

MINUTES OF MEETING
held on Thursday, 12th January 2017 @ 7.30pm
in the Village Hall

**Curry
Rivel
Parish
Council**



Above the levels

PRESENT: Cllrs Madelaine King-Oakley (Chairman), Andy Anderson, Robert Atkins, Mike Cousins, Paul Deacon, Peter Goodenough, Tony Greenaway, Tiffany Osborne and Derek Yeomans.

337). **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

338). **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence had been received from Cllr. Tiffany Osborne.

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley advised that Steve James had died just before Christmas and that she had attended his Cremation. She wished to record that he had been a great Parish Councillor for many years until he lost his seat and to thank him for everything he had contributed. On the suggestion of Cllr Derek Yeomans a 'minute of silence' was held as a sign of respect.

339). **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 1st DECEMBER 2016**

On the proposition of Cllr Andy Anderson, seconded by Cllr Tony Greenaway, the Minutes of the meeting held on the 1st December were approved and signed by the Chairman.

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

a). **Avon & Somerset Fire Brigade**

Christian Attenbury, the Station Manager at Somerton, introduced himself and his colleague, Nicky Dundry, the Community Support Officer, to the members and was in attendance to explain what was planned for the next year. The plan is to visit quarterly to discuss any concerns that you may have and advise what we are providing to the community. We can give you the date when we are attending the community. Advice can also be obtained from the Internet. He advised that they had responded to one fire in the village this week. Their concern was that it was caused by possible fly tipping and the unattended burning of rubbish. If you come into Curry Rivel from Langport and take the first left and cut through to the Drayton Road. There is a piece of land on the right-hand side which was privately owned. Rubbish is being deposited there regularly and this has resulted in three fires being reported. Cllr Tony Greenaway said that there was a popular walk through there. The Fire Brigade has put up signs notifying the problem area. He asked the councillors to advise the Somerton Station if they saw evidence of possible rubbish fires around the village so that they can monitor the situation. They were also looking at specific risks in the community, such as people having to use an oxygen tank and the storage of gas bottles. Businesses being run from home and areas that they might have difficulty gaining access to. They try to identify people in the village who might be vulnerable. Nicky Dundry, the Community Support Officer, said the vulnerability of people became evident during the flooding that occurred at Muchelney and surrounding villages. The object is to enable the Fire Service to gain access if needed to properties even behind locked gates etc. Relevant information is held by the Control Centre. They had also been contacted concerning first aid training and that is now moving forward. Fire engines also have defibrillators on board and training sessions last about two and a half hours. There is no charge for these sessions. Cllr Tony Greenaway advised that he had booked to go on a course and the Clerk had circulated the necessary information to the councillors if they wished to book a session.

John de Ronde enquired whether the Fire Brigade had a point of contact for the village organisations. Information could be sent to their Website.

b). **Availability of Keys**

Cllr Mike Cousins enquired about the availability of keys to Changing Rooms, the Storage Container and the Barrier Gates because he wished to establish exactly what keys were available. He asked the members holding any of these keys to let him have them so that he could label them, record them and then re-issue them. Cllr Peter Goodenough said that he now held all the keys previously held by Kath Gardner. Cllr Mike Cousins intended to put a box on his wall, with a key code so that if anyone requires a key he could give them the key code. This would enable him to keep a record of who has what key. The code would be changed at intervals. Cllr Paul Deacon said that the padlock on the barrier appears to have been cut off. The Clerk enquired whether the marquees were in the container and whether they were in good condition. They were last used at the Children's Play Day.

c). **Changing Rooms**

Cllr Peter Goodenough said that the water pipes to the wash basins in the Changing Rooms have fractured and there has been severe flooding. Cllr Derek Yeomans pointed out that if you look at the entrance to the Car Park, there is a valve that can be turned off. The idea was to turn off the valve and drain the taps during the winter. The Clerk asked Cllr Mike Cousins to let her have a reading from the electric meter. He was also asked to obtain quotations for the plumbing repairs.

