

Curdridge Parish Council

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**MINUTES OF FULL COUNCIL MEETING
OF CURDRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2015
AT 7.00 PM IN THE BILLIARDS ROOM AT THE READING ROOMS**

Present:

Cllr K Bundell (Chairman)

Cllr E Bodger (Vice Chairman) – arrived at 8.25 pm.

Cllr C Cross

Cllr J Furby

Cllr R Kemp

Cllr L Newton

Cllr C Weaver

In attendance:

Jenny Whittle (Parish Clerk)

Cllr R Humby

Cllr L Ruffell

Public Session

Duncan Murray raised concerns regarding the North Whiteley Development Special Planning Meeting decision to defer the application. He had warned WCC of the possibility of a Regulation 63 challenge, should this development be permitted, as there was currently an SPA review being undertaken, following which the Little Egret would be a qualifying species above the threshold. He had also warned WCC that they should not rely upon the current Shadow HRA and should carry out their own assessment. Duncan also felt that when WCC carried out their SPA review the Kingfisher should be a consideration.

The Chair had intended to report WCC's decision under the Chair's Report, but now invited Cllr Ruffell to respond. Cllr Ruffell advised that the committee had received advice from Fiona Sutherland at the Special Planning Meeting, that if minded to permit, conditions should be attached regarding habitat protection. In view of the deferral (which had been based on the fact that the committee had not been able to identify robust enough planning conditions to object upon), Fiona Sutherland is proposing to re-write and update her report recommendations for the next WCC Planning Committee Meeting to consider the North Whiteley Development, on Monday, 12 October 2015 in the Walton Room at the Guildhall, which should resolve this issue.

It was agreed that Duncan Murray would write to Cllrs Humby and Ruffell detailing his concerns, in order that these comments could be referred to WCC again prior to the next meeting.

Members queried how the traffic concerns were proposed to be addressed. Cllr Ruffell advised that Mike Evans, Steve Tilbury and the consortium had met to discuss the resolution of the traffic issues and it had been suggested that traffic measures regarding the current part of the Whiteley Road should be implemented prior to the commencement of any development and the new part of the Whiteley Road should be implemented, as soon as HCC Highways could give approval for the scheme to proceed. Mike Evans had been satisfied with this recommendation and would write a report to the committee.

15.55 Apologies for Absence

None.

15.56 To receive Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

15.57 To approve Minutes of Full Council Meeting of 23 July 2015

Resolved to approve the Minutes as drafted. ACTION: CHAIR/CLERK.

15.58 To receive reports from the County Councillor and District Councillor

Cllr Ruffell advised there was an informal planning meeting on 8 October 2015, designed to look at positives and negatives for completed developments. He advised that there was also a planning bus tour due to take place on 9 October 2015, which would visit developments that had been a success, as well as some that had not been; two facilities to be visited were a farm at Southwick and the Whiteley Cinema. A representative from each parish had been invited along on this tour, which would finish at 5.30 pm.

Cllr Humby advised that his new role as the County Council's Rural Champion had now been included in the constitution. This role has a wide remit including things such as economy, health, broadband etc. He advised that the County is 1420 square miles, with 85% being classed as rural.

Funding discussed at the Highways Workshop – Cllr Humby requested Curdridge Parish Council to email him to remind him of this matter. **ACTION: CLERK.**

Members reported several blocked road drains. Cllr Humby asked for these to be reported through the HCC system. Cllrs to notify the Clerk of drains to be reported. **ACTION: CLERK.**

Rural Services Network Conference – Cllr Humby had attended this conference, which had focused on rural isolation and dementia (i.e. demographics, population etc). Cllr Humby had also attended a meeting with Radio Solent, which was to look at a day in the life of a County Councillor, at which he had tried to get the radio involved with this cause. He is hoping to set up a Great Rural Debate to hopefully also get Ministers involved; the parish councils will be involved in the process, although a Core Steering Group is being set up, to enable smaller group meetings (with input and feedback from various agencies); Cllr Humby had also met with the Dementia Friendly Group today with a view to also getting them involved.

