

# CURRY RIVEL PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2016 @ 7.30pm IN THE VILLAGE HALL

**PRESENT:** Cllrs Madelaine King-Oakley (Chairman), Robert Atkins, Mike Cousins, Paul Deacon, Kathleen Gardner, Peter Goodenough, Tiffany Osborne and Derek Yeomans.

198). **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

The Clerk asked for nominations in respect of the post of Chairman for the ensuing year. Cllr Derek Yeomans proposed Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley and this was seconded by Cllr Robert Atkins. There being no other nominations Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley was duly elected and signed a form of 'Acceptance of Office'

199). **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman asked for nominations in respect of the post of Vice-Chairman. Cllr Tiffany Osborne proposed Cllr Derek Yeomans and this was seconded by Cllr Kathleen Gardner. There being no other nominations, Cllr Derek Yeomans was duly elected as Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year and signed a form of 'Acceptance of Office'.

200). **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

201). **APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence had been received from Cllr Tony Greenaway.

202). **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 7<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2016**

The Minutes of the meeting, having been circulated to the members were approved and signed by the Chairman on the proposition of Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley, seconded by Cllr Derek Yeomans. Cllr Paul Deacon had not been in attendance at the meeting and abstained from the vote.

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

a). **Speed of traffic in Heale Lane**

Cllr Tiffany Osborne had been asked to raise a question in respect of the speed of traffic. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley advised that there was a Speedwatch location on Heale Lane and suggesting that we should request additional sessions to be carried out. Cllr Robert Atkins advised the speed limit was restricted to 30mph from the entrance to the allotments southwards. Robert Crowley was present and said that Speedwatch sessions had been carried out two or three times at about 8am. If there was another time in the day that would be more appropriate, Speedwatch sessions could be organised accordingly. Cllr Tiffany Osborne would approach the person who had complained.

b). **Car Parked at Westfield**

The Clerk had received an email from a resident who advised that she regularly ran the same route which took her passed Westfield on a daily basis. She had noticed a car had been parked there for quite a few days and it looked as if someone might be sleeping in the vehicle. She wondered if this was acceptable and asked for our advice. Cllr Derek Yeomans pointed out that we had installed a barrier across Westfield and felt that consideration should be given to installing one across Eastfield. Cllr Tiffany Osborne said that she runs passed that way and would have a look.

- c). **Fence bordering the Parsonage Place car park**  
 The Clerk had received an email from Alison Cockerell advising that this fencing had blown down during the last storm. There has been some attempt to patch this up resulting in a badly attached half panel and the original panel left lying on the ground. Could this be properly repaired? She was not sure if this was Yarlington's responsibility or not. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that Yarlington would be responsible for its repair and the Clerk would pass on the complaint.
- d). **Street Lamp in Holden Way**  
 Cllr Robert Atkins advised that he had raised with Somerset County Council the matter of the street lamp in Holden's Way which has now been on continuously for more than a year. It has been logged in as RPWSI.174249 dated 5<sup>th</sup> May 2016. If nothing is heard within the next month, he would take this matter up again.
- e). **Damaged Street Sign**  
 Cllr Robert Atkins reported that the street name sign where Heale Lane joins the A378 had been damaged. He had reported this to County Highways and they had forwarded it to SSDC. This was the sign which can be seen when travelling west along the A378. There is no sign to assist eastbound traffic. He had reported this to the Highways Department and they had passed it on to South Somerset District Council who had advised that two new signs have been ordered.
- f). **SCC Road Safety Session for sixty-plus drivers**  
 Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley advised that the County Council organise two hour refresher sessions for sixty-plus drivers. She was seeking approval to organise an event in, possibly, the autumn which would entail booking the village hall for one session. Following discussion, it was agreed to hold a session in October for which the Parish Council would pay the booking fee.
- g). **Somerset Choices**  
 Somerset Choices is a website that contains a directory of local events and services. You can sign up and add your events, community groups and services to the website - it is quick, easy and we are always here to help. Would you like to advertise your events for free? Would you like to support local people to find care and support services in their community? It is an opportunity for you to publicise the services you offer and we would also like your help to encourage other providers within your community to become involved as well.
- Following discussion, it was agreed that we should advise the Community Website team about the offer from Somerset Choices.
- h). **Hedge cutting between Stanchester Way and Parsonage Place**  
 Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley had received a complaint from a resident saying he thought that hedge cutting was always done before the nesting season. She had explained that it had taken time for us to get permission from Somerset County Council and to deal with the various legalities to ensure that the work was carried out safely. Andrew Glide had advised that there had been no birds' nests and only one slow worm which had been placed back in the tree trunk. The gentleman had written back to thank her.
- 204). **CONFIRMATION OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FOLLOWING BODIES**
- a). **Curry Rivel Village Hall Management Committee**  
 Cllr Derek Yeomans proposed Peter Goodenough. This was seconded by Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley and unanimously agreed.
- b). **Curry Rivel Combined Charities**  
 Cllr Tiffany Osborne proposed Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley. This was seconded by Cllr Mike Cousins and unanimously agreed.

