

Curdridge Parish Council

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MINUTES OF FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF CURDRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.00 PM ON THURSDAY 2 MARCH 2023 IN THE BILLIARD ROOM AT CURDRIDGE READING ROOM CURDRIDGE

Present:

Cllr Eric Bodger (Chairman)
Cllr Larry Burden
Cllr Jonathan Carkeet (from item 23.58)
Cllr Paul Haskins
Cllr Philip Hedger
Cllr Lynne Newton
Cllr Sian Townsend

In attendance:

Jenny Whittle (Parish Council Manager - PCM)

Public Session

There were no matters arising.

23.54 Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from the County and District Councillors.

23.55 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Carkeet declared an interest in item 23.58.1, as he is a direct neighbour.

23.56 To receive reports from the County Councillor, District Councillors and Hampshire Constabulary Representative, if applicable (usually given at the end of each month)

There were no further update reports at this time.

23.57 To approve the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting on 16 February 2023

Resolved to approve the Minutes dated 16 February 2023. ACTION: CHAIR/PCM.

23.58 Planning Applications received from Winchester City Council, Hampshire County Council, Eastleigh Borough Council or River Hamble Harbour Authority for decision/response

23.58.1 Beech Tree Calcot Lane Curdridge Southampton Hampshire SO32 2BN - The existing barn is located along the Northern boundary of the site, with its principal elevation facing Southwards. The existing openings currently formed by roller shutter doors (facing South) will be utilized to provide large areas of glazing to all habitable rooms. Note: planning application reference 04/01957/AGA granted with agricultural condition. Case Officer: Nicola Clayton. Case No: 23/00359/PNACOU.

Members discussed this application and were concerned that HCC Highways had previously objected to applications in relation to this site, but were now supporting this application. Members were also concerned as they did not believe that this building had been used as an agricultural building for the requisite period and that significant structural changes were required to enable the barn to be converted to a domestic dwelling.

Resolved TO OBJECT, as Council believes that this building has not been used as an agricultural building for the requisite period. Council is also concerned that the

proposed application is beyond the scope of Permitted Development for Class Q conversion to a dwelling, e.g. without the proposed drastic changes the conversion would not meet the standards required for a dwelling-house. It may be that issues such as the ability of the current frame to carry the extra weight are matters for Building Control rather than Planning, but we would like to draw the Planning Officer's attention to Council's concerns regarding the current build quality of this building being significantly inadequate also. The splay required to meet Highways requirements would cause damage to the natural hedgerow and street-scene and Council raised concerns generally in relation to highways safety regarding the access to this site and visibility; therefore if WCC's Planning Officer is minded to permit this application Council requests that a full site inspection be carried out by HCC Highways and WCC to assess the safety of the proposed access to this property (especially as HCC Highways objected to previous planning applications associated with this property on the basis of the access). ACTION: PCM.

23.59 Planning Decisions and Appeals notified by Winchester City Council/HCC - to be noted

There were no new planning decisions for the parish notified by WCC.

23.60 Finance

23.60.1 To approve interim cheque payments (if applicable) - Finance Report dated 16 March 2023 and cheque signing & payments. **There were no urgent cheque payments.**

23.60.2 Proposed Curdridge Parish Council Planning Policy Document – to receive written update from Steve Tilbury Planning Consultant and decide upon action and quotation. **Members approved Cllr Bodger's response to Steve Tilbury; Cllr Carkeet suggested the draft document should not depend on reference to the National Framework to make it more specific to the parish. This would enable residents to refer to it also. Members also approved Steve Tilbury's initial estimate of £350.00. ACTION: CLLR BODGER.**

23.60.3 North Whiteley Boundary Review – to formally ratify Curdridge Parish Council's 2023-2024 revised taxbase figure of 649.14 and revised and reduced Precept figure of £61,775.00. Members discussed the revised figures and the fact that there would be a relatively high percentage increase in tax payable. Cllr Haskins queried whether Council should do a magazine article explaining the increase. The PCM updated Members that WCC had recommended that rather than doing a magazine article explaining this increase which was uncontrollable for Council under the circumstances, that Council prepares an explanatory paragraph that can be forwarded to any residents raising this matter.