Village Agents – Cllr Humby is actively trying to get this scheme up and running in more area; there are currently 25 Village Agents, but it is hoped to expand this to 100. Members queried what the role of a Village Agent was. Cllr Humby explained that Village Agents are members of the community given specific training on services available to the public, so that they can disseminate this information to residents within their villages. It has also been identified that some HCC services are being duplicated by external agencies and consequently Cllr Humby is hoping to get as many agencies together as possible, so that this can hopefully be avoided in future.

TCPA (Town and Country Planning Association) Meeting – Cllr Humby had attended this meeting, at which Professor, Sir Malcolm Grant the Chairman of NHS England gave a presentation; he said that demands on A&E in hospitals (in relation to the elderly) was mainly due to trips and falls and therefore it was felt planning authorities needed to consider and address this problem, by looking at the design of roads/pavements and houses etc. It was hoped that HCC could involve other agencies in this process, to hopefully come up with something bespoke for this area. Cllr Humby advised that only two other representatives from the southern region had attended this meeting, which was disappointing; he is therefore hoping to get the Hampshire Rural Forum back together (which the

Head of Communications at HCC fully supports), in an endeavour to share information and achieve better partnership working.

15.59 Planning Applications received from Winchester City Council for decision/response

15.59.1 Broadlands, Chapel Lane, Curdrige, Southampton, SO32 2BB – Demolition of existing dwelling and the constructions of one replacement and one additional dwelling (RESUBMISSION). Case Reference: 15/01632/FUL. Case Officer: Michelle Thomson.

The Chair adjourned the meeting to allow the public to comment on this application.

Roger Duckworth, the owner of Belmont, raised objections in relation to the large size of the proposed properties and the basements allowing the possibility for future expansion and the proposed hard standings allowing additional development on the site in future. He requested that if minded to support this application, Council requests a condition to withdraw any general permitted development rights from the two properties to avoid further expansion in future.

Another neighbour had concerns about the damage being caused to the highways and neighbouring properties by lorries entering the site and felt that there should be a foreman on site to avoid this.

Simon Pitter, the owner of the neighbouring property Fir Tree Lodge raised objections on the overall impact of the development, some details of which he felt were not shown on the plans. He felt that the development was huge, he was also concerned about overlooking due to the windows proposed and had concerns about the installation of basements causing disturbance to the surrounding land and subsidence to his property. He also felt that these properties were in very close proximity and would not be in keeping with the rest of the lane.

The Chair advised (in the absence of the developer) that this development was intended to meet WCC's requirements for infilling and allowing single properties to be replaced with additional properties, of which there was another example of this in the same road. He advised that it was not now intended to have two separate driveways, but to have one shared arch driveway to enable in and out access onto the road. He also clarified that the plans do not show provision for any garages or sheds at the rear. It was noted that WCC Enforcement had confirmed that as the concrete slabs being installed at the rear of the gardens were for hard-standing only, it did not represent a breach of planning.

The meeting resumed and Members discussed this application in detail.

Cllr Kemp proposed TO OBJECT, on the grounds that the proposed windows and balconies would overlook neighbouring properties; the proposed basements could impact on neighbouring properties by causing subsidence and would also impact on mature trees; the over-development was visually intrusive and unacceptable and would damage the quiet enjoyment of neighbouring properties, together with the loss of another small property within Curdrige. Cllr Newton seconded, with 3 Members voting in favour, 1 Members voting against and 2 Members abstaining. ACTION: CLERK.

Members also requested that should WCC's Planning Officer be minded to permit this development that a condition please be attached to any permission stipulating that General Permitted Development Rights would be withdrawn from these two properties in future, to avoid any further expansion (as Members had particular concerns about the two hard-standings, currently being installed, being developed upon in future). ACTION: CLERK.

Cllr Kemp asked the Clerk when responding to WCC, to request them to ensure that the current property foot print size is correct on the plans, as it looks wrong and could invalidate this application. **ACTION: CLERK.**

Cllr Bodger arrived at the meeting.

