

Curdridge Parish Council

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MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

held on Thursday, 23 May 2019
at 8pm in the Main Hall at the Reading Room

In attendance:

Cllr Eric Bodger (acting as Chair)
Cllr Larry Burden
Cllr Rory Kemp
Cllr Lynne Newton
Cllr Townsend
Jenny Whittle (Parish Council Manager)
PCSL Stephanie Slater
Cllr Roger Bentote
Mr and Mrs Appleby
Mrs Huish
Mrs Baily

1. Chair's welcome to Parishioners

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that it was intended to be a short meeting, so that residents could ask questions informally at the end of the meeting, whilst enjoying the light refreshments provided.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Caister, Wallin, Achwal and Huxstep.

3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 5 April 2018

The Annual Parish Meeting Minutes of 5 April 2018 were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

4. To receive a written report from Hampshire Constabulary

PCSO Stephanie Slater was in attendance and gave a brief report. She advised that the local team had returned to Bishops Waltham Police Station, where the Country Watch Team were now also based (which is very useful).

She advised that they have a new Police Officer and another due to start soon.

Thefts from motor vehicles parked in car parks had increased over the last year; the Police are patrolling and monitoring quieter car parks to deter this. Land Rover owners should be aware that there has been a very high instance of theft of Land Rover vehicle parts in the area.

	<u>2017-2018</u>	<u>2018-2019</u>
Anti-Social Behaviour	5	6
Burglaries from dwellings	1	5

Burglaries from sheds etc	4	8
Criminal damage	5	3
Public Order cases	6	2
Road Traffic Crashes	8	5
Thefts from motor vehicles	5	3
Thefts of motor vehicles	1	3

Cllr Bodger thanked Steph for her report.

5. To receive a report from the County Councillor

Cllr Huxstep was unable to attend the meeting, but had provided the following written report:

Hampshire’s Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) Permit Scheme.

Householders using pick-ups, vans, or 'large trailers' to dispose of domestic rubbish will have to pay from 1st June. Residents wishing to use 'larger vehicles' to transport their domestic waste to Hampshire’s household waste recycling centres will have to make sure they are registered and pay for a permit. The permit will cost £15 and will be valid for 12 months or 12 visits and provides access for vans and larger vehicles at any of the 24 HWRCs across Hampshire. Cars and 4x4s do not require a permit. Cars towing trailers of 1.8m (approx. 6ft) or less can access sites without a permit. If you use a trailer between 1.8m and 3.0m (approx. 6ft and 10ft) in length, you will need to apply for a permit to access HWRCs. Trailers over 3.0m (approx. 10ft) are not permitted access to HWRCs. The measurements above apply to the actual trailer 'box' area only, and do not include the towbar or any other attachments. Any vehicle over 3.5 tonnes in weight is not permitted access to HWRCs. For full terms and condition including applying for a permit online please visit:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling/recyclingcentres/wastepermits>

School Meals Price Increase. It has been agreed that the price for a two course, hot school meal will rise by 4.3% in September 2019, from £2.30 to £2.40. The revised charge reflects inflationary pressures associated with food costs and staff pay which rose by 6.4% in April 2019, when the hourly pay rate for catering assistants was increased nationally. Over 90% of the cost of a school meal covers food and staff costs, with related overheads accounting for the remainder. Supplying school meals at cost, keeps the price as low as possible for Hampshire families and ensures they receive value for money."

Campaigners look to Quiet Lanes. Campaigners fighting plans for 100 homes in the green belt are investigating whether their quiet neighbourhood could be protected with special status. Residents in Pennington are looking at gaining Quiet Lanes designation in response to New Forest District Council proposing to allocate land for major housing development between Ridgeway Lane and Lower Pennington Lane. The status, available under government regulations, cannot bar vehicles from using the route but would instead prioritise local policy to protect the peaceful character of the area. If approved by Highways Authority, Hampshire County Council, it could introduce speed limits.

Get vaccinated to protect and save lives. Raising awareness of the importance of vaccines in saving lives and protecting health was the focus of European Immunisation last month. Hampshire County Council is urging people to protect themselves, their families and the wider community by taking up their routine vaccinations when invited to by their GP. At a time when some countries in Europe and worldwide are witnessing measles outbreaks, the campaign, led by the World Health Organisation, aims to drive home the message to “prevent, protect and immunise” amongst parents and caregivers, health care professionals, policy and decision-

makers, and the media. Since the introduction of vaccinations, they have saved millions of lives.

Council issues warning about ticks. Residents are urged to be “tick aware”. Hampshire County Council is warning residents over the dangers of ticks and urging residents to be careful especially when walking in wooded areas. The tiny insects, which can transmit bacteria, such as Lyme disease, can be found throughout the year but are most active between spring and autumn. They are typically found in woodland, grassland, moorland or heathland but are also found in urban parks and gardens. Now HCC has issued a series of advice to walkers in areas known to have a high tick population such as the New Forest. Residents are urged to wear appropriate clothing (long-sleeve shirt and trousers tucked into your socks) and use an insect repellent.

Cllr Roger Huxstep - Member for Meon Valley Division

6. To receive a report from the District Councillors

Cllr Bentote reported:

We are delighted to report that as a result of the recent elections Jonathan Fern is the new district councillor for Whiteley and Shedfield and also that the Liberal Democrats are now in control of Winchester City Council.

