

MINUTES OF MEETING
held on Thursday, 11th JANUARY 2018 @ 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, Tony Greenaway, Tiffany Osborne and Derek Yeomans.

536). **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest

537). **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Madelaine King-Oakley, Peter Goodenough and County Councillor Clare Aparicio Paul.

538). **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THE 7th DECEMBER 2017**

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

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

a). **Curry Rivel Village Clean-up**

Cllr Robert Atkins referred to the Village Clean-up that it was proposed to carry out in the first week-end of March. He felt it would be opportune to get some information into the Curry Rivel News and this would have to be done within the next five days. It was pointed out that Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley had previously been involved in organising the clean-up, but Cllr Robert Atkins said that he thought we were in line with the South Somerset District Council one and Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley had been in contact SSSDC about the availability of equipment.

Cllr Derek Yeomans advised that he had a meeting with the Street Cleaning Team. They would be getting a new machine which would be able to clean the insides of the kerbs and clear out all of the weeds. They would also be carrying out selective spraying from side to side and they are now taking over the role of gully clearing for the County Council. They have a new gully sucker machine. They now have a system whereby they can go up forty feet with a special pump and clean gutters without putting up ladders and scaffolding. All of these facilities are available for a fee if you want to use them. As he had previously suggested, the gullies would now be numbered so that when a problem was reported they could quote a reference number. He would forward the relevant contact details.

b). **Repair of broken Finger-Post**

Cllr Paul Deacon pointed out that nobody could do anything because they had not been on a course. Cllr Derek Yeomans said that he had received an email from County Council which was totally negative because you must have a specialist welder to carry out any repairs who must be accredited. The finger-post required a lot of work, including a new post but, he would keep on to them. District Cllr Tiffany Osborne advised that a new finger-post had recently been erected in Kingsbury Episcopi and she would email contact details to Cllr Andy Anderson to follow up. Cllr Mike Cousins advised that he had a Chapter Eight Certificate for Street Work. Cllr Andy Anderson enquired whether he would be willing to use his certificate in order to maintain the existing finger-posts and was advised that he would be.

c). **Emailed Notices received by the Clerk**

Cllr Andy Anderson referred to the emails that are forwarded to the councillors for information and had noticed that none of this information was going onto the Website. He felt that some of the items would be very useful for our residents to know. The Clerk thought that Cllr Tony Greenaway would put any relevant items onto the Website but was advised that Kevin Loe was now the contact. Minutes were already sent to Kevin Loe and future notices received that were relevant would also be forwarded to him.

Adjournment to Allow Public Comment

Gina Beacham advised that she was representing Curry Rivel in Bloom and understood that the Parish Council would be setting its Precept for the coming year this evening. Cllr Andy Anderson advised that the financial year ran from April to March and that a figure in respect of Curry Rivel in Bloom had previously been discussed. This figure would feature in our discussion tonight to ensure that everyone was happy with the grant proposed. Curry Rivel in Bloom would then draw down on that agreed figure in the March and October grant runs. Gina Beacham said that CRIB had some ideas to improve its performance on last year. The question of improved road signage at each entrance had been raised. He was aware that this had been raised with Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley but, was not sure what progress had been made. Cllr Andy Anderson said that as far as he was aware, they were on order and felt that any further discussion on this matter should be left until her return in March. Another suggestion had been to have a footpath map in the centre of the village and to have maps printed off to become available in the various retail outlets. Gina Beacham referred to a catalogue of signage which the members could have a look at. The signs work out at about £800 each but, you can do your own artwork.

Cllr Paul Deacon advised that the signs that had been installed at Westfield and Eastfield had cost just over £200 by doing our own artwork; plus the cost of the posts. He could organise a footpaths map. There is one already in existence on the Internet. This could be linked to our Website. As far as the signs for the Village were concerned, he felt that they could be supplied at a cost of £300 per sign provided we could fix them ourselves. Gina Beacham said that they had also been criticised for not involving the Monument more but, she did not think that the Judges realised just how inaccessible it was on the day and the time allowed for the walk. A circular view point board had been suggested, similar to the one at Glastonbury Tor displaying information about what you could see and the history of the Monument. She intended to write to Tim Schroder for his permission and if he would be willing to sponsor CRIB to do it. At the meeting to follow the one to be held next Monday, a new garden design for the War Memorial will be presented. We have really had to adapt it because of the posts that were put in and are permanent now. This year the cost will be higher because we will be planting a completely new permanent garden. We can either do part of it this year and plant some annuals or try and do the whole thing but, it will be a big job. We were worried that we might need more money but, we are asking for sponsorship from people as well. There is a lady garden designer who lives locally and she has offered her services free of charge for working on the garden. She can also obtain plants at a great discount.

