

MINUTES OF MEETING
held on Thursday, 7th February 2019 @ 7.30pm
in the Village Hall

**Curry
Rivel
Parish
Council**



Above the levels

PRESENT:- Cllr. Andy Anderson (Chairman), Cllrs Robert Atkins, Mike Cousins, Paul Deacon, Peter Goodenough, Tony Greenaway, Tiffany Osborne and Derek Yeomans.

544). **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

545). **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

546). **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 3RD JANUARY 2019**

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.

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

Cllr Andy Anderson said that he had one matter he wished to discuss but, he would leave this until his Chairman's Report.

Adjournment to Allow Public Comment

548). **REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE CCS TEAM CONCERNING NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS**

Cllr Tony Greenaway said that in 2015 we had started a Parish Plan which went through until last year when we did a review of the plan. We then considered carrying out a Neighbourhood Plan but, we felt that we did not have enough knowledge to make that decision. Jane Birch, a representative of the CCS Team, was in attendance and gave a presentation to the councillors on undertaking a Neighbourhood Plan. A copy of the presentation was given to the councillors on completion.

Cllr Peter Goodenough could see an immediate dis-connect. What happens when you carry out your consultation with the parish which clearly has a different view from the plan provided by the SSDC as to how they want their community to be developed? When we had a major development in Curry Rivel, there was no support for it but, it still went through. Jane Birch said that if there was a plan proposed for 100 homes and people felt that there was only a need for a smaller number, you would have to carry out a survey to prove that. Cllr Paul Deacon asked if it was correct that, before beginning to undertake a Neighbourhood Plan, we could have some indication from SSDC as to how much development was proposed. Cllr Derek Yeomans advised that it had been discussed by the District Council Executive today and will be coming before the full Council on the 17th February for discussion and approval. It would appear that Curry Rivel might have been allocated twelve. Cllr Peter Goodenough said that a number of people who own land have had leaflets put through their doors about building on their land.

Cllr Andy Anderson said that at this time last year we had submitted a consultation to the Local Plan which he thought was under review now. It was due to be issued again either next year or closely following that. What if we start making plans now with the existing Local Plan and then the Local

Plan that they re-issue changes; how would that affect our Neighbourhood Plan? Jane Birch said that to process a Neighbourhood Plan it usually takes a minimum of at least eighteen months. There might be an addendum but, you would not have to start all over again. There might be one or two policies that you would have to review.

Cllr Tony Greenaway said that if we had any ideas or thoughts, we should talk to the planners at South Somerset District Council before going ahead with a Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Derek Yeomans felt it would be wise to wait and see. He referred to the massive build that is being forced on the planners of 750 houses a year up to 2029 and the fact that, if they do not achieve this, they will be penalised by the government. It is hoped that they will be well-built, affordable and available for rent. That is the only way young people will be able to get onto the housing market.

Cllr Andy Anderson expressed the thanks of the Parish Council to Jane Birch for her time this evening and that we would be keeping in touch with her.

549). **PLANNING REPORT**

Application Received

Application to vary condition No. 2 (approved plans) of approval 18/00287/FUL to amend materials to render. Little Orchard, Stoney Lane, Curry Rivel, Langport, TA10 0HY

On the proposition of Cllr Mike Cousins, seconded by Cllr Derek Yeomans, it was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council had no objections and supported the application.

550). **LAND EAST OF LINTON HOUSE AND TREES**

Cllr Tiffany Osborne referred to the email concerning the transfer of land to the Parish Council. There is a Horse Chestnut tree on this land and it would be necessary to investigate the condition of this tree before we decide to take on the land. We would obviously need some money towards the upkeep of the trees and she had obtained three quotations from contractors recommended by South Somerset District Council. She advised that approximately £3,000 was designated in the present terms of our support and she felt that we should come out of that. It was just a case of how we want to proceed. We do not want to be left with a large bill for the tree. The tree does have a TPO on it but, it is so old and ropery. The options are whether you prune it to make it safe or dismantle it entirely and possibly plant another tree. This is all part of the on-going discussion on the transfer of the land.

