

Curdridge Parish Council

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MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

held on Thursday, 6 May 2021

**VIA ONLINE ZOOM MEETING DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS
LOCKDOWN.**

In attendance:

Cllr Eric Bodger (acting as Chair)

Cllr Larry Burden

Cllr Rory Kemp

Cllr Lynne Newton

Cllr Townsend

Cllr Wallin

Jenny Whittle (Parish Council Manager)

Kevan Bundell

One other unidentified member of the public

1. Chair's welcome to Parishioners

The Chair welcomed all those present and advised that this meeting was a little different than Council would have like due to the pandemic, although Council is hoping to hold another meeting later in the year for parishioners to raise any queries they would like to raise.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologise had been received from Cllr Caister and the County and District Councillors who were unable to attend due to the current election.

3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 23 May 2019 (NB: there was 2020 meeting due to the Coronavirus pandemic and Government emergency lockdown legislation)

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on 23 May 2019 were noted.

4. To receive a written report from Hampshire Constabulary

The PCM advised that she had not sent an invite to the Police, due to the current election process, as they would probably also be unable to provide a report at this stage. The Chair advised that when Council held the intended meeting in future it would invite a Police representative to give a report.

5. To receive a report from the County Councillor (if applicable due to the current election process)

The PCM advised that she had sent an invite to the County and District Councillors, but they had sent their apologies due to the current election process, as they would be unable to provide a report at this stage.

6. To receive a report from the District Councillors (if applicable due to the current election process)

The PCM advised that she had sent an invite to the County and District Councillors, but they had sent their apologies due to the current election process, as they would be unable to provide a report at this stage.

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

The Parish Council Chairman, Cllr Eric Bodger provided the following report:

At our AGM in 2020, I do not think any of us expected that we would be unable to hold a proper Parish Meeting a whole year later. But with the success of the vaccination programme, we continue to hope that councillors and parishioners can get together later in the year for snacks, drinks, and a chat in the Reading Room.

The Council consists of Eric Bodger (chair), Larry Burden, Debbie Caister, Rory Kemp, Lynne Newton, and deputy chairs Sian Townsend and Steve Wallin. Jenny Whittle continues as Parish Council Manager, handling administration and making sure we follow the law.

The work of the Council has continued despite all the lockdowns and constraints on meeting, and several councillors have been active in supporting villagers who had to shield themselves. A positive side of the pandemic has been the way that people have looked out for each other, getting shopping and prescriptions for neighbours.

Council meetings have shifted to Zoom, protecting members and public from risk. One disappointment has been how few parishioners have chosen to join these meetings, though we have had public participation when there were more controversial items on the agenda.

Unfortunately, the Government has not renewed the facility for online meetings in England, even though indoor meetings of more than six people are not allowed even after 17 May. Of course, Council meetings are “work” so the restriction does not make physical meetings illegal, and we will move back to the Reading Rooms in June.

Council achievements this year have included:

working parties to improve the Cemetery, which now boasts a row of yew trees planted by councillor Newton near the road;

New fencing at the Glebe field and the Pond;

Improved water supply at the Pond (thanks to the generosity of Kevin Bull);

A beautiful new bus shelter on Botley Road, much more in keeping with the village than the metal and plastic one that had been knocked down;

A redesigned website to improve communications.

The plan for eight affordable homes next to St Peter’s Close is progressing slowly, with most of the necessary surveys completed or due this month. Some minor changes to layout have been made at the request of Winchester Planning, without any change to the footprint of the site.

Curdrige continues to work with the Southern Parishes Group, which has engaged with Winchester City Council and Hampshire, and come up with a concerted response seeking a Green belt separating villages from the urban sprawl of “Solent City”.

Our membership of the North Whiteley Forum gives us a say in how building progresses but has not resolved the integration of that development with Whiteley. Although Whiteley’s schools and outdoor leisure facilities are in North Whiteley, and Whiteley Town Council is responsible for maintaining the green infrastructure, the new residents’ council tax is currently coming to Curdrige. The boundary cannot be moved without a vote of the residents, which will not happen until a few more houses are occupied. Given that North Whiteley is planned to have seven times as many houses as our villages, the nature of the parish would change radically if the boundary were not moved.

The Parish Quay remains a concern. The jetty is in poor condition, and needs planks replacing frequently. Since the jetty is underwater at high tide, there is a serious risk that someone will step on to a broken plank. The landlord of the *Horse and Jockey* has kindly done some maintenance, but the risk remains with the Parish Council. Our efforts to transfer the quay to the Hamble authority have so far been unsuccessful.

8. Formal questions from Parishioners

Kevan Bundell stressed that Council must take all possible action to reject formally adopting the new North Whiteley Development within the parish of Curdridge. He advised that parishioners would not be happy for the Parish of Curdridge (as it was) to be eaten up by this large development that the parish is unable to accommodate. He asked that Council works with Whiteley Town Council to ensure that the North Whiteley Development is transferred to their parish.

Eric Bodger advised Kevan that Council has made it clear to Winchester City Council from the outset that it has no wish to adopt the North Whiteley Development within the parish of Curdridge and has been working alongside Whiteley Town Council to ensure that the development is transferred to their parish, as was originally intended. He advised that at a recent meeting it was agreed that Curdridge Parish Council and Whiteley Town Council would try to do a newsletter to all Curdridge parish residents (which currently includes the North Whiteley Development) in which Whiteley Town Council could include a card/leaflet introducing itself and advising North Whiteley residents that it is keen to adopt/transfer their development to Whiteley Town Council. Kevan was pleased to hear this.

It was agreed that the Parish Council Manager would add an item to the next Full Council Meeting Agenda on 3 June 2021 to formally discuss this business.

9. Closing address by Chairman

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and said that Members looked forward to welcoming residents to a face-to-face meeting aimed at allowing parishioners to raise any concerns, later in the year.