

CURRY MALLET PARISH COUNCIL
ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Curry Mallet Parish Council
held on 12th June 2017 in the Curry Mallet and Beercrocombe Village Hall, Curry Mallet.

Present: P McKeown (Chairman), R J Allard, LW Frazer, D R Beck, G K Townrow & Mrs A J Clarke (Part Meeting)
In Attendance: Cllrs S Steele (District Councillor) & Clare Aparicio Paul (County Councillor) for part of the meeting

1476. Public Participation Time

No members of the public were present

1477. To receive reports from County and District Councillors on items that may be of interest

Cllr Steele updated the meeting on the 'Love Musgrove' charity's £1million appeal for a new MRI scanner, and she highlighted Isle Abbotts' recent contribution of > £1,000 toward the total. Sainsbury Billet Field had selected this as one of their three charities. Mr Townrow outlined the Curry Mallet appeal proposal to be considered by the Council later in the meeting.

Mr Townrow asked if SSDC had a premises team which could provide guidance regarding Conditions to be incorporated within the terms of the new Village Hall Lease. It was noted that Ilton parish council had sought assistance to address a similar need. Mr Townrow to progress with Ian Clarke, the SSDC Legal Director.

Cllr Aparicio Paul was welcomed to the meeting; she has prepared an initial newsletter that will be circulated shortly. She has been appointed Junior Cabinet member for Inward Investment, Economy and Development working with Cllr David Hall under the new leader of the Council, David Fothergill.

The A358 Public Consultation had been re-convened, with a new deadline of July 16th for individuals' and parish councils' submissions. Proposals for the Council's submission will be an Agenda item for its July 10th meeting.

1478. Declarations of Interest

All members notified their non-personal and non-prejudicial interest in the Village Hall Lease Renewal.

Mr McKeown noted a personal interest in planning application 17/02091/FUL, Grain Barn, Doble Close, as he lived in a nearby property.

1479. Apologies for Absence

Mrs Clarke was absent for part of the meeting for personal reasons.

1480. Minutes of the meeting held on 8th May 2017

V2 approved and duly signed by the Chairman.

1481. Matters arising

1375 – Popes Cross Notice Board – Mr McKeown had suggested that the Council consider purchasing a ready-made notice board, in the absence of any reasonable quotation from a local carpenter. A board capable of holding 8 x A4 sheets was sufficient and a wood frame without a parish name would be preferable. The need for a notice board at Popes Cross was re-affirmed, given the dispersed nature of habitation within the Parish. Regarding scope for a grant from SSDC, Mr Frazer to liaise with Pauline Burt of Area North Development.

1427 – Verge Cutting. Feedback from Mr Bawler, asking if Redland Lane as well as Headwell could be included in the cutting plan for next year, had been received and these increases in locations were agreed. The timing of this year's cut had been good, given the recent prolific growth.

1441 – Freedom of Information Publication Schedule – The update of members' employment and Council responsibilities was circulated by the Clerk. S Dale schedule 12 6 17 refers.

1472 – Electronic Banking. Details of the scheme operated by Lloyds were discussed and it was agreed that each member should have a bank password to authorise payments, so that any 2 members can enact. Initially HMRC would be the first use, with increased usage envisaged over time. Clerk to circulate the necessary Lloyds forms and update the Financial Regulations to cover this change.

1472 - Magna Carta 800 Account. Lloyds Bank mandate forms to be obtained by the Clerk, to enable the present authorised signatories to effect the change. New signatories then to be added.

1474 – Safe egress from Sheepwash. It was agreed that use of telegraph pole steps at cost of £64 +VAT may be the best option. Mr Townrow to continue to seek guidance on installation and associated safety regime from a qualified person from the various local authorities or HSE. (*now meeting June 29th with SCC Flood Risk manager*). The large bore pipe under the road at Headwell Bottom was also noted as a concern, it being sufficient for a child to crawl through. The possibility of restricting access by recourse to a mesh covering the entrance was to be considered, although regular clearance of debris from the mesh would be necessary to avoid flooding the road.

