

## **Chair's Notes**

### **April 2021**

#### **Elections**

On 6 May, you will be able to vote to select a County councillor and a Winchester City councillor. You can do that at the Reading Rooms (with your own pen or pencil), but if you might still be shielding, it's not too late to register for a postal vote. The deadline to apply is 5pm on 20 April, but you are advised to do it early to be sure of getting one. If you miss that date, you can get someone you trust to cast a proxy vote on your behalf at the polling station – the deadline for applying for a proxy vote is 27 April.

#### **New Council Website**

The Parish Council Manager has been working closely with our service provider to produce a more usable website for the Council. The previous one was hard to navigate and difficult to update, and needed to be modified to make it more usable by people with visual impairment.

#### **Parish Council Meetings**

The Council will continue to work online up to and including the meeting on 6 May, and we will publish plans for subsequent meetings in the May magazine. You can attend our meetings on Zoom without needing to leave home, by following the link included in the agenda. This will be posted on the PC website in [www.curdridge-pc.gov.uk/Agendas.aspx](http://www.curdridge-pc.gov.uk/Agendas.aspx)

At the time of writing, the Government is insisting that all council meetings after 7 May must be conducted face-to-face, even though Covid-19 regulations prohibit indoor mixing until 17 May, after which numbers will be limited to six (our Council has seven members, and we welcome the public at our meetings). We are also required to hold a Parish meeting before 31 May! The ruling is being challenged by the Local Government Association, but the outcome is not yet known. Unless something changes, we might have the difficult choice of which law to break.

My inclination is to run the *formal* Parish Meeting online before 7 May, and not worry about poor attendance. We can then schedule a proper village get-together with snacks and drinks in the Reading Room later in the year, after restrictions have been lifted.

#### **South Hampshire Green Belt?**

At the March meeting of the Southern Parishes group, we had a presentation from Kevan Bundell, on behalf of the Countryside Charity, CPRE. They have proposed a green belt to limit the northward expansion of "Solent City", an issue which is of great interest to Curdridge. You can find their thinking at [www.cprehampshire.org.uk/our-campaigns/south-hampshire-green-belt/](http://www.cprehampshire.org.uk/our-campaigns/south-hampshire-green-belt/)

There are already significant incursions into the countryside – Portsmouth links as far north as Horndean, and Eastleigh has filled the space from Southampton to Chandlers Ford, and will soon reach Fair Oak. Test Valley is supporting the Green Belt proposal, and the consultation on Winchester's Local Plan gives us an opportunity to influence our district's policy. You only have until April 12th to respond at [www.localplan.winchester.gov.uk](http://www.localplan.winchester.gov.uk)

Eric Bodger

## **Planning Decisions and Appeals Notified by Winchester**

### **Grooms Cottage Outlands Lane Curdridge SO30 2HD**

Rear single storey extension to create additional living accommodation. Case Officer: Cameron Finch. Case No: 20/ 02873/HOU. **PERMITTED**.

### **Home Farm Reading Room Lane Curdridge SO32 2HE**

Construction of a replacement dwelling and garage. Resubmission of 18/00656/FUL. Case Officer: Rose Lister. Case No. 20/02842/FUL. **PERMITTED**, subject to condition that the dwellinghouse as hereby permitted shall only be used as a single unit of accommodation and shall not be subdivided, separated or altered in any way so as to create two or more separate units of accommodation. Reason: To accord with the terms of the application since the site lies within an area where additional residential properties would not normally be permitted.

### **Hillview Chapel Lane Curdridge SO32 2BB**

Erection of new single storey extension to garage with extension within roof space above and new front entrance gates and boundary walls. Case Officer: Cameron Finch. Case No: 20/02587/HOU. **PERMITTED** despite objection from Parish Council.

---

### **FUTURE MEETING DATES FOR CURDRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL:**

Council generally holds two Full Council Meetings each month, on Thursdays at 7pm. The first meeting in each month is 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 is primarily for Council business, finance business and urgent Planning business as required. The next Full Council Meetings are on:

April 1 and 15, May 6 (Zoom Online Meetings)  
(the meeting format will be reviewed in April)

The Annual Parish Assembly (informal meeting for parishioners with refreshments) has been deferred and will be rescheduled when the need for social distancing ends. Our hope was to hold it on May 20<sup>th</sup>, but the Covid-19 regulations mean that we cannot then hold a large indoor meeting (see the Chair's notes for a possible alternative).

Meeting Agendas, including finalised date, time and venue (or link) for meetings are made available on the Parish Council website [www.curdridge-pc.gov.uk](http://www.curdridge-pc.gov.uk) and will include joining instructions when the meeting is online. The website will also report meeting cancellations when necessary.