

CURRY MALLET PARISH COUNCIL
ORDINARY MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Curry Mallet Parish Council

held on Monday 11th July 2016 in the Curry Mallet and Beercrocombe Village Hall, Curry Mallet.

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

In attendance: Cllr D N Yeomans (Part Meeting)

1349. Public Participation Time

Mr Going and Mr Collins, representing residents of Church St. (TA3 6TD), spoke of the ongoing issues with potholes in the road surface which had caused vehicle drivers, while taking evasive action, to encroach onto their privately-owned grassed verges. Church St., a 'no-through road' leading solely to Park Farm and All Saints' church, was well-used by heavy agricultural and commercial vehicles serving Park Farm. More substantial remedial work was therefore needed over and above the routine surface-dressing treatment. Moreover, the carriageway had a high crown causing rain water run-off to form long puddles along the road's edges. These puddles obliged children from Curry Mallet Primary School to walk along the middle of the road when attending the church for school services.

Mr Townrow referred to his discussion with Somerset Highways (see min. 1348) in which he had been advised that re-surfacing of this road was a high priority and that agreement with Park Farm had been reached to undertake this work in February 2017, - a timing to minimise disruption to routine vehicle movements for the farm. Residents are to write to Somerset Highways to reinforce the necessity both for this resurfacing and for ensuring that the scheduled timings didn't slip.

It was also noted that the yellow zig zags painted on the road near to the school's entrance, although faded, were deemed by Highways still to be serviceable, and therefore that vehicles left in this area (to drop-off or collect children) were vulnerable to the imposition of parking fines. The parking congestion in the school's vicinity would be exacerbated during remedial Highways' work to repair the Sheppy Road verge railings.

Mr Townrow advised that, following discussion with Highways' Gary Warren, the 'School' sign would be moved around the corner of Lower St. (to approx. opposite 'Croft Orchard') and that 'SLOW' would be painted across the carriageway at that new location. 'SLOW' would also be painted across the carriageway by 'The Woolpack' on Helliars Lane, where the other school sign was located.

1350. To receive reports from the District and County Councillors on items that may be of interest

The report from Cllr Yeoman has previously been circulated. He also commented on the current dialogue surrounding the combining of 22 public service bodies throughout Somerset and Devon into a loose federation system under the devolution of powers. Whilst there has already been confirmation that there will not be an overall mayor and that each body would retain its identity, the benefits are still being worked through.

Corporate parents (<http://www.somerset.gov.uk/get-involved/volunteering/corporate-parenting>) was also raised and the issues and support that local communities can face and offer young people. Members were encouraged to review the web-site and make a contribution.

1351. Declarations of Interest

None declared.

1352. Apologies

Mrs A J Clarke, absent for family reasons.

1353. Minutes of the meeting held on 13th June 2016

These were approved and duly signed by the Chairman.

1354. Matters arising

1270 Village Hall Lease Renewal – The next meeting of the Committee is mid-September. Mr Townrow had established through the local District Councillor that Stoke sub-Hamdon's village hall was owned by an independent trust, and that the Duchy of Cornwall's ownership was confined to the allotments and other land. Mr Allard will discuss further possible contacts with Community Council for Somerset, prior to the next Committee meeting.

1302 Village Web Site Steering Group – Mr Townrow had spoken to Mr Cannon and Mrs Turner regarding the formation of a Steering Group to provide governance and administrative guidance. Mr McKeown will be the Council's representative on the Group.

The meeting with the Editorial Board of the Newsletter, to review its governance processes was still pending. Mr Beck will be the Council representative and Mr Townrow will co-ordinate the session at an appropriate time.

1320 Village Play Area – Mr Allard reported that the VHC had not met since the last Parish Council meeting.

1334 Village Hall Mower. Mr Allard will present, at the September meeting, a proposal to draw upon the Council's offer of a grant (up to £200) towards its purchase cost. The Village Agent would be contacted by the VHC for other possible sources of a grant. This proposal will be an agenda item under finance.

1355. Council Membership

It was agreed unanimously that Mrs Clark be excused meetings for the next 6 months, for reasons that Council members considered to be entirely appropriate. Mr McKeown is to undertake soundings over the summer months for co-opting an additional member; if unsuccessful, a vacancy notice will again be placed in the next Beer and Curry Newsletter. By reference to 'The Good Councillor's Guide', Mr Townrow reminded members that the Council was quorate provided that 3 members were present at each meeting.

1356. Footpaths & ROW

L8/9 footpath – there are 4 bridges on this route, Mr McKeown has been in contact with Rachael Pearce of SCC Rights of Way and agreed she will have a technician review 3 of the 4 structures to ensure any defects are recorded and plans for remedial action established. It was noted that the bridge on L8/25 at Headwell is an exemplar and had been upgraded by Rachael Pearce's team last December.