d). **Complaint about problem experienced in the Car Park**

The Clerk had written to Sandpits Heating concerning a complaint received from Diane Willey. The following points had been taken from the reply received. It apologised for the inconvenience caused and advised that their work force continue to commence work at 7.30am which, without question, prevents our tradesmen who operate vans coming into contact with parents dropping off school children. They also continue to operate their main warehouse on the Bancombe Trading Estate in Somerton where all incoming goods are delivered. The items that are delivered to themselves at Sandpits are minimal. They operate a strict policy that if deliveries clash with the school collection and drop off times the delivery drivers are turned away and asked to return at a more suitable time. It was felt that as a small company employing local people, they have gone to a lot of expense attempting to appease the school mums.

e). **Issue of cars parking along the B3168 opposite the Furlong Lane entrance**

A letter had been received from Laurence Whitlock concerning the problems being caused by cars parking opposite the Furlong Lane entrance. An incident had happened on the 9th January with a car heading into the village which had to come to an emergency stop as they were unable to see the car cautiously overtaking the cars parked on the blind bend. The car appeared to contain staff members from The Elms which, it was believed, had parking available on site. There is also a temporary red barrier outside The Elms which is making pulling out of Furlong Lane onto the B3168 difficult. Could the Parish Council identify why the barrier is there and whether it can be removed? Could staff be asked to park their cars away from the entrance to Furlong Lane?

Cllr Mike Cousins said that it really was an issue. Cllr Paul Deacon said that we might find that the people parking on the road do not work for The Elms. There is an adjacent property to The Elms and he believed that the people who care for the person who lives there are the owners of the cars parked on the road. They are not allowed to park on the area owned by The Elms. He had checked the Highway Code and it stated that it is illegal to park within 10 metres of a junction.

Cllr Peter Goodenough said that it was necessary to establish who the parent body was and go to the people who operate that unit. The Clerk would make the necessary enquiries.

Adjournment to Allow Public Comment

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that the councillors would note that there was not an item on the Agenda for Community Safety because PCSO's will no longer attend Parish Council meetings as a

matter of course. She felt that the information available was so out of date and we should leave this item off the Agenda for a couple of months.

John de Ronde referred to the letter he had sent asking if we could change the way the grant in respect of the churchyard is dealt with. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that there was a proposal to change the applications for grants to March and we could discuss this matter then.

341). **PLANNING REPORT**

a). **Application received**

No. 16/05328/FUL

Removal of hedge and erection of fence to front of dwelling (retrospective application). Burview, Churchway, Curry Rivel, Langport.

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

b). **Applications approved with conditions**

No. 16/04139/REM

Application for reserved matters (access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) following outline approval 15/05492/OUT for the erection of a single storey dwelling and detached garage with provision of a vehicular access. The Oaks, Sandpits Hill, Langport.

No. 16/04346/FUL

Proposed erection of a dwelling. Land adjacent to The Old Coach House, Westover, Langport.

No. 16/04601/FUL

Removal of the existing conservatory and concrete garage. Erection of two storey extension, complete renovation of existing property. Erection of new triple garage with office above. Treetops, Heale Lane, Curry Rivel, Langport.

342). **FINANCE REPORT**

a). **Accounts for payment**

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

Clerk's Wages – Month 9	£326.80
PAYE – Months 7/9	£ 69.60
BRL Curry Rivel, Drayton & Fivehead – Wreath	£ 17.00
Monkton Elm – Britain in Bloom	£ 23.99
Kernock Park Plants Ltd -Plants for Britain in Bloom	£388.27

The Clerk advised that she was still trying to set up a credit card in the name of the Parish Council and recommended that councillors did not use their personal credit cards to make payments.

b). **Renewal of insurance policy with Zurich Municipal – 22nd February 2017**

The Clerk had received notification of the proposed renewal prices based on whether it was renewed for one, three or five years. The price for one year would be £1,494.99 – for three years £1,429.19 and for five years £1,363.39. Following discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Derek Yeomans that we renew the insurance policy for one year at a cost of £1,494.99. This was seconded by Cllr. Tony Greenaway and unanimously agreed. The Clerk had advised Zurich that we would be installing new play equipment and we would keep them informed. Our policy also covers the Children's Annual Play Day.

c). **Proposed change of Spring grant application to March with the Autumn application to remain unchanged in October.**