- c). **Neighbourhood Watch**  
Cllr Derek Yeomans advised that he was happy to continue as our representative and this was unanimously agreed.
- d). **Community Website**  
Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley proposed Cllr Tony Greenaway. This was seconded by Cllr Robert Atkins and unanimously agreed.
- e). **Heale Lane Allotment Association**  
Cllr Robert Atkins confirmed that he was willing to continue to serve as our representative and this was unanimously agreed.
- f). **Parish Footpaths Liaison Officer**  
Cllr Paul Deacon confirmed that he was willing to continue to serve as our representative and this was unanimously agreed.
- g). **Curry Rivel Primary School and Curry Rivel Youth Club**  
Cllr Paul Deacon confirmed that he was willing to continue to serve as our representative and this was unanimously agreed.

### **Adjournment to Allow for Public Comment**

*Maurice Powell referred to some photographs taken of a road accident which had happened a few days ago. He felt that the time had now come for some effective action to be taken. The accident had taken place at about 9.30/9.45am on Friday. Had the accident taken place an hour earlier it could have meant that mothers with children would be pushing prams to school. There is a 'kink' in the vicinity of the old Post Office in the High Street and there are obstructions there, including a blind bend. When drivers see these problems they think to themselves let me get through these quickly. Two miles down the road where the road is straight there is a 20 mph speed limit and it seemed to him to be slightly illogical that there could not be a 20mph speed limit in the High Street where the road is not straight and there is virtually only a pavement on one side of the road which is used for pushing prams. He had spoken to the driver of the 4-wheel drive who was a nurse and he seemed perfectly clear headed but, he understood that he was now using the defence that he had suffered a stroke. He might have done but, he thought there would have been some evidence. He had raised his concerns before and had been told at that time that we would have to wait until someone is killed. He felt that effective action should be taken now before we have the death of young children. Having considered other alternatives, he was in favour of implementing a 20mph speed limit.*

*Cllr Derek Yeomans gathered from what the driver was saying he was stopped and flashed the other guy to come up because there were two vehicles parked on the other side of the road. The other driver put his foot to the floor and roared up at 40mph and collided with the lorry. His car was very badly damaged. From his window he saw the driver of the car slamming his bonnet down and getting into his car and driving away. His car was badly damaged down the right-hand side and the lorry itself was a write-off. It must have been a very substantial collision.*

*Robert Crowley said he had noted an item later in the Agenda concerning estimates received to conduct a survey on safety, traffic calming and noise reduction. He approved of that whole-heartedly but, he did not agree with the Parish Council spending money. He considered it would be a total waste of money. There are plenty of publicly paid people who could help us out, County Highways etc.*

*David Geath referred to a speed limit flashing sign on the way in from Langport but, it is not there anymore. Would that help? Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley advised that a Speed Indicator Sign was loaned to us twice a year at each end of the village and that is an option we could discuss further.*

205). **PLANNING REPORT**

a) **Applications received**

**No. 16/01796/FUL**

First floor extension and alterations. Ghillies Cottage, Lower Wiltown, Curry Rivel, Langport.

*On the proposition of Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley, seconded by Cllr. Mike Cousins, it was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council had no objections to raise in respect of this planning application.*

**No. 16/01596/FUL**

Proposed loft conversion, Havering, Portfield, Langport.

*On the proposition of Cllr Derek Yeomans, seconded by Cllr. Mike Cousins, it was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council had no objections to raise in respect of this planning application.*

b). **Applications approved with conditions**

**No. 16/01133/ADV**

The display of a directional sign to the Olde Forge Inn. Sandpits Hardware, High Street, Curry Rivel Langport.

**No. 16/01146/LBC**

The display and erection of four advertisements/signs. The Olde Forge Inn, Church Street, Curry Rivel, Langport.

