

**CURRY MALLET PARISH COUNCIL
ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting of Curry Mallet Parish Council
On Monday 16th January 2023 at 7.30pm
in the Curry Mallet and Beercrocombe Village Hall, Curry Mallet**

Present: Cllrs. C Hussey (Chair), D Beck, F Wood, W Wilkes Wood, F Fisher and M Whitman.

In attendance: L Gowers (Clerk), County Councillor, M Stanton and District Councillor M Cavill and 1 member of the public.

22/ To Note apologies for Absence:

105 Cllr. J Scott (Personal)

22/ Public Participation

106 No members of the public attended.

22/ To approve the Minutes of the previous meeting.

107 It was **AGREED** that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 16th December 2022 be **APPROVED**.

22/ Declarations of Interest

108 None

22/ To receive verbal reports from District and County Councillors

109 A report from Cllr. Stanton had been circulated to all Councillors. The number and boundaries for the proposed Local Community Networks had been announced. There would be 18 LCNs and Curry Mallet was located within the “Levels and Moors” LCN, which also included Langport and Somerton. Each parish would be invited to send one representative to each meeting of the LCN.

22/ To receive the Clerks update report

110 The Clerk reported that the currymallet.org website had now been archived.

22/ Finance:

111 a) It was agreed to approve the payments listed.

Clerks wages January 2023	£167.24
HMRC employee tax and NI	£ 41.80
Somerset Association of Local Councils inv. 1891	£ 15.00 (paid in December)
Clerks expenses – paper and print cartridges	£ 54.77
Teapot Creative	£ 60.00

b) It was noted that the 3rd quarter bank reconciliations had been completed and checked by Cllr. Hussey.

22/ To Receive a verbal update from the Play Area Working Group.

112 Cllr. Whitman confirmed that he and the Clerk were researching funding for the play area. An application had been made to the Hinkley Grant fund, but had been rejected due to the distance from the new power plant.

22/ Village Shop and Post Office: To receive an update from the Clerk

113 The Clerk confirmed that the questionnaire had been delivered to most of the properties in the village. There were a few outstanding and they would be delivered as soon as possible. The deadline for returning the questionnaire had been amended to the end of January, when the Parish Council would gather the information from the questionnaire and convene a separate meeting for the village to discuss next steps.

Cllr. Scott joined the meeting.

22/ Grant Applications: To consider applications to the Parish Council and approve payments.

114 Following discussion, It was agreed that grants should be approved with the following amounts:

Curry Mallet and Beercrocombe Village Hall	£700.00
Parochial Church Council for All Saints Church, Curry Mallet.	£290.00

It was noted that the existing grants policy did not specify that the funds should be for a project not yet started and the Clerk was asked to amend the policy accordingly and bring to a future meeting for approval.

22/ Action Status Report: To receive an update on outstanding actions.

115

- Cllr Beck would contact the resident who had offered to instal the new bin outside the shop.
- Cllr. Whitman noted that a response had not yet been received from the Duchy of Cornwall regarding the kissing gate on the footpath to the school. Woodchip would be used on this footpath once the Duchy commenced work on the ash trees in the village.
- Cllr. Hussey confirmed that the refurbishment of the noticeboard was nearly complete and it would be installed as soon as possible.

22/ Matters for Report.

116 Cllr. Wood requested that the Clerk contact the list of volunteers who held salt in the village to ensure that they had sufficient quantity, following the spell of very cold weather.

Cllr. Whitman noted that the Parish Council did not have a safeguarding policy. This had become apparent as a result of applying for funding for the play area. The Clerk was requested to draft a policy and bring to the next meeting for approval.

Cllr. Hussey requested that an item regarding events in the village to celebrate the coronation was brought to the next meeting.

It was noted that the drains at Headwell were blocked along with the drains before Whaites House on Marshway. The Clerk would contact highways to request that they were cleared. A member of the public had expressed interest in helping to keep the footpaths clear and it was recommended that he contact the Clerk.

22/ **Date of the next meeting.**

117 Monday 20th February 2023 at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 8.46pm

Signed:

Dated: