



Minutes for the meeting of Curry Rivel Parish Council on Thursday 1 October 2020 at 7:30 pm via the virtual Zoom platform

PRESENT:- Councillors Derek Yeomans, Terry Mounter, Matt Geen, Tony Greenaway, Les Hood, Ed Rosa, Simon Scarborough.
Clare Paul (County Councillor)
Tiffany Osbourne (District Councillor).
2 members of the public (MOP)
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 November meeting, after which the recording will be destroyed.

The Public Session opened at 7:32pm.

Cllr Yeomans led Councillors in expressing condolences to Cllr Claire Anderson and her family in respect of the recent passing of her husband, Andy Anderson, recently also a Parish Councillor. Members of the Parish Council paid tribute to him and his accomplishments with the Parish Council as chairman, and in the Curry Rivel community. He will be sadly missed, for his enthusiasm and commitment and for his great grace and sense of humour.

PUBLIC SESSION

Member of the public speaking, echoed the comments made by Council members. Comments regarding traffic in Curry Rivel and hope for improvements on traffic matters.

District Councillor Tiffany Osborne confirmed that a grant of £12000 had been awarded to the Curry Rivel Woods project, by South Somerset District Council (SSDC), which means that the fundraising target has been reached.

Planning at SSDC is still in a transition state, planning officer Barry James in post for the time being as a consultant, hopefully will improve.

Unitary Council proposal. The decision is now with central government, so no further debate at the moment.

County Councillor Clare Paul encouraged the Parish Council to apply for the climate fund which opened today. Bids can include administration and implementation costs, which covers staffing costs as well if hands on work needs to be factored in. Cllr Yeomans queried if the legal fees for Curry Woods would be eligible – sadly not.

Recycle More initiative is on its way for SSDC. Crews are currently taking plastic pots and tetrapaks, but the scheme is not yet live. This advance collecting inhibits the push through of recycling that can be processed, so encourage residents to hold off until early December 2020. To accommodate the additional collected material when the scheme is launched, blue sacks will be provided which will include collection of small electrical items.

A comment was made regarding the perceived lack of support from members regarding the planning views of the Parish Council. Cllr :Paul felt that the planning views had been supported by the fact the application (s) had reached Area North Committee for assessment. The members had no material planning consideration to refuse the application in question, therefore had supported it.

Public part of the meeting closed at 7:52 pm

The meeting opened at 7:52 pm

818) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

819) MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 3 SEPTEMBER 2020 HELD ON THE ZOOM PLATFORM

It was resolved that the minutes are a true record of the meeting held on 3 September and will be signed when the Parish Council next meets in person.

820) PLANNING

None received.

821) ONE SOMERSET/STRONGER SOMERSET.

Cllr Yeomans attended a Zoom meeting recently which was attended by Councillors from other areas aswell. The Unitary debate is currently with Central Government therefore it was noted that the Parish Council is unable to comment at this time.

822) APPLICATION TO SCC CLIMATE EMERGENCY FUND

Ideas include: a cycle pathway connecting Curry Rivel and Langport, electric car charging point, solar panels, insulation, school walkway initiative. The bridle way between Curry Rivel and Fivehead would also be an excellent project and could form part of a system.

A feasibility study was suggested to determine whether there is a possibility of a footpath/cycleway between Curry Rivel and Langport, and also making the bridleway more accessible.

It was resolved to have a further PC meeting on 15 October 2020 to determine the scope of application to be put forward by the Parish Council to this fund.

823) VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY FOOTPATH WARDEN

It was resolved that the member of the public present, Mr Caseborne, is to be the volunteer community warden. He is happy to walk footpaths and report issues, and also feedback on other issues such as littering and instances of dog fouling. Cllr Paul will send Mr Caseborne further information from County regarding reporting issues. Cllr Yeomans thanked him for taking on the role.

824) REVIEW OF PARISH COUNCIL OPERATING DOCUMENTS

- a. It was resolved to approve the reviewed version of the Code of Conduct.
- b. The financial regulations were presented and it was resolved to approve the version presented.

Cllr Yeomans stressed the importance of reading and being familiar with the documents.

825) FINANCE

- a. After some discussion regarding the standing charges for the two payments to utilities, it was resolved to approve the payments as listed below:

Payments to be agreed		
Clerk	Salary August and September 2020	£ 724.97
Clerk	Expenses August and September 2020- Zoom meeting facility, stamps, PAYG mobile, defibrillator pads	£ 146.08
HMRC	Contributions for the new and retiring clerk	£ 323.85
SLCC	Clerk membership approved September 2020	£ 117.00
Water 2 business	Water changing rooms Westfield (direct debit)	£ 19.69
EDF energy	Portacabin changing rooms Holdens Way	£ 24.00
Les Hood	Refund of padlock replacement	£ 18.00

It was concluded to keep the Utilities connections to the changing room areas for the time being, for a couple of reasons. Reconnection would be more costly should the supply be terminated then reinstated, should the changing areas be used as the result of proactive marketing of the space.

826) SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE (SID) UPDATE

Cllr Scarborough confirmed that finally the supplier had conceded that the batteries were faulty and should be replaced. The feeling was still for the devices to be

powered from a hard wired supply, and with that in mind the clerk had arranged an appointment with a Western Power engineer to survey both sites for this purpose. Once this survey was conducted then a price for the hardwire facility could be obtained. Cllr Scarborough has spend a significant amount of time servicing the devices, and that due to the intensity of time required, it may be that the SIDs appeared inactive at times as recharging the existing batteries was not sustainable.

827) WESTFIELD UPDATE

Cllr Hood has obtained quotes for the works on the play area which seemed quite costly. Monthly inspections from a contractor was considered, for a small monthly fee which would include some minor repairs.

Both firms that quoted for the surface repairs suggested that the entire surface need replacing and that the repairs are a false economy.

After much discussion, Councillors were invited to view the play area in its current state to provide an opinion as to what is appropriate for the repairs. To be further discussed at November meeting, with decisions to instruct either the major or minor works, or both to go ahead. Members are encouraged to read the inspection report.

An outdoor table tennis table has been discussed previously. Information has been obtained from Langport Town Council, the table provided at Cocklemoor has been well received and has lasted well. Community Infrastructure Levy was discussed, and the clerk is to forward an information briefing to detail what the funds can be used for.

828) HIGHWAYS -DOUBLE YELLOW LINES

The question of double yellow lines was raised with the County Councillor again. Discussions followed regarding the displacement of parking should such lines be installed. Vehicles that park on the main road provide a natural chicane which slows traffic – this would be displaced to side streets and provide a straight road with the potential for speeding up rather than slowing down.

Cllr Paul is still pressing for a 20mph speed limit outside the school, in addition to double yellow lines. It was recognised that the school is not on a main highway.

Other areas for concern are the junction at The Bell, parking at the green, HGV traffic routes to Myrtle Road. The clerk has been tasked to look at previous minutes to clarify decisions made by the PC with regards to traffic management.

Councillor Mounter and Mr Caseborne left the meeting at 9:15 pm.

829) ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

The relatively recent piquet fence in in Brickwall Lane has been reported to Highways as it appears to have been sited on the verge of the road on land owned by Highways, and thus it encapsulates a relevant highway sign within it's perimeter.

830) EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was resolved to exclude the press and public to discuss three items which are staffing related.

- a) Staff appointment. The process for the recruitment a new clerk and RFFO was discussed. The post is for 10 hours per week and salary scale agreed. The advert is to be circulated by the locum clerk for approval before sending to SALC, SSDC and onto the community website to advertise the position. It was agreed to advertise for two weeks, and request applications by way of a CV with covering letter. The selection and interview panel to be determined at the extra meeting on 15 October.
- b) Parish maintenance/lengthsman. After much discussion, it was resolved to obtain further details of the SSDC Parish Ranger scheme to deal with any immediate needs in the parish. The clerk is to establish whether SID maintenance/relocation can be part of the remit. This will allow the Parish Council to determine precise requirements and time to locate a local contractor, which is the preferred option.
- c) It was resolved to extend the locum clerk and RFO contract for a further month or such time that a new clerk and RFO has been engaged.

831) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

There is an extra meeting on Thursday 15 October 2020 at 7:30 pm via the Zoom virtual platform

The next scheduled full council meeting is Thursday 5 November 2020 at 7:30 via the Zoom virtual platform

Meeting closed at 9:50 pm.

Signed:

Chairman: _____

Date: _____