Cllr Andy Anderson said that with your signage, view point board and planting you will obviously be discussing these at your own meetings but, it might be a good idea for the committee to come up with a costing. This would be most useful if you find that you need more money and have to come to the Parish Council for further funding. This would allow the Parish Council to make an important decision on that request.

Cllr Tony Greenway asked whether CRIB had thought about what they wanted to do in future years. Gina Beacham said that the new planting will be permanent. Hanging baskets would feature and it would be kept under control. The work load should lessen each year. We would also be planting around other areas in the village.

Cllr Derek Yeomans said that the Parish Council has to be privy to all the plans. We need to have a dedicated system so that we know what is coming up. Cllr Andy Anderson totally agreed and has been invited to the next meeting but, unfortunately, will be unable to attend. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley would normally represent the Parish Council on the CRIB committee and we do get a copy of the Minutes.

540). **PLANNING REPORT**

a). **Applications received**

17/04408/FUL

The erection of 1 No. dwelling, Land adjacent to Digswell, Sandpits Hill, Curry Rivel, Langport.

Cllr Andy Anderson said that there was a portion of land that he wants to give up to the residents in order to facilitate vehicles passing. That is not the whole strip. Cllr Mike Cousins said that at the moment some of the residents are kicking up about it. One of the main reasons for that is they are all using it to park up their vehicles and to dump their grass cuttings. The proposal was for a small bungalow and Cllr Mike Cousins could see no objections and proposed approval. This was seconded by Cllr Derek Yeomans and unanimously agreed.

17/04896/FUL

Demolition of existing side porch and erection of side-rear extension together with a remodel of existing roof structure and construction of new roof structure with improved accommodation to first floor together with internal alterations. Glenhurst, Drayton Lane, Curry Rivel, Langport

Cllr. Mike Cousins proposed approval of this application. This was seconded by Cllr Tony Greenway and unanimously agreed.

b). **Applications approved with conditions**

17/03388/FUL

Proposed new single storey dwelling on land associated with Stancrest including works to an existing access, Stancrest, Currywoods Way, Curry Rivel, Langport

17/04122/OUT

Outline planning application for the erection of a single dwelling and formation of associated access. Land adjoining Garland House, Townsend, Curry Rivel, Langport.

541). **REPORT BY CLLR PAUL DEACON ON THE KING WILLIAM CHANGE OF USE PLANNING DECISION. Ref: 17/00917/COU**

Cllr Paul Deacon said at the last meeting he had volunteered to represent the Parish Council at the Area North Planning Meeting when they were to consider the application for the change of use to residential.

Our Parish Council had voted unanimously to oppose the application for the change of use. The argument he had made was based on Policy EP15 which basically sets three conditions, as he understood it, which have to be met prior to change of use being recommended of any village amenity.

Briefly, the first condition is that the business has to be marketed robustly, secondly the business is no longer viable and thirdly, that there is an alternative provision which is equal to or better than the existing business.

In his personal opinion, none of these conditions have been met. He was, therefore, very surprised that the Planning Officer was recommending accepting the change of use. He wished to point out that when The Bell Hotel was still open, the application for change of use was refused by the planning officer.

The vote of the Planning Committee was six to five in favour of accepting the change of use and had Cllr Derek Yeomans voted against the change of use, in line with the Parish Council's unanimous wishes, the application would have been refused. Instead he had voted in favour.

He also noted when this was discussed at a Parish Council meeting earlier in the year, Cllr Derek Yeomans had declared an interest and had left the meeting. When he left the meeting, he had made the following statement - (Min. 386a) "He did not believe it was unviable and felt it was a major amenity for this village for those that do not want to go down to the Firehouse, which is a totally different type of Pub".

He would like to understand why Cllr Derek Yeomans has made such a 'U' turn and voted against the wishes of the Parish Council and why, at the planning meeting he stated the he did not have an interest at the Area Planning Meeting.

He was also seeking to establish why the planning officer also had a change of heart over the previous two applications which he recommended were refused, even though we now no longer have The Bell Hotel as an alternative provision.

