

CURRY MALLET PARISH COUNCIL

ORDINARY MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Curry Mallet Parish Council
held on Monday 11 January 2016 in the Curry Mallet and Beercrocombe Village Hall, Curry Mallet.

Present: L W Frazer (Chairman), R J Allard, D R Beck, P McKeown, Mrs A J Clarke, G K Townrow, Mrs S Steele
(District Councillor) Part meeting

1264. Public Participation Time

No members of the public were present.

1265. To receive reports from the District and County Councillors on items that may be of interest.

Derek Yeoman's report had been previously circulated.

1266. Declarations of Interest.

There were no declarations of interest made.

1267. Apologies and reasons for absence.

None recorded.

1268. To approve and sign the Minutes of the meetings held on 9th November & 1st December 2015.

These minutes were approved and duly signed by the meeting Chairman.

1269. Matters of report arising from these Minutes.

- **1223.3 Welcome Pack** – Mr McKeown reported that the pack had been reviewed with Patsy Wallace and modified; copies had been provided to new residents of Fieldgate and Pope's Cross. An updated copy will be sent to the webmaster so it can be added to the village website.
- **1246.2 Playing Field Fence repairs** – 100m of fence will need repair in the coming years and the estimated cost for replacement posts and rails is ~£600. This is in addition to the £65 to replace the gate post. It was proposed that this be undertaken over a 3 year period with the appropriate budget amendments. Proposed by Mr Townrow, seconded by Mr Beck and agreed by all present.
- **1258 – Winter Salt** – Mr McKeown had collected and distributed around the Parish the 10 bags of salt provided from Somerset Highways' Yeovil depot. Householders at the top of Beer Street and the west-end of Silver Street now have salt for spreading over the approaches to this road junction. The Chairman expressed the thanks of the meeting to Mr McKeown for his efforts.

1270. Village Hall Update.

- **1244.4 Mower proposal** - Mr Allard is continuing to develop the proposals and options and will present the proposal at the next meeting. He is also liaising with Chris Cooper of SSDC Streetscene and with Councillor Yeomans to see if there is any scope for a grant from his Health and Wellbeing Fund.
- **Renewal of the lease** – Lease and supporting documents have been previously distributed. The lease expires in September 2017. Mr Allard also reported that he was meeting with Sarah Bird, the Duchy's Land Steward, in February to apprise her of the VHC's plans for future utilisation of the building and for ensuring that it continued to be maintained in a good state of repair.
- **To enable the parish council to consider all aspects of the lease renewal**, it was proposed that a Committee be established, comprising of 3 x Curry Mallet Parish Council members, 2 x Village Hall

Committee members (one from each community) and 1 x Beercrocombe Parish Council member. Proposed by Mr Townrow and seconded by Mr McKeown. Agreed by all members present. Terms of Reference would be drawn up for Council approval and the Committee was to report back by the end of June 2016 with a set of recommendations reflecting current circumstances and a view on a fair rental. Community Council for Somerset, among others, would be consulted regarding prevailing hall rentals. Mr Frazer to liaise with his counterpart on Beercrocombe Parish Council over their member.

1271. Village Defibrillator

Mr Frazer advised that British Heart Foundation were seeking applications for free defibrillators to be installed in community locations. In principle, the exterior wall of the Village Hall could be a suitable location, although it was noted that the unit would require a mains power feed. It was proposed that Mr Frazer progress the application and seek to define the potential ongoing costs that the Council would be expected to meet (volunteer training, electricity, insurance, maintenance, signage etc.). Input from neighbouring parishes that already have a defibrillator (Isle Abbots & Drayton) would also be sought by Mr Frazer. Proposed by Mr Beck and seconded by Mrs Clarke – agreed by all present.

1272. Rights of Way / Footpath Issues & Flood Mitigation

Mr McKeown advised that he had received a County Council leaflet concerning Rights of Way practices across cropped and ploughed land. He would establish whether this leaflet remained up-to-date and whether, for arable land, recourse to re-routing a footpath around field-edge verges was an acceptable alternative to the authorised Right of Way, in order to obviate the losses in crop yield.

Recent rain has challenged, but not overrun, the drains and rivers and the local “hot spots” appeared to be coping well at this time. The only concern was the stream below the Cider Barn where a beached tree-trunk was obstructing the flow, and this obstacle would be removed. (*Subsequently removed*) The ponding on Redland Lane had persisted, as run-off water was still unable to drain away through the east-side verge to the field drainage, due to the blocked ditch.

