will experience a Curry Rivel-style British 'Big Breakfast' with other villagers before visiting Exeter by coach on our joint excursion. We aim to involve the village community as much as is possible in a short weekend.

We would like to ask the Parish Council for a grant of £260 to pay for our French visitors to participate, during our excursion, in a canal boat ride on the River Exe. A guide accompanies the

group and gives commentary on the wildlife and heritage aspects of the area. A very worthwhile and enjoyable visit, we feel.

Cllr Derek Yeomans proposed approval of a grant of £260. This was seconded by Cllr Tiffany Osborne and also agreed by Cllr Mike Cousins

c). **Action Somerset – Annual free Children’s Event - £460 plus vat**

An application had been received in respect of the Climbing Wall which has been the most popular attraction at the Annual Play Day for the last six years. This provides the children with physical exercise and mental ability to plot their course to the top. Without the Parish Council’s support, they could not provide this attraction and this would be a great disappointment to the children who come from all walks of life. Being the main sponsor, Curry Rivel Parish Council shows confidence in the event, which helps with further fundraising.

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley proposed that we approve a grant of £460 plus vat (which is reclaimed). This was seconded by Cllr Tiffany Osborne and unanimously agreed.

d). **Curry Rivel Village Hall – Materials for decorating the Sewers Hall & Chatham Room - £476**

Cllr Derek Yeomans would take this item as Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley had declared an interest as a member of the Village Hall Management Committee and would not take part in the discussion.

Roger Hampton introduced himself as the Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee and explained that to complete the Village Hall extension and kitchen refurbishment in 2014, it was necessary to take out a loan. This loan requires an annual payment of £2,749 with the final payment due in 2022. To pay for this loan and for maintaining the hall, funds are raised through Big Breakfasts, Curry Rivel Live and income from rents. Finances are tight.

It is proposed to redecorate the Sewers Hall and Chatham Room and this application is submitted in respect of the cost of paint and materials in the sum of £476 to carry out this work. This support would help with the Hall’s finances and provide the community with an improved hall facility/environment. The Village Hall will fund the labour element of this work in the sum of £1,140. A full specification has been prepared for this project and four quotations were received from local contractors.

On the proposal of Cllr Derek Yeomans, seconded by Cllr Paul Deacon, a grant of £476 was unanimously approved.

e). **Curry Rivel Primary School PTA – White Boards for the Primary School**

Melanie Limm, Chairman of the PTA, was present to speak in respect of this grant application. She advised that they had set themselves a target to raise sufficient funds to purchase three Interactive Screens for two of the classrooms. They form an integral part of the children’s day to day activities and enables the whole class to see everything and become involved. They are linked to the teacher’s laptop. The cost to purchase three Interactive Screens is £5,000 and they have raised just over £2,000 from the various events that have been organised. They need to raise another £3,000 and have further events planned during the School year. Cllr Derek Yeomans asked what sum of money were the PTA looking for and was advised that the cost of an Interactive Screen was £1,600. Mr Staddon, the Headteacher, said that the existing boards were very old and it had been necessary to replace one of them this year.

Following further discussion, during which various points of view were expressed, Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that the cost of three Interactive Screens would be £5,000. With the various fundraising events organised, the PTA have managed to raise just over £2,000 and hoped to raise £1,500 in the summer, with the possibility of a further £300. This leaves a balance of £1,100 and we have enough in the Budget to cover this sum but, it would mean less money available for the October run. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley explained that although we set a budget of £4,000 for the year, we

also have money available in our reserves. The Clerk pointed out that she was also the Financial Officer and advised said that the Parish Council is set a maximum sum per head of population for grants made each year. This figure is much higher and we never go anywhere near the amount allowed. Cllr Derek Yeomans proposed a grant of £1,200 but there was no seconder. Cllr Tiffany Osborne proposed the sum of £1,100 referred to by Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley as being the balance required and this was seconded by Cllr Mike Cousins. A vote taken resulted in five in favour (Cllrs. Mike Cousins, Paul Deacon, Madelaine King-Oakley, Tiffany Osborne and Derek Yeomans). Cllr Peter Goodenough abstained.

f). **Curry Rivel Community Speedwatch – maintenance - £250**

Robert Crowley reported that twelve volunteers regularly observe and record excessive speeds of vehicles in our village – fourteen sites altogether. The fact that the approximate 2-1/2% of passing traffic, which is speeding, is being kept to this figure is, in his opinion, an excellent reason for the existence of Speedwatch. He was grateful for the loyal service of the volunteers, as he knew many villagers were too. There are expenses for the upkeep and maintenance of equipment and sundries for which he was applying for a grant.

