

MINUTES OF MEETING
held on Thursday, 5th APRIL 2018 @ 7.30pm
in the Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley (Chairman), Cllrs Andy Anderson, Robert Atkins, Mike Cousins, Peter Goodenough, Tony Greenaway, Tiffany Osborne and Derek Yeomans. Also, in attendance was County Cllr Clare Aparicio Paul.

593). **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

594). **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

595). **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THE 7th MARCH 2018**

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

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

a). **Climbing Wall grant approved for Children's Play Day**

Cllr Andy Anderson referred to the grant of £475 approved for the hire of the Climbing Wall for the Children's Play Day. He was rather surprised and disappointed that, although we had received an email demanding a deposit to be paid to the supplier within seven days, no thanks had been received for the grant awarded.

b). **Dog & Litter Bins**

Cllr Tony Greenaway said he wanted to raise the issue of the absence of dog and litter bin at Currywoods Way. He pointed out that it had been discussed last year and agreed to put one in. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that the land in question belonged to the County Council and they demanded money for a licence to put the bin on their land so, we backed away. It was a question of identifying another site adjacent. Cllr Tony Greenaway said that, having carried out the 'litter pick' it had brought to our attention the rubbish appearing in the hedges, on the road and in gardens even more so than normal. He felt it was important to identify an area of land close to the junction of Dyers Road and Currywoods Way where a bin could be provided. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that we needed to speak to the District Council because they would know more about that area of land than we do, and she would follow this up. She was now aware that there is a cost to the Parish Council to rent every trade refuse bin taken out and so we should be aware that there is an inherent cost that will be part of our expenses. It was agreed to put this item on the next Agenda for further discussion.

c). **Removal of slide and installation of new equipment**

Cllr Mike Cousins expressed his thanks and those of his neighbours for the work that had been carried out on the play equipment at Westfield. Cllr Tony Greenaway had recently visited Westfield and it was nice to see the equipment being used.

d). **Councillors' Register of Interests Forms**

The Clerk had received an email advising that Register of Interest forms that are submitted to the District Council will now be published on the Website as a change of process. This had been forwarded to the members.

e). **Overgrown hedging 1 and 7 Bell Orchard**

It was a question of establishing who owns the land so that a letter can be sent and the Clerk would make the necessary enquiries.

f). **Appointment of nominative trustee to the Curry Rivel combined charities**

Cllr Derek Yeomans said he volunteered at the last meeting to be a trustee but not to take on the post of Treasurer. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley had received a notification from Steve Benny which thanked Cllr Yeomans for volunteering as our trustee and advised that a meeting would be taking place very soon to initiate a new Chair and Treasurer. The main meeting would probably be held in July.

Adjournment to Allow Public Comment

Robert Crowley enquired if we could expect to have a lot more development in this village of the size of that which has taken place behind him at Vickery Close. What he would love to see is small clusters of affordable homes because we need affordable homes in this village. Not large four bedroomed executive type houses. Cllr Derek Yeomans said that the land that runs down between his orchard and the development at Stanchester is on the list for development. You cannot predicate whether you are going to get affordable homes because if they build more than fifteen, they have to include the prescribed percentage of affordable homes in there. What we may consider to be an affordable home is very much away from that because you have shared ownership and passing them to housing associations where they are available for rent. He felt that this village could be targeted for development because of all the facilities it has to offer. We are one of the two strategic villages on the list for development. Robert Crowley felt that properties would mainly be owned by people commuting between home and work creating extra traffic and he found it extraordinary that this village was being targeted. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that because we have the facilities we are likely to get targeted by the District Council. She stressed that everyone must reply to the Parish Plan survey request and submit their views about what you would and would not like to see in the parish. There is a box in the village hall entrance together with forms for completion. Cllr Andy Anderson said that the Parish Council did forward a response to the recent consultation process for the County Plan. In that we had mentioned that we would like to see more investment in the village towards small businesses to provide local employment. Cllr Derek Yeomans said that the biggest employer in the area was the Abattoir and they are putting in plans to increase its workforce by a hundred and twenty. A resident living next to the field that was owned by Notaro, asked whether it is likely that someone could get planning authority by an Appeal. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley pointed out that there was no set boundary now around the village and we honestly could not say. It would depend upon the application. Cllr Derek Yeomans said that once they put an application in we will see what happens. Cllr Mike Cousins said that they tend to build old people's homes. Cllr Tony Greenaway said that it seemed decisions like this are being taken out of our hands. He felt that the only time there is a successful objection to developments like this is when a mass protest is made by the community as a whole. We need a concerted effort to make sure that development does not take place. That is why we are carrying out this Parish Plan Survey at the moment and the response so far had been rather disappointing. We need to get the word out to the community that if they care