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that at present we have April and October for our two grant applications. However, the April run seems to be affected by the fact that it is the beginning of the new financial year. We are also being asked for grants in respect of grass cutting and it would be preferable to have it a month earlier. It would make the administration easier because it would remain in the complete financial year and she proposed the change from April to March. This was seconded by Cllr Robert Atkins and unanimously agreed. Cllr Peter Goodenough asked for it to be advertised in the Curry Rivel News two months before each grant run.

d). **Proposal to purchase replacement Defibrillator.**

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley thanked the councillors who had replied. She had asked for the views of the councillors so that she could ask David to obtain some quotations. He had come back with one quotation for a completely new one for £1,213 which includes a lockable door. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley asked for the views of the councillors. Cllr Derek Yeomans said that he felt that having to phone 999 to be able to open the door is going to be interesting. In his reply, he had suggested that we spend the money providing first aid courses in the Village Hall so that we have trained people who can carry out CPR. He felt that the defibrillator would not be immediately available. Cllr Mike Cousins said he had spoken to two paramedics who had said almost exactly what Cllr Derek Yeomans was saying. He supported what had been said and questioned whether the Shell Garage was the best location. He felt that a defibrillator should be sited where people tend to gather with a better chance of someone being able to use it right away. He felt that the Village Hall would be a better location. Cllr Peter Goodenough said when the paramedic came to give the course he had said that 200 metres from a defibrillator was the absolute maximum. Chest compressions are essential. Cllr Paul Deacon said that if someone has a heart attack you dial 999 and they tell you where the nearest defibrillator is located and the access code. You keep a mobile phone handy. Cllr Peter Goodenough said that the mobile phone coverage in Curry Rivel was not very reliable. Someone else goes down and gets the defibrillator whilst someone else is doing CPR. If you want the defibrillator to be as accessible as possible it needs to be outside the garage or outside the Village Hall. Cllr Derek Yeomans suggested that outside the Firehouse or the One Stop Shop would be better locations. Following further discussion, Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley proposed the purchase and replacement of the defibrillator to be installed in a different location. This was seconded by Cllr Tony Greenaway. (Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley, Paul Deacon and Tony Greenaway voted in favour). (Cllrs Mike Cousins, Andy Anderson, Peter Goodenough Robert Atkins and Derek Yeomans voted against). Cllr Derek Yeomans proposed that we spend the money on inviting as many people as possible to come here for first aid lessons to be provided by the Parish Council as a routine based around dealing with strokes and heart attacks. This was seconded by Cllr Peter Goodenough. A vote taken resulted in six in favour (Cllrs Derek Yeomans, Andy Anderson, Mike Cousins, Robert Atkins, Paul Deacon and Peter Goodenough with (Cllrs Madelaine King-Oakley and Tony Greenaway voting against). Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley would approach Robert Macey to see if he was interested in the defibrillator being sited outside the Firehouse.

e). **To set the Precept for 2017/2018**

The Clerk had prepared a schedule showing Income & Expenditure to date against the Budget for the year 2016/2017 and copies were circulated to the councillors for information. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that before we think what we want as a Precept, we should consider what we think we should be budgeting for next year. She pointed out that because Central Government had reduced the grant allocation this year. Even if we decided not to increase the Precept claimed last year, it will appear as a plus and have an impact on the Band D charge. The Clerk advised that the grant allocation last year had been £1,200 and this year it would be £390. Cllr Derek Yeomans explained that there is going to be a greater commitment for Parish Councils to carry out work that County and District Councils cannot manage.

Taking into account the views expressed by the members, the following schedule contains the recommended figure for each element of expenditure.