However, there is nothing that we can do unless we went for permission for a judicial review and he personally felt it was an unjust decision.

Cllr Derek Yeomans said he did not want Cllr Paul Deacon's criticism, which he considered to be out of order and totally inappropriate. He said that the reason The Bell Hotel was refused was because it was a listed building. The planning officer went through the books of the King William with the owners and was satisfied that it would be unviable. He did not think that Cllr Paul Deacon had been in the pub as far as he could remember and normally there are about four people in there of an evening. It is not a viable entity commercially. The whole thing has been investigated. It has been advertised for the regulation period and no offers have come forward. The fact that you did not like the price that they were asking for, that is not material. They are entitled to ask for what they wish for the property which they own. They do own it and it is their home. The bottom line is that the pub did everything that was required of them. The offer was there for the village to buy it. They wanted six hundred people to put £500's in and he had offered £1,000 to swell the coffers. However, in the end, only £100,000 was subscribed. That was not sufficient to buy the place and on the 9th December the offer had to be terminated because that was the time that the buy-out system was offered. There was no further news of re-instituting this. So, by that token, having read the planning officer's report, and having gone into quite considerable detail with officer about it, he had decided and he had remembered at the meeting when we discussed it that there was no valid reason. He took task on this because we should have had a vote which we did not have at that meeting. It was a grave error. He should have proposed it and we should have had a vote. As it was, it went through on the 'nod' on the past recommendation.

The past recommendation for refusal was different because in the car park the last time there were going to be two detached houses. This one is different; there is going to be single house. Also, the pub was going to be converted into two properties. This time it is going to be a 'change of use'. He pointed out that the pub could close tomorrow because the licensee only has to withdraw a designated supervisory role and the license is invalid. That pub will remain open for as long as they have to keep it open because they have to find somewhere else to go. There is the Firehouse as an alternative pub, although you may not like it. At the end he was convinced and he has been accused of having a casting vote, which is untrue, because it was a straight vote between all the members of the committee. Five voted to go against it. The legal officer who was there at the time agreed with him that if they had gone to Appeal, we would have had to pay costs because it was an irrational and wrong decision. He felt strongly that there was no valid reason for refusal and that is what he had come to the conclusion of. He had voted in accordance with that. If it had come down to his casting vote he would have voted with the officer's decision.

Cllr Andy Anderson thanked both councillors and said that clearly, it was a very emotive subject and, unfortunately, the decision has gone against the recommendation of the Parish Council. He understood both councillors' reasons for the way that they had conducted themselves within those respective meetings and we have to respect the decision and need to draw a line under this matter. He did take the point made by Cllr Derek Yeomans that at the last Parish Council meeting we should have gone to a vote. Cllr Derek Yeomans said that the application was different to the one initially submitted. Cllr Andy Anderson said that he personally felt responsible for not taking a vote at that time and he apologised to the councillors.

542). **FINANCE REPORT**

a). **Accounts for payment**

The following accounts were approved for payment on the proposal of Cllr Derek Yeomans, seconded by Cllr Tony Greenaway.

SAS Welding Services – Repairs to Dug-Out at Westfield/materials	£324.00 incl. vat
Clerk's Wages – Month 10	£322.00
PCC St Andrew's Curry Rivel – adding name to Board of Remembrance	£ 60.00

b). **Renewal of Insurance Policy**

Renewal of our insurance policy becomes due on the 22nd February 2018 and this item was left in abeyance until the February meeting.

c). **Quotation for cost of new markings and signs in car park – update**

Cllr Paul Deacon had sent a copy of the details to the councillors. Several months ago we had spoken about the parking of cars which obstructed residents access to their garages and had talked about erecting a new sign on posts. A quotation for that had come to £288.00 providing we installed the sign ourselves. We had also investigated the option of fitting lockable bollards to the area in front of the two garages at the top end (North end) of the Car Park. He had measured the area and we would need five bollards to go across there. The cost would be in the region of £100 each plus vat and assumed £350 for installation. Total estimated cost £850 plus vat. The two residents are not very happy about fitting bollards and the real problem is, if you put bollards across the top of the car park, people will park the other side of the bollards and the residents will still not have access.

