

CURRY RIVEL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 6th OCTOBER 2016 @ 7.30pm IN THE VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllrs Madelaine King-Oakley (Chairman), Andy Anderson, Robert Atkins, Mike Cousins, Tiffany Osborne and Derek Yeomans.

On the proposal of Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley it was agreed that item 9 on the Agenda should be taken after item 6 because there were a number of parishioners present who wished to discuss the closure of the footpath leading to the Car Park.

283). **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

As a member of the Village Hall Management Committee, Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley declared an interest in the item dealing with Curry Rivel Live and the grant application submitted by Curry Rivel Village Hall. She would not take part in the discussion of these items and Cllr Derek Yeomans would take over the Chair.

284). **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs. Paul Deacon, Peter Goodenough and Tony Greenaway.

285). **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 1ST SEPTEMBER 2016**

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

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

a). **Update on vandalised hedge in Heale Lane**

Cllr Robert Atkins advised that a SSDC Planning Officer has advised that Mr Griffiths has agreed to replace the hedge. The Planning Officer will visit him to advise on the line and planting specification for the hedge.

b). **Road/Street Signs in the village**

John de Ronde had noticed how few road signs there were in the village and had prepared a document which describes the general shortcomings of signs in the village together with a map detailing specifics. This document would be forwarded to the councillors for information. Cllr Derek Yeomans pointed out that we would have to pay for the signs and costings would have to be obtained for approval. The Clerk would forward this information to Denise Wallace, the Street Naming Officer to obtain an idea of the cost involved.

c). **Re-use of existing graves in the Cemetery**

A question was raised at the September meeting about the rules in respect of the re-use of existing graves. John de Ronde said that the English rule was after seventy-five years. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley asked the Clerk to make a note of this and the question of increased burial fees etc., would be discussed at the end of the financial year. The Clerk pointed out that grave plots can only be purchased for an interment and not reserved in advance. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley felt that it required more research and Cllr Andy Anderson had volunteered.

287). **GRANT APPLICATIONS**

a). **Grant Application No. 1 – Curry Rivel & District Twinning Association - £450**

The following letter had been received from Barbara Hamlin, the Chairman of the Twinning Association.

As you know the Twinning Association raises funds to promote the understanding and friendship between our local Communities and that of Chevilly, Loiret, France with particular interest in projects for young people and families in the village.

The Parish Council awarded £330 last September for a special project supporting the learning of French at the Primary School. I am glad to report that this has been a tremendous success...the school is pleased to have the support and the children enjoy their lessons enormously. In fact the Headteacher would like to increase the visits from once a month to once a fortnight!

Therefore, the Twinning Association would like to apply for a Grant of £450 to continue with this project for the remainder of this academic year. The Twinning Association still has £90 remaining from last academic year which we intend to use with the new grant application to provide two classes of pupils with support for their French learning every fortnight through to July.

Meanwhile, the Twinning Association is still continuing with its fund-raising towards the visit to France every two years. We were delighted to be able to sponsor a family from the school to travel free of charge on the visit to Chevilly this year as we have in previous years. As a result of the lessons the children received at school, we believe the interest in the visit increased this year, as we had many more applications than normal. Our fund-raising also allowed us to offer 6 young people connected to our community a reduced rate for their trip to Chevilly.

We are very pleased to continue our commitment to the Village Community and know that you will give us every support you can.

Approval of a grant in the sum of £450 was proposed by Cllr Derek Yeomans, seconded by Cllr Mike Cousins and this was unanimously agreed.

b). **Grant Application No. 2 – Curry Rivel Village Hall - £595**

As a member of the Village Hall Management Committee, Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley had declared an interest in this application. She left the room during discussion of this item and Cllr Derek Yeomans took over the Chair.

Sarah North, the Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee, drew attention to the fact that a lot of improvements had been achieved, including the new Foyer and Kitchen. Toilet facilities for the disabled had been improved and a hearing loop installed. This had been made possible by donations from various sources. Hall funds have been used wherever possible and are fully committed for the financial year 2016/2017. The emergency fire exit doors to the Main Hall urgently requires attention as deterioration prevents its use. The doors would be removed temporarily and the entrance boarded up because the work would not be carried out on site. It was estimated that this work would take about two weeks to complete.

