

CURRY MALLET PARISH COUNCIL

ORDINARY MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Curry Mallet Parish Council
held on Monday 14th March 2016 in the Curry Mallet and Beercrocombe Village Hall, Curry Mallet.

Present: L W Frazer (Chairman), R J Allard, P McKeown, Mrs A J Clarke & G K Townrow.

In attendance: Cllr Sue Steele (part meeting)

1294. Public Participation Time

1295. To receive reports from the District and County Councillors on items that may be of interest.

Derek Yeomans' report had been previously circulated. Mrs Steele advised on the high volume of calls to SSDC today following the recent dispatch of 2016/7 Council Tax bills, which now included a levy for the recently constituted Somerset Rivers Authority and additional County Council costs for Care Act provision.

1296. Declarations of Interest.

Mr Allard declared an interest with respect of the Village Hall Mower proposal. Mr Townrow declared an interest in respect of the revised Vantage Construction invoice for the Magna Carta village sign installation costs, for which he had, with Mr Dove's approval, printed off and amended the invoice to correct for an arithmetic error. Mr Townrow was a signatory to the Magna Carta account, on behalf of the parish council.

1297. Apologies and reasons for absence.

None recorded.

1298. To approve and sign the Minutes of the meetings held on 8th February 2016.

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

1299. Matters of report arising from these Minutes.

1246.2 Playing Field Fence repairs – Mr Adams has installed the new metal gate post and has invoiced the Council accordingly. No further fencing repairs would be undertaken this financial year. A source of superior quality (more durable) fencing had been identified at Cricket St Thomas.

1244.4. Village Hall Update. 1244.4 Mower proposal - Mr Allard's previously circulated paper was reviewed. It proposed the purchase of a self-propelled mulching mower. Informal discussion with SSDC has indicated that such a purchase may be eligible for a "Community Use" Capital Investment grant. Mr Allard to contact Teresa Oulds to pursue.

Mr Allard proposed that CMPC offer a grant of up to £200 towards the purchase cost. This was agreed unanimously and funds will be released when the time comes to purchase the said mower.

1270. Renewal of Village Hall Lease – Mr Frazer advised that the 1st meeting of the Committee will be on 29th March. He has been in contact with Nicola Greenslade of Community Council for Somerset to explore lease arrangements and tenancy rental costs applicable to other Village Halls and Communities. The VHC's hire charges are currently aligned with other similar venues; locally with an ad hoc hourly rate of £11 per hour and a regular user rate of £9.00 per hour. It has been determined that the original lease arrangement required a specific Trust Deed to be drawn up, in that the Duchy were only partial contributors to the building costs. At renewal, the Duchy acquired full rights to the building and, thereafter, would be leasing both land and building in their entirety.

1278.1 Highway response to potholes – The reported pothole by Laurel Cottages has been filled today (14th March).

1287. Virginia Cottage. – It was confirmed that no new planning application has been submitted but that the SSDC Planning Officer has met the owners on site. The change in name to Latcham Farm was reported to have been progressed with the SSDC Street-numbering Officer.

1289. Queen's 90th Birthday – Date is confirmed, field booked, Police and Civil Contingencies advised, together with Beercrocombe and Fivehead Parish Councils. Clerk to register the event with the Pageant Master. Council's insurers to be notified of arrangements. Wood for the fire has been secured and the fire will be built on afternoon of 21st April by the Clerk and Mr McKeown plus other volunteers.

1290. Annual Parish Meeting – 27th April 2016. Confirmed Village Hall is booked and invites for speakers will be issued to local organisations by end of this week with publicity starting by end March. Projector / Screen and Display Boards have been secured in support of the meeting. Photos awaited.

1291. A303/A358 Consultation 25th Feb – Mr Townrow, Mr Beck & Mr McKeown had attended the consultation and reported back that the slides will be made available. Work is planned to start in 2020 based on plans from 2007 and earlier. The roads will become an "Expressway" with limited ingress and egress points and improved and reduced signage. The plans do not include improvements through the Blackdown Hills. This new Scheme will be progressed under a Development Consent Order, after formal public consultation, obviating the need for recourse to a protracted Public Inquiry. Treasury funding for the Scheme has been secured, but the development route "on-line" or "off-line" has yet to be decided. Further public consultation, later in 2016, anticipated.

1300. Rights of Way / Footpath Issues & Flood Mitigation

Issues reported to Mr McKeown concerning Park Farm's field-gate and path access have been referred to Beercrocombe Council as the land is within their parish jurisdiction.

The slope on path L8/24 outside the school playground has been eroded to the membrane and needs raking and tamping.

The gravel spread in March 2015 on paths L8/24 & L8/25 is holding up well after the winter rains. It was agreed that the L8/24 work should be extended west to the Headwell kissing-gate in due course. Path L8/13 has been cleared but 2 fallen trees could block the ditch/watercourse, causing run-off water down Pestlefield Lane. Mr McKeown to seek permission from Stud Farm to cut & clear the trees. A work party, to clear debris from the stream adjacent to path L8/24 and the sheep-wash, is needed.