The environment will be high on our agenda and we shall be working towards challenging goals on carbon neutrality and climate change. Improving not only the already agreed glass recycling collection but looking at food waste collection too.

Historic Winchester as the centre of our district will be important but we are very aware that a majority of residents live in small towns and villages. The needs of Curbridge in getting better safety protection on our roads and pavements and the ongoing project to get a better broadband will continue.

The development of North Whiteley has started, as is all too easily observed travelling towards Curbridge. It will take several years to reach completion but its impact on our local roads, and in particular Curbridge, is obvious.

Vivian and Roger have always enjoyed working with the Parish Council and local residents and with Jonathan we want to do as much as we can to maintain and improve life for the village.

We look forward to another year of working with the Parish Council.

Cllr Roger Bentote

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

Thank you for coming to this Parish Meeting; which is your meeting, not the Council's.

We were sorry to lose Joann Furby from the Council in April 2018, though she still continues to serve the village in other ways. Her vacancy was filled by Debbie Caister. Later last year we lost Kevan Bundell, who had worked hard for the Council for 12 years, including five as chairman. We were fortunate that Larry Burden agreed to be co-opted to replace him. The continuing members of the Council are Lynne Newton, Rory Kemp, Sian Townsend, and Steve Wallin.

Our villages have suffered some challenges over the past year, some of which we have overcome, and others where we've not.

Eastleigh continues to let Boorley Green expand ever closer to Curdridge, though the boggy state of the land beside the boundary at Ford Lake should limit this.

Royal Mail has removed the post box near the Pond, and is citing safety concerns to justify not reinstating it. We have escalated this through two levels of Royal Mail management, so far without success. Although the company promises to serve 98% of addresses with a box within half a mile, that is easy to achieve because so many addresses are in dense urban areas.

Some of the 2% are in Curdridge!

Our next move is to propose a site on Calcot, where the safety excuse won't apply.

Internet speed remains a problem in Curdridge, especially since two cabinets were handed over to a vendor who then has a local monopoly on Fibre-to-the-cabinet service. In any case, this is slowed down by the lamentable state of much of the overhead wiring – I've actually trebled my speed by replacing the landline with a cellular router.

Work is progressing on the development North of Whiteley, which will remain in our parish until a few people move in and can be asked to support the transfer to Whiteley. You have seen the work providing accesses to the A3051, which will eventually let us get to Whiteley Centre without getting stuck in the jams along Whiteley Way.

What is less obvious is the work on a cycle and pedestrian route, much of which will be separated from the main road by trees.

The Council has invested in improvements to the cemetery and car park, removing a redundant fence and resurfacing the worst bits of the car park. You'll be pleased to know we were able to get partial funding from Hampshire County Council.

Please don't be offended if we let the grass grow long in parts of the cemetery. There are orchids and other rare wildflowers present, so we try to give them some time to grow, deferring the "spring" mow until June.

A Parish Council can only spend your taxes for the benefit of villagers, which presented us with a problem when it turned out that the minibus was almost exclusively used by people from outside the Parish, and only once a fortnight at that. So we found an alternative carrier for bringing people to the Lunch Club, and are putting the bus up for sale – please tell Jenny if you know of a prospective buyer.

We took the risk of buying the old phone box by St Peter's Close when BT gave it up. Although the price was just a pound, we knew there would be expense in fixing it, which was done this year. I'm delighted that it is now acting as a swap and loan library, mainly for books, but with some games and DVDs as well.

Question – do you support our decision not to replace the "Telephone" signs at the top? We are preserving an iconic British item designed by Giles Gilbert Scott, and wanted to keep it authentic.

You should soon see a new Speed limit reminder sign that actually tells you your speed. We are waiting for Hampshire to install a socket on Lockhams Road, and we'll add that site to the others, moving the sign around every few weeks.

Many of the other things that go on in the village are not done by the Council, though there are councillors involved in several.

I'd like to thank the Litter Pickers, the Lunch Club, and the Speedwatch group. This last is coordinated by Cllr Newton, and won an award from Hampshire Police, giving us all a chance to meet the chief constable and see the Netley headquarters.

9. Formal questions from Parishioners

Poplars Farm – a resident spoke to raise several matters on behalf of neighbours of this property and local residents, who are concerned at the high number of large lorry deliveries along Curdridge Lane to this site; it was also noted that there is a lack of signage on site and therefore several lorries are driving up and down Curdridge Lane looking for this property. There was also an issue with very loud noise coming from the site from as early as 5-6 am most days of the week. Neighbours are also concerned about the large number of mature trees that are being cut down within the woodland on site and the increase of the number of new buildings appearing on the site (and within the woodland on site). ***It was agreed that the PCM would write to WCC to report residents' concerns. ACTION: PCM.***

Pinewood, Lockhams Road – several residents raised the fact that the coaches that had parked outside of this property had caused an inordinate amount of damage to the public highways, which has now collapsed on the edge and has become very dangerous. ***It was agreed that the PCM would report this matter to HCC Highways. ACTION: PCM.***

10. Closing address by Chairman, followed by refreshments and an opportunity to talk informally and raise any question you may have with your Councillors
Cllr Bodger thanked everyone for coming along tonight and invited them to remain to raise any other questions they may have informally with their Councillors and to enjoy the light refreshments.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.