

MINUTES OF MEETING
held on Thursday, 7th JUNE 2018 @ 7.30pm
in the Village Hall

**Curry
Rivel
Parish
Council** 
Above the levels

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

412). **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

413). **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs. Paul Deacon, Cllr Tony Greenaway and Cllr. Mike Cousins.

414). **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON THE 10th MAY 2018**

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

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

a). **Request from Curry Rivel Live to borrow the Parish Council marquee**

Cllr Andy Anderson had received a request from the 'Organiser of Curry Rivel Live' to borrow a marquee for use at the Curry Rivel Live event to be held on Westfield Playing Field on Saturday, 16th June. Cllr Derek Yeomans asked whether a charge would be made and was advised that it would not because the event would be contributing to charity, including one of our choice. Cllr Andy Anderson proposed that we agree to the loan of the marquee and this was unanimously agreed.

b). **Somerfield Development Consultation regarding proposed development adjacent Maple Road**

Having studied the suggested response put together by Cllr Andy Anderson in respect of the Somerfield Development Consultation, Cllr Peter Goodenough requested a quick discussion about some of the proposals contained in this document. Under the Affordable Housing section, we might consider looking at 22 to 25 to see if they could be persuaded to make those live/work units. Cllr Derek Yeomans said that on the original plan they had left that very strategic gap and it was perfectly obvious what was going to happen when they had finished working out the first site. Cllr Tiffany Osborne said that the idea was to put this consultation out first and get the feed-back. They would then come back to the village for further consultation. Cllr Derek Yeomans said that we have to discuss it first because there would be a difference in the cost of building affordable homes and work units. Cllr Peter Goodenough said that he was asking the councillors to discuss whether we could propose, as a Council, that the four semi-detached houses are built as live-work units to encourage people to work from home rather than having to commute. Cllr Andy Anderson asked whether the Council wanted to put Cllr Peter Goodenough's proposal forward. If so, he would second the proposal and a vote taken resulted in unanimous agreement with this proposal. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that we should make sure that they realise this is not the only section of the consultation that we may wish to comment upon. Cllr Andy Anderson said he would make this clear within the letter submitted. He would draft a letter to send out to the councillors for their comments before submission.

Action: Cllr Anderson

c). **Community Transport – Langport and Surrounding Villages**

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley referred to the email received in respect of ascertaining the need for more transport provision for residents unable to access public transport. She felt we should have this item on a future agenda and invite Helena Baker to come to that meeting to explain about the possible setting-up of a not for profit Community Transport Scheme. Cllr Andy Anderson said that he would write to Helena Baker and invite her to our next meeting.

Action: Cllr Anderson

d). **SSDC (Area North) –Town & Parish Council Meeting, Edgar Hall, 26th June at 5.30pm to 8pm**

An invitation had been received to attend this meeting. Councillors to advise by email if they will be attending.

e). **deaf/PLUS Advisory Van**

A request had been received to park their van adjacent to the Village Green on Thursday, 23rd August from 12.30 to 2.30pm. This was agreed, and the Clerk would advise them accordingly.

Action: The Clerk

Adjournment to Allow Public Comment

*A resident referred to the land claimed by the Parish Council to the south east of the Bell Corner. He had written to the Parish Council about six months ago requesting them to contact the garage and ask them to ensure that their signs, some of which were temporary signs, be removed to improve visibility on that corner. He referred in particular to the sign erected advertising Curry Rivel Live which does block the visibility for traffic exiting at this junction. He asked if the Council could request Curry Rivel Live to erect it in a less prominent position and Cllr Andy Anderson said he would speak to the organisers. **Action – Cllr Anderson***

416). **PLANNING REPORT**

a). **Applications received**

18/01201/FUL

First floor extension, replace conservatory, external alterations and replace existing garage (revised application 17/00520/FUL). Weaver Cottage, Wiltown, Curry Rivel, Langport.

Cllr Andy Anderson proposed that the Parish Council had no objections to raise in respect of this planning application. This was seconded by Cllr Derek Yeomans and unanimously agreed.