	Budget 2016/2017	Expenditure to End of December	Balance of Budget remaining	Precept 2017/2018
Running Costs				
Taunton Deane DLO Handyman	£8,000.00	£ 7,953.12	£ 46.88	£ 8,500.00
Legal & Planning Fees	£1,000.00		£1,000.00	£500.00
Westfield/Eastfield Maintenance	£1,500.00	£607.02	£892.98	£750.00
Playground Inspection	£400.00		£400.00	£400.00
Changing Room Costs/Container	£440.00	£347.00	£600.24	£1,000.00
Cemetery Costs	£1,000.00	£309.76	£690.74	£1,000.00
War Memorial/land opposite BIB	£1,000.00	£270.75	£729.25	£1,500.00
Seats, verges, signs etc, footpaths	£1,500.00	£750.00	£750.00	£1,500.00
Car Park Lighting	£300.00	£228.25	£71.75	£300.00
Administration				
Clerk's Gross Pay (incl. PAYE 9 months)	£4,200.00	£3,132.54	£1,067.46	£4,200.00
Clerk's expenses 15/16)prior year		£1,010.08	-£1,010.00	
Clerk's expenses 2016/2017	£1,200.00		£1,200.00	£1,200.00
Misc Expenses (Union Flag)	£100.00	£55.95	£44.05	£100.00
Insurance	£1,700.00	£52.58	£1,647.42	£1,500.00
Audit & Accountancy	£550.00	£535.00	£15.00	£550.00
Bank Charges	£40.00	£29.25	£10.75	
Subscriptions		£347.49	-£347.49	£400.00
Hire of room for meetings	£400.00	£239.00	£161.00	£400.00
Training Fees		£95.00	-£95.00	£240.00
Section 137 Grants				
Community Website	£1,000.00	£1,000.00		£1,000.00
Other Grants	£4,000.00	£1,965.00	£2,035	£4,000.00
Churchyard Grass Cutting		£1,141.00	-£1,141.00	
Capital Projects				
Projector	£150.00		£150.00	
Litter & Dog Litter Bins/Dog signs		£1,754.81	-£1,754.81	£500.00
Bench in Bus Shelter & maintenance		£474.78	-£474.78	
Contingencies				
Remembrance Ceremony -Wreath	£20.00		£20.00	£20.00
Queen's 90 th Birthday medals		£325.00	-£325	
Total (excl vat)	£28,500.00	£22,623.38	£3,876.62	£29,000.00

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley proposed that a Budget of £29,000 be agreed for the year 2017/2018 and this was seconded by Cllr Derek Yeomans and was unanimously agreed.

343). PARISH PLAN

a). Britain in Bloom

Cllr Peter Goodenough presented the following report. Entry to the Britain in Bloom South West competition is now open. The section entered is dependent on the numbers of people on the electoral role. Ours is 1826 which puts us in the village category with Hutton, Beer, Cannington and Milborne Port. We can either be in the Cox Cup or the Pennant competition. We have been assigned a mentor, who is Shaun Cregan from Taunton (co-ordinates Taunton in Bloom) and he is coming to a meeting with the group on the 23rd January to describe what the difference is between the competitions and which one we should be in. The entry is free in either case. Judging will take place between the 5th and the 17th July. The plan is to base the judging route round the theme. This year is the 250th anniversary of the arrival of William Pitt to accept the Burton estate and build the monument to his benefactor, William Pynsent. The arrival of the Pitt retinue in July 1767, dressed in the family livery colours of purples and gold, will be the central theme. The war memorial and High Street suggested will be bedecked with plants in those two colours and it has been suggested to Peter Staddon that the children act out the arrival on the green on the judging day and process into the school with the judge(s) to see their forest garden. We have a person in mind to play William Pitt.

James Duder has agreed to present the cheque for £400 in February as he is relaunching the garage as a BP franchise and he wants to be photographed in front of the new logo. He also wants to donate a Christmas Tree for the Village Green with lighting.

b). **Fencing around the War Memorial**

Cllr Peter Goodenough said that as the area has been mainly cleared, we are giving consideration concerning landscaping before we put in the planned display. It is suggested that a woven willow fence be erected as a traditional background and Coates would be able to provide this for a community price of £750 for a 3ft. fence but, the residents behind would prefer a higher fence of at least 4ft. This would increase the price to £900. The cost cannot be met out of the payments for the entries but, as the Parish Council has not done any renovations on the gardens since 1930 it might be considered appropriate to renew the fencing as this stage.