about this village, they have to put in the time and effort to make their views known. Cllr Derek Yeomans said that if we have mass applications i.e. big building sites for 20/30 houses, the chances of getting it to Area North as a committee decision are going to be limited. This is because the criteria is that we are now getting dangerously near the situation where we are going to be 10% which is a target whereby the government will take over the planning matters in the areas and do what they want. The Area Committees will disappear. We are just below that at the moment at 9.6% where these applications have been refused. It is going to be a lot more difficult to get it through Area North and turn it down, because if there is any danger of it being refused for what seem to be inadequate reasons, it will be 'two starred' which means it will go back to the SSDC Regulation Committee for a final decision. They would probably normally approve it.

Robert Crowley drew attention to the fact that when they had tried to object to the development behind Vickery Close and it made not the slightest difference. He had met with the Inspector and he could see from the body language between him, the developers and the planning officer that they were not interested in what the residents were saying.

Cllr Peter Goodenough asked if a Neighbourhood Plan would be better than a Parish Plan. Cllr Derek Yeomans said this would be a huge job which takes about five or six years to get through with a referendum at the end. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that Cllr Andy Anderson was looking into this at the moment. Cllr Derek Yeomans advised that the Neighbourhood Plan will not stop building, all it will do is say where you can build but, it will not change the number of houses that you will get.

597). **PLANNING REPORT**

a). **Applications received**

18/00623/REM

Reserved Matters application for the erection of a detached dwellinghouse and carport. Land adjoining Garland House, Townsend, Curry Rivel, Langport.

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

18/00681/FUL

The erection of a single storey side extension at ground floor level and replacement of first floor glazing enclosure at front. Domus, Churchway, Curry Rivel, Langport.

On the proposition of Cllr Derek Yeomans, seconded by Cllr Mike Cousins it was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council had not objections to raise in respect of this application.

1800658/COU

Change of use of land from agricultural to domestic garden for Stoney Cottage. Land North of Stoney Cottage, Stoney Lane, Curry Rivel, Langport.

On the proposition of Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley, seconded by Cllr Mike Cousins, the Parish Council recommends approval of this application subject to two conditions; removal of development rights and no fragmentation of the site.

18/00680/FUL

Alterations to include raising of roof to form first floor accommodation, installation of roof lights and erection of extensions to west and east elevations. 9A Stanchester Way, Curry Rivel, Langport. *Cllr Mike Cousins proposed approval of this application and this was seconded by Cllr Derek Yeomans. A vote taken resulted in seven votes in favour (Cllrs. Madelaine King-Oakley, Andy Anderson, Robert Atkins, Mike Cousins, Peter Goodenough, Tiffany Osborne and Derek Yeomans). Cllr Tony Greenaway abstained.*

18/00414/REM

Hill Farm Red Hill, Curry Rivel, Langport. The erection of an agricultural workers dwelling (Reserved Matters).

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

b). Applications approved with conditions

18/00080/FUL

The conservation of existing garage into habitable accommodation, erection of a single garage and new window to west elevation. Little Acorns, Stoney Lane, Curry Rivel, Langport.

18/00239/FUL

The erection of a single storey rear extension and formation of dormer windows. 38 Chatham Place, Curry Rivel, Langport.

18/00256/LBC

The carrying out of external repairs and maintenance to front elevation of dwelling. Rest Harrow, Wiltown, Curry Rivel, Langport.

c). Application refused

18/03846/FUL

Change of use of land to residential, siting of mobile home, portacabin and formation of hardstanding. Land at Westfield Lane, Curry Rivel, Langport.

d). Advice of Appeal Receipt

Appeal in respect of Application Decision Ref. 17/03388/FUL
Planning Inspectorate Appeal Ref. – APP/R3325/W/18/3195312
Appeal Starting Date - 26th March 2018

Appeal by – Mr D Davis Appeal Type: Written Representation

Proposal: Proposed new single storey dwelling on land associated with Stancrest including works to an existing access.

Location: Stancrest, Currywoods Way, Curry Rivel, Langport.

If the Parish Council wishes to make any comments, it is necessary to submit three copies within five weeks of the Appeal starting date quoted above.