18/01709/S73A

S73A application to vary condition 5 (opening hours) of approval application 11/00971/FUL to open Sundays between the hours of 0900am to 1600pm. Sandpits Hardware, High Street, Curry Rivel, Langport.

Cllr Andy Anderson proposed that the Parish Council had no objections to raise in respect of this planning application. This was seconded by Cllr Derek Yeomans and unanimously agreed.

18/01382/FUL

Erection of fence. Greystones, Churchway, Curry Rivel, Langport.

Cllr Derek Yeomans proposed that the Parish Council had no objections to raise in respect of this planning application. This was seconded by Cllr Robert Atkins and unanimously approved.

417). **FINANCE REPORT**

a). **Accounts for payment**

Clerk's Salary for Month 2	£333.40
Chalmers & Co (SW) Ltd – Internal Auditor's Fee	£420.00 incl. vat
Paul Deacon re. Farm & Garden Supplies – 30 posts for Eastfield	£ 82.15 incl vat.

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley re. Edwards Standpipes Stainless Steel Tap Cover/Box 1	£57.24 incl. vat
Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley re. Sandpits Heating – Tap mounting plate and padlock	£10.00 incl. vat

A vote taken for approval of the above accounts resulted in five councillors in favour (Cllrs Andy Anderson, Robert Atkins, Peter Goodenough, Tiffany Osborne and Derek Yeomans). Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley abstained from the vote.

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that the tap had been fitted at the War Memorial and Wessex Water would set it up. There is a lift-up top that can be locked so that it cannot be opened by anyone who is not authorised. She also advised that she had spoken to Paul Crocker of Curry Rivel in Bloom who had applied for a grant from Wessex Watermark and he has verbally been told yes. Wessex Watermark are so keen about the project. They cannot wait for us to put a drinking fountain in and they would probably give us a further grant.

(b). **Year End documents submitted to the Internal Auditor**

The Clerk had given the councillors a copy of the set of documents submitted to the Internal Auditor, Chalmers Chartered Accountants. The internal Audit had been carried out and the following comments made. They had no comments to make concerning the qualitative aspects of the Council's accounting practices and financial reporting. They had not encountered any significant difficulties during the audit and there were no significant findings from the internal audit to draw to the council's attention. In respect of this review they had identified the following potential weaknesses and set out their recommendations for improvements.

- i) Various errors on boxes 3 and 6 of the draft Annual Governance & Accountability Return which had been notified and amended.
The Clerk explained that this was due to the fact that she had included the duplicated grant received from the District Council and that it had subsequently been refunded. The auditors did not want the duplicated grant shown as income or expenditure as this affected the variance figures.
- ii) The Council does not appear to have reviewed the Annual Risk Assessment during 2017/2018. They recommended that this should be done annually.
- iii) The Council currently reclaims VAT every 2 years. Due to the high level of capital expenditure this year the Council is due a VAT repayment of £10,306 for 2017/2018. We recommend that this be reclaimed as soon as possible to aid cash flow.
The Clerk explained that the VAT is normally applied for annually. The reason there were two payments received in the current year was because the one for the earlier year had been submitted later than usual.
- iv) It would be useful if the account column headings in the cashbook analysis were the same as the ones that the Council has chosen for its budget. This would make budget monitoring easier as each of the columns in the cashbook could be ruled off and added periodically for comparison against the budget.
- v) We do not propose any modifications to our audit opinion and hence will be issuing a clean audit report.

Cllr Peter Goodenough referred to the fact that a nominal value of £1 is shown in respect of the Allotments and Cemetery. He questioned why there was not a figure for Eastfield and the Village Green. The Clerk explained that these figures go back in history when John Hunt was Chairman. The Clerk would contact SALC

Action: Clerk

418). **STANDING ORDERS - update**

Cllr Andy Anderson said that he had proposed at the last meeting that we refer to our Standing Orders. He has gone on to the NALC website and downloaded its Model Standing Orders and made all necessary amendments and sent them out to the Councillors for their comments. He had received no comments back and so he proposed that we accept the new Standing Orders, dated 2018, as our current Standing Orders. This was seconded by Cllr Derek Yeomans and unanimously agreed.

419). **EMERGENCY PLAN - update**

Unfortunately, Cllr Andy Anderson had not been able to complete this task and would carry it forward to the next meeting.

Action: Cllr Anderson

420). **GDPR – update**

Cllr Andy Anderson said that this came into effect a couple of weeks ago and we are obligated to protect the data that we hold on individuals. At the last meeting it was suggested that we would need to appoint a Data Protection Officer. However, the advice from NALC was that there is no requirement for the Council to appoint a Data Protection Officer. The briefing was sent out on the day of issue. It basically says that the NALC legal briefing set out guidance on the government's latest proposed amendments to the Data Protection Bill in respect of amending the definition of the proper authority for the purposes of the general data protection regulations, by seeking to exclude Parish Councils and Parish Meetings from the definition. Therefore, there is no need for the Parish Council to appoint a Data Protection Officer.

The Privacy Policy was briefly discussed; however, more information was required regarding the information placed on a Website. Further advice to be sought from NALC.

Action: Cllr Anderson

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

Cllr Tiffany Osborne said that it would be wise to seek some clarification from South Somerset District Council as to the best way to approach this either as a Parish Plan or Neighbourhood Plan. The problem at the moment is that all of their staff are waiting to learn whether or not they have a job. The process has been going on for two or three weeks. It has been recommended that we meet with the Community Council for Somerset and also with whoever is left at South Somerset District Council that deals with Parish Plans. We are slightly in limbo but, the idea is that they will come up with some dates in early July. Cllr Derek Yeomans said that we decided not to go for a Neighbourhood Plan because of the cost involved. Cllr Andy Anderson said that he had received an email which says that we can actually apply for a grant of up to £9,000 for a Parish Plan. Cllr Derek Yeomans advised that Ric Pallister, the Leader of South Somerset District Council was resigning.

422). **PURCHASE OF ADDITIONAL DOG/LITTER BINS**

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that she had again emailed Nick Allen and asked for a quotation for two new bins and a discussion on the site which Cllr Tony Greenaway had suggested at Currywoods Way. She had still not heard from Nick Allen. She assumed that they were not responding to anything that is not urgent until everything is sorted out.

423). **VILLAGE GATEWAY SIGNS AND CRiB DISPLAYS – Report on County Highways requirements.**

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that, going back to the original email that she had from them, she had sent pictures of our locations and has asked for their current cost. We need Highways to approve. She had asked for a cost on both signs. We are supposed to have a licence to put containers in front of signs but, she had taken a chance and sent the picture showing a container on the front. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that we would wait a few more days to see what the response is.

424). **SOMERSET VILLAGE OF THE YEAR**

Cllr Andy Anderson said that we have had a reminder about this competition which he read out to the members. Somerset Live, Trinity Mirror's leading news website, alongside the company's print publication in the county, has launched the Somerset Village of the Year competition. There was the chance of a £2,000 cash prize towards a very worthy cause of your choice and it was hoped that this was something that would be of interest to your community. Entries were now open and would close on the 14th June. He asked if we were interested in taking part and if so was there a volunteer willing to take it forward. Cllr Derek Yeomans pointed out that some Parish Councils take it very seriously and at a meeting he had attended of another Parish Council, they had produced a three-minute video of all the things that had gone on in the parish during the year. He felt it was not something you could do at the drop of a hat and have a chance of winning. Cllr Andy Anderson said that bearing in mind the closing date was the 14th June, he recommended that we do not enter this year and consider the possibility of entering next year.

County Cllr Clare Aparicio Paul arrived at this point in the meeting.

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

District Cllr Tiffany Osborne said that everything is on a pause at the moment. She did not have anything else to report except the resignation of Ric Pallister, the Leader of South Somerset District Council. Cllr Madelaine King Oakley asked what his reason for resigning was and Cllr Derek Yeomans said that, having served for seven years, he would not be standing at the next election. Cllr Derek Yeomans said that the Chief Executive would be advising on the 25th of June how many people are leaving. He felt we should be holding onto a seed core and not throwing away people who could be valuable in the future.