**No. 16/01141/ADV**

The display of 1 x hanging sign, 2 x signs fixed to fabric and 1 x sign displaying name of restaurant/pub. The Olde Forge Inn, Church Street, Curry Rivel, Langport.

**No. 15/05603/S73A**

Application to vary condition No. 02 (approved plans) of 15/01913/FUL to regularise amended works (GR:339106/125238). The Olde Forge Inn, Church Street, Curry Rivel, Langport.

**No. 15/05614/LBC**

Change of use of the northern thatched part of the site from residential to restaurant/pub including the re-ordering of part of the interior. Two single storey rear extension (GR:339106/125238). The Olde Forge Inn, Church Street, Curry Rivel, Langport

206). **FINANCE REPORT**

a). **Accounts for Payment**

The following accounts were unanimously approved for payment for payment on the proposition of Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley, seconded by Cllr Derek Yeomans.

HMRC – PAYE Month 10/12	£ 68.40
ArborTech Professional Tree Services	£ 900.00 incl. vat
Taunton Deane DLO – Churchyard Grass Cutting	£1,369.20 incl. vat
South Somerset District Council – Dog & Litter Bins	£ 870.20 incl. vat
Wessex Water – Changing Rooms	£ 12.56
Clerk’s Wages – Month 1	£ 326.80
Clerk’s Expenses – 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2015 to 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2016	£1,010.08
Tower Mint – Queen Elizabeth II 90 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Medals for presentation to the Primary School Children	£ 391.08 incl. vat

b). **Draft Statement of Accounts – 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016**

The Clerk had prepared the following draft Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 and copies had been circulated to the members:-

**CURRY RIVEL PARISH COUNCIL**

**DRAFT STATEMENT FROM 1ST APRIL 2015 TO 31ST MARCH 2016**

<b>INCOME</b>		<b>£</b>	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>£</b>
Precept	£	26,000.00	Clerk's Wages	£	3,745.54
Burial Fees	£	812.00	Clerk's PAYE	£	259.80
Allotment Rents	£	50.00	Clerk's Expenses April 14 to March 15	£	989.80
Community Website Advertising	£	245.00	Chalmers & Co (SW) Ltd Internal Auditor	£	325.00
Bank Interest	£	20.98	Grant Thornton - External Auditor	£	200.00
HMC VAT Refund	£	5,426.63	Taunton Deane Handyman & Grass Cutting	£	2,247.00
			Handrails installed on footpath leading to Car Park	£	442.29
			Electricity - Car Park	£	349.40
			Cemetery - Maintenance	£	540.00
			Election Fee	£	331.73
			Changing Room Electricity	£	159.10
			Purchase of second-hand projector	£	50.00
			Curry Rivel Village Hall Rent	£	285.00
			Keystroke Web Housing/Domain Name/Training	£	325.00
			SLCC Membership	£	88.00
			Insurance Premium	£	1,301.68
			Water Rates - Changing Rooms	£	29.49
			General Rates - Cemetery	£	307.20
			General Rates - Changing Rooms	£	225.60
			New Lighting Unit outside Old School Room	£	2,521.75
			Grant Aid	£	4,930.00
			Bank Voucher Fees	£	39.00
			British Legion - Wreath	£	17.00
			Legal Fees	£	217.00
			Gates installed on footpaths	£	940.00
			VAT	£	994.30
			Income over Expenditure	£	10,693.93
	£	32,554.61		£	32,554.61
<b>Bank balances</b>					
Current Account	£	820.23			
Capital Reserve Account	£	38,887.60			
	£	39,707.83			
Opening Balance	£	29,013.90	Expenditure	£	21,860.68
Income	£	32,554.61	Closing Balance	£	39,707.83
	£	61,568.51		£	61,568.51

The set of documents to be submitted to Chalmers & Co., the Internal Auditors, for the year end were also circulated to the members for information. At the bottom of the Balance Sheet page the Clerk had detailed the projects that it was hoped to proceed with next year, leaving a General Fund figure in line with our usual procedure. The accounts prepared by the Internal Auditors would then come back to the Parish Council for approval and submission to Grant Thornton, the External Auditors.

207). **COMMUNITY SAFETY**

a). **Police UK Report – March**

On or near -	Stanchester Way	ASB
	Churchway Close	ASB
	Churchway Close	Public Order
	Bell Orchard	Theft
	Hillside Close	Violence and Sexual
	Wiltown	Criminal Damage & Arson
	B3168	Burglary
	B3168	Criminal Damage and Arson

b). **Report from PC Toni Lines**

On the Avon and Somerset system for Area North, there had been 136 investigated crimes reported for the month April 2016 and there were 23 arrests. There have been 21 reports of ASB for Area North.

