

Curdridge Parish Council

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**Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting
held on Wednesday 16 April 2015 at 7.00 pm
in the Billiard Room, Reading Rooms, Curdridge**

Those Present: Mr K Bundell (Vice Chairman), Mr E Bodger, Mr R Kemp, Mrs Lockyer (from 8.15), Mrs L Newton and Mrs Weaver

Apologies: Mrs J Furby, Mr L Ruffell, District Councillor and Mr Prebble

In attendance: Mr D Murray, Clerk, Mr R Humby, County and District Councillor, and 12 members of the public

1 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting in the Billiard Room at the Reading Rooms

2 APOLOGIES

These were recorded

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 17 April 2014 were agreed. This was proposed by Mr Kemp and seconded by Mr Bodger and all agreed.

4 PRESENTATION ON THE UPPER REACHES OF THE HAMBLE BY IAN AYERS VOLUNTARY SECTOR CONSULTANT.

Mr Ayers was welcomed to the meeting and he gave a presentation on voluntary sector work that was being proposed in the Upper Hamble and its tributaries by the East Hants Capture Partnership. The project was looking at the water quality and the invasion of non-native plants such as Himalayan Balsam with the detrimental effects on native species and the integrity of the river's banks. He also talked about the work they were doing with farmers to keep cattle off river banks, erosion and sediment issues.

The eutrophication of water by rising levels of phosphates and nitrates leeching from cesspits and as the result of farming was covered with the starvation of light when the plants were growing and removal of oxygen when they rotted away. Low river flow levels and the creation of fish nurseries was also mentioned as part of the projects aims.

Mr Ayers talked about how they were working with landowners (through the NFU) , the Downs and Harbour Authorities, Clean Water Partnerships, the North Pond Conservation Group at Bishops Waltham.

The presentation moved onto the fundraising that they had been doing through Landfill Tax Credit Grants, Charitable Trusts and a forthcoming application to the Heritage Lottery Fund. This application was for 2 staff to

advise and support educational programmes, organise volunteering and fencing/hedging to keep cattle out. To create automatic fish hatches and deliver apprenticeships around conservation. The application was looking for £300,000 over three years.

A question and answer session followed in which comments were made about areas/organisations that could be approached for letters of support and additional funding streams such as the Solent Mitigation Fund (developers' contributions from locally occurring developments in Council's Local Plans around the Solent and Southampton Water SPA/SAC/Ramsar site.

Conservation issues such as the current SPA review and the Little Egret and other species becoming Qualifying Species for the SPA were mentioned as well as the presence of Otters in Curbridge Creek and migrating Ospreys using the Upper Reaches of the Hamble as feeding grounds on their migratory route.

At 7.35 the presentation concluded and Mr Ayers was heartily thanked for his time and input.

5 PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

The Chairman reported as follows: "The PC has had a busy year, managing our regular tasks for the village, responding to the large-scale developments being planned at North Whiteley and at Boorley Green and Botley, and working on the number one issue of concern in the village - traffic.

Councillors Lynne Newton, Christine Weaver and Joanne Furby have taken the lead on traffic issues, together with Janet May and Seb Austin, under the banner of the Curdridge and Curbridge Residents Road Safety Association (CCRRSA) . They came up with a list of proposals for improvements of our roads. Our Hampshire County Councillor Rob Humby took these to the Highways Officers for us and a number of items are now being taken forward for approval, including trying to get a 30 mph speed limit on Lockhams Road, our end of Curdridge Lane and on The Plantation; and improved signage for the school and church crossing point on the B3035. At the same time Lynne has been chief organiser of a Speedwatch scheme, and we continue to deploy our Flashing Speed Limit Reminder Sign around the Parish. Hopefully none of you will have noticed this Sign because none of you will have been driving fast enough to set it off . . .

Councillor Eric Bodger has been steadfast in leading our opposition to Eastleigh Borough's plans for Boorley Green. We are especially concerned about the effects it will have on traffic in Wangfield Lane. Duncan Murray, our Clerk, and I have worked on North Whiteley, repeatedly expressing the PC's concerns about increased traffic, effects on the Hamble River conservation area and the increased urbanisation of our countryside. The Planning Application for North Whiteley has now been submitted and is expected to be decided in June/July.

Councillor Lynne Newton has continued to walk more miles than anyone else on behalf of the PC in her valued role as Footpath Warden. She also represents us on the Botley to Bishops Waltham Trail Forum; and she is a Parish Tree Warden, together with Councillor Rory Kemp. Lynne was also instrumental in getting a water supply to the village pond. It took a while, but it has been a long-standing plan of the PC to have this installed. Thanks also to Duncan and to Ian Small for their work on this. Lynne also enlisted Rob Humby's help to hassle Southern Water until they have at last promised to deal properly with the perennial sewage leak in Wangfield Lane. Rory, meanwhile, not only represents us on the Hamble River Valley Forum, but was also volunteered to become the Forum's Chair. (Thanks to John Mitchell

too for representing us on this body).

Councillors Joanne Furby and Christine Weaver continue to be Trustees for the Botley and Curdridge Welfare Trust. Councillor Nicky Lockyer, being relatively new, has asked very sensible questions and helped us come to reasonable decisions. We have all been active when Planning Applications arrive in visiting applicants so that we can give an informed view to the Planners at Winchester.

Finally mention must be made of Duncan's achievement in getting our Parish Bye-laws officially in place. This involved a long process of negotiation with Whitehall (who lost our application), but we now have important powers to protect public land in the village such as the Allotments and the Reading Rooms recreation ground."

6 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk outlined the unaudited accounts for the period ending 31 March 2015. At the year end the cash at bank was £52,594.54 of which some £33,500 was restricted funds for Road Safety improvements in the parish and included the movement of £10,000 from replacement of the bus shelter to the Road Safety Fund

In the financial year 2014-2015 total purchases of £36,840 were made against income received £38,540. The income represented a precept of £23,205 and other income from grants received (Council Tax Support Grant and Open Spaces) of £15,335.

Staffing costs were slightly down at £6,397 and total other costs of £30,443 which is down from £40,179 in the previous year. Investment in the parish included the Community Speedwatch Equipment and the Cricket Practice Net at the Reading Rooms along with the provision of a pond water irrigation supply at £2870.

There was a total of £1,037 of grants made to local organisations. VAT recoverable at year end is £2,754.

There was a net surplus of £1,700 in the year.

The Precept was increased taking into consideration the investment the Parish Council is committed to delivering including funding the lunch club's hall rental costs so that it can have financial security guaranteed until the next elections in 2018. The Parish Council is also putting funds aside for a replacement Minibus when necessary as well as the Speed Limit Reminder sign.

7 QUESTIONS FROM PARISHIONERS

The Chairman opened the floor to questions from those present. Questions were asked about the Botley to Bishops Waltham Trail and when it was expected to be delivered. The outline application by the developers of the North of Whiteley proposals and the short closing date was also questioned. Comments were made about litter-pickers and health and safety and the pavement by the church was also mentioned.

8 DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Mr Humby gave his report (which is available from the Clerk) mentioning his work on road safety with the parish's voluntary organisation the CRRSA; the sewage issue in Wangfield Lane and that a legal notice had been served.

Mr Humby also reported on the Boundary Commission's Review and the resulting reduction in District Councilors from 57 to 45 and that Curdridge would come under the District Ward of Whiteley which would be a 3

Member Ward.

Mr Humby also reported on other matters at County level including Rural Broadband and the need for community buy-in for isolated areas.

North of Whitely was questioned about the access timing and the £14M grant from the Local Enterprise Partnership and the site of development leaving the Parish's current boundary.

In closing he thanked the Chairman and Councillors for all their help over the past year.

9 REPORTS FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

The Clerk had received no reports.

9 CLOSING ADDRESS

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting closed at 8.25pm.