

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

**Curry
Rivel
Parish
Council**



Above the levels

PRESENT:- Cllrs Paul Deacon (in the Chair), Robert Atkins, Mike Cousins, Peter Goodenough, Tony Greenaway and Derek Yeomans.

560). **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

561). **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Andy Anderson and Tiffany Osborne.

562). **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 7TH FEBRUARY 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

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

a). **Request from The Treacle Eater Clog Morris Team**

Permission was sought to dance on the Village Green on Monday 3rd June as they had done previously. They have public liability insurance cover. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council had no objections.

b). **Warning signs of ice and snow on Red Hill**

An email had been received from Cllr Andy Anderson in which he advised that he had approached the Highways Department and had been informed that they would not sanction a sign for the road as it would not be used that often. They had said that if, as a Parish Council, we wanted to purchase temporary signs 'A Frame', they would agree to this as the signs could be put out whenever the road was a hazard to users. There are companies within Somerton that do these signs and they would cost around £100 each.

Cllr Paul Deacon asked for the views of the members, bearing in mind that someone would have to be responsible for putting them out. Cllr Derek Yeomans said taking into consideration the steepness of the hill and the potential disasters that could happen, he felt it would be a good investment. Cllr Tony Greenaway asked whether consideration should be given to Wick Hill. Cllr Paul Deacon pointed out that water does not run across Wick Hill as it does across Red Hill and was not sure if there was a problem.

On the proposition of Cllr Derek Yeomans, seconded by Cllr Peter Goodenough, it was unanimously agreed to purchase two signs at a cost of £200.

c). Cllr Andy Anderson had also reported that there was a tree growing out from the top of the bridge at Westover in Langport, which is forcing the bricks apart. Highways are aware of the problem and they have eventually managed to locate the owners of the bridge who will arrange to deal with this.

The road is owned by English Highways but, the bridge is owned by English Railways Heritage and it is the latter's responsibility to repair the bridge.

- d). **20th Anniversary of the Twinning Association and the signing of the Charter with Chevilly**
Cllr Paul Deacon said that at the last meeting it was agreed to commit £250 towards the cost of the Twinning Anniversary Ceremony in May. He had spoken to the Twinning Association. Basically, we will be funding the material cost of the cream teas, the hire of the Old School Room. Was it necessary to hire a Tannoy System for use on the Village Green? Following discussion, it was thought to be a good idea. Cllr Paul Deacon said it was necessary to arrange for the three flag poles to be erected so that the flags can be flown. Cllr Mike Cousins offered to undertake this task and Cllr Derek Yeomans offered to assist.
- e). **Village Clean-up**
Cllr Paul Deacon confirmed that the Village Clean-up would take place on the 30th and 31st March. Cllr Andy Anderson would be organising the yellow jackets and litter-pickers.
- f). **Youth Club**
Cllr Paul Deacon said that the setting-up of a Youth Club had been discussed in the past and a young lady called Izzy had offered her services and a proposal to run a Youth Club one night a week. We have moved forward rather slowly because there was a lot of cost involved. He thought that the initial figure was about eight or nine thousand pounds at least. He understood that Izzy has since taken on another job and has had to withdraw her offer to manage the Youth Club for us.
- g). **Ground Works currently undertaken by South Somerset District Council**
Cllr Paul Deacon advised that he had spoken to them and they are willing to take it on again this year. There is an increase of 2.16%, which is basically inflation. We did Tender for this last year and they definitely offered the best price. We managed to negotiate the price down from about eight thousand to six thousand. He proposed that we accept the 2.16% increase and that we do not go out to Tender again this year as we had undertaken this last year.
- Cllr Derek Yeomans said that the current programme for South Somerset District Council is that they are going to form a Holding Company in which will be included the clean-up system and the teams that are carrying it out. They will be carrying out major works for money so; do not expect your contract terms to remain steady for too long. Cllr Paul Deacon felt that we get good value for money and it was unanimously agreed that we proceed with the Tender offered for next year.
- h). **Maintenance Works at Westfield**
Cllr Paul Deacon said that at the last meeting it was agreed that we would undertake certain maintenance work for which we have a budget. He had received a quotation from the people that had erected the new barrier into the Car Park. They had also repaired the dug-out. Despite his efforts, he had only been able to obtain one quotation for £385 to re-weld the badly corroded joints on the MUGA. He considered it a reasonable price and our Financial Regulations say that orders above £100 and below £3,000 we should strive to obtain three quotations but, we do not have to. Cllr Tony Greenaway would approach Alan Cockrell for a quotation. Cllr Paul Deacon said that if a better price does not come in could we proceed with the quotation for £385 obtained from SAS Welding Services and this was agreed.
- i). **Somerset Rivers Authority Consultation (SRA) – deadline for responses 12th March 2019**
An email had been received asking for support in establishing the SRA on a secure legal and financial footing and this had been forwarded to the councillors for information. Cllr Peter Goodenough felt that the Parish Council should take a view on it and answer the consultation. Question 30 of the consultation specifically requests advise on whether to make the Somerset Rivers Authority a separate legal body that can raise its own share of council tax. Because the river is on