Cllr Derek Yeomans asked if the new doors would be made of wood and was advised that it was intended for the existing doors to be refurbished with hard wood by a craftsman. They would be coated by the Weathershield exterior paint system which guarantees eight years' all-weather protection.

Approval of a grant in the sum of £595 was proposed by Cllr Mike Cousins, seconded by Cllr Andrew Anderson, and this was unanimously agreed.

c). **Grant Application No. 3 – St. Andrew's Church – Grass Cutting - £1,200**

This grant would be used to maintain the grass and the paths of the churchyard to a level that Parishioners and visitors expect, something for which insufficient volunteers are available and which would otherwise require a considerable outlay from the Church's financial resources. The (few) volunteers available can concentrate their efforts on other sorts of necessary work of greenery etc., which together with the regular grass mowing and weed killing should result in a well-cared for

impression. John de Ronde said that the grant was to cover grass mowing in the Churchyard eight times in the year and weed treatment of paths in the Churchyard three times a year.

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that it was sensible for it to be done as a grant application so that it is not something that we are tied to every year in our budget. Secondly, we can claim the vat back if we use our own contractors, Taunton Deane DLO. Thirdly, she felt it was an important part of the village. Cllr Derek Yeomans said that, bearing in mind the situation with the Councils in Taunton, their prices will not remain the same. John de Ronde pointed out that a 'wildlife flower area' may be introduced in the Churchyard in 2017. These areas would be marked and it would mean a reduction of the total area where grass needs cutting. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley recommended that Cllr Paul Deacon should be kept informed as he is responsible for overseeing our contractors.

Approval of a grant in the sum of £1,200 was proposed by Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley, seconded by Cllr Derek Yeomans, and this was unanimously agreed.

Adjournment to Allow Public Comment

Julian Morgan of Coopers Cross said his was the property most affected by the footpath. Over the last four or five years it has become an area where people do gather. Beer cans are discarded and the smell of urine make it most unpleasant. There is also the problem of general dog mess. He was not saying that he agreed with the closure; he was just trying to give a balanced view. It is quite foul down there at times. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley asked if there was anything the Council could do to improve that. There is a light there but, whether this is a good thing or not. Catherine Cooper said that she was interested in the wider discussion about children getting to school safely and the question of the provision of a crossing. Alan Norton said that for the safety of the children, the footpath could be kept open during the day and closed in the evenings. Tony Bridge said that he used the footpath to get the fish and chip van on a Wednesday evening and had been surprised to see it shut.

288). PLANNING REPORT – Mike Cousins to report

a) Application Received

No. 16/03871/FUL

Change of use and conversion of part of existing barn into a garage for secure storage of private cars, domestic equipment and horticultural machinery. Beechfield Farm, Currywoods Way, Curry Rivel, Langport.

On the proposition of Cllr Mike Cousins, seconded by Cllr Derek Yeomans, it was unanimously agreed to recommend approval.

b). Application approved with conditions

No.16/03546/FUL

Erection of external covered smoking area. The Olde Forge Inn, Church Street, Curry Rivel, Langport.

c). Tree preservation order – Parish Council for information

Application 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.

The Parish Council had no objections to raise in respect of this application.

289). THREAT TO CLOSE THE FOOTPATH LEADING TO THE CAR PARK

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley advised that the footpath was closed by the resident of the house next to it. She is fed up because, as an example, she was in the garden playing with her two-year-old granddaughter and people were walking along the footpath swearing away. She felt she'd had enough and that is why she closed off the footpath.