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley pointed out that the Curry Rivel Speedwatch Group had also paid to book the Village Hall for the Annual General Meeting of the area groups which had been attended by Sue Mountstevens, the Avon & Somerset Police & Crime Commissioner.

Cllr Tiffany Osborne felt that they were doing an excellent job and proposed that a grant of £250 be approved. This was seconded by Cllr Derek Yeomans and unanimously agreed.

g). **1st Curry Rivel & Drayton Girl Guides – Four members joining group visit to Sri Lanka**

In March 2018 four members of the Guide Unit are joining a group of twenty other Somerset Guides in a trip to Sri Lanka on a volunteer programme organised by Projects Abroad. They are going to be working in Care Centres and Tsunami Camps. They are also linking up with ‘School in a Bag’. A local charity to pack and distribute bags to the children the Guides will be working with. The Guides will be organising a programme of fundraising activities and community service to raise the profile of this expedition and £10,000 was needed to participate in the trip. There will be a regular update in the Curry Rivel News.

Cllr Peter Goodenough felt that this application was marginal because we were only allowed to give to groups and charities that benefit the Parish. Cllr Derek Yeomans said it was for a corporate body operating in the Parish and asked how much they were asking for. It had been left to the discretion of the Parish Council. He felt the application was rather premature and suggested that they should come and report back to the Parish Council when they have carried out their fundraising. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that further consideration could be given to a grant in the October grant round and this was agreed.

Adjournment to Allow Public Comment

It was reported that a couple of cold callers had been received recently and a question raised as to whether this was still operational. Cllr Peter Goodenough said that the sign at Red Hill had been removed. It was suggested that the Clerk should check with the Police what the current situation was with ‘cold calling’.

369). **PLANNING REPORT**

a). **Applications received**

No. 17/00325/OUT

Demolition of existing outbuildings and erection of a new dwelling, three bay carport and improved access. Hill Crest, Sandpits Hill, Langport.

Clive Miller, the agent for this proposed development, said that this was an outline application for a single dwelling. He referred to the details of the scale, layout and the means of access. It also means improving the access and parking to the existing dwelling. It is a single dwelling with a car-port and it involves the re-development of a two-storey building and a single building. The proposal is for a 1.5 storey detached dwelling, three bay carport and driveway and turning area. The new dwelling would have a total footprint of approximately 190 m2. The improved access and driveway to serve Hill Crest covers a total area of around 200 m2. Cllr Mike Cousins referred the fact that a local farmer, who has access to land beyond, had expressed concern about the narrowing of the track over the years. He wished to ensure it would remain unobstructed to agricultural vehicles. Clive Miller advised that there was nothing in the proposed development that would have conflict with this requirement. Cllr Derek Yeomans asked if the Agents had established who owns the track and was advised that an Article 14 Notice had been published in the newspaper which gave an opportunity for any unknown landowner to come forward and no-one has come forward to claim ownership.

Following further discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley that the Parish Council had no objections to raise in respect of this application and this was seconded by Cllr Mike Cousins. A vote taken resulted in five councillors in favour (Cllrs Robert Atkins, Mike Cousins, Madelaine King-Oakley, Tiffany Osborne and Derek Yeomans). Cllr Peter Goodenough abstained.

No. 17/00555/FUL

Erection of single storey extension and garden room to replace existing UPVC conservatory. Apple Trees, Westover, Langport.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Derek Yeomans, seconded by Cllr Mike Cousins, that the Parish Council had no objections to raise in respect of this planning application and this was unanimously agreed.

No. 17/00520/FUL

Remove and replace part single storey and part two storey rear extensions. Replace existing garage with new garage. Weaver Cottage, Wiltown, Curry Rivel, Langport

Following discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Mike Cousins, seconded by Cllr Derek Yeomans, that the Parish Council had no objections to raise in respect of this planning application and this was unanimously agreed.

b). Application approved with conditions

No. 17/00040/FUL

Single Storey rear extension, removal of existing flat roof to garage to allow for new dual pitched roof and removal of existing flat roof to front dormer to allow new pitched roof element. April Cottage, Furlong Lane, Curry Rivel, Langport

c). Application refused

No. 16/05328/FUL

Removal of hedge and erection of fence to front of the dwelling (retrospective application). Burview, Churchway, Curry Rivel, Langport.

