

MINUTES OF MEETING
held on Thursday, 6th SEPTEMBER 2018 @ 7.30pm
in the Village Hall



PRESENT:- Cllrs Paul Deacon (in the Chair), Robert Atkins, Tony Greenaway, Madelaine King- Oakley, Tiffany Osborne and Derek Yeomans.

462). **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
There were no declarations of interest.

463). **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
An apology for absence had been received from Cllrs. Andy Anderson, Mike Cousins and Peter Goodenough.

464). **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 2nd AUGUST 2018**
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.

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

a). Cllr Paul Deacon said he had received a request from Cllr Andy Anderson to go on a course called Introduction to Local Council Administration. It is a one-day course and the cost would be £99. This was unanimously agreed on the proposal of Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley, seconded by Cllr Derek Yeomans.

b). **Annual Inspection of Play Equipment at Westfield**
Cllr Paul Deacon advised that an annual inspection had been carried out at Westfield and there were two items on the report that were considered to need urgent attention. He had obtained a quotation from South Somerset District Council in the sum of £243.94 to undertake that work. He had also looked on the Internet for the price of the swing seats which were involved to confirm that the quotation was competitive. He had spoken to Cllr Andy Anderson and the Clerk. In view of the urgency it was decided to go ahead. Cllr Derek Yeomans asked if this included the Annual Inspection and was advised that it did not. Cllr Derek Yeomans asked how much this would cost. Cllr Paul Deacon advised that the cost would be £379.90 and Cllr Robert Atkins confirmed that there was a sum of £400 in the budget to cover this work. Cllr Derek Yeomans asked if this would cover us in respect of the ROSPA regulations and was advised that this was correct.

c). **Cemetery**
Cllr Derek Yeomans referred to an email he had recently sent in respect of the state of the Cemetery. He asked if the maintenance of the Cemetery was included on our contract with South Somerset District Council. He referred to a complaint he had received from a resident concerning the present state of the Cemetery. Cllr Paul Deacon would look into this complaint.
Action: Cllr Paul Deacon

d). **Installation of the water supply at the War Memorial**
Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley advised that she had given a cheque to the Clerk for £300 for the grant towards the installation of the water supply at the War Memorial received from the Conservation Foundation associated with the Water Board.

c). **The War Memorial**
Cllr Robert Atkins said that the War Memorial is looking absolutely delightful. He felt that the Parish Council should record our appreciation for the work carried out by CRiB and others for keeping it in the way it is now.

Adjournment to Allow Public Comment

466). **PLANNING REPORT**

a). **Applications Received**

No. 18/02064/FUL

The erection of 4No dwellings and the formation of access road. Land Rear 1-3 Westover, Langport, TA10 0DZ.

Lee Wright of Wright Consult LLP said that the application was for 3 two storey dwelling houses with two bedrooms and one bungalow with room in the roof space which will have three bedrooms. The intention with the three dwellings is that they are obviously of a smaller size and in terms of policy, they are quite desirable for small starter homes. The bungalow would have two bedrooms in the roof and one on the ground floor. This would allow someone to live solely on the ground floor with upper floor space for a live-in carer (if ever required) or visitors, making this property highly flexible and suitable for people with mobility or disability concerns. In terms of style, external doors will be fitted with level thresholds and internal corridors are of a width to accommodate wheelchair users so that access to each property is viable.

Existing dwellings in the Langport area are mainly two storeys as well as some three storey houses that are from varying periods and made up of varying materials, but with a predominance of walling in red brick, natural stone and render; and roofs of clay tile, concrete tile, natural slate and artificial slate. With this in mind and the location in the Langport Conservation Area, it is proposed that the development will use local materials such as clay red bricks for walling, clay tiles for roofs and timber joinery. Further, the development proposes dwellings of similar bulk and massing as a number of the smaller dwellings nearby, with a high level of sustainability and energy saving features, to provide attractive and economical homes in which to live, as well as having a reasonable purchase price and running costs.

A resident said that from the residents' point of view they were concerned that it was overdevelopment with the four houses proposed and the two houses already existing. The car parking where that is all going to fit in and the access on the little road is extremely narrow. There is a small entrance for the cars to come out of onto the highway and it will increase the flow of traffic quite considerably. Where it is proposed to build three of the houses has historically been used by the residents of numbers 2 and 3 Westfield to park their cars. Also, their existing parking spaces will disappear. The access from the main road is difficult and on a camber.

A second resident referring to the access onto the main road said, if this is a new development, it should not be allowed because of those cambers that go onto the main road and is not wide enough for two cars to go down there, let alone the extra cars from four new properties. It means that one car would have to back up for the other one to go down. There would also be problems for delivery vehicles. It is the wrong location for the development from a highways point of view.