The PCM explained the various factors:

- i) Curdridge Parish Council's Precept has actually decreased for 2023-2024 and prior to 2022-2023 (when North Whiteley increased Council's Precept to £70,409) Council withheld increasing its Precept for any new parish projects due to the financial climate and wishing to support residents (Precepts - 2020-2021 £53,969 and 2021-2022 £55,190);
- ii) Curdridge Parish Council has also not increased the parish element of Council Tax in line with inflation since the North Whiteley Development was started and instead used additional income from the new houses being built as an alternative to imposing inflationary increases on current residents; having now lost income from the new North Whiteley households this naturally increases the parish Council Tax element more drastically for 2023-2024;
- iii) Council was requested by residents (who had voted overwhelmingly in favour of Whiteley Town Council adopting the new North Whiteley Development) to support parishioners in requesting that the North Whiteley Development be removed from the parish of Curdridge, so as to protect the integrity of the village and hopefully avoid a precedent being set for large scale development within the parish;

Resolved to formally ratify the revised taxbase figure of 649.14 and the reduced Precept figure for 2023-2024 of £61,775.00. It was agreed the Chair would draft a paragraph to be circulated to Members using the PCM's explanation provided in these Minutes.

ACTION: CLLR BODGER.

23.60.4 To review and update Council's Schedule of Ear-Marked Funds

Members had previously agreed that they would provide to Cllr Carkeet detailed explanations of their proposed projects and funding requirements for items in the Schedule of Ear-Marked Funds.

It was agreed that Council would start with the following items:-

Public Footpaths (Botley to Bishops Waltham Trail) – Cllr Newton to provide a detailed report of funding requirements for the Curdridge section of the proposed revised scheme. **ACTION: CLLR NEWTON;**

Cricketers Pond (renovation/maintenance) – Cllr Townsend to provide a detailed report of the proposed project and funding requirements. Cllr Townsend advised Members she would like to obtain quotes to remove approximately one foot of silt from the base of the pond and to clear the pond of debris (such as fallen tree limbs, saplings and leaves) that is causing pollution. It was agreed that Cllr Newton would offer support based on her knowledge of pond maintenance. **ACTION: CLLR TOWNSEND/CLLR NEWTON;**

PCM to take pond water samples using the water testing kit sample bottles provided and send these back to the company (as required). **ACTION: PCM.**

Communication Strategy (parish consultation) – Cllrs Carkeet, Haskins and Hedger to provide a detailed report for their proposals and funding requirements. **ACTION: CLLRS CARKEET/HASKINS/HEDGER;**

Traffic (speed reduction measures within the parish) – it was agreed that Members would discuss this in more detail at the next meeting following implementing the measures outlined in the SLR item below. **ACTION: ALL;**

Reading Room (maintenance/management) – Members agreed that Council will review this item regularly based on updates from the Joint Committee (CPC/Reading Room Charity).

ACTION: Members to provide the above information to Cllr Carkeet for insertion into the draft Schedule of Ear-Marked funds and advise the PCM when to place this item on the Agenda again. **ACTION: ALL.**

23.61 Correspondence & Telecommunications

23.61.1 Xelabus – update on withdrawal of Bus Service X9 and X10 from 31 March 2023.

PCM to write to HCC to advise that Council is extremely concerned to note the withdrawal of this service and would like an update on proposals to replace the Xelabus service. Once Council knows the outcome it will review this and (if required) consider the possibility of providing a weekly or fortnightly minibus service to Whiteley Shopping Centre using the Lions community transport service. **ACTION: PCM.**

23.61.2 Winchester City Council - Station Approach Project update and invitation to Cabinet Committee: Regeneration. **Noted.**

23.61.3 WDALC – Minutes. **Noted.**

23.61.4 HCC - Consultation on Hampshire County Council's new draft Guidance on Planning Obligations and Infrastructure Requirements. **Cllr Carkeet will read this and report back to Council any matters relevant to the parish.** **ACTION: CLLR CARKEET.**

23.61.5 WCC - Fundraising Support for Community Groups and Not for Profit Organisations in Winchester district. **Noted.**

23.61.6 NALC – information update regarding the Civility & Respect Project. **Noted; Council to await update report from Hampshire ALC.**

23.61.7 HCC – newsletter regarding Budget 2023-2024 update. **Noted.**

23.62 To review Speed Limit Reminders statistics and action (if applicable)

Dave Thorne, CPC's SLR volunteer very kindly provided Members with an update report as follows:-

“6 Month Review of Speed Limit Reminder operation.

1. Introduction

At the end of August 2022 I assumed responsibility for the operation and maintenance of three Speed Limit Reminder (SLR) devices. This requires the devices to be mounted onto roadside poles within the village limits to remind drivers of the speed limits. The devices require routine visits to check and replace the 12v batteries which power the units. Discharged batteries are then trickle charged over 6-12 hours to return them to full capacity for future use.

There are two generations of device in use within the village. The single older model unit simply indicates to drivers whether they are within the speed limit and counts the numbers of vehicles passing. There are two newer units which record basic data such as the number of vehicles passing the unit, the time and their speed. The data is recovered from these units by use of a mobile telephone application which connects to the SLR device via Bluetooth technology. The data is then input to Houston Radar Statistic Analyser software on a PC and reports may be generated as required. I have routinely been generating reports on a bi-weekly basis and submitting them to the PC. The local police Speedwatch coordinator has requested that reports are no longer forwarded to her or her team.

2. Wangfield Lane (older generation device)

This unit has been quite temperamental with irregular battery discharge and sporadic traffic counts from 2500-3000 vehicles per fortnight to no recorded counts whatsoever.

My recommendation is that reconditioning of the unit is investigated or that it is replaced with a newer model when possible.

3. Plantation device (new generation)

This device is located at whatthreewords location – tones.command.relocated slightly North-East of the junction of The Plantation and the B3035. It is approximately 950 metres into the village 40MPH limit when travelling from Bishop’s Waltham. The following headline stats have been generated by that device.

Month	Traffic volume and highest recorded speed	Comments
Sep 22	150324 vehicles. Fastest 90MPH at 0110 on 25 Sep	Up to 4608 speeders daily at a high average of 23.3% over the limit.
Oct 22	105163 vehicles. Fastest 80MPH at 2215 on 13 Oct	Up to 3518 speeders daily at a high average of 21.3% over the limit.
Nov 22	158756 vehicles. Fastest 75MPH at 2040 on 9 Nov	Up to 2214 speeders daily at a high average of 11.2% over the limit.
Dec 22	108792 vehicles. Fastest 80MPH at 2215 on 4 Dec	Up to 2316 speeders daily at a high average of 12.8% over the limit.
Jan 23	224368 vehicles. Fastest 75MPH at 2230 on 4 Jan	Up to 5744 speeders daily at a high average of 21.9% over the limit.

It would appear that after more than ½ a mile into the village 40 MPH limit, many thousands of drivers exceed the posted limit by a sufficient margin to attract a fixed penalty, were a police camera vehicle to be present. The volume and speed of the traffic did reduce through the depths of winter but appears to be on the increase.

4. Lockhams device (new generation) Sep-Dec 22

This device was located at whatthreewords location – remind.pioneered.botanists on Lockhams Road (Chapel Lane End) and has now been moved to Fourpenny (see section 4 of this review). The following headline stats were generated by that device during its operation on Lockhams Road.

Month	Traffic volume and highest recorded speed	Comments
Sep 22	23756 vehicles. Fastest 70MPH at 0200 on 13 Sep	Up to 330 speeders daily at a high average of 9.9% over the limit.
Oct 22	21009 vehicles. Fastest 70MPH at 1345 on 11 Oct	Up to 268 speeders daily at a high average of 8.5% over the limit.
Nov 22	43775 vehicles. Fastest 65MPH at 1120 on 26 Nov	Up to 92 speeders daily at a high average of 1.8% over the limit.
Dec 22	27290 vehicles. Fastest 60MPH at 1900 on 2 Dec	Up to 57 speeders daily at a high average of 2.1% over the limit.

It would appear that the SLR device had a beneficial effect on the traffic on Lockhams Road but the change of season with less light and deteriorating seasonal weather conditions may have also had an impact.