208). **TO DISCUSS THE SECTION 106 SITUATION**

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that part of the delay was her fault but, having said that the necessary forms are with the SSDC so they are now dealing with it. Cllr Tiffany Osborne said she had received a spread sheet detailing what 106 money we have received and what is outstanding. Curry Rivel has £100,000 secured. There are three applications and contributions have been received from two. There is also about £13,000 received for general open space improvements. There is also a contribution from another build towards equip to play. Funds for these facilities and the open space must be spent by October. She suggested that after the meeting the members should look at the document to see where we are, where it has come from and where the money needs to be spent.

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that the Heale Lane development had come through recently. The funds from this for equip to play comes to about £7,000. There is also £5,000 for sports pitches and changing rooms. The Heale Lane development also contributes about £9,540 to the community hall which would be for the benefit of the whole community. Something such as chairs would not be acceptable but a hearing loop would be. Cllr Peter Goodenough asked if she would be willing to come to a Village Hall meeting and discuss this. He would be willing to liaise with the committee and arrange this. Cllr Peter Goodenough suggested that there should be an Agenda item soon where it is all broken down and we can see where our responsibilities are. Cllr Tiffany would email the spreadsheet to the members so that they could examine it in more detail. She felt that we should become more aware of how the Section 106 documents are worded and Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley felt that the Parish Council should have a Section 106 Officer.

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that Robert Crowley had complained to the Planning Authority about the lack of a Section 106 on the Stanchester Way development and had received a reply from the Planning Inspectorate. She would try and obtain a copy of the reply to see the reason why there was no Section 106.

209). **WESTFIELD/EASTFIELD – Proposal to spend £130 on work required on gates at Eastfield**

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley advised that the double gate was now in place at Eastfield and Cllr Mike Cousins said that it has been installed so that it cannot swing out into the road. He recommended that we should use some stone to tidy up the entrance where the digger has been used and he had obtained a quotation for 16 tons of type one stone to be delivered at a cost of £280/£300. Cllr Mike Cousins said that he could organise with Simon Champion to obtain a digger and apply the stone. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley asked what he thought the total cost would be and was advised that it should be £400 and there would be no labour charges. Cllr

Derek Yeomans said that he was of the opinion that the Parish Council should pay for everything because it is our field and we should not rely on others doing work for us.

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that, bearing in mind the various comments made, the proposal was to approve a figure of £400. *A vote taken resulted in seven in favour (Cllrs Robert Atkins, Mike Cousins, Paul Deacon, Kathleen Gardner, Madelaine King-Oakley, Tiffany Osborne and Derek Yeomans) Cllr Peter Goodenough abstained.*

210). **LITTER PICK TO BE CARRIED OUT ON THE 21<sup>ST</sup>/22<sup>ND</sup> MAY**

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley advised that she had received the necessary forms in respect of Health & Safety and the Women's Institute would be joining us. She would be collecting a bin and 40 pickers and vests. We would meet in the Car Park at 10am on Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup> and on Sunday the 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2pm. All the rubbish would be picked up on the following Monday morning.

211). **PARISH PLAN**

a). **To consider estimates received to conduct a survey on safety, traffic calming and noise**

Cllr Peter Goodenough had obtained three estimates which had been circulated to the members. Cllr Robert Atkins said he had looked at the three proposals and he was of the opinion that LvW Highways fee proposal looked the most professional and comprehensive for the price. The one from the single consultant, Stephen Gibson, was sketchy and lacked detail. The third one from ADL Traffic Engineering Ltd was more expensive and appeared to be rather open-ended. His conclusion was that if we decided to proceed we should use LvW Highways. However, he was not convinced that we wanted to spend £2,900 to tell us mostly what we know already. Cllr Peter Goodenough said they had all looked at the data on Google Earth and the safety data. Their job is to look at the problem and come up with an innovated design to help us get out of it.

Cllr Paul Deacon said that surely the Somerset County Highways have the expertise if we sit down with them to work out a scheme without having to spend the money to do it.

Cllr Derek Yeomans said that the Parish Council can do nothing to the highways without permission from the Highways. We have had previous discussions with the Highways and they have always come to the conclusion that we can do very little about it. Yellow lines have been considered and discounted because it would have become a race track. Parking in the road is everyone's right. He pointed out that the Parish Council had a task to spend public money prudently and for the benefit of the public only. If we spend this sought of money for a consultant to tell us what we already know and when we have expertise in the Highways Department, which could be tasked, then we could be surcharged for misapplication of public funds.