370). MORE SUPPORT FOR PROMOTING NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Michael Beacham was in attendance concerning this item. The Clerk advised that she had a recent one to one meeting with PC Toni Lines during which the question of promoting support for Neighbourhood Watch was raised and she had been asked to bring this to the attention of the Parish Council. Cllr Derek Yeomans said that when there was a high amount of crime, residents were keen to volunteer their services but, when it gets quiet, the numbers dwindle. Cllr Peter Goodenough asked how many volunteers there were on Neighbourhood Watch. Mr Beacham could not give an exact number but advised that most of the representatives were on the Taunton side of Curry Rivel. There is no Chairman and it has reverted to a 'street organisation' whereby a representative is given

responsibility for a certain number of houses in a designated area. The police have contact details for the representatives and they each receive communications from the police. There is no co-ordinator. There are areas of the village that we have never been able to cover with representatives. Mr. Beacham said that Neighbourhood Watch is mentioned on the Curry Rivel Website and volunteers requested. Cllr Paul Deacon questioned whether people understand exactly what Neighbourhood Watch does. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that she would include an item in the Curry Rivel Parish Shorts. Cllr Peter Goodenough suggested that we should re-visit the Emergency Plan and make the Neighbourhood Watch part of that.

371). **FINANCE REPORT**

a). **Accounts for payment**

The Following accounts were approved for payment on the proposition of Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley, seconded by Cllr Tiffany Osborne.

Clerk's Wages – Month 11	£ 326.80
Curry Rivel Village Hall – Rent	£ 115.00
Devon Association of Local Council's – SW Regional Conference	£ 72.00 incl. vat
Society of Local Council Clerks – Membership Fee	£ 93.00

b). **Taunton Deane DLO invoice for the annual Grounds Maintenance Works**

The Clerk advised that that an invoice had been received from Taunton Deane DLO to cover Curry Rivel Grounds Maintenance Works in the sum of £9,848.46 plus vat. Cllr Paul Deacon said that the DLO Contract that we have is very scant in detail and quotes £6,950.90 plus vat. The invoice for this year is £9,848.46 plus vat and does not give a breakdown of the areas covered. He felt that the Parish Council should not pass this account for payment until he had spoken to them and this was agreed. He had prepared a spreadsheet which had been forwarded to the councillors for information and South Somerset District Council had been asked to submit a tender based on this spreadsheet for comparison.

c). **Proposal to purchase anti-slip yellow step-nosing for steps leading to the Car Park**

Cllr Paul Deacon said that the steps had not been painted for some time and they cannot be painted whilst the ground is wet. He proposed that anti-slip step-nosing called Safetreads be purchased from Sui Generis International Ltd, at a cost of £124.08 including vat. They were guaranteed for ten years. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Tiffany Osborne and unanimously agreed.

d). **Proposal to obtain quotations in respect of hedge cutting at the Allotments**

Cllr Paul Deacon said that he had first been in touch with Taunton Deane DLO on the 12th December concerning this hedge being cut back by the 1st March. Since then they have said that they would have to quote for it having failed to cut it on two occasions. He has been waiting weeks for them to quote and has obtained a couple of quotes from local people. One was for £300 plus vat from Andy Jones and this had been accepted, having discussed the situation with Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley. This work has now been carried out and an invoice awaited.

e). **Proposal to obtain quotations in respect of pollarding of Willow Trees at Westfield**

Cllr Paul Deacon said that there are large Willows which require pollarding. He had obtained three quotations and the best one was for £600 plus vat which also included moving two small trees on Westfield. Cllr Paul Deacon proposed acceptance of this quotation. This was seconded by Cllr Derek Yeomans and unanimously agreed.

f). **Proposal to obtain quotations in respect of hand-rail and new paving at the War Memorial**

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley drew attention to the fact that when elderly people go up to the steps to look at the War Memorial, there is nothing for them to hold on to. She also wanted the views of the members about new paving. We could potentially get a grant to re-pave the area around the War Memorial. Cllr Mike Cousins said that if it was decided to re-pave, he would recommend Saxon Slab or Brick Pavier. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley pointed out that it would be necessary to speak to Greg Venn, the Conservation Officer, because the War Memorial is listed.