15.60 Allotment Recreation

15.60.1 To consider the possibility of funding and/or applying for grant funding to install a wooden exercise trail/adult exercise equipment

Members discussed this matter and felt that it might be more relevant to consider installing adult exercise equipment at the Reading Room Recreation Ground. Members also felt that this could only proceed if Section 106 funding arose in future to fund this project.

Resolved that Cllr Furby would liaise with the Reading Room Committee to establish whether they would like this suggestion to be put forward to WCC as a future Section 106 project. ACTION: CLLR FURBY.

15.60.2 To receive an update from the Chair with regard to the manure delivered to the car park and to decide what (if any) further action is required

The Chair had liaised with Stuart (the Chair) and Julie (the Vice Chair) of the Allotment Association, who had advised that the manure in the car park had not been ordered, but would be moved.

Resolved that Curdridge Parish Council would display notices in the Allotment Recreation car park stating “PLEASE DO NOT DELIVER ANY UNAUTHORISED DELIVERIES OF MANURE (OR ANY WASTE) TO THIS CAR PARK. FLY TIPPING OF WASTE IS ILLEGAL AND CONSTITUTES A SERIOUS OFFENCE FOR WHICH A PERSON CAN BE PROSECUTED”

15.61 Cemetery management review

15.61.1 To review cemetery layout plan and decide usage/allocation of plots

Resolved that the Cemetery Working Party and Clerk would be given delegated powers to decide on the future usage and allocation of burial plots within the parish cemetery. ACTION: CLERK/CEMETERY WORKING PARTY.

15.61.2 To review cemetery fees (to verify current fees)

Resolved that the Clerk would approach other local councils to obtain a list of their current fees and would also liaise with the church regarding their fees and then refer this item back to Council. The current fee schedule would remain in force in the meantime. ACTION: CLERK

Members also requested the Clerk to enquire of the church (whilst writing to them) what the current status of their churchyard is in relation to the tree clearance and land reclaimed; do they have any intention of using this space for burials in the future? **ACTION: CLERK.**

15.62 Cricketers Pond – to consider the implementation/funding of wire mesh barrier to protect the ducks from road traffic

Cllr Newton had already installed this wire mesh barrier to the pond to protect the ducks.

Resolved to thank Cllr Newton for all her hard work in carrying out this task and approve the sum of £42.98 (incurred for the purchase of wire mesh) to be reimbursed to Cllr Newton. ACTION: CLERK.

15.63 Ground Maintenance – to review Grounds Maintenance Contract (to include new Cemetery cutting schedule and annual notice board maintenance etc)

This item was deferred. **ACTION: CLERK.**

15.64 Notice Boards - to consider future management and displays

This item had arisen during the former Clerk's appraisal process.

Resolved that:

- ***Curdridge Parish Council would allow leaflets from Councils, relating to council services to be displayed on the parish notice boards;***

- *the Clerk would display the front cover and parish council page of the Curdridge Parish Magazine on the notice boards when circulating Agendas;*
- *No advertising relating to private or profit making businesses be displayed on the notice boards;*
- *Charity leaflets would only be allowed to be displayed at the discretion of Council.*

15.65 Parish Quay – to receive update report from Cllr Kemp in relation to considered maintenance and improvements (to include design scheme, costings, possible funding sources etc) and to consider whether Council wishes to contribute if improvements proceed

Cllr Kemp displayed plans for Members to see. He advised that this proposal had been in the pipelines since his time on the Hamble Forum. He advised that the pontoon/quay belonged to Curdridge Parish Council, but it was believed that the majority of the land was owned by the Crown, with just a small parcel near the bridge being owned by Curdridge Parish Council.

