

CURRY MALLET PARISH COUNCIL
ORDINARY MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Curry Mallet Parish Council

held on Monday 14th November 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 S Steele (District Councillor), part-time

1389. Public Participation Time

No members of the public attended the meeting.

1390. To receive reports from the District and County Councillors on items that may be of interest

County Councillor Mr Yeomans sent his apologies to the meeting. His report for October had been circulated to members.

Cllr Steele reported on the start of the transition within SSDC aimed at saving £4m. This includes the loss of 61 FTE posts. The new SSDC Chief Executive, Alex Parmley, had started in role on 3rd October.

For parishes with responsibilities for graveyards, SSDC has sponsored sessions using expertise from Taunton Deane Council. There are 120 graveyards in the SSDC area. Whilst Curry Mallet PC was not presently responsible for the All Saints' graveyard, a representative from the PCC would be eligible to attend. (The parish council's annual grant to the PCC was a contribution for graveyard maintenance under s.214(6) of LGA 1972). The Council was grateful for the initiative as it saves costs of attending other training at £150 per head. Helen Rutter was the contact at SSDC.

Connecting Devon and Somerset – the Broadband rollout authority; Mrs Steele reported that SSDC was withholding its phase 2 payment since there was no certainty that this financial contribution would be utilised within its administrative area for the benefit the SSDC council tax payers.

A one-off session on 22nd November was to be run at Brympton Way for Curry Mallet parish council on precept setting for 2017/2018. The Council was grateful for the assistance of the SSDC Finance Manager, Catherine Hood, in accommodating Curry Mallet's request.

1391 Declarations of Interest

Mr Allard as Chairman of the Village Hall Committee declared an interest in the grant proposal for the Village Hall.

1392. Apologies

Mrs A J Clarke, for family reasons (see min. 1355).

1393. Minutes of the meeting held on 10 October 2016

These were approved and duly signed by the Chairman.

1394. Matters arising

1270. Village Hall Renewal of Lease. – The Committee has met and further meetings have been scheduled. This is a tripartite group consisting of CMPC as custodian trustee, Village Hall Committee and Beercrocombe Parish Council. Mr Allard is progressing the discussion paper for review at the Council's January meeting; thereafter, the Council will be writing formally to the Duchy asking to start negotiations. The lease expires in September 2017.

1302. Village Web Site – The Steering Group was due to meet on 15th November. Mr McKeown is leading the meeting. Some advertising revenue, for the 12-month period ending August 2016, has now been promised.

Separately, Mr Townrow and Mr Beck were liaising with Bob Hearn, on behalf of the newsletter's Editorial Board, regarding its governance policy & procedures. Mr Townrow confirmed the additional software approved by the Council had yet to be procured.

1320. Village Play Area – A formal statement, apportioning responsibilities between the Council and the VHC would be drawn up for the avoidance of doubt.

1349. Church Street Highway Resurfacing - Still scheduled for works to be undertaken on 17th February 2017.

1355. Parish Council Membership – The one vacancy remained unfilled; another request for candidates will be run in December’s Newsletter. All Councillors were reminded to continue with efforts to fill the vacancy.

1362. Relocation of village entry sign – The redundant sign from Marshway has been re-installed by Somerset Highways’ contractor in the Rockway verge, north of Latcham Farm. Mr Townrow’ Highways’ & Drainage Report, item 5, refers; the Council should anticipate an invoice from SCC for £150. + VAT. A great approach to recycling and repurposing. Item discharged

1369. L8/13 footpath clearance – The Stud Farm water-catchment bund, currently under construction, may help in reducing surface water run-off flows from the hillside to the west of the village. The gully at the top of the field west of Latcham Farm was reported to be overgrown, giving rise to surface water issues. The farmer is to be contacted re access for clearing.

1370. Planning

Crimson Hill Enforcement Notice Appeal APP/R3325/C/16/3154414 – Nothing anticipated until February or March when the Planning Inspectors hearing was likely to be held. This will be a public meeting and the Parish Council will have the opportunity to attend and speak in support of its written submission.

Stud Farm Bund 16/02691/AGN – Mr McKeown was grateful for receipt of the then parish council’s deliberations in September 2005, re planning application 05/01419/AG1, for a similar Bund. Min. 173 refers. That application had included the planting of trees, by way of landscaping and of strengthening the Bund.

April Cottage External Extension 16/04136/FUL - it was noted that conditional approval had been granted for the extension.

1375. Popes Cross Notice Board – On-line quotes have been obtained and Mr Skinner was working up a quotation for the supply and fix of a new board similar to the one in Higher Street near the Post Office.