372). **PARISH PLAN**

Curry Rivel – Britain in Bloom - update

Cllr Peter Goodenough expressed his thanks to Cllrs Mike Cousins and Andy Anderson digging the holes for the posts to go in. The sponsorship we have had so far is Travis Perkins for the Postcrete to firmly fix the posts around the War Memorial garden, Sandpits for the poles, Greenshutters for the compost. The posts will have hanging baskets on them, and the posts will be linked by rope swags. The planting will be in the 2017 colour theme of purple and gold. There was a meeting taking place today in Torquay concerning the South West in Bloom to which some of the volunteers had gone to talk to Shaun Cregan who is our mentor.

373). **DEFIBRILLATOR – update**

In the absence of Cllr Tony Greenaway, there was nothing further to report at the present time.

374). **PROPOSAL FOR WHITE LINING IN THE HIGH STREET**

a). Cllr Tiffany Osborne said that there were a number of residents who had asked if there was anything we could do about all the parking that is taking place in the High Street. She said that you could argue that there might be some natural pull-in places on which you could put a white line. It would be necessary to contact the local residents. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that consideration could be given to some white lines around the Village Green. Although they are not compulsory, people usually recognize that double white lines indicate that it is someone's entrance and do not park there. Cllr Paul Deacon felt that a solution would be to put white lines around the junction at Sandpits onto the main road, denoting a 10 metre illegal parking area. It was suggested that contact could be made with the traffic wardens in Langport and the Clerk of Langport Town Council would be approached.

b). **Additional Car Parking**

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that there was a potentially suitable site in a field behind the Church opposite the Old School Room. She would like to write officially to the Trustees of the land. It would be necessary to build a car park and she suggested purchasing the bottom section of the field from the Trustees. Cllr Tiffany Osborne question why Parish Council money was being used for something that benefits the Church and adjacent businesses. They should also be asked to contribute. Following further discussion during which various points of view were expressed, it was agreed that an approach could be made to the Trustees.

375). **VILLAGE CLEAN-UP – 3rd/5th March – volunteers required**

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley asked if there were any volunteers willing to do a couple of hours in the Car Park. She had obtained pickers from South Somerset District Council and anyone wishing to be involved should contact her and she would make sure that we cover the village. The clean-up would be carried out between 10am and 4pm.

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

A written report received from County Cllr Derek Yeomans had been emailed to the members and the report of District Cllr Tiffany Osborne would feature in the Curry Rivel News.

377). **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that she had attended the Area North meeting which had not been as well attended as usual. She advised that South Somerset District Council is being used as a test for the 2017 Test Census because it has the worst communication and this is why it has been chosen. People in Curry Rivel will be picked at random and asked if they have filled in their Census form, hopefully on line.

378). **FENCE ON THE FOOTPATH LEADING TO THE CAR PARK – update**

Cllr Derek Yeomans said that the path had been measured and it was exactly 5 feet wide. He suggested that the Parish Council spend the money on the erection of a concrete wall which we

would not have to be maintained. Cllr Mike Cousins said we need to know exactly where the boundaries of the neighbouring properties are on the other side of the footpath. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that we are endeavouring to get it recognised as an official County Council footpath and Cllr Robert Atkins is dealing with this matter. That would mean that if she ever closed it again we would be able to call in the police because it is a public right of way. The Clerk was asked to obtain the land registry document for the property adjacent to the footpath.

379). **CORRESPONDENCE (email to the members)**

- a). Article from the Office of National Statistics (ONS) in regards to their 2017 Test Census.
- b). Better Planning & Better Farming - NFU

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

- a). Installation of Barrier at Eastfield – update
- b). Installation of new play equipment at Westfield - update
- c). Re-visiting Emergency Plan re. Neighbourhood Watch
- d). Proposal to obtain quotations in respect of hand-rail and new paving at War Memorial – update
- e). Britain in Bloom - update
- f). Defibrillator - update
- g). Fence on the footpath leading to the Car Park – update

CHAIRMAN _____ **DATE** _____