the edge of our parish, Cllr Peter Goodenough felt that we should indicate our support. Cllr Derek Yeomans said that a Private Member's Bill had gone through Parliament for a second reading. Cllr Paul Deacon asked if we were completing this as someone representing the Parish Council and Cllr Peter Goodenough said that he would like to do that. He said that we could also do it individually. Cllr Derek Yeomans felt that the Chairman should undertake this and his voice should carry more weight. Cllr Peter Goodenough agreed to speak to Cllr Andy Anderson.

j). **County Cllr Clare Paul**

County Cllr Clare Paul said she was pleased to see PCSO Joshua Weldon this evening. There is a greater police presence in the Parishes and we should support them. The County Council has appointed Sheila Collins as an Interim 151 Section Officer at the County Council for the next thirteen months because, whilst the current Director of Finance 151 Section Officer was in post, they had been trying to recruit a replacement. This is quite a specialist role and the right candidate has not yet come forward. The interim appointment has been made to ensure continuity and every-one is trying to find the right candidate.

The Bridgwater Chamber of Commerce has an initiative called 'Supply the Supplier'. It was initially designed for Bridgwater and its surrounds to feed into the TO1 contractors at Hinkley Point. She had a meeting with their CEO and they are now recognising that our entire county contains about 80% of small businesses across Somerset who would quite like to be able to benefit from the Hinkley project. Please point anyone interested to the Bridgwater Chamber of Commerce.

k). **Report from PCSO Joshua Weldon**

PCSO Weldon was in attendance and said there had been an increase in anti-social behaviour with cases of criminal damage and arson in the village that have been dealt with. In rural farming communities there are anti-hunting groups who seem to be out in force at the moment and tend to sit in their vehicles. They had received reports of potential drug activity at the recreation area. He had attended during his shifts in the last few months, unfortunately, when no-one was there but, it is on his regular roster. Cllr Paul Deacon said that there are usually one or two cars parked down at the bottom end of the car park. He offered to collect one or two registration numbers and the PCSO said that would be helpful. Cllr Derek Yeomans asked if there was any move to give you extra powers when we find ourselves in other major problems with the youth of the country. PCSO Weldon said that the police are now better equipped to deal with situations that arise than a Responder would be. He would endeavour to attend as many Parish Council meetings as he could and was thanked for his attendance this evening.

Adjournment to Allow Public Comment

Robert Crowley said there had been a lot of discussion over developments in Curry Rivel and asked what information had percolated through the system from Somerset County Council and South Somerset District Council as to what the future plans are. Cllr Paul Deacon said as a Parish Council he was not aware of any but, he felt that Cllr Derek Yeomans might be able to assist. Cllr Derek Yeomans said that he had looked at all of the developments that have taken place and are due to take place in this village. There are going to be another twenty-three houses in Stanchester Way. If you read the small print, the HELAA which extends down from the building site where they have the houses now and goes down towards his orchard, he thought it was zoned for another twenty-two. On the edge of the village, on land which we believe has been sold to Notara and has been hard-entranced, he could not find any current plans for any projected building numbers. The other worrying fact is that all the trees in the orchard behind his house have been cut down and the stumps burnt. It is now clear of any vegetation and has been re-fenced. He has a feeling that it might be coming up fairly soon.

Cllr Tony Greenaway said that when we talked about a Neighbourhood Plan at the last meeting, there was less enthusiasm for doing that. He had approached South Somerset District Council to see if someone could come and talk to us about being engaged in the process and he had heard nothing. He would persevere.

564). **LAND EAST OF LINTON HOUSE & TREES – HEADS OF TERMS**

Cllr Mike Cousins said he had studied the proposed drainage scheme and was happy with that and the Heads of Terms. Cllr Paul Deacon said that he had looked at the land and considered it to be a good idea for us. We had discussed it last month and there had been a chance for everyone to study the proposal. In principle, are we as a Parish Council happy to adopt this piece of land? Cllr Derek Yeomans said that we could not really do that until we accept the planning application.

