

CURRY MALLET PARISH COUNCIL

ORDINARY MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Curry Mallet Parish Council
held on Monday June 15th 2015 in Curry Mallet and Beercrocombe Village Hall.

Present: L W Frazer (Chairman), R J Allard, D R Beck, G K Townrow (Chairman for this meeting) and Mrs A J Clarke.
In attendance: Derek Yeomans & Sue Steele (County & District Councillors respectively), Chris Dale (Village Hall Committee), Bob Burrough (Beercrocombe Parish Council), (all part time) Ann & Bernie Collett & Marjorie Hookham (all Magna Carta), Grant Turner and Peter McKeown (prior to co-option).

1191 Tribute:

Mr Townrow started the meeting by paying tribute to the late Tony Davies of Beercrocombe Parish Council: Tony had been heavily involved in the execution of the Parish Plan during 2004 – 2006 for Curry Mallet and Beercrocombe residents. His sage advice and ability to resolve minor issues had been greatly valued. Mr Burrough was asked to convey the condolences of Curry Mallet Parish Council to Beercrocombe Council.

1192 Public Participation Time

There were no items raised.

1193 To receive reports from the District and County Councillors on items that may be of interest

The report from Derek Yeomans has been previously circulated to members. He vocalised that SCC were moving from implementer to motivator, using a private company for its care arrangements.

It was noted that SSDC Area North Committee now has 6 re- elected and 7 new members.

1194 Declarations of Interest

No new interests were declared.

1195 To approve and sign the draft Minutes of the meetings held on 11th May 2015

It was noted that a typo in draft minutes for 1189.1, reference to Jim Wells (not Weeks) has been made. The draft minutes were approved *nem com.* and were duly signed by the meeting chairman.

1196 Matters of report arising from these Minutes.

- 1180 return of Register of Interests to SSDC by 8th June
 - These had been returned to SSDC by deadline of 8th June. Mr D Beck's was still outstanding and he was furnished with a duplicate form for completion. Acceptance of Office forms were passed to the Clerk for safe-keeping.
- 1184 Footpath Matters
 - The outstanding issues would be addressed by the new Parish Paths Liaison Officer, once appointed.
- 1185.1 Lavender Cottage Planning Application, further revisions
 - The Planning Officer had noted that the further amendments submitted by the applicant were minor and therefore lack of any additional Council Observations (the deadline having passed) was unlikely to be important.
- 1186 Annual Return; progress to completion
 - Mrs Clarke reported that the Return was ready for submission to Grant Thornton on 22nd June, the due date of audit. She would remove the official audit notices from the notice boards at that time.
- 1189 Signatories to Council's Accounts; progress update
 - Mr Allard was to liaise with Mr Turner re progressing the change of signatories on the bank mandate form.
 - The Clerk was furnished with a signed letter from the Council authorising him to be the communications point for statements and other associated correspondence from Lloyds Bank. A bank mandate form had been downloaded to permit the Clerk (for administrative purposes only) and Mrs Clarke to be added as authorised signatories.

- 1190 re-positioning of dog bin posts
It was noted that the Higher Street bin had had its post split below ground level, which would have required considerable force to achieve. Members' views on the potential repositioning of the bins were sought as were the options for straightening the post or for leaving it be. Mr Townrow expressed concern that if petty vandalism were to be prevalent, then the Fieldgate grit bin, once re-located, could be similarly vulnerable. To be discussed further at the July meeting.
- 1190 Verdicts on Contract Verge-Cutting
Some designated major access routes had been trimmed in mid-May, around a month in advance of the routine work undertaken by County Highways. Feedback on this initiative was positive and should be continued in future years. The work had been undertaken by Westley Harris of Curry Rivel at the Council's expense. To be considered again for 2016, with greater specificity as to the extent of the work to be undertaken & hours needed.

1197 **Planning**

Planning Decisions from SSDC were notified to be

- 13 Doble Close – Garden Room – Approved
- Lavender Cottage – Approved
- Camp Site Application – Higher Street, Curry Mallet – Refused on grounds of Landscape impact and vehicular access.

1198 **Co-option of 2 new members**

Mr Peter McKeown had, prior to the meeting, notified his interest and his co-option was unanimously approved. He duly completed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and was furnished with a Register of Interest form for return in due course. He also agreed to take over the PPLO responsibility and would liaise with Mr Turner over the role's requirements..

1199 **Future Provision by the Village Hall Committee of Services for the Community**

Mr Townrow's paper, having previously been circulated to members, was noted; it contained advice from the Charity Commission regarding proper processes to be adhered to, in general terms, under the VHC's status as a registered charity, and this advice was the Council's position with regard to moving forward. Mr Townrow had contacted the Charity Commission on April 24th, immediately after the APM resignation announcement: Mr B Burrough spoke to the meeting, advising it was the view of Beericrocombe Parish Council that the Hall's management committee could stand down at their AGM with members having the option to seek re-election or to resign. He confirmed he was the Beericrocombe PC representative on the Village Hall Committee, as was Mr Allard for Curry Mallet Council, although neither sought executive responsibility as officers of the Hall Committee.

The Charity Commission advice was that elected Managing Trustees retained their responsibilities until new trustees had been appointed, even though these individuals no longer held positions on the Hall Committee.

It was agreed that no one at the meeting wanted to lose the hall's facilities and therefore that everyone should work for a solution, following the outcome of the Village Hall Committee AGM to be held on 17th June.

Mrs Steele observed that her comments at the Council's May meeting had not been reflected in the minutes.

It was re-iterated that Curry Mallet Council had, since November 2011, been wholly supportive of the Village Hall Committee *vide* the short-notice request in September 2012 for a £700 grant. Min. 863 refers.

Mr C Dale asserted that Curry Mallet PC had known of the Hall Committee's decision to step down "*en bloc*" at the forthcoming AGM but as Custodian Trustee had made no alternative plans. This assertion was refuted. The matter would be reviewed following the Village Hall Committee AGM on 17th June

Mr Dale left the meeting at this point.

1200 **Magna Carta Committee Report**

Mr Townrow noted that the whole event had been exhilarating for the village and no doubt exhausting for the organisers and their families; it had been a magnificent weekend and nothing previously, within the past 45 years, had matched this endeavour.

The Curry Mallet school staff and PTA were thanked for their contribution to this real major community event. Isle Abbotts' community were thanked for their loan of the big marquee, various Fivehead organisations likewise for their loan of chairs and stage, SSDC for their grant for the village signs, and for printing and notice boards. Pauline Burr from SSDC in particular had been most helpful.

This view and the thanks were endorsed by all members of the Council.

It was noted that social media had been very active around the village events, especially Twitter and Facebook, all with very favourable comments on the events of the weekend.

The School PTFA had received income of ~ £930 for their efforts over the weekend, with the profit being utilised, in part, to finance classroom assistants.

The new village entry signs had been installed and the old signs were currently in Mr Frazer's custody until

they could be installed in new positions on the northern and southern approaches to the village; appropriate approvals were being sought from Gary Warren of County Highways.

1201 Outdoor Play Area

The schematic plan previously circulated by Mr Allard from the Working Group demonstrated that they were keen to progress, subject to a stable Village Hall Committee being established. New members of the Working Group were to be sought following Mr Turner's resignation, and he was thanked for his contribution thus far.

Mr Burroughs left the meeting at this point

1202 PC Members Aims & Objectives

Mr Townrow proposed that Council members and the Clerk should meet together in mid-August for an informal but facilitated session to review their aims and objectives for the next 4 year period of office. This aligns with the SALC approach to local council administration. Charlotte Jones, SSDC Area North Development Manager, had agreed to facilitate the session. This proposal was agreed unanimously and dates would be arranged by Mr Townrow and the Clerk.

Derek Yeomans left the meeting at this point

1203 Finance

- Invoice for verge cutting from Westley Harris for £250+VAT (£300) was agreed to be paid and cheque 000496 was duly signed.
- Residue of the Council's Grant now £941.72 was agreed to be paid to the Magna Carta 800 Committee and cheque 000497 was duly signed.
The Council's budget for 2014/2015 (GKT schedule 06. 10. 13.) included an amount of £1,215.00 by way of contribution to the Magna Carta Celebrations, nominally split as £600 for a village-entry sign, £465 towards costs of events & £150 for travelling to meetings of the national Magna Carta organisations. Of that £1,215 grant money for 2014/2015, only £80.78 (travel costs, #480, min. 1144.2) + £192.50 (planning application fee for village sign, #486, min.1155) was paid out, leaving a residue of £941.72 to be carried forward. This was the amount now sought.
- There were no other bills or invoices to hand.

1204 To agree attendance by Councillors to any forthcoming meetings,

- Mrs Clarke to attend SALC new councillor training on 17th July
- The Clerk to attend SALC training on 2, 9 & 16th July
- SSDC were offering training to councillors on planning matters on 23rd June and 2nd July. Mr Frazer to attend 2nd July session and Mr McKeown to confirm his availability.

1205 Correspondence

- Somerset Choices letter dated June 10th had been received and will be noted by the Clerk.
- Mr Townrow had been invited to participate in the National Audit Office's consultation regarding preparation for the 2021 Census.

1206 Items of Report

- Louise Brown had contacted Mr Frazer about the noise nuisance, for householders living on Higher Street, caused by 2 Peacocks and a number of roaming Guinea Fowl. Mr Frazer would seek to identify the ownership of the guinea fowl. Mrs Brown was recommended to contact SSDC Environmental Health, as this could be reported as a statutory nuisance. It could also be reported to County Highways as a hazard, since the birds were wanted to roam across the carriageway. Mr Frazer to advise Mrs Brown.
- Mr Allard reminded members that the "Beer & Curry Takeaway" newsletter was funded by the Parish Council to provide a means for sharing information within the community. He expressed concern that the most recent issue's content regarding the Village Hall Committee's resignation intent was partial and unchallenged. Mr Townrow suggested that, in a small community, partiality was always likely to exist among the various voluntary groupings whose overall contributions were of greatest benefit.
- The school sign by Manor Farm on Lower Street was missing the word "School" under the red triangle sign. It was also noted that traffic speeds along Lower Street were too high and Highways would be approached to ask if the word SLOW could be painted on the road surface. Clerk to write on both matters to Highways.

- Mr Townrow advised that he and Neil Dove had met with SSDC Planning Enforcement and Conservation Officers concerning the “waviness” of the mortar courses in the new grey lias wall being built on Mr Dove’s property adjacent to the highway edge.
An un-named member of the public had, apparently, written to the local planning authority to complain. The planning authority’s formal response was still awaited, but the complaint was noted with incredulity.

Date of Next Meetings

- Monday 22nd June an Extra ordinary meeting to consider the planning application at Crimson Orchard
- Monday 13th July – Parish Council Monthly Meeting

Both meetings at 19:30 in the Village Hall

Shaun Dale
Clerk to the Council

APPROVED