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that she had a copy of the deeds and it has been given to the village. It is a proper footpath and has been used for the last thirty-five years. If there has been a right to use the footpath for over twenty years, it would be very difficult to defend the closure of it. Cllr Derek Yeomans said that because it has not been closed once a year, it is a public right of way although it is not officially on the map. He took the point that these things were happening in the evening. The point made by Alan Norton about closing the footpath at night was a good idea but, it does mean that they would have to go out at night and lock it up. We would have to write and say that we understand that the situation is unpleasant for the residents and we are willing to come to an agreement if she would be willing to open it in the morning at, say, 8am and close it at 6pm in the evening. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley considered that there should be better lighting and notices requesting those using the footpath to respect the adjacent properties. Cllr Andrew Anderson said that we could set a precedence if we moved the behaviour from the footpath on to some other area, then those residents will start to complain. Cllr Madelaine King Oakley said that at this point it is important that we get the footpath open. A gate could be useful but, she would rather not because she could see it not being opened at 8am in the morning. She felt we could use other tactics first, such as signs and better lighting. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley pointed out that the Parish Council has to pay for any repairs to the resident's fence. We should write a letter immediately giving her three days to take down the fence, or otherwise we will. Cllr Derek Yeomans said we would have to be careful not to damage her property when removing it. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said she would call on her tomorrow to see if she will take it down. If not, we will remove the fence in three days. We will obtain quotations for signs that indicate 'respect your neighbours and keep the noise down' and look into the provision of additional lighting. Cllr Robert Atkins suggested solar lighting. This item to feature on the Agenda for the November meeting.

290). **COMMUNITY SAFETY**

a). **Report from PCSO Melissa**

PCSO Malissa Thompson reported that there were problems with youngsters and their language in Stanchester Way. Sheds are being broken into and large numbers of sheep and livestock are being taken. Ear-tags are being removed so that their owners cannot identify them. Cllr Derek Yeomans said that there are not the staff to deal with these things. We do not have policemen on the ground.

Sarah North drew attention to the fact that there is traffic travelling at 60mph on the 40mph section of the road going towards Hambridge.

291). **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 and unanimously agreed.

Curry Rivel Village Hall – Rent	£ 60.00
Western Fabrication Ltd – Posts for Bus Shelter	£292.93 incl. vat
Glasdon UK Ltd – Bench for Bus Shelter	£276.80 incl. vat
Clerk's Wages – Month 6	£326.80
Wessex Water Rates – Changing Room – balance	£ 11.63
EDF Energy – Changing Rooms balance	£ 18.10 by DDR

b). **Grant Thornton, External Auditor Report – Audit for year ended 31 March 2016**

This report had been received and the Council has been asked to complete a Satisfaction Survey. An invoice for £200 plus vat would be received within the next few weeks.

c). **Proposal to cancel monthly voucher fee paid for return of cheques to be replaced by the cheque stub being initialled by the two councillors signing the cheque**

The Parish Council was being charged £3.75 per month for the return of endorsed cheques. It was proposed by Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley that this arrangement should be cancelled and replaced

with the two councillors signing the cheque initially the cheque stub. This was seconded by Cllr Tiffany Osborne and unanimously agreed.

d). **Proposal for the Clerk to have a credit card to enable official purchase orders to be made on-line**

It was proposed by Cllr Derek Yeomans and seconded by Cllr Tiffany Osborne that the Clerk should obtain a credit card which would enable official orders to be placed on-line in the name of the Parish Council so that the vat could be reclaimed. This was unanimously agreed.

292). **CURRY RIVEL LIVE – update**

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley had declared an interest in this item. She would not take part in the discussion and Cllr Derek Yeomans would take the Chair. Before leaving the room, she wished to express her view and felt that we should not abandon Curry Rivel Live. She considered Eastfield was an excellent place for it. The other locations are too small. She did not know why they were worried about the grass cutting, because it has been cut in previous years and it is still full of wonderful flowers. We would not cut the whole field we would just cut any area. Simon Champion is not able to organise it at any other time and it raises money for local organisations. A letter of support from Roger Hampton was read out in which he pointed out that it was a community family event and there is a lot of bad feeling about the fact the Parish Council might prevent this event from being held on Eastfield next year. Curry Rivel Live enabled the Village Hall Committee to raise nearly a thousand pounds this year and also supports other organisations in the village. Derek Yeomans said that if Simon Champion could identify the area he required for the event, he could see no reason why this area could not be mowed. He felt that Mr Champion should provide a plan of where he wants to set up the tents. Following a lengthy discussion during which various points of view expressed, it was proposed by Cllr Derek Yeomans that Cllr Mike Cousins should speak to Simon Champion and ascertain what area he requires and come to a negotiated area that will be agreeable. This was seconded by Cllr Tiffany Osborne and unanimously agreed. Cllr Robert Atkins said that in principle we support Curry Rivel Live.

293). **PROPOSAL TO PURCHASE OF NEW NOTICE BOARDS FOR THE CAR PARK AND THE POST OFFICE/PETROL STATION**

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that the Post Office had closed and we had lost a valued site for notices to be put up. It was felt that the Car Park was a good place to have a notice board to display our notices. She and Cllr Peter Goodenough thought that a good location would be just as you go into the Car Park there is a bit of pavement where you can stand and read the notices. Underneath by the Sandpits sign would be a good place. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley had checked a plan and it showed that the Parish Council own that area of pavement. She had found a company on the web and the notice board shown on the screen would cost about £800. It has plastic glazing, is waterproof and has a lock. Public notices of the various events in the village could be put into it. The Clerk asked who would be responsible for keeping it up to date and was advised that one or two people had previously volunteered. If the councillors agreed in principle with the purchase of a notice board in the region of £800 to £1,000 we would go ahead and obtain quotations. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that another possible location for a notice board at the Shell Garage on the left as you go out of the garage and it should be possible to purchase a suitable notice board for about £70.

300). **PARISH PLAN**

a). **Letter to St. Andrew's requesting an update of a possible telephone mast on the Church**

This letter has been sent. This matter would be discussed at the next Parochial Church Council meeting to be held on the 14th November and Mr John de Ronde we report back to the Parish Council.

301). **COMMUNITY SAFETY**

a). **Police Report UK – July**

On or near - Giles Close two ASB
Churchway Close four ASB

Stanchester Way – Public Order – cause fear, alarm or distress under investigation
South Drove – Violence & Sexual Offence
Westfield – Public Order – cause fear, alarm or distress under investigation
Chatham Rise – Violence & Sexual Offence
Church Street – Other Theft
Church Street – Violence & Sexual Offence
Parking Area – one ASB

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

On the Avon and Somerset system for Area North, we have had 130 investigated crimes reported for the month September 2016 and there were 19 arrests. There have been 32 reports of ASB for Area North.

c). **Speedwatch**

The reports are now featured in the Curry Rivel News.

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

District Cllr Tiffany Osborne said she would be attending an event at Hazelbury Mill where ‘Let’s end loneliness in South Somerset’ will be held and she would report back.

County Cllr Derek Yeoman’s report for September had been emailed to the councillors. Referring to the Housing & Employment Land Availability Assessment (HELLA), Cllr Derek Yeomans said that at the moment, the only land that is being assessed for development is the one up at Stanchester Way. It is for the whole plot and we can look forward to about fifty houses. There is no indication in respect the central block of the village or the orchard behind his house.

303). **CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley referred to the free doctor’s bus that goes from Curry Rivel and adjacent villages to Langport and asked who paid for this service. She felt that we should advertise this service and would contact the Surgery. It was pointed out that, with the closure of the Post Office, the prescriptions are now being delivered to the Shell Garage.

Referring to the Hinkley Point C Community fund and the email circulated by Cllr Peter Goodenough, she advised that she was in consultation with a land owner and did not want this to be upset. She would be meeting with the family just after Christmas and would be able to give an update at the January meeting.

304). **CORRESPONDENCE (EMAILED TO MEMBERS)**

- a). The 2017/2018 Local Government Finance Settlement – Technical Consultation Paper – Capping Consultation
- b). Information on G.I.S – Mapping System for Public Footpaths & Rights of Way
- c). The Hinkley Point C Community Fund
- d). Housing & Employment Land Availability Assessment (HELLA)
- e). The Clerk reported that a letter had been received from Bob & Donna Macey expressing a big thank you to the Parish Council. Its advice and support throughout the renovation period had been invaluable.
- f). A letter had been received from Huish Episcopi Academy requesting a donation in respect of

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

- a). Cllr Mike Cousins reported that the posts in the dug-out area are all free and are dangerous. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that a proposal should feature on the agenda for the November meeting for removal of these posts.

CHAIRMAN _____ DATE _____