Mr Townrow to contact Somerset Highways to advise that their August 2014 ditch clearance and January 2015 drain jetting works on Fieldgate Lane had proved successful and were benefiting the people living in that locality .

Mr Allard recommended that the upstream side of the concrete dam by footpath L8/9 be cleared out, so the dam could again fulfil its original purpose as an attenuation pond in times of peak flow of the stream. The Stud Farm management would be contacted for access permission and to designate a suitable location for the extracted spoil.

1273. Planning.

Planning Application 15/02218/FUL Crimson Hill (additional 2 pitches comprising 2 x mobile homes + 2 x touring caravans for dwellings). This application had been due for consideration at SSDC Area North Committee meeting in November but was deferred pending further Observations from adjoining Parish Councils. It is hoped that it will feature on the Committee’s January meeting agenda. The planning authorisation status for the two mobile homes on land to the rear of Virginia Cottage was queried and would be checked with the SSDC planning officer for this Ward.

1274. Finance.

1. Outstanding invoices for payment.

- Clerk’s Wages Q3 2015/2016 were approved for payment
 - Cheque 512 for £201.51 was issued to the Clerk.
 - Cheque 511 for £134.40 was issued to HMRC.

It was agreed that future council meeting agendas would state the invoice/receipt amounts for which authorisation and payment/re-imburement was being sought; this practice would provide prior notice to Council members/ the public of any exceptional costs, so that more detailed justification could be prepared where clarification was needed to facilitate authorisation of the stated amount.

2. 2016/7 Budget Review

The Clerk to contact SSDC Finance to ensure Precept Form is received by him for return to them before 29th January. Re the budget for 2016/2017, Mr Townrow noted the major outstanding variable to be the extent of surplus from the Magna Carta Celebrations which might be re-imbursed to the Council (vs. original £1,215 grant awarded).

Internal Auditor for 2015/6 - It was proposed by Mr Beck and Seconded by Mrs Clarke and agreed by all present that Mrs Clarke contact Pam Crafter to see if she would continue as Internal Auditor. It was noted that Pam Crafter had attended the Grant Thornton audit training seminar in April 2015.

Work Place Pension – Mr Frazer reported that new legislation obliged employers to offer a work place pension to all employees and that he had received a letter from the Pensions Regulator. Mr Frazer would ascertain the Council's obligation from the Regulator (*subsequently confirmed as none*).

3. Bank Reconciliation

Account balances and outstanding payments and receipts were reviewed and approved, and a copy of the reconciliation was then duly signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.

Account balances at 31st December 2015 confirmed as:

Current Account £1,418.62 with £170 deposit outstanding and unpresented cheques totalling £20
Deposit Account £2862.43

1275. Agree attendance by Councillors to any forthcoming meetings & review of meetings attended

- PEW (Parish Emergency Wardens) workshop 13 Jan
- PCC Public Forum 21 Jan 2016 Taunton 18:45
- Grant Thornton (External Auditor) seminar 27th March 2016 – Clerk to attend
- Area North Committee – Mr McKeown to attend January 27th for the Crimson Hill planning application.

1276. Correspondence

SSDC Finance Mail re Council Tax Reduction Scheme confirming the proposed levels for the next 3 years as 2016/17 £160, 2017/18 £50 and 2018/19 £20.

The Somerset Rivers Authority winter publication "The Stream" had been circulated and was of interest.

RNAS Yeovilton Command advised that, due to the need for increased security checking of visitors, the Merryfield Open Evening for 2016 has been cancelled.

1277. Review of Standing Orders

It was agreed that, following advice, **Standing Order 1 (Meetings) paragraph m** should be amended to cross-reference to the Council's Policy on the Recording of Meetings which states that persons wishing to record any meeting should, whenever possible, provide advance notice to the Council of this intent.

Standing Order 7 (Code of Conduct) paragraphs e & f, re dispensations, to remain incorporated and a Dispensation Form to be held with meeting papers should it be needed on any future occasions. Clerk to make necessary amendments.

1278. Items of report from members

- Mr Beck and Mr McKeown reported potholes on Beer Street and Higher Street and will notify Somerset Highways through their Customer Services 'phone number (0300 123 2224)
- Mr Townrow reported that the CRISP Scheme have awarded the Council a grant of £494.02 for buying equipment for use by Parish Volunteers. He will progress with procuring the stipulated equipment.

Next meeting will be held on Monday February 8th 2016 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm



Shaun Dale Clerk to the Parish Council