



Minutes for the meeting of Curry Rivel Parish Council on Thursday 3 September 2020 at 7:30 pm via the virtual Zoom platform

PRESENT:- Councillors Derek Yeomans, Terry Mounter, Matt Geen, Tony Greenaway, Les Hood, Ed Rosa (arrived 7:50 pm), Simon Scarborough.
Clare Paul (County Councillor)
Tiffany Osbourne (District Councillor).
2 members of the public (MOP)
Jenny Ludgate Retiring Parish Clerk
Lisa Newby Locum Clerk

Cllr Yeomans confirmed that the meeting was being recorded, and the recording will be kept until the minutes of this meeting are agreed at the October meeting, after which the recording will be destroyed.

The meeting opened at 7:32pm.

805) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

None received.

806) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

807) MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 6 AUGUST 2020 HELD ON THE ZOOM PLATFORM

It was resolved that the minutes are a true record of the meeting held on 6 August and will be signed when the Parish Council next meets in person.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:37PM.

The meeting was adjourned to allow for the Chairman to thank Mrs Ludgate the retiring clerk for over 35 years of outstanding work supporting the Parish Council with commitment and flexibility, and her contribution to community with many achievements listed. An engraved crystal block with the Pynsent Monument and length of service detailed, and a large bunch of flowers was presented.

PUBLIC SESSION

A member of the public spoke of a problem in the parish regarding drug dealing which has been reported to the police frequently. This matter is of great concern and the Parish Council was urged to escalate the situation to garner a more robust response from the police. Cllr Yeomans suggested that the Parish Council writes to the Police Commissioner, and contact be made with the police locally.

A member of the public brought to the attention the maintenance of footpaths in the parish, in particular stiles that have not been repaired adequately and areas overgrown which means that accessibility is difficult in some areas. It was suggested that the list of footpaths and useful information regarding litter and dog waste bins be sent to the clerk to assist with future action.

The meeting reopened at 7:58 pm.

808) PLANNING

None received.

809) DECLARATION OF OFFICE AND REGISTER OF INTERESTS.

The Locum Clerk requested that councillors who had not completed a declaration of office or register of interests form to arrange to do so. The necessary forms are to be sent to all members to ensure completion. Training was also recommended, with a program of training provided by Somerset Association of Local Councils (SALC) to be forwarded to councillors.

810) BANKING ARRANGEMENTS

a. It was resolved that the signatories on the current and reserve accounts held with National Westminster Bank (NWB) are: Derek Yeomans and Tony Greenaway (both existing) and the new signatories to be added are Les Hood, Terry Mounter and Ed Rosa. The forms have been submitted to NWB.

b. It was resolved that the retiring Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) Mrs Ludgate is to be removed as a signatory.

c. It was resolved that the correspondence address for NWB accounts is to be that of the Locum Clerk.

d. It was resolved to open a new current and reserve accounts with Unity Trust Bank (UTB). The confirmed signatories for NWB will be the same for UTB, with the Locum Clerk and RFO as Key Contact.

811) PARISH COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE

It was resolved that the address for the Parish Council to be that of the Locum Clerk and RFO for the time being.

812) REVIEW OF PARISH COUNCIL OPERATING DOCUMENTS

a. It was resolved that the Standing Orders have been reviewed with no amendments.

b. The financial regulations had some items for clarification. It was resolved that the items were amended and then the document submitted at the October Parish Council meeting for further discussion.

813) FINANCE

a. It was resolved to approve the payments as listed below:

To note receipts:		
South Somerset District Council	Play area grant	£2174.00
Payments to be agreed		
Clerk	salary June and July	£ 648.40
Clerk	Expenses 2018-2019 and 2019-2020	£ 785.12
Somerton Computing	Laptop for website administration	£ 369.00
Then Media	Website hosting 1/7/2020 to 31/12/2020	£ 363.60
Somerset Association of Local Councils	2020-2021 affiliation fees	£ 611.13

b. Payroll provision. The Locum Clerk RFO recommended outsourcing payroll and detailed experience of two different providers with associated costs. It was resolved to outsource payroll, with the consideration to review should any rise in costs give cause for concern

c. Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) subscription. It was resolved to approve funding the membership fees for the clerk to subscribe to SLCC.

d. Parish Online. It was resolved to take advantage of the two months free trial of Parish Online, digital mapping software that supports Parish Council with asset register management amongst other functions.

814) SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE (SID) UPDATE

Cllr Scarborough provided the following update and concerns. The devices are operational, but the battery length in both devices is causing concern. The maximum operation time currently appears to be four days. Data is still not being collected by the devices, therefore not working to advertised standard.

Cllr Scarborough stated that further correspondence with the device provider needs to be directed from the Parish Council. The Clerk is to liaise with Cllr Scarborough to discuss the next actions. Suggestion is to request a refund from the provider. A way forward for managing the locations and batteries for the devices needs to be discussed and decisions to be made.

815) WESTFIELD UPDATE

Cllr Hood has rectified the lock on the overhead barrier and distributed keys. There has been just one response to the requests for quotes for performing the required maintenance on the play area. The Clerk is to scrutinise the Parish Council Insurance policy to determine the inspection frequency. Further information required from contractor who has submitted the quote, and a further period of grace for those who have been approached to submit a quote. To be discussed at the next council meeting.

816) ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Cllr Mounter has a list of items which will be submitted to the chairman for consideration.

Cllr Scarborough stated that the Estates Working Party met recently, notes to be provided at the next meeting. School playground equipment, the Parish Council committed to grant £2000 previously, further discussions.

It was noted that the County and District Councillors had not been heard during the public session earlier in the meeting.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

Responding to the earlier public session, the comments of the member of the public had been noted and correspondence already received regarding both items.

Encouraged application from the Parish Council for the Climate Funding available, only Town and Parish Councils can apply, not organisations directly.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

Planning function is still very challenging. Stronger Somerset, the District Councils response to the Unitary Council debate, has been published. Curry Woods Conservation Trust grant application with SSDC is supported by both District Councillors.

817) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is Thursday 1 October 2020 at 7:30 pm via the Zoom virtual platform

Meeting closed at 9:00 pm.

Signed:

Chairman: _____

Date: _____