

# CURRY MALLET PARISH COUNCIL

## ORDINARY MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Curry Mallet Parish Council  
held on Monday September 14<sup>th</sup> 2015 in Curry Mallet and Beercrocombe Village Hall.

**Present:** L W Frazer (Chairman), R J Allard, D R Beck, P McKeown and Mrs A J Clarke.  
In attendance: Grant Turner (Village Hall Committee)

### Apologies:

Mr Townrow who is unwell and was wished a speedy recovery  
Mrs S Steele

The Chairman opened the meeting with some opening remarks

First, to express condolences to Kay Hodges and her family, upon the untimely death of her husband Steve; although residents in the village only since August 2013, Steve took on the responsibility to help create and then to manage the village website, which came to fruition in May 2014. The parish owes him a debt of gratitude for this service, which he sought to maintain as long as his declining health permitted.

Also to the family of Valerie Bale who died on September 4<sup>th</sup>; Valerie was often to be seen around the village driving her enormous Volvo saloon. For many years Valerie, with her sister Barbara Allen, ran the raffle at the annual Christmas Show in the village hall.

Lastly, to express enormous thanks for the contributions to village life given by Marjorie and Rob Hookham, who leave the village later this month for pastures new in Bristol: Marjorie's zeal in assisting the organising of the Queen's Jubilee Celebrations in 2012, her History Festival events in 2013, and the Magna Carta 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events earlier this year showed great patience, resourcefulness and an indefatigable spirit. Her routine attendance at parish council meetings since May 2011, as a member of the public, has brought a new openness to these proceedings.

Rob's sterling efforts for the parish volunteers, in clearing ditches, footpaths and streams, always with a cheery disposition and frequently turning out at short-notice, has been a huge and largely unseen benefit for keeping these channels fully operational. We owe him our appreciation.

All present shared the sentiments of the Chairman and it was agreed that Mr Frazer would write to each to convey the thoughts of the Parish Council.

### 1224 Public Participation Time.

There were no items raised.

### 1225 To receive reports from the District and County Councillors on items that may be of interest.

The report from Derek Yeoman has been previously circulated to members. (July & Aug Newsletters)

### 1226 Apologies.

Mr Townrow who is unwell and was wished a speedy recovery  
Mrs S Steele

### 1227 Declarations of Interest.

There were no declarations of interest made.

### 1228 To approve and sign the minutes of the meetings held on 13th July 2015

The minutes were approved and were duly signed by the meeting chairman.

### 1229 Matters of report arising from these Minutes.

1180 & 1188 return of Register of Interests to SSDC

It was noted that all forms were now with SSDC Monitoring Officer, with the exception of Mr Beck's which had been returned as it was incorrectly completed. Mr Beck to review and return the document.

1184 Footpath Matters

- Mr McKeown advised that some trimming had been carried out by South Somerset District Council on L8/9 from Stoops to Fieldgate but the remainder of L8 remained untouched. Mr McKeown to follow up with Leslie Braunton, SCC Rights of Way Team Area Warden.
- Mr McKeown pointed out that the handrail on the footbridge is still in need of repair; it is currently in the ditch.
- The Parish Council are still awaiting confirmation that work undertaken by parish volunteers on 22 March meets the required standard and has been approved. Mr McKeown to pursue these issues

#### 1190 Re-positioning of dog bin posts

It was agreed that the Higher Street bin near the entrance to Doble Close should be straightened and the broken post mended. Mr McKeown has purchased cement and posts and with the help of Mr Allard will effect repairs.

#### 1201 Outdoor Play Area Working Group

Mr Allard noted that no progress has been made and the item would be held in abeyance until the new Village Hall Committee had made a decision on the issue.

#### 1210 Planning Application 15/02218/FUL

Mr Frazer noted that he had been in contact with the planning office at South Somerset District Council and that the application was still outstanding

#### 1216.7 Complaint to SSDC Planning re wavy mortar courses on March Cottage wall

It was noted that following a second meeting with the Head of SSDC Development Control, the issue has been resolved and the wall building could be progressed with due authorisation.

#### 1223.3 Village Welcome Pack

It was noted that no further hard copies were available following distribution to new residents in Pope's Cross (2), Fieldgate (3) and Doble Close (1). It was agreed that the pack was "dated" and Mr McKeown agreed to review and update the contents with a view to it being included on the revamped Village Website, Hard copy could be printed from there if necessary. This aligned with patsy Wallace's wish to stand down from her activity with the Welcome Pack. She was thanked for her work over the past 10 years.

This was proposed by Mr Allard, Seconded by Mr Beck and agreed unanimously

### **1230 Village Hall Update.**

Mr Allard reported that the new committee held its first meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> September and now had a full complement of 6 Curry Mallet and 2 Beercrocombe members. A Chair and Secretary had been appointed and they were actively seeking a treasurer. Resolution of bank signatories was a priority, alongside the creation of a budget.

It had also been agreed that future minutes would be published on the village website. The VHC were also forming a Friends of the Village Hall to help with specific tasks and activities in support of the committee.

Help from the Community Council for Somerset had been invaluable.

The rent to the Duchy for the half year of £500 would be paid once cheque signatures had been accepted by the bank. If the rent remains unpaid by the next parish Council meeting then consideration would be made to the Council paying the rent whilst the signatures were resolved with the bank.

Booking for the Village Hall could be made via Mr Turner on 480504.

It was confirmed that the Charity Commissioners have been advised of the new trustee details and the old trustees have been relieved of their obligations.

### **1231 Planning.**

There were no matters to report under this heading

### **1232 Annual Return for 2015.**

This was discussed in detail by members. External Auditors observations were reviewed and it was agreed that for the 2016 return section 2 of the return will only be completed after the internal auditor has completed their report and it has been considered by the Council.

Member's portfolio responsibilities for 2015 are recorded and minute 1179 refers.

Under the Transparency Code it was agreed that all sections of the annual return will be published (with redacted signatures) including the 15% Variances and individual items of expenditure above £100. This will be on the web site.

### **1233 Finance.**

#### 1. Invoices for Payment

- Grant Thornton for the Annual Audit — The charge of £120 was made because with the inclusion of the Magna Carta grant in the accounts the Councils transactions had exceeded £10,000. Cheque number 501 for £120:00 Issued
- PMP for two print runs of the Parish Magazine. Cheque number 502 for £206.96 Issued
- Rent for the playing field to the Duchy Cheque 503 for £60:00 Issued
- Costs of Clerks training to SALC payment of up to £60:00 was agreed and cheque to be issued once

invoice is received.

2. Lloyds Bank Account Update  
It was noted that Messer's Frazer, Beck, Townrow, Allard and Mrs Clarke were all now signatures and that the clerk was the correspondence point.
3. Bank Reconciliation was signed and it was agreed that this would be done quarterly to coincide with the interest payments on the account.  
This was proposed by Mr Frazer and Seconded by Mrs Clarke and agreed unanimously  
Reconciliation was reviewed against bank statements and Cash Book and it was noted the balance stood at £2,979.97 before issue of the cheques in point 1 above.

#### **1234 Review of working parties 2015**

Mr Fraser to circulate dates and members to agree when they could help.

#### **1235 To agree attendance by Councillors to any forthcoming meetings.**

- SSDC Councillors Planning Workshop on 22<sup>nd</sup> September – Mr McKeown to attend.
- SALC AGM on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September – Potentially Mr Frazer to attend.
- SSDC Flood Prevention workshop 28<sup>th</sup> September – Mr McKeown to attend.

#### **1236 Correspondence.**

There were no items of report here.

#### **1237 Items of Report**

1. Mrs Clarke to provide the template and the Clerk to update and circulate the Parish Council contact details
2. Mr Frazer noted work at the Old Cider House had started and that the tree has been fenced and protected as required.
3. Mr Frazer reported that the Magna Carta sign had been delayed again but the sign writer had agreed to erect the sign free of charge. Once this has been done the final account can be settled and a VAT reclaim made, once the accounts have been reviewed by the Councils internal auditor.

#### **Date of Next Meetings**

- Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October – Parish Council Monthly Meeting
- It was noted that Parish Council meeting dates (2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month except August and December) for 2016 had been booked with the Village Hall.

**Shaun Dale**  
Clerk to the Council