Cllr Mike Cousins said that if we cut down the tree and they say that you have to replace it, that could interfere with the continuation tank which is proposed. Cllr Andy Anderson asked if the tree had to be replanted in the same place. The answer was 'no' as long as a replacement tree was planted. Cllr Tiffany Osborne said that if we did decide to transfer the land, it could be that Mr. Ward would take responsibility for choosing the quotations and getting the work done.

The owner of the land said that they had carried out work to the tree and it had been pruned back about five years ago. They had been chastised slightly because they had cut more back over the road area. They are aware that part of the Horse Chestnut tree is not dead but soon will be dead. Cllr Tiffany Osborne said it had been suggested that it should be dismantled altogether. Cllr Derek Yeomans said that Horse Chestnut trees are very prone to splitting and if it has a weak side, the chances are that it will eventually cause the tree to fall bodily from the stem downwards in the opposite direction.

Cllr Andy Anderson questioned if we should be donated that land and that tree is still there, from a Parish Council point of view, would we want the tree to come down or would we want the tree to be pruned back? Cllr Peter Goodenough said the advice from a wild life point of view is, if at all possible, even a dead tree should be kept because it is full of fungus, which is a good thing. If it could be kept safe by pruning it back and leaving the trunk, that is what is recommended. Cllr Andy

Anderson said that from our perspective, we would like the tree to remain standing but pruned back to make it safe. He asked if that was the view of the councillors. Cllr Tiffany Osborne said there were two options, whether this work is carried out as soon as possible by the current land owner or, it is voted on, if and when the land was transferred, so that we are not responsible. Cllr Andy Anderson said this item would be put on the March Agenda, as to whether or not we want to take on the land as discussed with the Heads of Terms.

Mr Ward, as owner of the land, said he was very keen to establish what the Parish Council's position was. In terms of the decision-making process it would be useful that there is an understanding of what the Parish Council will be getting out of this. He understood that this process was running alongside his application but, at the moment, there is a slight impasse until we know where everyone stands. Cllr Andy Anderson said he would send out the Heads of Terms to the councillors again and at the next meeting a vote will be taken. Cllr Tiffany Osborne suggested that Mr Ward should attend the next meeting and let us know if he wants to do the tree work himself.

Mr Ward said it was felt that the tree has been unsafe for a long time and we have asked why it cannot be cut down. Every time they had broached the subject it has been set aside and told that you cannot do anything more than just prune it back, which they have been doing up until now. He hoped that the Parish Council would have more sway as to what happens to the trees. He was happy for the trees to be pruned or cut down. A tree maybe in the wrong place or unsafe and you have to make a decision. With a TPO we had to go back to the Council and it had not been very positive from his personal point of view.

Diccon Carpendale said that although the Parish Council would be discussing whether or not they wanted the land at the next meeting, it would be helpful to have some sort of certainty that we bring the whole process to a conclusion. It first came to the Parish Council a year and a half ago. Information originally given concerning the surface water drainage system had proved to be unsatisfactory. We do now have a fourth/fifth version of the drainage scheme which is one of the reasons why it has taken so long. It would be nice to know that we are all on the same page.

Cllr Andy Anderson said that from the council's perspective, the original plans went through and then we had concerns about the drainage situation. It was his belief, having spoken to Cllr Mike Cousins who has seen the plans for the drainage, that has now been resolved. He thought that if the application is then re-presented to the Parish Council and those concerns have been addressed, then the chances are that we would be in favour. Again, this is down to the councillors to exam the planning proposals and form their own opinion and vote when the application is actually put forward. Cllr Tiffany Osborne said that when the revised Heads of Terms are re-sent, if anyone has any queries about them, could they let Cllr Andy Anderson and herself know about then by a certain date. They could then be sent to Diccon Carpendale so that he has our response before next month's meeting.

551). **FINANCE REPORT**

a). **Accounts for payment**

Approval of the following accounts was proposed by Cllr Peter Goodenough, seconded by Cllr Derek Yeomans and unanimously agreed.

Tor Signs – 'No Parking Sign' in Car Park	£130.00 incl. vat
Clerk's wages Month 10	£333.60

b). **Review of Insurance Policy and our assets – Cllr Tony Greenaway and Cllr Paul Deacon**

Cllr Tony Greenaway said, as agreed at the previous meeting, he together with Cllr Paul Deacon had reviewed the current insurance policy with Zurich and compared it to quotes received from Brokers Came & Company Local Council Insurance who had put forward three options before

recommending one of them i.e. Inspire. A copy of their report had been made available to the councillors. Cllr Tony Greenaway said that he and Cllr Paul Deacon agreed that the policy from Came & Company offered greater clarity of cover than the Zurich policy. Furthermore, it is clearer in what cover is provided and relates more closely to the assets that the Parish Council owns.

