

## CURRY MALLET PARISH COUNCIL

### ORDINARY MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Curry Mallet Parish Council

held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2016 in the Curry Mallet and Beercrocombe Village Hall, Curry Mallet.

**Present:** L W Frazer (Chairman), R J Allard, D J Beck, P McKeown & G K Townrow.

**In attendance:** Cllr Sue Steele (part meeting)

#### **1308. Public Participation Time**

No members of the public were present.

#### **1309. To receive reports from the District and County Councillors on items that may be of interest.**

Derek Yeomans' report had been previously circulated. Cllr Sue Steele raised the ongoing concerns currently being debated about small schools in Somerset and how they would fare under the spending cuts. In response to a query re the Crimson Orchard planning application (15/02218/FUL) and the local authority's refusal to grant planning permission, Mrs Steele observed that as yet no Appeal had been lodged by the applicants. She advised that Area North Committee had indicated that enforcement action was to be pursued.

#### **1310. Declarations of Interest.**

None declared.

#### **1311. Apologies and reasons for absence.**

Mrs A J Clarke, who was babysitting for a friend who was attending a funeral.

#### **1312. To approve and sign the Minutes of the meetings held on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2016.**

The minutes as drafted were approved and duly signed by the meeting Chairman.

#### **1313. Matters of report arising from these Minutes.**

**1244.4. VHC Mower Purchase Proposal** – Mr Allard had yet to liaise with SSDC Area North Development (Teresa Oulds/Sara Kelly) regarding the scope for a community grant. Another VHC proposal, for a new heating system, was already being progressed with these District Council officers.

**1270. Renewal of Village Hall Lease** – The initial meeting of the Lease Committee was held on 29 March. It had been confirmed that the building as well as the grounds reverted to Duchy ownership at the end of the current lease. The various issues regarding the lease renewal were discussed and further work was being undertaken prior to the Committee's next meeting in June.

It was noted that Stoke Sub Hamdon Village Hall was also leased from the Duchy of Cornwall.

**1289. Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday** – Final plans to be reported to the Council's insurance broker, Aon. Plans concluded for the bonfire in the field on Top Road. Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue have been advised as well as Police and local residents. Wood has been ordered and Mr Adams (Farmer) has concurred with arrangements.

**1290. Annual Parish Meeting** – 27<sup>th</sup> April 2016. Draft agenda was reviewed and final arrangements were confirmed. The meeting will start at 19:30 and so far 9 speakers are booked to attend together with the Village Agent, as guest speaker.

**1293. Litter Pick** – 21 Adults and 5 children joined the event, collecting 20 full bags of rubbish and other rubbish was gathered for removal from Top Road. All material and bags have now been removed, together with the animal husbandry "Sharp" found, and returned to SSDC Streetscene for disposal. The event was well supported and thanks have been expressed to the community and SSDC for their help.

It was noteworthy that several of the parish's newer residents had taken part in this event.

**1301. Magna Carta** – Celia Hawkins and Neil Crafter have agreed to join the Committee to oversee the final legacy actions alongside Mr Frazer. Ann Collett was formally thanked for her considerable involvement in community events, including the 2013 History Festival, and was wished well for her recent move away.

**1302. Village Web Site and Newsletter**– Actions regarding the setting up of a Steering Group rest with the current web-site administrators and no further progress has been reported to date.

Mr Townrow is to ascertain the constitution of the newsletter's Editorial Board in order to advise them of the Parish Council's concerns together with a reminder about inclusion of the disclaimer, which had been omitted from recent issues. Reference there to originators' copyright ownership should also be included.

**1303. CRISP Grant equipment.** Mr Townrow reported that all equipment had now been delivered. A photograph of the Parish Volunteers using the equipment would be taken for the grant providers' publicity.

#### **1314. Annual Return 2016**

The Clerk's schedule of Receipts & Payments for 2015/2016 was reviewed and approved, albeit subject to finalisation of the explanatory notes and to re-definition of expenditure amounts to separate out and aggregate all the VAT elements. Mr Townrow to assist. The Summary had utilised the April 2015 opening balance as per the Cash Book, in order to adjust for the previous year-end creditor and debtor impacts. Section 2 of the Annual Return was then duly signed by the Clerk, as Responsible Financial Officer, and by the Chairman.

Precept for 2016/17 of £3725 plus SSDC grant of £240 = £3965 had been received into the bank account. This year's Council's overall precept requirement of £3965 was unchanged but met with a lower SSDC grant amount.

Internal audit to be completed by end of May 2016 and publication on June 24th for 30 days which must include the first 10 working days of July.