Mr Townrow and Mr Frazer agreed to undertake clearance work on part of L8/25 and Mr McKeown is to address the upper stretch of L8/10.

It was agreed that, in March 2017, two dumpy bags of gravel would be purchased and spread along L8/24 nearer to the Headwell end and beyond the field entrance.

1357. Planning

It was confirmed that planning approval, subject to the usual caveats, had been granted by SSDC for: -
External Extension at Jasmine Cottage.
Internal alterations at Chestnut Cottage.

1358. Annual Return 2016

1. The Clerk has agreed with the External Auditor an extension to July 15th for submitting the Return.
2. The Internal Audit had been completed by Mrs Pam Crafter and the Council extended their thanks to her for the diligence with which she performed the task. Her Report was read out to the meeting, and a copy would be circulated by the Clerk to each member. The Report had highlighted a number of minor deficiencies. The Council agreed to adopt the proposals tabled by Mr McKeown to improve diligence for cheque authorisation and recording. These proposals will be submitted with the Annual Return, by way of demonstrating the Council's intent to rectify these deficiencies, and will be incorporated within the Council's Financial Procedures when reviewed in September. Overall the accounts were in good order.
3. The Annual Governance Statement (Section 1) provisions were reviewed by the Council, duly affirmed by all members present, and signed by the Chairman and the Responsible Financial Officer.
4. It was noted that the unaudited accounts had been published on 24th June and would be open to public inspection until 3rd August.

1359. Finance

The following payments were agreed and cheques will be issued in due course.

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| 1. HMRC (Clerk Salary) | £135.60 | Cheque no 531 issued |
| 2. S Dale (Clerk Salary April – June 2016)* | £204.36 | Cheque no 532 issued |
| 3. SALC Training for Clerk | £55.00 | Cheque no 533 issued (see min. 1233.1) |
| 4. A previously authorised cheque (522) in favour of SALC for £25:00 to cover Audit Training (see min. 1303) was cancelled since the course had not been run and no fee was incurred. | | |

*It was noted that the salary was increased from 1st April 2016, in line with the NALC/SLCC recommendations, at the June meeting (see min. 1345)

1360. Attendance at forthcoming meetings

Nothing to note

1361. Correspondence

A number of items of correspondence have been previously circulated to members

- SSDC Rural Housing Action Plan Consultation – It was noted that Yarlinton Housing Group which owns the three Headwell Close purpose-built bungalows had designated them as ‘General Stock’ for allocation to people aged over 55 or having a medical condition, *ie.* no special priority for elderly people from the local community. This was contrary to the Council’s express wish that priority also be given to eligible local people. (see min.1151.8). The loss of social housing in the village, resulting from historic ‘Right to Buy’ policies, was also noted with concern.
- SSDC S106 Policy
- SALC Training
- Joint Strategic Needs Somerset – The Clerk to ascertain from SCC Democratic Services Officer whether the Parish Council can submit a return as a statutory entity or whether it must be on an individual person basis. (*Subsequently noted that a Council submission was eligible, - Clerk to co-ordinate*)
- SRA June Newsletter
- SCC LLC consultation
- PCC Consultation
- SCC Chairman’s Awards 2016

1362. Items of report from members

- Mr Townrow noted that the relatively high incidence of Fly Tipping in Curry Mallet and Fivehead had been raised with SSDC Streetscene at the June Area North Committee meeting; details of rubbish were subsequently identified to Streetscene as being builder’s rubbish, garden waste, mattresses, tyres and a numbers of bags containing soiled nappies. Streetscene continue to work with communities to clear quickly all reported items, but enforcement action is both costly in legal fees and difficult to secure convictions.
- Mr Townrow also advised that Streetscene has offered to train Parish Volunteers how to work safely in flood water, in line with training provided to their own staff.
- Gary Warren has confirmed Highways’ willingness to position cylindrical bollards in the carriageway verge adjacent to the Village Hall pedestrian exit, but had declined to paint white markings on the road surface. Mr Allard agreed to raise with the VHC the painting of yellow markings on the path within the Hall curtilage.
- Replacement sign post finger-arms would not be provided by Somerset Highways, but complete sign replacements could be undertaken at a cost of £1500 if financed by the parish council.
- The redundant Village Entry sign, to be positioned opposite the layby at Rockway, would be installed by SCC Highways at a cost of £150 (to include the required underground survey for utility service pipework). This expenditure was agreed by all Councillors present. Mr Warren was not amenable to the other redundant sign being positioned on the Beer Street verge, although placement on nearby private land was acceptable.
- Mr Townrow had also attended the recent Prize Giving at Huish school and reported that prizes had been awarded to three local students, - Flossy Tottle, Zaida Adams, Jack Bawler & Evie Jervis of Beercrocombe.

Next meeting will be held on Monday September 12th 2016 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm



Shaun Dale Clerk to the Parish Council