1385. VAT Return

The Clerk confirmed that the VAT Return for two fiscal years covering April 2014 to March 2016 had been submitted to and processed by HMRC with a BACS transfer, advised on 8th November, totalling £1,755.61.

The Return had included items purchased for the Magna Carta Celebrations, generating a re-payment of £1,020.23, in addition to normal Council invoices for which the re-payment amount was £735.38. Mr Frazer proposed that, in line with the legacy mandate from the National Heritage Lottery Fund, the Council should award an exceptional grant of £1,000 to Curry Mallet School for the purpose of defraying costs associated with setting up its Pre-school Nursery, due to open in January 2017. (see min. 1376). If the Nursey did not open, the grant would be returned to the Council. By way of offsetting this grant, £475.67 of the Magna Carta Committee’s £485.67 residual surplus would be transferred back to the Council’s account, thereby repaying part of the £1,215 grant provided initially by the Council to the Magna Carta Committee. It was agreed that £10 be retained in the Committee’s account to keep it open, for potential future use. This proposal was accepted by all those present.

1395. Footpaths & ROW

Mr McKeown was following up the repairs needed to the three bridges on L8/9 & L8/10; Rachel Pearce of SCC Rights of Way had undertaken to send an engineer to inspect. It was hoped to meet with Rachel Pearce and Tracey Sutton (the new Rights of Way Volunteers & Trails Officer), in Curry Mallet, to review the state of the parish footpaths.

Working party arranged for February 26th 2017, for spreading gravel along the west section of L8/24, weather permitting. Clerk to obtain quotations for the 10mm chips grade of gravel specified by SCC Rights of Way.

1396. Planning

‘Crofters’, Higher St. – External Extension 16/04493/FUL

After consideration of the submitted plans, the Council had no observations to make on the submission since the proposed development, being at the rear of the building, was not detrimental to visual amenity for the wider community.

1397. Finance

2017/8 Budget Setting – The Clerk to amend the updated draft to cover additionally the VAT re-payment and the grant to the School. Subject to re-statement of the likely March 2017 and March 2018 closing balances, (aiming for not less than £2,500), the Council agreed a budget of £4,500 for 2017/2018, with incorporation of amounts for the Play Area of £500 for 2016/2017 and £1,000 for 2017/2018, to provide for the sinking fund and for some of the routine maintenance costs. The Council was mindful of the parish's change in demographic, there being more families with young children, *vide* >20 of Curry Mallet School's roll of 64 now resident in the parish. This increase in number of children reinforced the original rationale for the Play Area, as presented and agreed at the Council's January 2015 meeting (min. 1128 refers), and the 2017/2018 budget would reflect this need. The Council's column in the forthcoming issue of the newsletter would make reference to the budget and its underlying assumptions.

The 2016 Grants to local organisations were agreed and cheques prepared.

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

1. South Somerset Links	£60.00	Cheque no 540 issued
2. All Saints' PCC	£300.00	Cheque no 541 issued
3. CMBC Village Hall Committee	£300.00	Cheque no 542 issued
4. CAB Taunton	£40.00	Cheque no 543 issued
5. Royal British Legion	£20.00	Cheque no 544 issued

Bank Reconciliation at 31st October 2016

Current Account and Cash Book	£2759.18
Treasurers Account	£2864.16
Total	£5623.34

1398. Attendance at forthcoming & recent meetings

- 22 Nov Precept-Setting Workshop – Mr McKeown, Mr Townrow, Clerk
- 3 Dec – Winter Grit collection from Highways' Yeovil Depot – Mr McKeown
- 8 Dec – Avon & Somerset Constabulary Comms. Centre; NHW Concerns re 101 response – Mr Townrow.
- 15 Dec SALC Area Meeting – Mr Townrow and Mr McKeown

1399. Correspondence

Several items of correspondence had been previously circulated to members including

- South West Waste Partnership newsletter and Xmas collection date changes; Laminated copies to be affixed to posts around the parish.
- A303 / A358 newsletter – Public consultation now in 2017; project financing remained in place.
- Smart Meter Awareness – Clerk to arrange a presentation for Annual Parish Meeting on 24 April 2017
- County Council Elections in May 2017

1400. Items of report from members

Mr Townrow had previously circulated his Highways & Drainage report, which was noted without comment.

Christmas cards for key contacts were signed

Mr McKeown would be absent for the APM in April

Next meeting will be held on Monday January 9th 2017 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm



Shaun Dale Clerk to the Parish Council