Compliance with Transparency Code: The paper circulated by Mr Townrow was reviewed by the attendees. Particular attention was drawn to the Sinking Fund in Part 1, the Financial Regulations in Part 4, the Internal Audit requirements & External Representation. All agreed that the paper represented the Council's Views well. With regard to members' external representation, Mr Townrow reminded members that he was a member of the SSDC Standards Committee.

#### **1315. Rights of Way / Footpath Issues & Flood Mitigation**

Mr McKeown reported that he had spoken to the tenant farmer about ditch blockages affecting footpath L8/13 and had been advised that the clearance work would be undertaken at a time when routine farming priorities permitted.

Footpath L8//24 membrane erosion will be addressed in May / June once better weather arrives. On 20<sup>th</sup> April Mr McKeown and others will review the area and ascertain and requirements for materials.

Mr McKeown also reported that the SCC Rights of Way officer has confirmed that the March 2015 work undertaken by the Council on L8/24 was of a suitable standard and have signed off the work. He also confirmed that SCC were aware of issues with L8/13 at the westerly end as the route did not follow that shown on the map, but they were not currently minded to address the situation.

#### **1316. Finance.**

##### **1. Outstanding invoices for payment.**

The following re-imbusement payments were reviewed and approved by attendees.

- Crisp Grant Equipment to GKT £71.95 Cheque 523 issued
- Litter Pick refreshments LWF £7.54 Cheque 524 issued
- Strimmer Fuel LWF Cheque 525 £5.31 issued
  
- Annual Precept & Grant from SSDC received £3965

## **2. Bank Reconciliation.**

Bank reconciliation at 30th March:-

Current Account	£1363.77
Less cheques drawn but not debited	£753.40
Plus Receipts	£214.18
Treasurer's Account	£2862.97
<b>Total</b>	<b>£3687.52</b>

### **1317. Agree attendance by Councillors to any forthcoming meetings & review of meetings attended**

The Clerk reported that the SALC/Grant Thornton audit training session scheduled for March 27<sup>th</sup> had had to be deferred due to the County Secretary's illness absence. A new date was awaited.

### **1318. Update of Council's Asset Register, Risk Management Methodology & FoI Policy Documentation**

The Clerk's updated Register of Assets was reviewed and approved; it was noted that legislation required that this Register records the historic purchase values of the assets. Mr McKeown queried whether the Council's valuations for insurance purposes (eg. theft or damage to street furniture) reflected historic or replacement cost, and Mr Townrow undertook to ascertain the status from Aon.

The gaps in the FoI Publication Schedule had been addressed, and the updated Schedule would be circulated to Council members.

### **1319. Correspondence**

From the SSDC Democratic Services Manager, training sessions to be held on May 12<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> on planning policy and practice.

### **1320. Items of report from members**

Mr Townrow reported that Highways' contractor had, on 29 March, undertaken the resurfacing and associated drainage works around the upper bend on Helliars Lane. The verge ditch had also been cleared and a new outflow installed.

Highways and the Police had been consulted re the continued parking issues on Lower Street outside the School. The School had advised parents of the risks of fines arising from their parking on the yellow lines.

S106 money for the provision of play facilities expires in July 2016. Mr Allard confirmed that he had been in contact with SSDC S106 Officer (David Waddleton) and a meeting had been arranged, so SSDC were aware. Mr Allard was recommended also to contact Adrian Moore of SSDC Leisure Services, as Rob Parr was currently on sick leave.

A work party was in place for 20th April (pm) to clear debris from the Sheep-wash basin and down-stream.

Mr McKeown reported on highway surface degradation in Pestlefield Lane due to run-off water at times of heavy rainfall. Presence of this run-off was ascribed to a blocked culvert east of Banker's Castle, which caused the excess water to drain away along the road surfaces rather than via the field & ditch drainage system. Highways have been made aware.

Mr McKeown thanked Chris Rymell for having cleared the nearby Higher Street gully surfaces. He also sought details of environmental health enforcement procedures (a Community Protection Notice) for noise control.

Mr Townrow congratulated the VHC for their "Big Breakfast" event, which had drawn much support from younger families, including some only recently resident in the parish.

### **The meeting concluded in remembrance of Gladys Garland**

Gladys, who died on March 29th this year, was Curry Mallet's oldest resident and would have been 100 years old on October 5th; although born in Portsmouth, virtually all of her life was spent in this village, – with attendance at Curry Mallet Primary School in the 1920s and thereafter living in various of the dwellings within the parish, including several which are no longer standing. Her daughter Sue was born in 1950 in a cottage next to Manor Farm, now the school's car park for staff. Until very recently, Gladys lived at no. 12 Pope's Cross and had been there since 1955.

**Next meeting will be held on Monday April 11<sup>th</sup> 2016 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm**



Shaun Dale Clerk to the Parish Council