

Chair's Notes

May 2020

A Strange Month

When I wrote my April notes (in the middle of March), we had no idea how much would have changed by the time you got to read them due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Less than a week later, the Reading Room was closed, and we had to cancel our next few Council meetings in line with Government advice.

Ironically, one of the items to be discussed was our Parish Emergency Plan, which included such things as identifying places of refuge where villagers could congregate and be fed in the event of a disaster such as widespread wind damage or loss of power. What actually happened has rendered that plan almost completely obsolete, with one exception – the pivotal role of the Parish Council Manager (Jenny Whittle) in coordinating response and support for vulnerable parishioners.

Jenny is fielding a great number of calls for assistance, and some of our volunteer councillors have delivered essential food items and prescriptions to vulnerable parishioners confined to their homes. She is coordinating responses alongside Hampshire County Council and Winchester City Council and we have recently received offers of support from a couple of volunteer community groups who appreciate that Curdridge is a very small parish that does not benefit from the wide support network that most parishes do.

Future Meetings

Despite the lack of meetings in April, your council has continued to work. As well as errands for the housebound, we have commented on all new planning applications after online discussion and have taken urgent action on some unlawful activities within the parish. Financial obligations continue to be fulfilled with contract invoices having been paid by cheques signed by two councillors standing at least two metres apart!

Our next Full Council Meeting on 7 May at 7pm, is going to proceed remotely using Zoom; the agenda and full details will be advertised nearer the time on the parish website www.curdridge-pc.gov.uk

The Annual Parish meeting is not a meeting of the parish council and so cannot be held remotely. It's mainly a social event for the village, which needs people to get together to chat over some food and drink and therefore it has been deferred and will be discussed following the lockdown.

The Annual General Meeting of Council will probably also be deferred until after the lockdown, unless there is urgent business that requires this meeting to proceed remotely.

All other meetings are deferred until further notice and will be advertised on the parish website if they are to proceed, as the recommendation is not to travel to the our notice boards to advertise meetings. We thank you for your continued patience and support in this regard.

North Whiteley

The developers are now submitting detailed plans to cover the matters reserved when outline consent was given. Most seem to be in line with what was expected, but we identified and reported two minor concerns in Bovis's application 20/00572/REM, which covers 184 dwellings on five parcels of land.

- Three parcels (6, 7 and 12) lack secondary access for emergency vehicles, which will not be able to attend incidents if the primary access is blocked. The Parish Council cannot insist on their adding access, so can only hope that Hampshire County Council will do so.
- Some properties have remote parking, but there is no provision for charging of electric vehicles. It seems that no requirement was made when outline permission was given, and the developers believe it is too late to add a condition. So houses are being built that will be only 14 years old when petrol, diesel and hybrid cars go out of production.

Affordable Housing

We are now conducting progress meetings on the plan to build eight affordable homes just north of St Peter's Close – using Zoom of course, as we can't meet in person. The working party is chaired by Mags Wylie of Action Hampshire, with representatives of the Parish, the Hastoe housing association, the landowner, and Winchester Planning. There is now agreement on the layout of the site, which matches that shown at the drop-in event last autumn. We are hoping to add a direct footpath to the bus stop if Winchester will agree, which will simplify the shape of the land to be transferred. As soon as the transfer is agreed, Hastoe will make detailed surveys of the land to ensure good drainage, firm foundations, and minimal impact on wildlife. All utilities are already available close to the site, so there should be detailed plans by late summer. We then need to get planning permission for this "Rural Exception Site", after which construction can begin.

I'm glad to say that the layout allows emergency vehicles to approach over the neighbouring field if necessary, and it should be possible to charge electric cars beside most of the houses.

Eric Bodger

Planning Decisions and Appeals Notified by Winchester

Home Farm, Reading Room Lane, Curdridge SO32 2HE

Construction of two houses following demolition of equestrian business. Removal of Equestrian tie. Case Officer: Rose Lister. Case No: 20/00185/FUL. **REFUSED.**

South Winds, Wickham Road, Curdridge SO32 2HG

Detached garage with office. Case Officer: Nicola Clayton. Case No: 20/00049/HOU. **PERMITTED.**

Land to the Rear of Pinewood Cottage Curdridge Lane Curdridge SO32 2BJ

Erection of an agricultural building to be used as livestock housing. Case Officer: Cameron Finch. Case No: 20/00309/FUL. **PERMITTED.**

Bridge House, Botley Road, Curbridge SO30 2HB

Extensions and alterations. Case Officer: Nicola Clayton. Case No: 20/00459/HOU. **PERMITTED**

FUTURE MEETING DATES FOR CURDRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL:

Council has resolved to make all meetings Full Council Meetings. The first meeting in each month will be primarily for Planning business and urgent Council business as required; this meeting may be cancelled if there is not enough planning business. The second meeting in

each month will be primarily for Council business, finance business and urgent Planning business as required. The next Full Council Meetings are on:

7 May 2020 at 7pm (on Zoom). AGM – to be advised on the parish website.

The Annual Parish Assembly – an informal meeting with refreshments has been deferred and will be rescheduled when the Covid-19 lockdown ends.

Meeting Agendas, including finalised date, time and venue for meetings are made available on the Parish Council website www.curdridge-pc.gov.uk (where meeting cancellation notices will also be displayed if necessary).