Cllr Paul Deacon proposed that we should go for the car park sign option. This was seconded by Cllr Mike Cousins and unanimously agreed. Cllr Andy Anderson recommended that the wording 'Polite Notice' should feature on the sign and this was agreed.

d). **Notification of external auditor appointment for financial year 2017/2018 – update**

The Clerk advised that PKF Littlejohn LLP had been appointed by SAAA as external auditor to all the smaller authorities. They would like to introduce themselves and their approach to the limited assurance reviews and also to provide some training on the forthcoming changes under the new regime. They would be running an interactive webinar on Tuesday, 23rd January at 11am – 12.30pm. This would be recorded and made available afterwards.

e). **Wessex Water quotation in respect of proposed Standpipe at the War Memorial**

The Clerk had received a quotation from Wessex Water in the sum of £1,923.92 plus vat in respect of the connection charge and the price would remain valid until 11 June 2018. Cllr Derek Yeomans said that if the pipe is to go across the road it could cost a fortune. Cllr Mike Cousins said that if that is for the connection charge only, you might have to bring a contractor in to fit it. Cllr Derek Yeomans said we would have to establish whose water main it was going into and how it would be metred. Following discussion, it was agreed that it required further investigation before proceeding.

543). **TO SET THE PRECEPT FOR 2018/2019**

The Clerk had prepared a schedule showing Income & Expenditure to date against the Budget for the year 2017/2018 and copies had been circulated to the councillors for information. The Clerk drew

attention to the fact that last year the Central Government Grant Allocation had been £390 and this year had been reduced to £120. Cllr Tony Greenaway questioned where the £85 raised from the CPR training featured on the schedule and was advised that it was included in the sundries figure of £186.14.

	Budget 2017/2018	Expenditure to 15th December 2017	Balance of Budget remaining	Precept 2018/2019
Running Costs				
Taunton Deane DLO (Handyman)	£ 8,500.00	£ 7,979.59	520.41	£ 0.00
SSDC Maintenance		£ 677.13	-677.13	£ 6,500.00
Legal & Planning Fees	£ 500.00	£ -	500.00	£ 500.00
Westfield/Eastfield Maintenance	£ 750.00	£ 1,918.81	-1,168.81	£ 750.00
Playground Inspections	£ 400.00		400.00	£ 400.00
Changing Room Costs/Container	£ 440.00	£ 370.95	69.05	£ 440.00
Cemetery Costs	£ 1,000.00	£ 331.75	668.25	£ 1,000.00
War Memorial /land opposite B.I.B	£ 1,500.00	£ 350.00	1,150.00	£ 1,500.00
Seats, verges, signs, etc footpaths	£ 1,500.00		1,500.00	£ 1,500.00
Car Park Lighting	£ 300.00	£ 183.99	116.01	£ 300.00
Administration				
Clerk's Gross Pay (incl PAYE) 9 mths	£ 4,200.00	£ 3,160.40	1,039.60	£ 4,200.00
Clerk's Expenses 2016/2017	£ 1,200.00	£ 917.87	282.13	£ 1,200.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	£ 100.00	£ 206.37	-106.37	£ 200.00
Insurance	£ 1,500.00	£ 70.75	1,429.25	£ 1,600.00
Audit & Accountancy	£ 550.00	£ 540.00	10.00	£ 550.00
Bank Charges	£ -		0.00	£ -
Subscriptions	£ 400.00	£ 678.78	-278.78	£ 700.00
Hire of room for meetings	£ 400.00	£ 229.00	171.00	£ 400.00
Training Fees	£ 240.00		240.00	£ 240.00
Section 137 Grants				
Community Website	£ 1,000.00		1,000.00	£ 1,000.00
Other Grants	£ 4,000.00	£ 2,015.00	1,985.00	£ 4,000.00
Churchyard Grass Cutting etc		£ 120.00	-120.00	£ -
Curry Rivel in Bloom		£ 1,989.44	-1,989.44	£ 1,500.00
Capital Projects				
Play Equipment at Westfield		£ 22,720.00	-22,720.00	£ 2,300.00
Litter & Dog Litter Bins/Dog Signs	£ 500.00	£ 350.26	149.74	£ 500.00
Eastfield Meadow Sign		£ 636.00	-636.00	£ -
Noticeboard		£ 794.00	-794.00	£ -
Overhead Barrier - Eastfield - Gate		£ 3,196.19	-3,196.19	£ -
Samsung Display in Village Hall		£ 1,016.00	-1,016.00	£ -
Media Website		£ 303.00	-303.00	£ -
Defibrillator		£ 1,140.00	-1,140.00	£ -
Contingencies				
Remembrance Ceremony - Wreath	£ 20.00	£ 17.00	3.00	£ 20.00
Totals (excl vat)	£ 29,000.00	£ 51,912.28	-22,912.28	£ 31,300.00

Following a detailed discuss and taking into account the views expressed by the members, the above schedule contains the recommended figure for each element of expenditure. Cllr. Tiffany Osborne proposed that a Budget of £31,300 be agreed for the year 2018/2019. This was seconded by Cllr Robert Atkins and unanimously agreed.