Cllr Derek Yeomans questioned whether the road into the development was going to be adopted or is it going to be a private road. He was advised that the tenant would be responsible for paying for the maintenance of it. He questioned the width of the road and was advised that it had a pinch point of 3 metres. He said that the statutory width of any road going through a development should be 5.5 metres. If it was narrower you would have difficulty getting a refuse lorry through there. He was also concerned that a fire engine is 3.3 metres wide and if there happened to be a fire in the bungalow down at the end, he did not think that the 45 metres that fire engines are capable of extending their hoses would be sufficient. He asked whether it was Floodplain 2 and was advised that it was outside the Floodplain.

Cllr Tony Greenaway said that in one of the Highway Reports it said that 'the red line is different'. What does that mean? The developers had shown the red line brought out in line with the pavement and the official records show it going up to the front of the building. That is what the developers have queried with the highways and are awaiting their comments.

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that there is a building in front of the entrance. How do Nos.1&3 get in for parking? Lee Wright indicated on the screen how residents from properties number one, two and three had been allocated parking in the planning application.

Cllr Tiffany Osborne said that the exit from those three builds was totally blind and they were relying on the Highways to give them a Right of Way sign. Lee Wright said that they were still waiting to hear from the Highways. Cllr Tiffany Osborne said that it is a very narrow entrance and delivery vans are not going to be able to get down there. Cllr Robert Atkins asked for the widths down the side and was shown on the screen that it went from 3 metres up to 5 metres and then drops down to 4 metres.

Cllr Tiffany Osborne considered the houses to be of good design but, felt that the area was not suitable for this development. Cllr Derek Yeomans did not object to the proposed houses as they are small but, the bottom line is that the access gave him great concern if cars met on the corner.

On the proposition of Cllr Paul Deacon, seconded by Cllr Tony Greenaway, it was agreed that the Parish Council liked the concept of the houses, the two-bed units especially but, we believe that the site is overdeveloped. We are of the opinion that the access road is too narrow and will create safety problems. We are also very concerned about access onto the main road and would want a detailed report from Highways before we could change our opinion.

No. 18/02358/S73

Application to vary planning condition 2 (approved plans) of planning approval 17/04408/FUL to allow changes including installation of rooflights and glazed gable ended roof and amending a proposed window into a bi-folding door. Land Adjacent to Digswell, Sandpits Hill, Langport.

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that she had visited the site today and they already have planning approval but, what they want to do is be able to make some additions. The attractive looking glass at the top that they want to add to the bi-folding doors and some roof lights. All the trees that were there to hide the wall have been removed, but there was quite a high fence. She did not think it was out of character because there is another house with dormers and the whole area is quite higgledy-piggledy. She wondered why they were so concerned about an extra room upstairs.

Cllr Tony Greenaway said that one of the objections pointed to the fact that one of the previous applications similar to this had been approved on the grounds that there was no further development in the future. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that there had not been any conditions on this application.

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley proposed that the Parish Council had no objections to raise in respect of this planning application. This was seconded by Cllr. Paul Deacon and unanimously agreed.

No. 18/01944/FUL

Erection of single storey extension to dwelling (revised application).
Apple Trees, Westover, Langport, TA10 0DZ

On the proposition of Cllr Madeline King-Oakley, seconded by Cllr Robert Atkins, it was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council had no objections to raise in respect of this application.

No. 18/02359/S73

Application to vary planning condition 01 (approved plans) of approval 18/00414/REM to amend the design. Condition Number(s): Condition No. 01 Condition(s) Removal: The clients wish to amend the design of the new house.

The new condition needs to include the following new drawing numbers
1715/PL/01a, 1715/PL/02b, 1715/PL/03b, 1715/PL/04c, 1715/PL/05b
Red Hill Farm, Red Hill, Curry Rivel, Langport, TA10 0PH

Cllr Tony Greenaway was concerned that there was a public footpath that runs up beside this property which is difficult to access. It was agreed that this came under a different heading and could be reported to the Somerset County Council's Rights of Way Department.

On the proposition of Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley, seconded by Cllr Derek Yeomans, it was agreed that the Parish Council had no objections to raise in respect of the planning application concerning this property which will be permanently tied to the farm.