Cllr Peter Goodenough proposed that approval be given for the purchase and erection of a 4ft fence at a cost of £900. This was seconded by Cllr Robert Atkins and unanimously agreed.

c). **Welcome Pack**

Cllr Peter Goodenough said that a draft had been completed for some time. The group involved are now considering how it should be made available to newcomers. There are two opposing views. The passive view is to have it available in a fixed location and there is a regular notice in the Curry Rivel News indicating that it is available. A fixed location has not yet been identified. The second approach is the active method whereby a number of people identify houses for sale and then deliver a pack when the new occupiers arrive. Although the CRN deliveries have been ruled out as a means of doing so, there are other groups that are potentially interested. Cllr Derek Yeomans said that when the sign indicating a house is for sale, a pack should be delivered as soon as possible so that it is there when the new residents move in. Sylvia Goodenough, who was involved in preparing the pack, said that the original concept was the friendly face who would be able to welcome the new arrivals. If the pack is put through the door it could well be lost when the property is vacated. Mike Davis has suggested the passive approach and he is willing to produce the pack and there would be the cost of printing it. He said that the reason he had suggested the passive approach was because the other method would create a number of problems and require the involvement of a large number of people. Secondly, some people do not like things being delivered to them. The passive method means that if we advertise it well it is left to the person moving in to try and obtain it. Personally, he would prefer it that way and a number of people he had spoken to agreed. There are a number of people who hold a supply of packs in their homes and would be able to deliver them when requested.

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that, having listened to the various comments made, she was going to defer further discussion of this item in order that she could obtain the views of other people.

344). **PARKING AROUND THE VILLAGE GREEN AND ON THE HIGH STREET – update**

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that she had prepared the letter as previously agreed to be put through the doors of the residents on the Village Green. She would circulate a copy of the proposed letter to the members for their comments. She would then arrange to deliver by the end of the week, the letter asking for the comments of the residents on the Village Green. An email had been received from Patricia Summerhayes and she had spoken to her about the problems being experienced.

345). **ILLEGAL CARAVAN USE OF WESTFIELD -update**

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley wished to record a vote of thanks to Cllr Paul Deacon for meeting with the people involved with the caravan. The caravan has now vacated the site. She had prepared the letter discussed at the December meeting and this had been delivered on Christmas Eve. They were given until after Christmas and they duly left the site. Cllr Mike Cousins felt that we had not dealt very well with the situation. We could have been in trouble for the emails that were going around. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that she would like to have this as an Agenda item which said

‘what do we do in a similar situation’ so that we have something formalised, even as part of our Risk Analysis.

Cllr Derek Yeomans said that he was still endeavouring to get the barrier erected on Eastfield because he felt that could become a contentious issue. Cllr Mike Cousins offered to approach another contractor.

346). **SETTING UP OF PARISH COUNCIL CALENDAR**

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that it had been mentioned a while ago that, for new people in particular, they were not aware of the whole calendar year of the Parish Council. She had given a paper copy to the members and would also email it. She wanted to know if the councillors considered it to be what they would like to know.

During the discussion, the question of the Annual Parish Assembly was discussed at length as to what form it should take in future. It was agreed that this year it would be held on Thursday, 27th April.

347). **REPORTS FROM COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS.**

- a). County Cllr Derek Yeomans was thanked for his written report which had been emailed to the members for information.
- b). District Cllr Tiffany Osborne’s report featured in the Curry Rivel News.

348). **CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley wished to encourage the members to attend the Area North meeting on the 9th February at 6pm in Compton Dundon Village Hall. The meeting will be attended by the head of Planning and the head of the Street Scene Department, etc., and there would be an opportunity to talk to them. Cllrs Madelaine King-Oakley, Tony Greenaway, Peter Goodenough, Robert Atkins and Paul Deacon indicated their intention to go to the meeting. The booking to be made by the Clerk.

349). **CORRESPONDENCE – (emailed to the members for information)**

- a). Consultation on SSDC Street Trading Policy
- b). Glastonbury firefighters offer free emergency life support training.
- c). Spotted a pothole or other road problem? Poster
- d). Council tax referendum principles have **not** been extended to parish and town councils
- e). St Margaret’s Hospice are looking for people to assist with their collection.

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

- a). Parking around the Village Green – update
- b). The fence on the footpath leading to the Car Park
- c). Welcome Pack – update
- d). Allotment Rent
- e). Somerset Business Agency meeting 20th February – Lack of accommodation and the letting out of spare rooms.

CHAIRMAN _____ DATE _____