598). FINANCE REPORT

Before commencing the finance report Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley would like to express a vote of thanks to Cllr Paul Deacon for the amount of work he had carried out when negotiating the maintenance contract because he has saved us well over £3,000. The vote of thanks was seconded by Cllr Derek Yeomans and unanimously agreed. Cllr Andy Anderson pointed out that Cllr Deacon

had also negotiated with Bob Macey to keep the car park clean and also the path leading from the car park to the High Street.

a). **Accounts for payment**

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

Cemetery Rates – paid by monthly instalments	£367.53
Changing Rooms – paid by monthly instalments	£225.60
Car Park Rates (thanks to Cllr Peter Goodenough)	Nil
EDF Energy – Changing Rooms	£ 50.70 incl vat
Use of the Chatham Room for two meetings	£ 40.00
Play UK Playgrounds Ltd – Installation of Amazon Basin	£660.00 incl. vat
The Games Room Company – Table Tennis Table grant	£399.00 incl. vat
RBL Curry Rivel, Drayton & Fivehead Branch – Silent Soldier	£100.00
SSE Enterprise Contracting – Repair of Car Park Lighting Unit	£ 60.00 incl. vat
Water 2 Business – Changing Rooms	£ 10.45
VerticalXtreme – Deposit for Play Day Climbing Wall	£100.00
Clerk’s Wages – Month 12	£332.00

b). **FINAL AGREED CONTRACT WITH SSDC FOR GROUNDS MAINTENANCE 2018/2019**

Cllr Paul Deacon had emailed a copy of the revised Contract which had been reduced from £9,295 to £5,756.31. Additional works to St. Andrew’s Churchyard in the sum of £1,207.84 and other additional items in the sum of £470.75. Cllr Derek Yeomans proposed that we accept the amended Contract. This was seconded by Cllr Andy Anderson and unanimously agreed.

c). **PKF Littlejohn LLP – 2017/2018 AGAR and External Auditor instructions**

The Clerk advised that a new External Auditor had been appointed and had received a seventeen-page document which explains what has to be done. She had emailed it to the Internal Auditor requesting their advice on the procedure that will be required for the current year.

d). **GDPR COMPLIANCE**

Cllrs Andy Anderson and Robert Atkins wished to attend one of the training sessions to be held on the 12th April at a cost of £10 per head and the Clerk was asked to book this. Other councillors could also attend at £10 per head if they so wished. Cllr Tony Greenaway said he could not attend a session himself and asked if they could enquire about the cover for Community Websites. The Clerk would also be attending a training session on the 30th April at a cost of £25 and she would be supplied with various templates.

599). **CURRY RIVEL PARISH PLAN – update**

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that we would have a presence at the Village Hall Big Breakfast and Curry Rivel Live with a view to gathering further support.

600). **FORMULATION OF PARISH COUNCIL’S SUBMISSION TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION – update**

The date for this had now passed.

601). **SPEEDING AND PARKING IN THE VILLAGE – update**

Cllr Andy Anderson advised that there was work in progress with regards to parking in the village and speeding. He and Cllr Robert Atkins had attended a meeting held by Robert Crowley to discuss traffic issues within the village. We had come up with a couple of actions that we needed to investigate further. Once we have answers to those investigations we will come back to the Parish Council. County Cllr Claire Aparicio Paul advised that she had a divisional meeting with a new chap and highlighted all those issues that had been reported but, whilst progress is very slow we have had an email about lowering the speed limit. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that Gary Warren had offered to come and speak to the Clerk about the problems caused by parking, particularly illegal parking opposite junctions.

602). **REMOVAL OF BARRIER AT PARSONAGE PLACE – update**

The Clerk had sent a letter to Yarlinton Homes concerning the complaint received from a power wheelchair user who was unable to use the footpath in Parsonage Place due to barrier restrictions. The space between the two components of the barrier is 930mm and it was understood that the minimum require for a power wheelchair is 1200mm with 1500mm considered ideal. A request was made to move or relocate the barrier to cover this problem. They had acknowledged receipt and advised that our request which would be passed to the appropriate Service Manager for a response within fourteen days.

603). **SOMERSET COURSE RE. FINGER POSTS – update**

The course had been attended by Cllrs Andy Anderson, Derek Yeomans, Paul Deacon and Madelaine King-Oakley and they had obtained a certificate and were covered by Somerset County insurance if they worked at the roadside. However, Cllr Mike Cousins was the only councillor who holds a Chapter 8 Supervisory Certificate at present. Cllr Tony Greenaway suggested that we should have a status report on each sign and was advised that Cllr Paul Deacon had prepared a chart on all of the finger posts. There is a member of the public who lives in Abbey Close that is interested in taking part and Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley asked for approval to put his name forward for the next course. This was agreed.