467). **FORMATION OF A YOUTH CLUB – update**

Isobel Moore and Richard Harris were in attendance concerning this item. Richard Harris said that in the minutes of the August meeting of the Parish Council it said that they would be seeking employment by the Parish Council, which was not the case. Youth Workers work independently. Cllr Paul Deacon questioned whether they would want some money from the Parish Council and was advised that this was the case. Richard Harris said that they had looked at a year's package that can be taken down to a six months trial, with staff training, police checks, resources etc. The aim is to create a safe place where young people can play and socialise. A programme would be developed to include activities that the children would enjoy. We would

arrange opportunities such as trips and training. The initial plan would be to open up for seven to eleven-year olds to thirteen-year old as a trial. Help them to identify things they would like to achieve in life. Information on youth policies and insurance can be obtained from Somerset County Council. Cllr Robert Atkins asked if he could give some idea of where he was running Youth Clubs at the moment and was advised that they had been running a Youth Club at South Petherton for about eight years and a Youth Club in Chard. Isobel Moore is involved with Langport Youth Club.

Cllr Paul Deacon asked who would actually be running the Youth Club. Would you be doing it independently or is it still a part of the organisation you were talking about. Richard Harris said that the organisation he works for would not be part of it and Isobel Moore would be the key person with him as a second worker. Volunteers would be sought and they had spoken to the Village Hall management committee. The only issue is that Thursday is the only free evening, when the Parish Council meeting is held and they would require the whole hall. Isobel Moore felt that there was a need for a Youth Club in Curry Rivel. Cllr Tiffany Osborne said she would like to see some continuity because we did have a Youth Club previously. What would happen if one of you decided not to do it anymore. Isobel Moore said that hopefully, the volunteers involved would carry it on until a replacement was found.

Cllr Robert Atkins asked if it was their concept to run the Youth Club themselves or are you here to train people who will run it. Is this part of a business that you are setting up to run a number of Youth Clubs? Isobel Moore said that it was not and she would be running it herself. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley asked when they were hoping to start the Youth Club and was advised early next year. She asked how much finance they thought the Parish Council would be providing. Isobel Moore referred to a figure of £9,000 running costs for a youth club last year but, would not necessarily expect the Parish Council to fund all of this. Cllr Paul Deacon said that he believed there were already 20 children from Curry Rivel attending the Langport Youth Club on a regular basis. Cllr Tony Greenaway said that he understood that the South Petherton model works with the other social sports groups. Cllr Paul Deacon said he agreed that a Youth Club in Curry Rivel was a good idea. It has a big community and a shame that we do not have a Youth Club. Ginny Smith and Laurina Deacon had been involved in the previous one and he had received a note from Ginny Smith which he would circulate to the members. Ginny Smith was very much in favour of a Youth Club and holds Isobel Moore in high regard. She considered that Langport Youth Club is very well run. Cllr Paul Deacon said that £9,000 is a frightening figure because it is not in our budget. We would have to look at some other way of raising the necessary finance. He suggested that if a breakdown of the £9,000 could be provided we could review this. There are grant applications in October which he thought was the way in which this would have to be managed. Cllr Tiffany Osborne said that they should see what funding they could receive and if you are short we will try and do something about it. Cllr Paul Deacon said if they could identify anywhere that the Parish Council could go for funding, they should let us know as soon as possible and send it to the Clerk together with the various items that you have raised this evening. Isobel Moore and Richard Harris were thanked for their attendance.

468). **FINANCE REPORT**

a). **Accounts for payment**

The following accounts were approved for payment on the proposition of Cllr Paul Deacon, seconded by Cllr Tony Greenaway.

Vertical Xtreme – Climbing Frame for the Play Day (balance due)	£365.00
Clerk’s Wages – Month 5	£333.60

An invoice had also been received from EDF Energy for the Changing Rooms electricity in the sum of £85.04, which included a daily standing charge of 80p which was thought to be exorbitant. This was due to be paid on the 11th September by direct debit.

Action: Cllr Tony Greenaway

b). **Comparison of expenditure against Budget 2018/2019 – to 5th September 2018**

Cllr Paul Deacon had circulated the new Management Report where the relevant accruals had been incorporated indicating money that we have not yet spent but, we are committed to spend. This gives us a very different balance remaining on the budget. If we can get an accurate picture of what we carried forward from last year that should give us a reliable figure of what we can spend. Cllr Paul Deacon asked if the councillors were happy with the inclusion of the accruals column and the answer was yes. The Clerk circulated a spreadsheet to the members giving a breakdown of the expenditure and income year to date.