Mr Ward said that he realised that these proceedings have been going on for some time but, just to remind the Parish Council, this application was first proposed in 2017 and you did subsequently consider a substantially similar proposal identifying the drainage proposals. He would like to suggest in terms of the substantive issue of the development going ahead that you are happy with the revised drainage and revised plan. Cllr Derek Yeomans said we can accept the application because there is no reason for refusal but, we have to accept it first before agreeing to the adoption of the piece of land.

Cllr Paul Deacon said that what we were accepting here was the new drainage proposal and this was unanimously agreed. Cllr Derek Yeomans said that he knew that the proposal had been considered and approved by Ian Case as being adequate to carry out the necessary flooding remediation. They are also going to have a Management Company set-up to look after the maintenance of the attenuation tank and some other aspects of land and ground on the other side of the hedge. Cllr Mike Cousins said that you would get less water coming off that land than you would naturally. Cllr Peter Goodenough questioned whether there was a system for cleaning and was advised that it would be maintained on a regular basis. He said that maintenance was important when accepting the land for the Parish Council and the legal agreement must be absolutely watertight to avoid problems arising in future years.

Cllr Paul Deacon said that we have been asked if, in principle, the Parish Council would be happy with the idea of taking on the piece of land identified on the plan. To have a footpath through it and to have £30,000 passed over to the Parish Council for maintenance, landscaping etc. He felt that in future, looking a long way down the line, when that £30,000 has been spent, ring-fenced or not, it will possibly cost £1,000 per year to maintain that land if we cut the grass twice a month. That is the sort of thing that we are committing ourselves to for future generations. He emphasised that we were only agreeing in principle to take that land on. It has to be sorted out as a proper document in order to proceed. Mr Ward and the District Council will want to know whether or not the Parish Council would be happy to take that land on as a community space.

Cllr Robert Atkins raised the question of ‘do we want it’. It is very attractive when someone offers you £30,000 but, what are we going to use it for? What are we allowed to use it for? It will require maintenance and Cllr Paul Deacon said that was why he had identified the potential £1,000 per year.

Mr Ward said that many years ago there had been a similar re-action to a proposal about possibly taking this on and we had then gone back to the District Council because the Parish Council did not want to take it on. They had discussed the matter with the Parks & Leisure Department of the District Council and the figure of £30,000 had come out in the discussions. If the District Council decided to take this on that was the sort of figure they would expect. We then came back and the Parish Council said we do want it, do not rule us out. The intention is that this is delivered to the Parish Council with any potential concerns addressed.

Cllr Derek Yeomans said that we would also have to insure for personal liability, bearing in mind it is next to the road. You may also be aware of the comments received from John Millar with regard to the footpath. He was totally against it but, it was something we should consider very carefully because at the end of the day it is relieving the current owner of the land from the responsibility for the care and maintenance of a very large plot beyond the area he is going to develop. Cllr Paul Deacon felt that we should not be considering it in terms of £30,000; we should be thinking in terms of do we want that piece of land or not and would it be a useful and valuable amenity to the village. Cllr Peter Goodenough said if you want to discuss it in detail you have to think about the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. Cllr Derek Yeomans considered it was potentially an interesting concept but, something we should be very much aware of was the potential drawbacks in the future. Cllr Tony Greenaway said if we did not take on that offer, could that land be developed further with more houses. Cllr Derek Yeomans did not think you would get planning permission. Cllr Mike Cousins said that the elderly residents of Parsonage Place cannot go too far when trying to go for a little walk and thought this was something this land could be used for. Cllr Andy Anderson was talking about trying to get access across the grassland at Parsonage Place. Cllr Paul Deacon said looking at it on the ground this week, even if you could not get permission to cross that piece of grassland just the other side of the tree you can walk onto it from the public footpath. He had originally had real reservations as well. Obviously, it would be subject to a proper agreement drawn up; dangers being highlighted, like the path coming down onto the road requiring a barrier to be erected to stop children running down into the road. He considered it would be a good public amenity. You would be able walk onto that land from that corner of Parsonage Place and there would be a ramp coming down at the other end. It is 50 metres wide and 150 metres long. It is a decent size piece of land central to the village. He did agree that there are issues here that we need to address but, he thought last month we had said that we would give an indication as to whether we agreed, in principle, to take this land on.

Mr Ward said, on the question of one of the trees, at the last meeting he was asked if he would consider taking it on. He had confirmed that he would take on responsibility for that tree and have it done to the satisfaction of the Parish Council subject to the agreement of Phil Paulton who is a Somerset Tree Officer. He had already obtained quotations. There is a bit of ambiguity because of the discussions that had taken place at the last meeting. Do we want the trees down or do we want them pruned back. Cllr Paul Deacon asked if we could leave this as an aside at the moment.