604). **INSTALLATION OF SYSTEM TO REPLACE THE (SID) PROGRAMME - update**

Cllr Robert Atkins had attended a meeting and there were about 50 people there from all around the County. They outlined what is happening. The county is using old machines and they are starting to fail. They cannot afford to replace them and so they are introducing a charge. You can still hire them from county and it would cost £100 for every installation when they are put up. We have been using the SIDs twice a year at each end of the village and so we are looking at £400. Longer term it might be a thought to find the money and buy a SID unit, possibly just for our own use. We could use it at other locations if we had extra brackets and posts in the right places. There was a suggestion that the County Council might pay for the installation of posts. It does mean that if we had our own SID we could include other areas like Wiltown which he did not think was covered at present. It would give us an idea of the speed and also the volume of traffic going down there. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that we do carry out Speedwatch there. Robert Crowley and Speedwatch have kindly agreed that, if we should buy a unit, they would be happy to manage the device, putting it up and taking it down and taking the data. If we did purchase a unit we could try and share it with other locations so that we could get some return on the purchase. The cost to purchase is about £2,500 to £3,000 and probably better to work on £3,000 by the time we get brackets that work with the unit purchased and a spare battery. He had approached four firms and he had placed them on hold at the moment to see which way we could go. Of the Councils represented at the meeting, 12 planned to buy SIDs, 20 were considering a group clustering purchase and 20 planned to use the Somerset County Council Scheme. His suggestion would be for this year, because we do not want to over-

stretch our budget any more, that we go with the Somerset County scheme and pay our £400 so that we have got the facility and use it on the same basis as we have in the past. We could also build into next year's budget £3,000, or thereabouts, to purchase one. In the meantime, we can start talking to other parishes to see if they wished to share in the cost or hire from us.

Cllr Derek Yeomans said that he had also attended the meeting and there were the ancillary costs of buying them, such as installation and training etc. We would have to insure it in case of accidents should it fall off and cause damage and have an indemnity policy in that regard. There was a very good email sent out by David Grabham which went into all the vital details. Cllr Derek Yeomans considered we should go with the Somerset County Council scheme which would give us time to look at our budget for the following year.

Cllr Andy Anderson asked how the data that we get from the SID unit gets fed back into the system. Cllr Robert Atkins said that all the data would be downloaded and would be available to us. They are designed to go into spreadsheets. The intention is for the County Council to have this information as well so that they have a complete record. Cllr Peter Goodenough said that if we go with the County Council Scheme what is our criteria that it has been a success. Cllr Robert Atkins supposed that the answer was very much in the way that Speedwatch creates a temporary improvement. There are always those that will speed. There are a number of people not paying enough attention and might be doing something else inadvertently. They see something flash up and they slow down. It just serves to reduce the number of people that might speed. Robert Crowley said that Speedwatch operates two hours per week and the way we manage the sessions is to hold them on different days, different times and different locations. This does create an incentive for drivers to be aware. This does not include those who have no intention of driving at a reasonable speed. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that we have previously had data from SIDs before but, have we used it. Cllr Andy Anderson said that the data proves that the village does not have managing with the speed. Cllr Derek Yeomans referred to the sign that flashes 30mph in Ash which brings up three points and everyone drives through Ash at 30mph. The only way we can achieve this in Curry Rivel is having the occasional visit by a man on a motor-cycle handing out three points to people who speed. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that they occasionally have a van parked in the garage. Cllr Derek Yeomans said that we need the same type of sign as they have at Ash when you know that you have to slow down or you will be in trouble. Cllr Peter Goodenough asked if we could operate it with a warning one month and without the following month and then see what the difference is. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley proposed that we do this four times this year at a cost of £100 each time and to go with County Council. This was seconded by Cllr Peter Goodenough and unanimously agreed.

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

- a). District Cllr Tiffany Osborne advised that she had nothing further to report at this time.
- b). County Cllr Clare Aparicio Paul advised that the Library Consultation has been extended until June. She asked the members to encourage the parishioners to engage positively in the consultation. Langport library was showing very good usage figures with a good footfall through the door.

The Private Members' Bill that was being put forward by David Warburton MP in respect of the Somerset Rivers Authority ran out of time at the first sitting. It is due for a second sitting at the end of April. If he is successful in getting the Bill through, the Somerset Rivers Authority will become a Private Precepting Body.

606). **FUTURE MEETINGS**

a). **Annual Parish Assembly and Annual Parish Meeting**

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley drew attention to the fact that we will be holding our Annual Parish Assembly on the 26th April. This is the meeting where all the groups have the opportunity to come along and report on their activities and as Chairman she gives her annual report. It is not a requirement for councillors to attend. The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Thursday, 10th May.

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

a). Village signs

b). Litter Bins

CHAIRMAN_____ **DATE**_____