

Curdridge Parish Council

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MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

held on Thursday, 20 April 2017
on the rising of a brief Full Council
Meeting starting at 7pm in the Billiard
Room at the Reading Room

IN ATTENDANCE:

Cllr K Bundell (Chairman – chairing the meeting)

Cllr E Bodger

Cllr K Bull

Cllr J Furby

Cllr L Newton

Jenny Whittle (Parish Clerk)

Cllr Rob Humby (County Councillor)

Cllr Vivian Achwal (District Councillor)

Cllr Roger Bentote (District Councillor)

Cllr Roger Huxstep (District Councillor)

3 parishioners

1. Chair's welcome to Parishioners and Guest Speakers

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that the meeting was to be very informal.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Carol Cross.

3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 21 April 2016

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 21 April 2016 were noted.

4. To receive a report from Hampshire Constabulary local representative, together with a brief Q&A session

PCSO Stephanie Slater introduced herself and gave a report of crime statistics within Curdridge, against last year's figures:

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
Anti-Social Behaviour	7	7

Assault	4	8
Burglaries from dwellings	1	2
Burglaries from sheds etc	4	6
Criminal damage	1	5
Driving complaints	0	2
Public Order cases	1	2
Road Traffic Crashes	9	4
Suspicious incidents	10	14
Thefts	5	10
Thefts from motor vehicles	1	3
Thefts of motor vehicles	0	3

She advised that there were 7 PCSOs working in the local office and 5 PCs (3 of whom were part time). She also advised that the Police had various leaflets about the Trading Standards Scheme for reliable traders, which the public could obtain from them, together with other sources of information on safety and security etc. She then invited questions.

Cllr Kemp asked what residents could do about a loud motorbike driving through Curdridge every day early in the morning. Steph suggested that residents keep a log of instances (and if possible obtain a registration number) and report these incidents to the Police. The Police could then decide whether to monitor the road. Cllr Humby advised that the Police Crime Commissioner and Cllr Hollingbury were looking to carry out a review of noise pollution caused by vehicles.

PCSO Barry Towler advised that he had worked with several parish councils who had installed Village Gates to reduce traffic speed and this scheme had proven to be very effective.

5. To receive a report from the County Councillor, together with a brief Q&A session

Cllr Humby advised that sadly this was his last meeting for the Curdridge area, due to the recent boundary review. He thanked the current Chair and former Chairs of Curdridge Parish Council and all of the Parish Councillors (past and present), who had all contributed and been extremely helpful in enabling him to do his job as a District Councillor from 2007 to 2013 and then as a County Councillor for the last four years.

He was very sad to be leaving Curdridge to cover Bishops Waltham and surrounding areas, as he had been born in Curdridge and so it was very special to him; although his family had lived in Hampshire for over 450 years, so he had a strong connection to the whole County.

He thanked the Curdridge and Curbridge Residents Road Safety Association members (previously overseen by Cllrs Newton and Weaver (with support from Curdridge Parish Council) and said this group (when it had been in existence) had been extremely helpful to Hampshire County Council, as it had identified various road safety projects within Curdridge that Hampshire County Council had then been able to consider and prioritise. He said this scheme had been so successful that it had been used as a precedent for other parishes.

Cllr Humby hoped that he would still meet up with members of Curdridge Parish Council within his new role.

The Chair, Parish Councillors and the Clerk all thanked Cllr Humby for his hard work on behalf of Curdridge Parish Council and said that he would be missed. They wished him well in his new role.

6. To receive a report from the District Councillors, together with a brief Q&A session

Cllr Bentote advised that:

Since being elected last May Vivian and he have very much enjoyed working with members of Curdridge Parish Council. The parish councillors and clerk have worked very hard on many issues to support and develop Curdridge for residents and we have been pleased to support where we can.

One of their first achievements was to get Hampshire County Council to cut back trees and hedge growth opposite Sherecroft Gardens on the A334. This unseasonal weather probably means another cutback is already due!

It was very unfortunate that it took two accidents within a few days for Hampshire County Council to act on signage and white line improvements to the Chapel Road/ Lockhams Road junction. Since then other junctions within Curdridge have also been checked by HCC.

They have been quite involved in one planning/enforcement issue and have learnt the lesson that developers know their way around the system. Fortunately most planning applications in Curdridge are reasonable to the property owners and their neighbours.

Winchester City Council Local Plan part 2 was approved and agreed recently but with no development requirements for Curdridge. Significant developments are taking place nearby in Boorley Green and North Whiteley and these do impact on Curdridge. Thus far we have deterred traffic movements to and from Boorley Green via Wangfield Lane having met local residents who were getting minimal response from HCC and Eastleigh BC.

The North Whiteley development includes big improvements to junction 9 of the M27 and a road through to the A3051. There is also progress on the Botley bypass. These will both mean traffic problems during construction and increased traffic on completion.

He felt that following the charges introduced by HCC it is not surprising that fly tipping incidents have increased. He said that he and Vivian are both very vigilant in their travels reporting any sightings of rubbish and it was very pleasing to hear that there have been prosecutions recently.

Issues discussed at Winchester City Council tend to be city centred but the standard tasks are carried out in Curdridge with few problems. Over the year they have met and helped many residents and are always happy to hear from any resident who feels they need their support or advice.

Cllr Huxstep reported on items that had not already been discussed:

Progress with Preparation of Gypsy and Traveller Development Plan WCC has recently launched an initial consultation on the options to consider the availability and suitability of sites for gypsies and travellers. The consultation closes on 8th May 2017, after which the Council will assess the responses received, together with technical evidence also being collated, to inform the preparation of a draft plan for consultation during the summer.

Refresh of Statement of Community Involvement - the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) was adopted in 2007, it is now considered an appropriate time to commence a review to reflect changes in communication methods particularly with the rise of social media.

The SCI sets out how the Council will inform and consult on both the plan making process and planning applications. A short questionnaire is available on the Council's consultation hub <https://winchester.citizenspace.com/>, to help us understand which means of communication are preferred, this consultation closes on 24th April 2017.

Planning Performance - Speed of decisions For the two-year period 1st January 2015 to 31st December 2016, the Council achieved 91.11% for determining major applications within 13 weeks or an agreed extension of time. The government has set a current target of 50% for authorities to achieve over the two-year period rising to 60% in 2018.

Enforcement - WCC attaches great importance to the protection and enhancement of the natural and built environments of the District through the planning process. To see the latest Enforcement Plan, follow link: <http://www.winchester.gov.uk/planning/planning-enforcement/enforcement-statement/>

Winchester City Council has agreed to buy the freehold of the bus station site in central Winchester from bus operator Stagecoach. The investment ensures the future of bus operations in the city centre and will generate income through agreements with bus companies for continued use of the station. WCC intends to make improvements to the site in the short-term and to propose changes that will improve the flow of buses through the town and increase pedestrian safety. In the longer-term, the purchase will bring new opportunities and have significant benefits for the regeneration of central Winchester and the continuing provision of bus services. s unanimously.

Public feedback from Central Winchester Regeneration Community Planning Weekend The public feedback was warmly welcomed from the Community Planning Weekend which was a well attended public meeting at the Guildhall Winchester. JTP gave an informative and accurate summary of the public feedback which will help shape proposals for development in Central Winchester through a Supplementary Planning Document due to be completed by the end of 2017.

Whiteley parkrun gets off to an impressive start WCC, in partnership with Meadowside Leisure Centre and Whiteley Town Council, has set up the first parkrun in Whiteley on Saturday mornings at 9am. Parkrun is a weekly, free, timed 5km run and is safe and easy for anyone to take part in no matter of their age or ability. It takes place on safe tarmac paths and is especially suited to those with mobility problems. Children under 11 must run with an adult at all times and runners can bring one dog as long as it is kept on a short lead

Winchester City Council launched a new initiative to get children outdoors and active. Olympic Medallist Iwan Thomas, along with the Mayor of Winchester, officially unveiled the new wooden totem of Wonky the Woodpecker at Abbotts Walk in Winchester. Wonky the Woodpecker is the brainchild of the Landscape and Open Spaces Team to raise awareness of our open spaces.

Winchester's Parking Strategy - increased park-and-ride, dedicated spaces for ultra-low-emission vehicles, use of new technology and differential pricing will be part of Winchester's future approach to parking following Cabinet's approval of an updated strategy. There are no changes to parking charges in the wider Winchester district and free evening and Sunday parking is retained in the city to support the night-time and weekend economies.

Winchester Criterium and Cyclefest Returns to Winchester Date for you Diaries - Winchester Criterium and CycleFest is back bigger and better for 2017 and will take place on Sunday 11th June.

Entrepreneurial Council takes shape

Two key elements of Winchester City Council's new entrepreneurial approach have been approved. They are proposals:

- To launch an open-market shared ownership scheme and to create a strategic acquisition strategy.
- An acquisition strategy will see up to £15m invested in property by WCC to produce rental income

that supports services for local residents and compensates for loss of Government grant.

Fly-tipping: Successful prosecutions, for example:

Kilmeston Manor, Alresford. Builder convicted of dumping several caravans full of builders waste in various locations around Kilmeston and Cheriton, following renovations at Manor house. Fines and costs total £3,250. **Cott Street, Droxford.** Builders waste found on bridle path across field. Local building company fined. Total fine and costs £3922 and a Mr Bartlett was fined a total of £3100 for the offences. In addition, he was ordered to pay £291.92 for the cost of clearing up the tips and £2925 in prosecution and investigation costs, making the total financial penalty £6316.92.

Protecting City Council services

The grants WCC receives from central Government stop next year but by careful planning we have

absorbed much of this change - reducing the net cost of delivering services and sourcing new funding,

including an enhanced investment strategy. In facing these challenges the Council is concentrating on four main areas:

- Doing things better (transformation savings)
- Finding new ways of generating income (income strategy)
- Using its assets to gain better returns (asset management plan)
- Sharing in wealth created by a vibrant economy (growing the local economy)

Winchester is likely to remain in the lowest third of districts nationwide for its level of council tax.

Community Safety

Partnership approach is helping to keep communities across the Winchester district safe.

Winchester City Council's Community Safety and Neighbourhood Services Team works side-by-side with the police. An annual review of the service highlights key achievements included:

- Supporting an immigration operation which led to an individual being detained
- Securing a closure order against a tenant for allowing premises to be used for drug-dealing
- Responding to anti-social behaviour in hotspot locations

Cllr Roger Huxstep - District Councillor for Curbridge, Curdridge, Shedfield, Shirrell Heath & Whiteley for Winchester City Council.

County Councillor for the Meon Valley Division, Hampshire County Council.

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7. To receive the Annual Report of the Parish Council Chairman

The Chair advised that sadly Cllr Christine Weaver had resigned from her role as a Parish Councillor during the current year and her expertise in finance would be greatly missed. She had also been heavily involved with the Speedwatch Scheme and helping to support older residents within the parish.

Cllr Kevin Bull had filled her vacancy and the Chair again welcomed him to the Council and thanked both him and Cllr Newton for their involvement in relation to the proposed pond improvements.

He also thanked Cllr Newton for her involvement with the Botley to Bishops Waltham Trail and the good work the group are doing, working with Hampshire County Council and negotiating with landowners.

He thanked Cllr Bodger for his input in relation to planning matters, especially in relation to the Boorley Green development and the Eastleigh Borough Council Local Plan. He also thanked him for liaising with the Wangfield Lane Action Group in relation to the Boorley Green development and also thanked them for the good work they do.

