

**CURRY MALLET PARISH COUNCIL**  
**ORDINARY MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the meeting of Curry Mallet Parish Council

held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2017 in the Curry Mallet and Beercrocombe Village Hall, Curry Mallet.

**Present:** L W Frazer, G K Townrow, R J Allard (Meeting Chairman), A J Clarke.

Cllr D N Yeomans (County Councillor) was also in attendance for part of the meeting

**1445. Public Participation Time**

No members of the public were present.

**1446. To receive reports from the District and County Councillors on items that may be of interest**

Cllr Yeomans' report for March had been previously circulated. Since Cllr Yeomans was not seeking re-election as County Councillor for the Division, he was thanked on behalf of the community by the Parish Council for his support over the past four years with regard to grant applications and for his much-valued monthly reports.

It was noted that the SSDC Transformation Project was continuing and had led to some uncertainty for the staff. Capital disposals were under consideration, as a means to redress for the reduction over the next four years in Revenue Support Grant from the government. Further cuts in service provision were to be anticipated.

**1447. Declarations of Interest**

All members notified their non-personal and non-prejudicial interests in the Village Hall Lease agenda item.

**1448. Apologies**

Mr P McKeown – on a pre-planned vacation.

**1449. Minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

These were approved and duly signed by the meeting's Chairman.

**1450. Matters arising**

1375. Pope's Cross Notice Board Replacement – Item ongoing; Brian Cleal's quotation was awaited by Mr Beck. It was also noted that the Perspex cover of the main notice board opposite the shop/Post Office had started to crack. Mr Townrow to liaise with Mike Ive, who had fabricated the present board, regarding a replacement front.

1427. Contact verge cutting during 2017 - Mr Townrow to ask Somerset Highways' Keith Rendell to liaise with their contractor so that Curry Mallet's cut could be deferred to the end of the cutting schedule; Mr Townrow has arranged with Westley Harris for cutting in April / May, - as and when the speed of growth rendered it necessary. Mr Harris will charge *ca.* £300+VAT, a ~£10 increase on the 2016 cost.

1441. Amended FoI schedule. This was reviewed and will be updated after the Council's Annual Meeting on May 8<sup>th</sup> when members' portfolios will be re-assigned.

1443. PSPO Update. SSDC were in the throes of creating a district-wide PSPO for dog-fouling and both the Curry Mallet public access areas, – the Village Hall grounds and the Playing Field, would be included on their Register. If the community wanted any other order, then the parish council would need to make application showing compliance with the 3 criteria. Mr Allard would write an article about Public Space Protection Orders for inclusion in the next issue of the Newsletter. (Copy deadline 20<sup>th</sup> May).

1444. Street Signage. Mr Townrow confirmed SSDC agreement to replace the south-side street sign at Doble Close; following an informal discussion of Council members, new signs had been agreed with SSDC for installation at both extremities of Higher and Lower Street, to aid delivery drivers and others in finding their correct destination. Dates for the work to install the signs had yet to be confirmed. It was also noted that the middle of the three Popes Cross signs is to be replaced due to damage, again timescale was currently uncertain.

**1451. Village Hall Lease Renewal**

Mr Allard confirmed the Village Hall Committee have been apprised of recent discussions with the Duchy of Cornwall's Land Steward. The report relating to the March 13<sup>th</sup> EPC Inspection was still awaited by the VHC.

The need to maintain the Hall Committee's "Registered Charity" status was noted to be important for seeking grants etc. Means to achieving retention of this status would be progressed with the Land Steward when the Council's Chairman had returned from vacation.

**1452. Footpaths & Rights of Way**

Plans for the gravel spreading on 23<sup>rd</sup> April were confirmed. Work would start at 10am. Mr Allard will provide First Aid cover; Mr Townrow would update the Risk Assessment and ask likely volunteers to participate. Clerk to liaise with Mr Adams over Dearden's delivery date for supply of the 4 bags of chippings to Manor Farm. Mr Adams to convey the bags to the nearest point of use. Mr Frazer to take pictures for the Annual Parish Meeting.

#### 1453. Annual Parish Meeting

Date confirmed as 24<sup>th</sup> April. Mr & Mrs Frazer to provide refreshments at the start of the meeting. Posters have been produced along with flyers which members will distribute.

Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service and the Energy Trust have confirmed attendance together with a number of local organisations. PCSO Mal Thompson was also aiming to attend and will have an agenda slot.

A photo montage would be produced to support the event, Mr Frazer providing much of the input.

Mr Allard will include an update on the Play Area Project, with Rob Parr's drawing on display.

Agenda to be circulated early next week. This will also include a short session on Internet safety by the Clerk; if sufficient interest were to be shown, a longer presentation could be developed for a full evening.