Cllr Paul Deacon recommended that in principle, the Parish Council should indicate its willingness to take on this piece of land as an amenity space for the use of the residents of Curry Rivel, subject to the drawing-up of a legal agreement. An indicative show of hands took place from which Cllr Robert Atkins abstained.

Cllr Peter Goodenough asked if the attenuation system would be done first or last and was told it would be fairly early on in the process because the drains have to be put into the ground before anything else happens. Cllr Peter Goodenough said that it was essential that the top soil was taken away and kept safe, whilst the sub-soil was removed.

565). **PLANNING REPORT**

a). **Planning Applications Received**

Application No. 17/01063/OUT

Formation of new vehicular and pedestrian access points, residential development of land of up to 1000m² floor area and provision of sustainable drainage system including attenuation pond. Land East of Linton House, Langport Road, Curry Rivel, Langport, TA10 0HG.

(Additional information in relation to amended drainage scheme)

On the proposition of Cllr Mike Cousins, seconded by Cllr Peter Goodenough it was agreed that the Parish Council has no objections to raise in respect of the above planning application, which it fully supports.

Application No. 19/00431/HOU

Erection of a single storey extension to replace side conservatory. The Vines, High Street, Curry Rivel, Langport, TA10 0EY.

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

Application No. 19/00398/COU

The change of use of part of premises from Use Class A1 (retail) to Use Class A3 (bakery/canteen). Amphora House, Westover Trading Estate, Langport, TA10 9RB

On the proposition of Cllr Mike Cousins, seconded by Cllr Derek Yeomans, it was agreed that the Parish Council has no objections to raise in respect of the above planning application, which it fully supports.

Application No. 19/00495/S73A

Application to vary condition 02 (approved plans) of planning approval 18/01806/FUL to allow changes in fenestration to show a proposed obscure glazed window to the South East Elevation. 38 Chatham Place, Curry Rivel, Langport, TA10 0HS

On the proposition of Cllr Mike Cousins, seconded by Cllr Paul Deacon, it was agreed that the Parish Council has no objections to raise in respect of the above planning application.

b). **Planning Application 18/04042/FUL, Sandpits Heating**

The Clerk referred to the email we had sent to Stephen Baimbridge advising that although the Parish Council had no objections on planning grounds, as Mr Macey does not own the land, he should seek the approval of the Parish Council before commencing any work. A reply received from Stephen Baimbridge had been forwarded to the members in which he said he could not impose a condition requiring the applicant to contact the Parish Council prior to commencement as it does not meet 'the tests'. Cllr Paul Deacon said that we had decided that although we could not object to their application, we would not allow them to put the porch there or use that space or the space outside the Firehouse in future without coming to the Parish Council and agreeing some 'terms of use'. It was agreed that this item should feature on the Agenda for the April meeting and an invitation extended to Mr Macey to attend the meeting with a view to formulating an agreement. The councillors were asked to circulate their views before the meeting. Cllr Robert Atkins said he thought we should decide how we are going to address the situation first before inviting a representative from the Macey's and this was agreed.

Cllr Peter Goodenough said that at the moment the Car Park is free for people to leave their vehicles there for twenty-four hours. Most people that go there obviously do not but, if we say that we are going to have to start charging for people that leave their vehicles there for a long time which also affects Sandpits, that might make them more amenable to see our point of view. Cllr Paul Deacon said that we have not yet had a conversation with them and we do not know if that is what we are going to do.

566). **FINANCE REPORT**

a). **Accounts for payment**

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

Curry Rivel Open Gardens – loan be repaid in June	£ 300.00
SAS Welding Services – Barrier Repair	£2,150.00 incl. vat
Tor Signs – 3 No. Gateway Signs	£ 342.00 incl. vat
Clerk's Wages – Month 11	£ 333.40

b). **Insurance Premium**

Our insurance cover had been transferred to Came & Co Local Council Insurance and the premium of £1,279,24 has been paid.

c). **Westfield Barrier repair and insurance claim**

The Clerk said that there had been no progress except an email advising that the person dealing with it was out of the office for six weeks and she was now having to deal with the Farnborough Office. She had submitted our claim but, they had not yet got back to her. She would continue to press for a response.

d). **Preparing for the External Audit – Training Seminar at Edgar Hall, Somerton, 2nd April**

It was agreed that the Clerk should attend the seminar at a cost of £30.

e). **Westminster Briefing – Assessing Housing Need: Delivering the Right Homes in the Right Place – delegate £255 + travel**

Cllr Derek Yeomans said that nothing would be learnt that was not in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the current SSDC Local Plan and he considered that as we had temporized over the issue of £400 to the school for French lessons, this similar expense would not be a justifiable use of public money. Cllr Tony Greenaway considered it to be a money-making event; the target group were the staff of local authorities involved in setting policy. It would cost over £300 plus a day of someone's time just for three or four hours of speeches. He agreed with Cllr Derek Yeomans that the information could be gleaned easily from reading up and by the usual cascade of information from South Somerset District Council.

567). **ELECTIONS 2ND MAY – Clerk to report on Training Meeting & issue nomination forms**

The Clerk had attended the Training Meeting and had collected the nomination forms for the existing councillors with four extra copies for residents that had indicated that they wished to stand for election. She would also email a document detailing the timescale and procedure to follow together with a copy of the latest Electoral Register. This would enable candidates to find their reference details and the reference numbers for their nominees. The Clerk stressed that the nominations needed to be handed in and not posted. They should bear an original signature and not a photocopy. Candidates should make sure that they receive a receipt. If required, the Clerk could take all the completed nomination forms into the District Council offices.

568). **LITTER BINS, DOG BINS AND GRIT BINS LOCATIONS**

The Clerk advised the members that she had emailed a list received from South Somerset District Council of the various bins they empty together with their locations to Cllrs Robert Atkins and Tony Greenaway to enable them to be included in our Assets Register.

569). **GATEWAY SIGNS**

Cllr Paul Deacon said that the Gateway Signs are due for delivery next week. He could erect them and take down the old ones or we could get a contractor to do this. It would not be difficult to erect the new ones but, it is more difficult to get the old ones out because they are stainless steel. He was happy to undertake this work and would ask if he needed a hand.

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

The Clerk had emailed County Cllr Clare Paul's report to the members and also District Cllr Derek Yeomans' report. District Cllr Tiffany Osborne's report would feature in the Curry Rivel News.

571). **CORRESPONDENCE**

a). **SCC Chair's Awards for Service to the Community 2019**

Nigel Taylor, Chair of SCC, had emailed to advise that his annual Chair's Award Ceremony for Service to the Community in 2019 would take place on the 4th July 2019. Nominations could be submitted using the link given in his email and must be submitted by the 7th May 2019. Cllr Robert Atkins pointed out that only one nomination can be made by the Parish Council. Following discussion it was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would like to nominate Madelaine King-Oakley for her varied services to Curry Rivel.

b). **The Loose Goat Ltd**

An email had been received from Simon Miles, a director of The Loose Goat Ltd, a Surrey based business that offers a range of services around maps and data. He was contacting the Parish Council to see if they could offer any of their services around the creation of maps associated with Neighbourhood Plans. Having created maps and worked with a number of Parish Councils and Neighbourhood Plan Forums over the years. Cllr Peter Goodenough said that the one thing we really need is a comprehensive mapping service. It is the only way of guaranteeing success. Cllr Paul Deacon said that the Somerset County Council's Rights of Way have got an excellent map which blows up to an enormous scale which is not available on line. You cannot print it off but, perhaps we could ask permission to print off a section of it. Cllr Peter Goodenough said that the one complaint over the last two Open Gardens was that the maps were useless. The one thing we need is a decent map where we can put the gardens on it. The Clerk would advise Gina Beauchamp that maps were available from SALC through the Parish Council.

Following further discussion, it was decided that we were not interested in the service offered by The Loose Goat Ltd and would approach SALC for assistance.

c). **Affordable Housing Commission call for evidence**

The Commission is acutely aware of the problems caused by the shortages and cost of housing. The AHC wants to achieve policy changes that would make a lasting difference and is, therefore, seeking views on how affordable housing provision can be improved nationally.

d). **Councillor & Clerk Training**

The Somerset Association of Local Councils had sent details of the various training events for Councillors and Clerks from the 13th March to the 6th November 2019. It was agreed to change the date of the May meeting of the Parish Council until the 9th May when the newly elected councillors could decide which training events they wished to attend.

572). **RETENTION OF DOCUMENTS**

The Clerk advised that everything from 1890 up until the end of 2015 is filed away in the Taunton Record Offices and everything has a reference number. We have to keep the records for the next six years and then that will then go into the Records Office.

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

- a). The use of the land around the two pedestrian areas adjacent to Mr Macey's property.
- b). How we plan for the use of the land East of Linton House and Hellards, Heale Lane.

CHAIRMAN _____ **DATE** _____