He then thanked all Councillors (particularly Cllrs Cross and Kemp) for carrying out so many planning site visits on behalf of Council, to enable it to make informed decisions. He also thanked Cllr Kemp for attending a WCC Planning Committee Meeting in relation to a retrospective planning application arising from an enforcement case.

Litter Picking – the Chair thanked Cllr Furby for overseeing the litter picking scheme, which is only made possible by the volunteers from the community, who he also thanked for their hard work.

Roads and Traffic – the Chair advised that one thing highlighted in Parish Plan Consultation Responses was that the speed and volume of traffic through Curdridge was of great concern. Therefore Council is in the process of installing Villages Gates on the entrance roads into Curdridge in an attempt to slow traffic down.

Council also financially supports the Speedwatch Scheme, which is now overseen by Cllr Lynne Newton, who is assisted by Cllrs Bodger and Cross, together with volunteers from the community, whose hard work is also much appreciated.

Curdridge Lane/Lockhams Road Junction Improvements – the junction has now been remodelled and a new pavement installed by HCC with a financial contribution being made by Curdridge Parish Council.

Affordable Housing – the Chair advised that the need for affordable housing within the parish was another item highlighted by the Parish Plan Consultation and therefore Council were working with Winchester City Council under the Rural Exception Sites Scheme to try to identify and acquire land within the village to build a very small number of affordable houses on. Negotiations are still taking place, but the results will be publicised when available.

Curdridge Show – the Chair advised that Council had applied to have a stall at Curdridge Show to enable local residents to raise any parish related questions they may have.

BT Telephone Box at St Peters Close – the Chair confirmed that Curdridge Parish Council had purchased this telephone box from BT for the sum of £1 to preserve it for future generations.

The telephone service had to be disconnected by BT, but Council are hoping to identify an alternative use for the telephone box in the future.

The Chair thanked Jenny Whittle, the Parish Clerk for all her work in overseeing the various parish projects carried out by Council and in carrying out the general parish workload.

He again thanked Cllr Rob Humby (the County Councillor) and Cllrs Achwal, Bentote and Huxstep (the District Councillors) for all their hard work. He said Cllr Achwal had gone beyond the call of duty by also helping out the Lunch Club when they were in need of volunteers.

The Chair also thanked those members of the public that had attended the meeting tonight.

8. To receive the Annual Statement of Parish Council Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2016, together with the Audit Certificate for the year 2015-2016

The Clerk advised that the Audit Certificate for the Year 2015-2016 had been approved by Council and duly displayed (as required).

She advised that parish reserves had increased, due to cost cutting measures, which had enabled Council to ear-mark funds for additional parish projects. She said projects that funds had been ear-marked towards included replacements parish notice boards (when required), a replacement minibus for community transport (when required in the future), Road Safety Projects, Cricketer's Pond improvements, Parish Quay improvements (subject to funding contributions from other agencies), Election costs (as and when required) and grants towards the Reading Room maintenance costs, the running of the Lunch Club and the Curdridge Parish Magazine.

9. Questions from Parishioners

Pavement along Botley Road from the St Peters Church to Botley – parishioners were concerned about the state of this pavement and the possibility that personal injuries could occur on this well used route. The Clerk advised she had reported this matter to HCC Highways who had cleared the overgrowth from the edge of the pavement and had confirmed that this project had been logged for consideration within their 2017-2018 finance budget. The Clerk advised she would chase HCC Highways, now that the new financial year had started.

ACTION: CLERK.

Developers' Contributions (Section 106) – Cllr Bull enquired of Cllr Humby who identified the scope for spending developers contributions, i.e. could they be spent on nearby areas that would be affected by large developments. Cllr Humby advised that currently developers' contributions were restricted to spending relating to any specific development and highways improvements related to any specific development. Major road networks were also being prioritised to enable more local improvements to be made in future.

10. Closing address by Chairman followed by refreshments and an opportunity to talk informally with your area Councillors

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and invited them to help themselves to refreshments.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.