Came & Company Local Council Insurance - Inspire Insurers

The premium for one year from 22/02/2019 to 21/02/2020 - £1,279.24
The annual premium for Long Term Agreement (3 years) - £1,217.78

The Clerk had also obtained a quotation from Zurich Insurance

The premium for one year from 22/02/2019 to 21/02/2020 - £1,662.21

Cllr Robert Atkins said he had looked at the Assets list circulated about a month ago and questioned the value of the assets and considered we could reduce the figure considerably. Cllr Tony Greenaway said that they had identified what they felt were not worth insuring and a revised assets list had been drawn up.

Following further discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Tony Greenaway that we accept the quotation received from Came & Company Local Council Insurance - Inspire Insurers for one year's cover at a cost of £1,279.24. This was seconded by Cllr Paul Deacon and unanimously agreed.

The Clerk to advise Zurich Insurance that we would not be renewing our insurance cover with them.

c). **CRIB Finance – review of payments & allocation of future grants**

Cllr Andy Anderson said that we had already agreed about the future allocation of grants. At the last meeting there was a discrepancy with regard as to how much of the £1,500 grant was due. Following a meeting he had with the Vice-Chairman and the Clerk we had come up with a figure. This figure is based on 7th March 2018 for the financial year 2018/2019 when CRIB were awarded £750. On the 19th November 2018 Northwing Nurseries invoiced us £115.50, minus £19.25 for vat. This leaves a balance of £653.75 which has been invoiced to the Clerk this week.

On the proposition of Cllr Andy Anderson, seconded by Cllr Tiffany Osborne it was unanimously agreed to pay the sum of £653.75 to CRIB

d). **Westfield Barrier Repair and Insurance Claim**

Cllr Paul Deacon advised that the work should be finished by the end of next week. The Clerk would request a claim form from Zurich Municipal Insurance to complete and submit.

552). **MAPLE ROAD SURVEY**

Cllr Tony Greenaway said that a form has been designed and distributed to 25 occupied houses in Maple Road. Twenty forms had been returned. He thought there had been some confusion about how far away they worked. Nine of the residents had lived in the area; seven in Somerset; and the remainder from farther afield.

553). **ENCOURAGE CONTESTANTS FOR ELECTIONS 2nd MAY**

Cllr Andy Anderson said that it was hoped to have a contested election on 2nd May. He had put another article in the Curry Rivel News this month and we are also doing some posters which we will put on display. We would put something onto the Website and also the screen in the Village Hall. Points of contact were the emails of the Chairman and Clerk. Cllr Tiffany Osborne asked whether there was a link on how to fill in the form if you wished to stand because the form was difficult to find. Cllr Andy Anderson said that it is not difficult but, if you let him have the names of anyone wishing to stand, he would send them the link. He asked the councillors to encourage their friends

and neighbours to consider standing. The timetable for the Election was detailed in the January minutes.

554). **GRIT BINS**

Cllr Andy Anderson said that they had been one or two issues with grit bins because of the recent ice and snow. He had topped up one of the bins on Redhill with rock salt which was made available to him. He had also written to Somerset Highways Department and found out the correct procedure for filling up the bins. As a Council we need to establish which grit bins are empty and report it to the Highways Department and they will send the contractors out to refill the grit bins. This would be done free of charge for this year but, they might have to make a charge next year. Cllr Peter Goodenough said that he had the original map of where the bins were sited and he would send a copy to Cllr Andy Anderson. Cllr Paul Deacon said he felt that we should ask Fivehead to put signs up at the top and bottom of Red Hill when there is a problem with ice and snow on the hill because it is illegal not to do so.

