

Chair's Notes July 2021

Congratulations

The Parish Council is delighted that Vivian Achwal, one of our City Councillors, has been appointed as the 822nd Mayor of Winchester.

Parish Council Meetings

We are now meeting again in person at the Reading Rooms. It is usually possible to maintain a safe distance between people, but if strong interest from parishioners means there is insufficient space in the Billiard room, we will try to move to the main hall. As usual, the agenda will be posted on the PC website in www.curdridge-pc.gov.uk/Agendas.aspx

Democratic Deficit?

When North Whiteley was first given the go-ahead, there was a plan to move the parish boundary so that the new housing would be within Whiteley. In 2013, when I joined the council, the main issue seemed to be whether we could get a little kink in the new boundary to keep one older house to the east of the main road within Curbridge. Unfortunately, the officer who made these plans has now left Winchester, and we cannot find any documentary commitment. In any case, because the area was subject to a fairly recent Boundary Commission review, any revised boundaries need to be approved by parishioners, once some of the houses are occupied.

There is now a possibility that only those electors in North Whiteley will be asked their views. This would be grossly unfair, as it would mean that if the first hundred or so decide against a boundary change, then existing residents of Curdridge and Curbridge will be overwhelmed seven-to-one when the development is completed. I hope our City Councillors will be able to ensure that all residents – old and new – of Curdridge Parish are given a vote.

Whiteley was conceived as a whole, and many of the facilities of the town are being constructed in the north – sports pitches, schools, and green infrastructure. Whiteley Town Council has committed to maintain these services, and they need the tax from the new housing to afford those added costs.

The Boundary Commission has begun a consultation on Parliamentary Constituencies. They propose to put us in a new seat called Hedge End, which spans parts of Winchester, Eastleigh and Fareham (despite there being a criterion that proposals take account of local government boundaries). You can see the proposal at www.bcereviews.org.uk/node/6488?postcode=SO322DA Since moving to my house, I have already been in four different constituencies, only one of which was ever marginal enough to make my vote count.

The Pond

Following Kevin Bull's rebuilding of the water supply, we have agreed to complete the picket fence to the same standard as the sections already in place.

Affordable Housing

The working group held a fruitful meeting on 15 June. The architect has produced detailed layout plans that will be used to finalize the survey reports needed for Planning. By the time you read this, the planning application should have been submitted, with a hope of approval in the autumn.

Eric Bodger

Planning Decisions and Appeals Notified by Winchester

Poplars Farm Curdridge Lane Curdridge SO32 2BH

Change of use of land to equestrian, erection of 11 looseboxes with ancillary structures and associated parking area (retrospective) (resubmission). Case No: 21/00078/FUL. **REFUSED**

Harmsworth Farm Botley Road Curbridge SO30 2HB

Construction of a pergola at the rear garden. Case Officer: Cameron Finch. Case No: 21/00881/HOU. **PERMITTED**

Poplars Farm Curdridge Lane Curdridge SO32 2BH

APPEAL against refusal: reference APP/L1765/W/21/3266445

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:

July 1 and 15, 5 August, 2 and 16 September in the Reading Rooms

No meeting planned for 19 August unless there is an emergency.

Meeting Agendas, including finalised date, time and venue for meetings are made available on the Parish Council website www.curdridge-pc.gov.uk which will also report meeting cancellations when necessary.