1482. Village Hall Lease Renewal

Initial quotation for legal opinion associated with the lease renewal was *ca.* £1,000 +VAT. Assistance from SSDC Legal Services would be sought by Mr Townrow. A draft Heads of Terms document was awaited from the Duchy Land Steward (*received June 14th*), following clarifications obtained at the June 5th meeting with Sarah Bird, - including the VHC agreement to relinquish the field at the rear of the grounds in return for a reduction in annual rental and a licence to the Bell Inn for its customers' use of the car park. The boundary fence around the field was noted to be in good condition. It was agreed that any determination as to the present state of repair of the hall building should be agreed jointly with the Duchy's building surveyor at the time of lease renewal. The need for a separate formal agreement between the Parish Council and VHC, regarding their separate roles and responsibilities as Duchy tenant and sub-tenant was acknowledged

1483. Footpaths and Rights of Way

Inspection of the April 24th gravel spreading by SCC Rights of Way (for compliance purposes), - most likely by their Ranger George Montague, remained outstanding. Mr McKeown will arrange for this.

Mr McKeown to undertake some strimming along paths to cut back recent prolific growth. Scout Leader Colin Clarke had reported that paths L8/3, L8/4 and L8/6 were overgrown and with crops planted right up to the field-edges, thereby obstructing the Right of Way. Mr McKeown to review and then prepare a schedule of work, so appropriate maintenance can be obtained.

It was noted that local resident Peter Bawler regularly cut path L8/10 and the Council thanked him for his efforts.

1484. Playing Field Fence Repair Programme and Working Party

Mr Frazer advised that a work party on June 1st had repaired the north-side fencing leading to the school's 'Woodland Area'. Further work was required and a date to be set with the school to undertake this. Due to the extensive nature of the work required many more volunteers will be required. Most of the materials were to hand, a few additional rails may be required. The school and Duchy Land Steward had been advised of works completed and Mr Frazer was liaising with the school to seek additional volunteers for the next phase of work.

1485. Village Play Area.

Clarification was awaited from SSDC on extent of equipment needed to be purchased initially in order to trigger release the s106 monies. Mr Allard was also to contact Justin Sargent at Somerset Community Foundation regarding scope for grant aid. Once that contact has been established, he will liaise with Cllr Paul. Timescales were tight and although the Parish Council has established a sinking fund it had no current provision in its 2017/2018 budget for a capital contribution. Further engagement with the Play Area's user group was envisaged in the coming weeks. The Duchy Steward had requested a drawing showing the play area in elevation. This had not been prepared thus far by SSDC Leisure Services, but will be necessary for Duchy approval of the plan.

1486. Musgrove Park Hospital Scanner Appeal

The paper previously circulated by Mr Townrow was discussed: The proposal was for the Parish Council to match individual residents' amounts, pound for pound, to a maximum of £250, *ie* £1.00 per head of adult population, subject to a minimum of 5 separate donations. Musgrove Fundraising staff could track individual donations to maintain confidentiality. The proposal was agreed by all present. It was noted that many residents had had need of MRI scanners for diagnosis; having access to additional facilities locally would be a major benefit to the community. Mr Townrow to prepare an article for the August newsletter.

1487. Planning;

Crimson Orchard Planning Appeal Hearing.

The Chairman & Mr Townrow reported their impressions on the Planning Inspectorate informal Hearing held on 9th May: At his request, the applicants' professional agent had been accorded permission to record the proceedings as he had regarded some statements made previously (when the application had been assessed by the local planning authority) as being defamatory. At the Hearing, there had been lengthy discussion of case law relating to 'traveller status', and much turned on whether the 2 additional pitches constituted 'intensification' of the site, with attendant implications for visual impact. The applicants had advised that no business activity was being conducted on the site.

The Inspector had acknowledged the parish council's concerns regarding the applicants' failure to comply with Conditions imposed by the planning authority when approving the original July 2006 application.

A decision from the Planning Inspector was anticipated within the next 6 – 8 weeks.

17/02091/FUL Grain Barn, 7 Doble Close (Mr McKeown absented himself from the room for this item due to his declared interest)

The Council was concerned that finishes should be in keeping with the existing building, due to the prominent location of the site. The new stainless steel flue pipe was noted. It was felt the extension would cause no visual loss of amenity to residents and Clerk to record this Observations with SSDC.

17/02104/FUL Pyne Orchard

The plans were reviewed by the Council; subject to there being no objection from immediate neighbours *vide* the previous application 14/03005/FUL (min. 1087 refers), the Council had no comment to make on the application as it had no impact on the visual amenity of the area.

1488. Finance

Invoices for payment

The following invoices were approved for payment and cheques issued

• PMP	£237.12	Cheque 559 issued
• Weavo Fencing	£57.48 incl. VAT	Cheque 560 issued
• SALC Affiliation Fee 2017	£81.77	Cheque 561 issued
• CMBC VHC (Prize)	£10:00	Cheque 562 issued

An invoice was still awaited from SSDC Streetscene for 2 x pairs of 'pond gloves' (each £11.99 + VAT) and a bucket of wet wipes for use by parish volunteers, to be set against the 2016/2017 budgeted £50 for volunteers' costs.

1489. Annual Return

The Notes of the Finance Group's meeting held on 25th May, to review the External Auditor's Observations on the 2016 Annual Return, had been circulated.

The Internal Auditor's Report had been received that morning (12th June) and will be circulated along with all 2017 documentation in advance of the Extraordinary Council Meeting scheduled for 29th June (18:15 in the Village Hall), when the 2016/2017 Receipts & Payments Schedule (V6) would be reviewed and approved, together with sign off of Sections 1 & 2 of the 2017 Return. Clerk to confirm publication date to Grant Thornton as 3rd July for 30 working days (until 7th August). Mrs Clarke was thanked for her assistance in ensuring that the accounts were presented in the appropriate format. Mrs Crafter was also thanked for having undertaking this year's Internal Audit.

1490. Reports from and attendance at meetings by Councillors.

Mr Townrow and Mr McKeown were to attend the public consultation meeting, in Hatch Beauchamp on 14th June, called by their Parish Council to discuss the latest Highways England proposals for dualling the A358.

1491. Correspondence

Items of routine correspondence had been shared with the Council Members.

1492. Items of report from Councillors

Mr Allard noted that the Village Fun Day was being held on Saturday 17th June. Photos of the event would be sought, for exhibition at the 2018 Annual Parish Meeting. Mr McKeown to make a public request for more residents to offer their services in running community activities, including Parish Council membership.

Mr Townrow had been informed of damage to the pedestrian bridge over the watercourse on Harris Lane, adjacent to Weaver's Mead. Most likely the damage had been caused by an agricultural vehicle mounting the verge, such that part of the concrete retention had been dislodged and was now blocking the watercourse. Local farmer and Highways to be contacted to rectify the damage and to avert any risk of flooding.

The recent edition of the Newsletter was discussed; while the printing was of high quality, the content was felt to lack variety and interest. Input from a wider range of contributors could improve diversity of content. The Clerk was to contact the Beercombe PC Clerk to notify the increase in print charge and the short-term offsets.

An Isle Abbots' employee driving home at high speed through the east side of Curry Mallet at 6:15pm each evening was noted. The driving behaviour had been reported to the Rural Beat Manager in June 2016, when the person had previously been employed by this firm. Min. 1348.8 refers.

There will be an extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council on Thursday 29th June at 18:15 in the Village Hall

The next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council will be on Monday July 10th at 19:30 in the Village Hall