- 544). **CURRY RIVEL ONE OF THREE VILLAGES MENTIONED AS AN OPTION FOR A NEW TIER OF VILLAGE SETTLEMENT IN THE CURRENT LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION**
Cllr Andy Anderson reported that the Parish Council's Submission had now gone onto the Website. Those involved were thanked, including the excellent contribution from Cllr Peter Goodenough.
- 545). **TERMINATION OF THE CURRENT SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE (SID) PROGRAMME AS FROM THE 31ST MARCH 2018**
Cllr Derek Yeomans had been advised by County Hall that, if we set the indicators up ourselves and the flashing light scares a horse, causing a traffic accident we, as a Council, would be liable. Cllr Robert Atkins said that he had found a website where they make these devices and he would contact the company to obtain a rough idea of price and see what they have to offer. Cllr Andy Anderson said that he would also take this forward and make enquiries.
- 546). **CURRY RIVEL LIVE – Simon Champion has asked the Parish Council to identify a local good cause that fund raising should support – A second defibrillator situated in the Village Hall is favoured.**
Cllr Tony Greenaway said he had a chance conversation with Simon Champion after last year's Curry Rivel Live about the fundraising they had done and had told him about the defibrillator. Simon had said that perhaps they could allocate fundraising to support something like that again. Cllr Tiffany Osborne suggested that further consideration should be given to this item because she did not know what to offer up as a good idea at this point. Cllr Tony Greenaway suggested that members should bring their ideas to him so that they could be discussed at the February meeting and we could then get back to Simon Champion.
- 547). **MRS LINHAM HAS REPORTED THAT A FENCE PANEL HAD BLOWN DOWN ON THE FOOTPATH LEADING TO THE CAR PARK**
Mrs Linham had contact Cllr Andy Anderson about the fence panel that had blown down and he had asked the Clerk to contact Jeff Haines to repair the fence. Unfortunately, the Clerk had not been able to contact him and had left messages. Cllr Robert Atkins advised said that there was a gentleman who advertises in the Curry Rivel News and the Clerk would follow up this contact.
- 548). **COMMUNITY SAFETY**
a). Cllr Andy Anderson reported that the BP Garage had been broken into last night. It would appear that a blow-torch, possibly taken from The Bell Hotel site, was used to melt the glass at the bottom of the door which had been kicked in. They had only got away with a few bottles of whiskey and the cigarette machine was locked.
b). On the Avon and Somerset system for Area North, there had been 165 investigated crimes reported for the month December 2017 and there were 25 arrests. There have been 28 reports of ASB for Area North.
- 549). **CORRESPONDENCE**
a). **Local Government Boundary Commission – Press Release – Have your say on political map of South Somerset. Ten week consultation ending on the 19th March 2018.**
The Clerk had forwarded this email to the councillors for information. Cllr Tiffany Osborne would feature this in her report in the Curry Rivel News. The Clerk would forward a copy to Kevin Loe for the Website.
- 550). **REPORTS FROM COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**
a). A 'Brief January 2018' had been received from County Cllr Clare Aparicio Paul and was forwarded to the councillors for information.
b). District Cllr Tiffany Osborne's report would feature in the Curry Rivel News.

551). **COUNCILLORS' – update**

- i). Cllr Tony Greenaway asked if there had been any developments on the hedge cutting issues that we identified at the last meeting. Cllr Andy Anderson would follow this up.
- ii). Cllr Paul Deacon reported that the new five-bar gate at Westfield had been fitted.
- iii). Cllr Tiffany Osborne offered her apologies for the next two council meetings because she would be away.

552). **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Cllr Andy Anderson closed the meeting and thanked the councillors for their time and patience this evening.

CHAIRMAN_____ **DATE**_____