469). **ADOPTION OF NEW FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

Cllr Paul Deacon said that the members had all had a copy of the revised Financial Regulations and asked if they had any questions to raise. He asked if everyone was happy to adopt the revised document and if there is anything in particular that we wish to change, we make a note of that. He drew attention to the fact that we must not sign blank cheques and councillors must initial the counterfoils. Anything that we need to purchase must go through the Clerk. Cllr Robert Atkins said that he had noted that we do not always get three quotations. It was pointed out that three quotations are required over an amount of £500. On the proposal of Cllr Tiffany Osborne seconded by Cllr Tony Greenaway, the adoption of the new Financial Regulations was approved.

470). **BACK-UP OF CLERK'S PC DATA**

Cllr Paul Deacon said that he believed that the Clerk's PC is not backed-up and nobody else has access to it. He felt that we should have a back-up system in place and one other person should have access so that if anything happened and the Clerk's house burnt down with the computer in it. The Council would be very embarrassed. It was agreed that it must be backed up with a second person having access. Cllr Tony Greenaway said that you could put it on to a Cloud basis as well. It could also be kept on a remote hard drive as long as it is kept somewhere else in the garden or shed.

Action: Cllr Tony Greenaway

471). **PARISH SURVEY – Cllr Tony Greenaway to report**

Cllr Tony Greenaway said that we were going to look at the vital statistics of the Survey, messages and key results. It is just over six months since we started the Survey. There were two simple questions 'what do you like about living in Curry Rivel' and 'what would you like to see improved and made better'. We had a total of 132 responses. 34 were put on the website and the remainder through various village events etc. People liked the countryside and the walks, the access to the links, transport, motorways and railway station. What came out most of all was the facilities. These were the groups in the village, the Church, The One Stop, the Firehouse, the Garage and the Post Office. 42 people commented that they liked the facilities the best. Improvements to the Car Park facilities was mentioned most often. Traffic and traffic calming throughout and around the village was also a major concern. The perception of speeding through the village was also referred to but, Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that it had gone down 10% since Speedwatch was started eight years ago. They were also concerned about all the new building going on in the village. Litter and dog fouling were also referred to but, as a Council, he felt that we had done our best to improve the situation. Other concerns were, improving bus services, more shops, more pubs and eating places. The question he now had for the Parish Council was how we use this information to plan ahead and more importantly we need to feed-back these results. Cllr Paul Deacon said that what we must not do is to let that information go to waste. We need to remind ourselves as a Parish Council of the priorities the residents have got and make sure we are on track. It was agreed that Cllr Tony Greenaway should put together an article to be circulated. Cllr Derek Yeomans suggested that if we contact the new inhabitants who might be more enthusiastic than those that have lived in the village for years. Cllr Tony Greenaway was thanked for undertaking this survey.

472). **DEBRIBRILLATOR APPEAL – update by Cllr Tony Greenaway**

Cllr Tony Greenaway advised that we had reached the £1,200 target. He apologised for his genuine error when he had assumed that the cost of the defibrillator included the cost of the cabinet, because that is what we paid for the defibrillator installed at the garage. He had gone back to clarify the cost and advise that we were getting near our target and when could we think about installing it. He was advised that he had got the cost of the cabinet but, you have to find the cost of the defibrillator, whichever way you want to do it. The bottom line is that we need about another £1,080 for the cabinet. He was as shocked as the councillors were but, the cabinet for the original defibrillator which was stolen was donated by the British Heart Foundation.

Cllr Derek Yeomans felt we should be concentrating on CPR training rather than installing defibrillators because you have not got enough time to get it unlocked and attached to the patient. Cllr Tony Greenaway said that obtaining a second defibrillator was for that very purpose and Cllr Paul Deacon said that this had been agreed by the Parish Council. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley drew attention to the fact that members of the public had donated money towards its purchase. Cllr Tiffany Osborne questioned whether it had to be a specific cabinet and Cllr Tony Greenaway said that we could explore other options. Cllr Paul Deacon pointed out that the power supply has to go into it because you put the defibrillator into a charger which he thought was part of the cabinet.

Cllr Tony Greenaway advised that he had already made some approaches for further funding. He had applied for a grant of £800 to the Prime Foundation and was awaiting a decision. He had also made an approach to

the County Stores some months ago. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley suggested that we should get three quotations and go to two other companies as well. Cllr Tony Greenaway said that the good news was that the community has raised over half of the funds needed. Cllr Paul Deacon asked if the Appeal was still open and advised that the on-line Appeal was open and the next Big Breakfast would be taking place shortly. Cllr Tony Greenaway said that he had encouraged Roger Hampton, the Chairman of the Village Hall, to apply for a grant from the Parish Council up to a £1,100, depending on what we raise in the meantime and he hoped the Council would approve this application. Cllr Derek Yeomans asked how much we required and was advised that if we went for the Heart Start Defibrillator it was another £1,080. Cllr Tony Greenaway would continue to seek funding and report to the next meeting. Cllr Paul Deacon drew attention to the fact that at the beginning of the year we had approved £4,000 for grants and the grants approved in March left us £197. Cllr Tony Greenaway said he was looking at the October run and was advised that was for the year but, it did not mean we could not move it from other budgets. He pointed out that we have only paid one of the grants approved in the March run.