555). **GATEWAY SIGNS**

Cllr Paul Deacon said that he had sent a note to the councillors because he felt that coming in from Langport the signage was awful. This had been talked about for the last three years. He suggested just a plain sign saying Curry Rivel on a reflected background which could go onto the existing post. There are three signs; one at Townsend, one at Langport and one on the road leading to Hambridge. The cost for all three signs would be £285 plus vat. We have allocated £1,500 in respect of a footpath, benches etc., of which we have not yet spent any money. He felt that the signs could be put against that heading. Cllr Paul Deacon proposed approval of the purchase of the three gateway signs for the sum of £285 plus vat. This was seconded by Cllr. Andy Anderson and unanimously agreed.

556). **REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

District Cllr Tiffany Osborne's report featured in the Curry Rivel News. The report of District Cllr Derek Yeomans had been sent to the members by the Clerk but, had not been received by all of the councillors and would be re-sent.

557). **RETENTION OF DOCUMENTS AND RECORDS MANAGEMENT POLICY**

Cllr Tony Greenaway had prepared a document covering Scope: Responsibilities: Relationships with existing policies and Retention Schedule. The Clerk had been asked to study this document and give a feed-back to Cllr Tony Greenaway.

558). **CORRESPONDENCE**

Cllr Tony Greenaway referred to a item that had been sent to the Website concerning speeding. They had also written to South Somerset District Council about it. He had acknowledged receipt.

559). **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Cllr Andy Anderson advised that he had received a letter of thanks from Barbara Hamlin of the Twinning Association for generously awarding a grant for the continuation of teaching French at the Primary School. All the pupils in phase two receive a fortnightly lesson. They are enjoying everything we do and making progress in their linguistic knowledge and in understanding a different culture. The Primary School is most appreciative of your support.

Cllr Andy Anderson wished to express his thanks to Cllrs Tony Greenaway and Paul Deacon for the hard work they carried out over the last four weeks on the insurance.

He needed to set up a sub-committee to review the Clerk's Terms of Reference, Job Description and wages. The reason for this is that upon investigation through the NALC and SALC Websites he felt we were falling short on our obligation to one of our employees. We need to make sure that we are doing right by the Clerk but, making sure that we have an appropriate contract in place. Cllrs Paul

Deacon and Peter Goodenough volunteered to form a sub-committee with Cllr Andy Anderson and this was agreed.

With reference to the Neighbourhood Plan, the Chairman suggested that Cllrs Tony Greenaway and Peter Goodenough join him to review what had been brought up during the discussion this evening with a view to formulating a proposal for the Council on the way ahead. This was agreed.

The Chairman referred to the Great British Spring Clean and said that the late Madelaine King-Oakley used to organise this on a regular basis. He understood that CRIB wanted to do this as well. He wanted to gather the thoughts of the councillors as to whether we wished to continue with the Spring Clean and register our interest on the Keep Britain Tidy Website. Cllr Robert Atkins felt that we should do it. Bearing in mind the amount of rubbish that was cleared up last time, people are doing something about it and it does at least clear the place for a while. The Chairman would make the necessary registration on the Website and he would also speak to the Street Scene Department of the District Council. Cllr Robert Atkins suggested that we try and carry it out in March before the growth really comes on in the ditches etc. and was advised that the proposed dates were between 22nd March and the 23rd April. The Chairman suggested that we carry out the spring cleaning on the weekend of the 30th/31st March. Cllr Tony Greenaway said that we should include an item in the Curry Rivel News to encourage volunteers and it would have to be submitted by the 16th February. It could also feature on the display screen in the Village Hall.

The 20th anniversary of the Twinning Association and the signing of the Charter with Chevilly. He understood that the Parish Council lead on this. What he would like to do is have something carried out by the Parish Council to celebrate the event during the first week-end in May. He was already preparing a speech which he has to do in French. He asked for suggestions as to what the Parish Council could organise for the Saturday afternoon. It had been suggested that we could undertake the afternoon tea (with wine) which would have to be in the Old School Room because the Village Hall would have to be used to set up for the evening event. It was considered that it would not be big enough to accommodate everyone. Cllr Peter Goodenough suggested using our marquees and having it on the Village Green. Following further discussion, it was agreed to hold the afternoon tea in the Village School Hall. We could also use the playing field at the back if the weather was nice. This would incur cost and following discussion it was proposed by Cllr Andy Anderson that we spend up to £250. This was seconded by Cllr Mike Cousins and unanimously agreed.

CHAIRMAN _____ **DATE** _____