5. Fourpenny device (moved from Lockhams) Jan 23 onwards

This device was located at whatthreewords location – remind.pioneered.botanists on the B3035 approximately 200 metres into the village 40MPH limit when travelling from Bishop's Waltham. The following headline stats have been generated by that device so far*.

Month	Traffic volume and highest recorded speed	Comments
Jan 23	257605 vehicles. Fastest 80MPH at 2325 on 28 Jan*	Up to 7199 speeders daily at an average of 19% over the limit.

* I have not yet collated and processed the statistics for the complete month of February 2023 but the Fourpenny SLR recorded a vehicle at 100MPH at 1150 on Wednesday 1 February. It would appear that many thousands of drivers daily are exceeding the posted limit at this location. Future statistics will indicate whether this is a trend but perhaps the Fourpenny layby would be a good place to request the irregular presence of a police camera van to have a deterrent effect.

6. Summary

All data downloads are retained on my PC and all reports (bi-weekly/monthly) are retained on file if required.

Dave Thorne

Members discussed the above.

Resolved that:

- i) Dave Thorne will share his SLR data with Hampshire Constabulary Traffic Control Centre.**
- ii) Dave Thorne will approach Hampshire Constabulary to request that speed cameras be positioned within Curdridge more regularly based on SLR data; it was agreed that the first location for a speed camera should be the layby on Botley Road; Cllr Carkeet will provide Dave with details of the contact used by Durley PC. ACTION: DAVE THORNE/CLLR CARKEET;**
- iii) Dave Thorne to collect remaining new posts from Cllr Bodger and deliver to the Allotment Recreation shed and then fit one on Curdridge Lane in the ground socket marked up by Cllr Newton. ACTION: DAVE THORNE;**
- iv) PCM will include SLR data within Council Minutes. ACTION: PCM;**
- v) Cllr Bodger will include SLR data in his Parish Magazine Articles. ACTION: CLLR BODGER;**
- vi) PCM to request authority from HCC for a new SLR location alongside the Allotment Recreation; Cllr Newton to advise the PCM whether a sign post**

within the locality can be used or whether a new ground socket will be required to be fitted. ACTION: CLLR NEWTON/PCM;

- vii) *PCM to obtain a quotation for two new SLR cameras to the same specification of those recently purchased. ACTION: PCM;*

Members thanked Dave Thorne profusely for all of his hard work and effort in helping Council to try to address the issue of speeding vehicles within the parish.

23.63 To note Parish Clerk's Update Report (previously circulated to Members) – noted.

23.64 To receive reports from Parish Councillors

Highways (eroding white lines Reading Room Lane and Kings Corner crossing) – Cllr Burden reported near collisions due to road line markings being worn out. PCM to write to HCC Highways requesting that the road markings be refreshed at both ends of Reading Room Lane and at the road crossing from Kings Corner to Botley Road (Curdridge). **ACTION: PCM.**

Council Code of Conduct – Cllr Haskins has been reviewing Council's Code of Conduct and is going to prepare an A4 sheet of paper identifying the responsibilities of Council and the public at public meetings. Members thanked him for his work in this regard.

Apologies for future meetings – Cllr Haskins and Hedger will not be present for the next Full Council Meeting on 16 March (as they are away) and Cllr Townsend is away for the Full Council Meetings on 6 and 20 April next. **ACTION: PCM.**

Hole Lane (bin collection service) – residents have been advised by WCC that their bins will not be collected unless their hedges in Hole Lane are cut back to give the lorry access. Elderly residents have been out cutting their hedges, but the hedges in Willowpool and the those belonging to Mr and Mrs Furby on the opposite side of Hole Lane still require cutting back. **PCM to write to these properties updating them on the position and requesting them to cut their hedges. ACTION: PCM.**

Hampshire ALC (Articles of Association) – Cllr Bodger had circulated information to Members about the unacceptable revisions proposed by Hampshire ALC. He advised that their proposals had not been carried as too many members had objected. Winchester district ALC will work with Hampshire ALC to draft a new proposal.

23.65 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

23.66 To receive WCC's update reports on Enforcement cases (if applicable) and decide upon any action required.

Members received an update from the Reading Room Joint Committee.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.50 PM.