County Cllr Clare Aparicio Paul said that the current events would have some bearing on District Council elections. We might not have a District Council in the same way. There was talk about possibly two north and south or east and west on either side of the M5 but, it is literally under discussion.

With reference to the Libraries Consultation, the 4,000 figure is a speculative figure based on the fact that her input alone technically covers everybody she works for. So, she knows that things like the Friends of Langport library put an engagement into the consultation and they would not technically be one person, that is a collective bunch of voices.

With reference to highways matters, it has only taken her a year but, with everybody else's collective help, there is a sign going back up for the United Reformed Church. We have a speed review now going on concerning the extension of the 30mph speed limit out towards Fivehead. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that the speed had dropped down in Curry Rivel and Speedwatch indicates that it has reduced from 10% to under 2%. They are also trying to identify a site on the 30mph section of road leading into Langport. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley asked if County Highways have a couple of projects that we could put in each year. County Cllr Clare Aparicio Paul said that it is called the Small Improvement Scheme. The Parish Council would have to submit an application and it would be judged with other schemes submitted as to whether it was taken further.

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley referring to the War Memorial and said that because it is now much nicer she wanted to improve the whole surround area and sort out the fence built along the edge properly. County Cllr Aparicio Paul said that railings might be a better option because it is near to the corner. Cllr Peter Goodenough said that if you are going to put railings there, you would have a problem because it is an unstable road. The builders would say that you cannot just put railings in there because you have to support them. County Cllr Aparicio Paul said she did not think the County Highways would allow a wall there. Cllr Peter Goodenough said that we really needed to make the area stable. Following further discussion, County Cllr Aparicio Paul said she would make further enquiries because if you do not ask you do not get.

426). **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Cllr Andy Anderson said that this was his first month as Chairman and he would like to thank councillors for their support during this first month. Particularly Cllr Robert Atkins and Vice-Chairman Cllr Paul Deacon. His next object was the Emergency Plan and a review of the Financial Regulations.

With reference to the hedges adjacent to Stanchester Way and Churchway which have become significantly overgrown, Cllr Paul Deacon has followed this up and I understand that the Stanchester Way one has now been resolved. The owners of a house backing onto Churchway have also been informed that action will be taken to cut back the hedges. What we have now decided to do is to come up with a second letter of notice, which is a more robust notice, to be delivered to those who fail to maintain their borders adjacent to pavements. This will advise that if they fail to cut back their hedges, this will be done at their expense.

The 'Silent Soldier' had now been installed at the War Memorial and will remain there permanently.

Finally, he had just signed a removal notice issue by the District Council in respect of an abandoned vehicle in the Car Park. The neighbours reported to the Clerk that it had been abandoned and he had done some checks on line which confirmed that it was declared a 'sorn' and was not MOT'd. The District Council will be able to confirm ownership and hopefully, it would be removed within the next few days.

427). **CORRESPONDENCE**

a). **Community Safety**

An email had been received from PC Toni Lines advising that on the Avon & Somerset system for Area North they had 173 investigated crimes reported for the month of May and there had been 16 arrests. The Clerk reported that on the Police UK Website 12 crimes had been reported in Curry Rivel, on or near the following locations – St. Andrews Close a burglary and vehicle crime. Parsonage Place – 4 anti-social events. Near Parking Area – Criminal Damage and Arson. Chatham Rise – 2 violence and sexual cases. Burton Place – vehicle crime and Giles Close an anti-social event. The Clerk had been advised that Curry Rivel would be covered by PCSO Carole Brown and PCSO Malissa Thompson.

b). **Merchant Navy Day**

Cllr Andy Anderson said that notification had been received from Seafarers UK that Merchant Navy Day would be on the 3rd September when the Red Ensign should be flown. He would make sure that this is carried out. The Clerk advised that a Red Ensign had been purchased last year for this purpose.

Action: Cllr Anderson and Cllr Cousins

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

- a). Risk Assessment review
- b). Invite Helena Baker to attend and explain about the possible setting-up of a not for profit Community Transport Scheme.
- c). Emergency Plan review
- d). Financial Regulations review
- e). GDPR update

CHAIRMAN _____ DATE _____