

Chair's Notes

February 2019

Finances

The December meeting of the Council agreed the budget for 2019-20, with a very modest increase in the precept. The main changes are:

- Higher expenditure for levelling and improving the cemetery, and for maintaining the car park.
- Increased grant to the Reading Room charity – Curdridge is unusual in not having a publicly-funded hall, and the Reading Room and Recreation ground is a vital village asset that benefits a wide range of residents.
- Higher costs for Allotment & Recreation Maintenance, as many of the original works are coming to the end of their life (the entry barrier was expensive to repair, and there is fencing work to be done).
- Lower provision for the mini-bus, which is not to be replaced.

Each year, we set aside some money for election expenses, but did not have to spend any of it in 2018, as the number of candidates matched the vacancies. This means we can set aside less in the future, though it would be good for democracy if we have some competition in 2022.

Fly Tipping

Our district councillors reported that Winchester has successfully prosecuted a fly-tipper, as part of its robust approach to this scourge of our countryside.

The Roads

We are still waiting for Hampshire Highways to install the missing Give Way sign on Chapel Lane at its NW-bound approach to Lockhams Road, but they have agreed to restore the missing 40mph sign on Lockhams Road. In the meantime, the Council has installed a mirror to help drivers coming from the Triangle to see what is coming along Lockhams Road.

Speeding vehicles continue to be a problem in the village, so we are grateful to the Speedwatch group for their work in deterring speeding by monitoring speeds. Although the group is independent of the Council, it is organized by councillor Lynne Newton, with volunteers from across Curdridge. We have focussed most on Botley Road (B3035) outside the Allotment Recreation ground. When we spot a vehicle travelling 6 mph over the 40 limit, we provide the registration to the Police, who write a letter to the registered keeper. If the same vehicle is reported again by any Speedwatch in the county, the keeper gets a more strongly-worded letter (the third letter is delivered by a marked Police car!). Letters sent over the past few years are:

Location	2016	2017	2018
Botley Road	271	314	393
Wangfield Lane	18	65	11
Escalation letters	31	6	1

The main constraint on Speedwatch is a shortage of volunteers – that may be why the number for Wangfield Lane fell in 2018. If you would be prepared to give an hour every few weeks to improving safety in the village, please contact Lynne at cllr.newton.cpc@gmail.com for her to arrange training for you.

Eric Bodger

Planning Decisions

There are no new Planning decisions for this period.

Future meeting dates for Curdridge Parish Council

Planning, Highway & Licensing Committee Meetings (if there is sufficient business):
7 February 2019, 7 March 2019 and 4 April 2019

Full Council Meetings:
21 February 2019, 21 March 2019 and 18 April 2019

Council Meetings start at 7pm and are held at the Reading Rooms. Meeting Agendas are made available on the Parish Council website