1301. Magna Carta

Mr Frazer confirmed that all outstanding invoices had been paid, save for the £100+VAT exceptional audit fee incurred by CMPC which was due for repayment. The Council's next claim for VAT refund, to be submitted after 7th April, will include a reported sum of £1,038.55 relating to Magna Carta 800th Anniversary expenditure. This element of the Council's VAT refund, if granted, will be transferred to the Magna Carta account and held pending the Magna Carta Committee's decision as to its future use. *(The Magna Carta account final balance was subsequently confirmed by Mr Frazer to be £485.67.)*

Two new members would be sought for the Committee, to replace vacancies left by Mrs Hookham and Mrs Collett who no longer resided in the parish. This will allow the Committee to administer the legacy of the event on behalf of the community.

1302. Newsletter and Web Site

Mr Frazer and Mr Townrow have met with the *de facto* Village Website team and discussed the arrangements that had been inherited. The incumbents had not had guidelines regarding operational responsibilities (eg. the maintenance of advertising revenue and thus of ensuring timely payments). A Steering Group is to be constituted, setting out clear roles and responsibilities. The Council will have a representative on the Group to reflect its financial support. It will assist the search for new team members. It was confirmed that the Curry Mallet Community Fund own the domain name.

Council members drew attention to various aspects, which were considered unhelpful, regarding newsletter issue no 42; the following actions were endorsed and would be progressed, -

- Mr Frazer would write to Chris Marks to note that the Council had given thorough consideration to the "Community Right to Bid" legislation and that, after discussion at seven separate meetings and with advice from SSDC Area North Development, the Council had decided not to progress any such Bid in that it afforded no benefits over existing planning legislation and was not supported by the present ownership of the pub or the shop.
- Mr Townrow would notify the Editorial Team that the Council deprecated the inclusion of

anonymous articles as being inimical to social cohesion within a small village community. The newsletter, through its being sponsored by the Council, had the benefit of insurance cover for libel, which could become compromised by such editorial content, disclaimers notwithstanding.

1303. Finance.

1. Outstanding invoices for payment.

The following payments were reviewed and approved by attendees.

- Duchy of Cornwall Playing Field rent (6 months) £60.00 Cheque 514 issued
- Annual Membership, Community Council for Somerset £40.00 Cheque 515 issued
- Road signs as part of CRiSP Grant – Bunzl Greenham £317.89 Cheque 516 issued
(*due to arithmetic error, amount subsequently revised and authorised to £317.38*)
- GK Townrow, part of CRiSP Grant safety equipment £138.56 Cheque 517 issued
- MR Adams & Son, – supply and erecting of Playing Field Gate post
£90.00 Cheque 518 issued
- Parish Magazine Printing £109.00 Cheque 519 issued
- HMRC Q4 Clerk's Salary £134.40 Cheque 520 issued
- Clerk's Salary Q4 £201.51 Cheque 521 issued
- SALC Audit training £25.00 Cheque 522 issued
- Purchase of 3 copies of the "Good Councillor Guide", 2016 Edition, for £2.00 per copy

2. Bank Reconciliation.

Bank reconciliation with statements was completed and duly signed – current balances are:-

Current Account	£1,626.73
Treasurer's Account	£2,862.97
Total	£4,489.70

An invoice has been raised to Beercrocombe Council to cover their share of the Beer & Curry Printing costs, for the sum of £124.18. Likely financial year-end Council balance, after clearance of cheques 514 – 522, would be *ca.* £3,500 and was considered an adequate level of reserves.

3. Annual Return Preparation.

Receipts & Payments Schedule for 2015/2016, with Notes, to be available for next meeting.

4. Clerk's Salary, Annual Review.

Mr Townrow reported that the NALC/SLCC Pay Scale Review for local authority employees, effective from April 2016, had only just been started; revision to the Clerk's salary level, once agreed by the Council, would need to be back-dated to April. In the interim, the rate of £8.613/hr. still prevailed.

1304. Agree attendance by Councillors to any forthcoming meetings & review of meetings attended SALC Audit Training 23rd March – Clerk (*Subsequently deferred by SALC*)

1305 Update of Council's Asset Register, Risk Management Methodology & FoI Policy Documentation

The Clerk to circulate the amended documents to members for review off-line before the next meeting,

1306. Correspondence

- Police & Crime Commissioners Newsletter was circulated
- SSDC Green Waste scheme as circulated
- Information on Somerset day 11th May was circulated
- Moneywise information was circulated
- Lloyds Bank letter concerning FIA taxation was discussed – Clerk to seek advice and progress
- Small Council Audit Company Ltd newsletter was circulated

1307. Items of report from members

Mr Townrow reported on content of his meetings of February 18th with Sarah Bird, the Duchy's Area Land Steward, and of March 10th with South Somerset Area Highways' personnel.

Next meeting will be held on Monday April 11th 2016 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm



Shaun Dale Clerk to the Parish Council