Cllr Kathleen Gardner felt that a 20mph sign would be a good idea. She agreed with Cllr Derek Yeomans. We have made applications to the Highways for various things but, nothing has happened. They have the last say and we cannot do anything about it.

Cllr Tiffany Osborne said that if the Highways Department are not happy with it, it will not happen. It is a lot of money to spend on something that might not happen.

Cllr Mike Cousins said that traffic calming can be put into place and it works for a while but, they eventually seem to become a rat-race to see who can get through them first. He also questioned spending that amount of money on something that we know is a waste of time.

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that what we really have not done is to sit down with the Highways and ask what we are allowed to do. If Langport can have 20mph why not in Curry Rivel? She felt that we should do this before we considered the estimates but, she wished to thank Cllr Peter Goodenough for obtaining them.

Cllr Peter Goodenough said he felt it was what the parishioners wanted. He felt we were barking up the wrong tree when we say that we already know it. These guys are professionals and know far more than we do. They know the international situation. He felt that we were being too timid about the whole thing. He felt we should give it a go and see if they have some new innovative solution to take to Highways. Highways is not going to be interested in Curry Rivel. Cllr Tiffany Osborne felt that he had almost contradicted himself. Cllr Peter Goodenough said that if you have a new idea which Highways consider to be a good idea, they might think about it. This could be something they might not have come up with because they could not put the time into it. If the survey could come up with a really good solution and we missed it, you are doing the parishioners a big dis-service.

Cllr Paul Deacon suggested that we should explore the route of discussing the situation with the Highways Department before we make a decision.

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley proposed that we should form a group to have full discussions with the Highways Department. This was seconded by Cllr Kathleen Gardner and unanimously agreed. Cllr Derek Yeomans agreed to speak to the Highways Department and we would set up a group to include Robert Crowley and Maurice Powell.

b). **Liase with Links and Friends of Langport Surgery on easy access to services**

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that the Links bus was now coming from Yeovil. As far as the Surgery was concerned, the prescriptions were now being sent to the new Post Office based in the Shell Garage. There is a direct telephone line to the Surgery if there is ever a problem with the prescriptions.

c). **Dog owners disposal of dog mess**

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley said that a campaign has commenced on the Community Website about dog mess. If you look at 'Keep Britain Tidy' they have a poster which says 'put your dog mess bag in an ordinary litter bin'. She was going to check this with SSDC. There were also notices that could be put onto bins to remind people and we would continue to refer to the problem on the Website and in the Curry Rivel News. Cllr Paul Deacon said that it was important that people do not allow their dogs to foul in the fields and this was a message they were trying to get across to people. Cllr Paul Deacon said that if anyone was aware of any dog that has a habit of continually fouling a particular public space at a particular time, they should let him know so that arrangements can be made for a Dog Warden to witness this. There could be a thousand pound fine.

212). **REVIEW OF THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS.**

a). **Financial Regulations** b). **Standing Orders** and c). **Code of Conduct**

Following discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley and seconded by Cllr Derek Yeomans that we accept these documents as they are now. This was unanimously agreed. The Clerk would email copies to the members.

213). **REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

County Cllr Derek Yeoman's written report had been circulated to the members for information and District Cllr Tiffany Osborne's report featured in the current edition of the Curry Rivel News.

214). **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley advised that she had attended a District Digital Workshop and what they would like to propose, to make it a much smoother transition, is that each Parish Council Chairman should have an email addresses, example chaircurryrivel@gmail and there should also be one for the clerk. Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley would set hers up.

215). **CORRESPONDENCE – emailed to members**

- a). Community Briefing – Dredging update
- b). Community Briefing – Currymoor Work

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

- a). Proposed installation of Barrier on Eastfield
- b). Notices being affixed to telegraph poles and not being removed after the events
- c). Joanna Uglow will be in attendance to give an overview of the Hills to Levels Project
- d). Grass cutting on Eastfield

217). **RESIGNATION OF CLLR KATHLEEN GARDNER**

Cllr Kathleen Gardner advised members that she was regretfully resigning for health reasons which were preventing her from carrying out her duties. Everyone was sorry to see her go and Cllr Madelaine King-Oakley presented her with a small gift.

CHAIRMAN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_