473). **BEACON AT MONUMENT FOR END OF WW1**

Cllr Paul Deacon said we were looking at the way of remembering the end of World War One as a community. Cllr Robert Atkins said that nationally quite a lot of places will be arranging something. There is a firm that makes a gas-fired Beacon which is the safest way to manage it. You would have the expense of purchasing the big gas cylinders required. You would also need special insurance and you would have to go to a specialist firm for a public event of that nature. He considered that the cost would be considerable. You also have to think about safety and security and he felt that the Monument was totally the wrong place because you could not get support services from the Police or Ambulance anywhere near it. Cllr Derek Yeomans felt that people would go up there that evening with their alcohol and leave it their litter there. It was suggested that if we did decide to have one, we could possibly go to Eastfield, Westfield or the Village Green, as long as it was a gas-fired one. With a Beacon there would be a lot of issues to resolve. Following further discussion, on the proposal of Cllr Derek Yeomans, seconded by Cllr Robert Atkins, it was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council was not in favour of having a Beacon.

Tony Potter had suggested purchasing twenty-one aluminium seated silhouettes at a cost of £44 each. He wants to seat twenty-one in the Church pews; one for each soldier that was killed in the First World War. The British Legion is buying three and he has a grant for ten. Cllr Paul Deacon said that the Parish Council might consider supporting the idea of the seated silhouetted figures. The British Legion would have to come to the Parish Council and ask for a grant if they needed to purchase some more figures. Following further discussion, it was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would not directly purchase any of the silhouetted figures. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that this now meant that we were doing nothing towards this event.

Cllr Derek Yeomans said he would prefer annual sponsorship to be given to a young person in the village who is keen to attend a College or University, or to serve an Apprenticeship. He would rather see something that would benefit a young person on behalf of those young people who sacrificed their lives for them. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that we are not allowed to give to individuals as a Parish Council. It is against our rules. Cllr Paul Deacon said we could not agree to an ongoing spend. He suggested we should give some finance to the new Youth Club but, this idea was dismissed. He felt this should be put down as a World War 1 Commemoration every year.

County Cllr Clare Aparicio Paul said although you cannot do it for an individual, you could create a Charitable Association that supports a scholarship fund etc., in which you would put your money. Individuals could then apply to that fund for assistance. Cllr Paul Deacon said that he liked the idea and it was agreed that Cllr Derek Yeomans would make a proposal at the next meeting.

Action: Cllr Derek Yeomans

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

- a). County Cllr Clare Aparicio Paul said that she had nothing to report at the present time.
- b). District Cllr Derek Yeomans had emailed his report.

475). **CORRESPONDENCE**

- a). The Clerk had received an email from Col. Nigel Taylor formally inviting us to his Civic Service being held on Sunday, 14th October at 4pm at Muchelney Parish Church, followed by refreshments in the Church. Kindly confirm your attendance.

b). **Land at Hellard's Hill, Curry Rivel**

Cllr Paul Deacon advised that a letter had been received from Somerset County Council notifying that the above land will be surrendered back to the Somerset County Council at the end of September 2018. There are two parcels of land which they suggest will come up for auction before the end of the finance year. We as a Parish Council agreed that we would like to adopt some of that land in a Community Asset Transfer. Cllr Peter Goodenough, from his hospital bed, has asked him to suggest that we write to Somerset County Council identifying that we would like to take on the northern field of those two fields. Cllr Paul Deacon asked if the members agreed that we should write to Somerset County Council advising that the Parish Council would like to take on the northern field. Cllr Derek Yeomans said that the price quoted on the internet was £8,700 per acre. Cllr Paul Deacon asked if the members were happy for him to write to Somerset County Council and ask them if we can take on the northern field as a community asset and this was agreed.

Action: Cllr Paul Deacon

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

a). **Westfield maintenance report**

Cllr Paul Deacon said that there were a lot of items to deal with but, we had dealt with the urgent matters. He would endeavour to put together a report of what needs to be done long term at Westfield for the next meeting.

Action: Cllr Paul Deacon

b). Cllr Derek Yeomans would be making a proposal for a Charitable Association that supports a scholarship fund etc for young people in the parish.

Action: Cllr Derek Yeomans

CHAIRMAN _____ **DATE** _____