Cllr Kemp had liaised with the former Harbour Master with a view to the possible installation of an additional pontoon/quay being installed, which would allow two additional small boat moorings and for a new concrete slipway to be installed. The original pontoon/quay had been installed in 1992 by the Harbour Master, with a contribution from Curdridge Parish Council. Cllr Kemp would be investigating obtaining funding from various sources, including the Mooring Association, but felt it may be necessary to approach Curdridge Parish Council to consider making a contribution to this project, should it proceed. Cllr Kemp to update Council when applicable. **ACTION: CLLR KEMP.**

15.66 Finance

15.66.1 To consider/approve Curdridge Parish Council “General” insurance quotations
An alternative quotation had been obtained by the former Clerk (on a like for like basis), but the Clerk had identified variances and had requested an updated quote to accord with the current insurer’s cover. The alternative insurer had also identified some items, such as office furniture were duplicated in the current insurance policy and would remove these to reduce the premium. The Clerk advised Members of the current quotations, which were both based on a three year contract.

Resolved that Council would insure on a three year basis with the alternative insurer (if their revised quote remains more competitive), and is like for like, except for any duplications or unnecessary insurance items being removed and volunteers being covered. If urgent, this payment would be added to the payments list and ratified at the next Full Council Meeting. ACTION: CLERK.

Cllr Kemp requested the Clerk to establish whether Councillors were covered for violence or abuse from residents, i.e. in the case of planning site visits. **ACTION: CLERK.**

15.66.2 To ratify the August Finance Reports and cheque payments (due to recess)

Resolved to approve the August Finance Reports.

15.66.3 To approve the Finance Reports dated 17 September 2015, cheque signing and payments
Resolved to approve the September Finance Reports, cheque signing and payments. ACTION: CLERK.

Clerk advised she would include a very brief payment “description” in monthly reports in future to identify what payments are being made for. ACTION: CLERK.

15.66.4 To consider Grant Application from Curdridge Primary School for £350.00

Members felt that they would like to invite the Head Teacher along to a future Full Council Meeting to present the school’s case for this grant application.

Members also asked if, when writing to the Head Teacher, the Clerk could request her to provide an update report to the parish council on the school’s current activities and to advise whether the school

has a School Transport Policy and if so, whether she could also provide a brief report on this, as Council would be keen to see the Park and Stride scheme implemented in Curdridge. **ACTION: CLERK.**

15.66.5 To consider Grant Application from Curdridge PCC, St Peter's Church for £195.00
Members discussed this grant application and the fact that that the grant funding was to be used to install safety railing (to protect the public) at the church.

Resolved to make a grant in the sum of £195.00 to Curdridge PCC, St Peter's Church. ACTION: CLERK.

15.67 To receive reports from Parish Councillors

Cllr Newton had purchased a hi-vis coat for the additional Speed Watch volunteer and batteries for the Outback CCTV camera (as it had been returned without batteries); she will claim expenses next month. **ACTION: CLERK.**

Cllr Newton had received complaints about the amount of roadside mirrors appearing on verges (some of which seemed unnecessary). The Chair advised that HCC Highways dealt with such matters; this item would remain ongoing.

Cllr Newton updated Members on the tree TPO in Lockhams Road. Cllr Kemp would investigate the sale of this piece of land in Lockhams Road, with a view to Curdridge Parish Council considering the purchase of this land to protect it (if cost effective). **ACTION: CLLR KEMP.**

Cllr Bodger is continuing to liaise with the Boorley Green Residents Association, with a view to the implementation of a traffic order and would suggest they write to HCC Highways to request the closure of the road at the bridge. **ACTION: CLLR BODGER.**

Cllr Bundell advised Members that there was meeting of the joint parishes group to be held on 24th September 2015 at 7.30 pm at Bishops Waltham. There was to be a presentation by a WCC officer on recycling. Agreed that Cllrs Bodger and Kemp would attend represent Curdridge Parish Council. **ACTION: CLLRS BODGER & KEMP.**

15.68 To note Parish Clerk's Update Report (previously circulated to Members)

Noted.

15.69 To note correspondence

The Clerk had no urgent correspondence.

15.70 To move Exempt Business

To consider passing a resolution under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 in respect of the following items of business on the grounds that it is likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

15.71 Staffing Matters

The incoming Clerk's contract was approved for signing.. **ACTION: CLERK/CHAIR.**

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm.

Signed:
Chairman

Dated: