

CURRY MALLET PARISH COUNCIL
ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Curry Mallet Parish Council
held on 11th September 2017 in the Curry Mallet and Beercrocombe Village Hall, Curry Mallet.

Present: Mr R J Allard (acting Chairman), Mr L W Frazer, Mr D R Beck, & Mr G K Townrow

In Attendance: SCC Cllr Clare Aparicio Paul, SSDC Cllr Sue Steele (both part meeting), Mr G D Turner, Mrs E Frazer and Mrs S Chick

1516. Public Participation Time

Mrs Frazer noted that Curry Mallet Primary School had a new intake of 13 pupils this September, with 10 pupils having moved to secondary school in July. The school Roll now stood at 72. The Council noted that the school continued to thrive at the heart of the community. (*Current Pre-school roll noted subsequently to be 5*).

1517. To receive reports from County and District Councillors on items that may be of interest

Cllr Steele reported that she had been appointed to the Somerset Rivers Authority Joint Scrutiny Panel. SSDC was conducting an Early Review of its Local Plan (2017 – 2034); an 'Issues & Options' paper will be placed on its web site shortly for public consultation up to Christmas. The Department of Communities & Local Government had devised a formula for setting the number of new dwellings to be built over the next 10 years in each administrative area of the country and was consulting with SSDC for South Somerset; the 'Issues & Options' consultation would inform the SSDC response.

Mr Townrow, on behalf of the Council, asked that thanks be expressed to Ian Clarke, SSDC's Solicitor, for his scrutiny of the Duchy's draft of the new Village Hall lease. His continued help was greatly appreciated. Cllr Steele advised that Sainsbury's Billetfield store in Taunton had made the Musgrove Park MRI scanner appeal their "Charity of the Year". Mr Townrow noted that he had met with Katherine Wylie, 'Love Musgrove' Fund Manager ref. the parish newsletter's inclusion of details for the Council's £250 donation-matching initiative (see min. 1486). Regrettably, this article had been omitted from the September issue, but would be included in the November issue, as the Appeal now remained open until March 2018.

Mr Townrow noted with gratitude the support received from the County Councillor in expediting Highways' verge re-instatement work along Top Road, consequent upon the lengthy A378 road closure for drainage works.

1518. Declarations of Interest

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

1519. Apologies for Absence

Mr McKeown who was on holiday and Mrs Clark for personal reasons – minute 1355 refers.

1520. Minutes of the EMPC Minutes from 29th June and of the ordinary meeting held on 10th July

The June 29th minutes were approved and duly signed by the meeting's Chairman. The July meeting's minutes as circulated, were an early draft version; the final draft would be presented for approval at the next meeting.

It was noted that the approved June 2017 meeting's min. 1488 had recorded an incorrect payment for cheque 559: The minute was corrected to £94.96 from £237.12 as stated, and counter-signed by the meeting chairman.

1521. Matters arising

1375 – Popes Cross Notice Board – Mr McKeown had been in contact with a number of suppliers and had circulated a potential option to members for consideration. It was hoped to order this item in time for installation before the end of the year.

1472 – Electronic Banking. The advice of SALC was being sought, having obtained further details from Lloyds Bank on how the transactions can be generated and approved, The SALC advice will set out the requisite changes to the Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations. It was hoped to have these concluded and circulated during September.

The Lloyds Banking Group mandate to change the name of the Magna Carta 800 account had been generated and the Clerk will obtain authorisation from the account's current signatories.

1474 – Safe egress from Sheep-wash. Mr Townrow and Mr McKeown had met with Ian Case, the SSDC Flood Engineer, to consider the likely safety hazard and means to ameliorate. The greater risk identified was to parish volunteers undertaking clearance of debris, rather than to children falling in and not being able to climb out. Fencing around the area was in good repair and a notice had been placed to draw attention to the hazard.

Mr Case had recommended the installation of a wide rung ladder affixed to the wall of the chamber to facilitate safe access, and Mr Townrow showed a design from Zarges Ltd. which met Mr Case's specification. This proposed remedy would be discussed with the SCC Flood Risk Manager, from whom a grant would be sought to defray the purchase cost. The merits of providing an escape mechanism were discussed by members present.

1483 – Footpath schedule of works. Mr McKeown had provided the schedule of required maintenance. Mr Turner had been in contact with Les Braunton of SCC Rights of Way team to arrange for some clearance of paths using their new contractor, since Curry Mallet had been omitted in error from the contractor's planned work list. Concern was expressed that cut vegetation had not been removed, but Mr Turner commented that this was normal practice. Accumulation of debris post cutting in 2016 in the watercourses adjacent to L8/25 and L8/24 had required removal by parish volunteers to prevent downstream blockages in the various culverts. Mr Turner also noted that Rights of Way had two differing planned maintenance schedules in circulation. These will be consolidated into a single schedule. It was agreed that L8/9, L8/10, L8/11, L8/24, and L8/25 should be included for annual maintenance and that L8/8 could be deleted. Via the November newsletter the community would be advised of the new annual maintenance plan, particularly for the nearby residents of Pope's Cross. Parish volunteers have cut L8/20 from Mallet Court in the past. The Council appreciated Mr Turner's assistance. It was noted that Mr McKeown's article on Rights of Way had also been omitted from the September newsletter, which was disappointing as it thanked a number of residents for their continued help in maintaining local paths.

1484 – Playing Field Fence Repairs. Mr Frazer reported that two parish volunteers, on August 31st, had replaced most of the remaining rails along the west boundary. The school had been sent pictures of the work and asked for confirmation from SCC Education Dept. that the boundary fencing now complied with its maintenance requirements. No additional posts or rails had been needed and cheque 564 was cancelled in the financial records. Mr Frazer noted that some of the posts replaced in June were now loose, as the ground had since dried out. Remedial action may become necessary. The Duchy's lease for the playing field stipulated that the boundary fence was to be maintained in good repair by the Council. This requirement made no reference to any external hedgerow growth protruding through the fencing and therefore such growth should be eliminated, not least for ease of access to the fencing. The field-side hedgerow was the maintenance responsibility of the farm.

1486 – Musgrove Park Scanner Appeal. Nothing more to add beyond that covered in item 1517 of these minutes.

1510 – Crimson Orchard Planning Appeal – The Council was disappointed that the Appeal has been upheld, but noted that costs had not been awarded against SSDC. Moreover, the Conditions set out in the Inspector's judgement were more onerous than those likely to have been imposed by the local planning authority.

1512 – Annual Return Notification and certification from the external auditors was still awaited and expected by the end of September. The Clerk to check the Transparency Code in respect of details required for publication.

1492 – Damage to bridge over water course off Harris Lane – The Council will seek volunteer help to remove the post from across the watercourse to avoid obstructing flows in times of heavy rainfall.

1509 – A358 Consultation – it was noted that Highways England were running a fresh consultation on the section from West Hatch Lane to the M5 junction. Whilst no feedback had been received on the Council's July submission, comments from the April consultation would be carried forward to the new consultation.

1522. Village Hall Lease Renewal

Draft Lease Agreement Duchy of Cornwall & CMPC – This had been received was being reviewed prior to approval by the Council for signature, and return to the Duchy. It confirmed the new lease would be for a 20 year period with an initial rental of £875 pa – index linked to RPI on a full insuring and maintenance basis. The Council welcomed the pragmatic approach of the Duchy in respect of these proposed terms. Advice had been sought from Community Council for Somerset for protecting the registered charity status of the Hall Committee, and a vote to approve the lease was deferred pending the outcome of these deliberations.

The change in ownership of the hall buildings from the originally devised trust to the Duchy, would necessitate the formulating of a new Trust Deed, and the ACRE Model Deed was being evaluated by the VHC for suitability. Legal advice was available to the VHC through the Community Council, for this purpose.

A draft 'Heads of Agreement', to set out clearly the working relationship between the parish council (as custodian trustee) and the Village Hall Committee (as managing trustee) had been drawn up by Mr Townrow and had been circulated to the membership of both organisations for their consideration and their notification of any omissions. The final version of this document should avoid any misunderstandings by future generations of Council and VHC members as to their individual responsibilities.

Mr Allard to contact the Duchy for their surveyor and the VHC to establish a base line maintenance status for the building and grounds, from which to determine the required future maintenance programme.

1523. Footpaths and Rights of Way

Mr Frazer now had more maps of the local paths and will leave them at the shop for use by walkers in the area.

1524. Village Play Area.

Mr Allard was still awaiting guidance from Lynda Pincombe of SSDC Leisure Services regarding potential to re-assign the S106 money into other projects to benefit the young people of the parish. With increasing Roll for the School and more families with young children locally (including Beercrocombe) the Village Hall was likely to be used for additional school and youth group activities. Staging and lighting would be of particular benefit.

1525. Planning.

17/03443/S73 Crofters – Changing colour for uPVC window material, from dark brown to white, to match that of the neighbouring properties, raised no objections from members. Clerk to notify SSDC Planning to this effect. Notices advising of planning approval were noted for **17/02091/FUL Grain Barn & 17/02104/FUL Pynes Orchard**.

1526. Finance.

Invoices for payment

The following invoices were approved for payment and cheques issued

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| • Duchy of Cornwall Playing Field Rental, Mar – Sept | £60.00 | Cheque 566 issued |
| • PMP Printing Sept - Nov Newsletter | £112.52* | Cheque 567 issued |
| • SSDC Streetscene (min. 1511 refers) | £35.08 | Cheque 568 issued |
| • Mike Ive reimbursement, for Notice Board repairs | £10:00 | Cheque 569 issued |
| • Clerk's Salary April – June (min. 1511 refers) | £207.42 | Cheque 570 issued |

Cheque 564 was cancelled as no additional wood was necessary from Weavo– see mins. 1521 / 1484.

*Surprise was expressed at the increase in cost since the June issue (then £94.96). This increase was ascribed to the larger print run, from 230 to 270 copies. This change would be queried with Bob Hearn.

1527. Reports from and attendance at meetings by Councillors.

Community Council for Somerset Workshop, 19th October – Mr Townrow to attend the pm AGM element

SSDC Planning training 12th October – Mr Beck and the Clerk to attend

SALC County Committee 3rd October – Mr Townrow to attend

Avon & Somerset Police Neighbourhood Watch Association, 7th October – Mr Townrow to attend

1528. Correspondence

- Duchy of Cornwall rental increase for Playing Field from £60 to £65 (incl. VAT) per half year was noted. This would become effective from October 2017.
- SSDC Warding review was discussed; SSDC currently had 60 members and the Boundary Commission recommended no change in overall number. However, SSDC officers were recommending a re-distribution of members to wards, to reflect recent housing developments around Yeovil and the market towns. No impact is envisaged for Curry Mallet. Members of the public would have an opportunity to comment on proposals.
- SWWP Newsletters for July and August had previously been circulated.

1529. Items of report from Councillors

Mr Townrow noted the recent deaths of two long-time local residents, both aged 90; - Dorothy Priddle who had lived at Pope's Cross since 1955 and passed away on August 2nd, and Bill Eaves who passed away on 6th September. He had been the tenant of Park Farm from 1970 to 1995 and was Chairman of the Parish Council in 1987 when signatory to the original Village Hall Lease, having been a member of the Council from 1975 to the late 1990's. The Council members expressed their condolences to family members and friends.

Mr Townrow noted that in November 2003 there had been 124 households in the Parish; today, only 63 of these households still had the same residents. Since 2003, an additional 15 additional properties had been added to the parish's housing stock. The new residents increasingly had younger family members, hence the increasing school Roll. The Council's obligation to be mindful of the needs of its younger residents was acknowledged.

The next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council will be on Monday October 9th at 19:30 in the Village Hall