#### 1454. Planning

The Planning Inspectorate's informal hearing of the Crimson Orchard appeal to be held 9<sup>th</sup> May in SSDC Offices Brympton Way, Yeovil. Following Mr Yeomans' guidance, there was uncertainty as to whether the parish council had sought to speak in support of its written submission.

SSDC had notified of conditional approval for 17/00389/FUL – Extension to Brick Cottage.

#### 1455. Finance

Bank Reconciliation at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017:

Current Account and Cash Book	£2614.34
Treasurers Account	£2864.52
<b>Total</b>	<b>£5671.46</b>

Beercrocombe PC has paid its 30% contribution to the Beer & Curry newsletter printing costs for 2016/2017 financial year, amounting to £84.88.

The SSDC payment for 2017 / 8 Precept was received on 7<sup>th</sup> April; Total of £4500, (comprising £4450 Precept and £50 Local Council Support Grant).

The Council approved the following payments and cheques were raised accordingly:

Clerk Salary Jan – Mar 2017	£203.96	Cheque 552 Issued
HMRC Jan – Mar 2017	£134.00	Cheque 553 Issued
CCS Training (GK Townrow re-imbursed)	£10:00	Cheque 555 Issued

Cheque 554 was cancelled, having been made out to an incorrect payee. Cheque remained in the cheque book.

It was agreed that a move to electronic banking be considered at the Council's May meeting. A short video on how the system for dual authorisation of payments works will be circulated by the Clerk. The Council's Standing Orders would require modification to incorporate this change in financial procedure.

#### 1456. Annual Return for 2017

Grant Thornton' External Audit Pack & timetable had now been received

- Meeting to review the 2016 Observations by the External Auditor now scheduled for 11<sup>th</sup> May
- Receipts & Payments Schedule & Notes to be approved at 8<sup>th</sup> May Council meeting
- Internal Audit Completed by 5 June\*\* (\*\* subject to agreement with Internal Auditor)
- Publication of Accounts 3<sup>rd</sup> July – 11 Aug (30 working days – these are latest dates)
- Submission to Grant Thornton by 17<sup>th</sup> July (\*extension requested) i.e. 1 week after July Council meeting

#### 1457. Attendance at forthcoming & recent meetings and feedback on meeting attended

Mr Townrow reported briefly to the meeting on the Community Council for Somerset's "Managing Community Buildings" training session he had attended at Fivehead on 29<sup>th</sup> March – he will circulate a more in-depth report in due course.

Mr Townrow provided updated details and a personal perspective on Highways England's latest A358 consultation; a formal response from the Council to be considered at the May meeting.

Heart of the Wessex LAG 28<sup>th</sup> June – 6pm East Coker Village Hall – Clerk to circulate details (*Done*)

#### 1458. Correspondence

Several items of correspondence had been previously circulated to members including:

- Police & Crime Commissioner's March Newsletter
- SWWP April Newsletter and Easter Bank Holiday collection arrangements
- Letter from South Somerset District Council regarding the "Big Get Together" 17<sup>th</sup> / 18<sup>th</sup> June 2017, which clashed with the Curry Mallet Family Fun Day arranged for 17<sup>th</sup> June. Mr Allard will register this Curry Mallet event on the Get Together web site.
- David Warburton MP had written to parish councils outlining progress he had made to re-instate a railway station in the Langport / Somerton area. The Council declined his request for financial support for the re-opening campaign, in that the station would not be of benefit to residents of Curry Mallet.

#### **1459. Items of report from members**

- Safety risks to children playing on private land were noted, and the potential hazard of deep water within the new water-collection pond above Doble Close was instanced. Planting of trees by the tenant was envisaged, for both improving the visual impact and also to deter incursions onto this area of land.
- Additional works to address drainage issues in Church Street had started that day (10<sup>th</sup> April) and should be completed by the end of the week.
- Mr Townrow was to meet with the SSDC Streetscene manager on 21<sup>st</sup> April, to discuss flood training for the Parish Volunteers.
- It was also noted that the Post Offices in Curry Rivel and Langport had closed, with Royal Mail services being transferred into other local businesses.
- An informal request from Beercrocombe, for collection of fly-tipping from Beer Street, had been investigated; however, the offending item had been placed deliberately at that location by the adjacent householder in order to protect the verge from further erosion by agricultural vehicle movements. The matter was a cautionary tale, demonstrating the need to evaluate thoroughly the circumstances of any perceived fly-tipping prior to seeking collection by SSDC Streetscene.

**Next meeting, - the Annual Meeting of the Council, to be held on Monday May 8<sup>th</sup> 2017 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm,**



Shaun Dale Clerk to the Parish Council