

Curdridge Parish Council

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MINUTES OF FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF CURDRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

HELD AT 7.00 PM ON THURSDAY 4 JUNE 2020 VIA AN ONLINE ZOOM
PUBLIC MEETING DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS LOCKDOWN

Present:

Cllr Eric Bodger (Chairman)
Cllr Steve Wallin (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Larry Burden
Cllr Rory Kemp
Cllr Lynne Newton
Cllr Sian Townsend

In attendance:

Jenny Whittle (Parish Council Manager - PCM)
Cllr Roger Huxstep (County Councillor)
Cllr Vivian Achwal (District Councillor)

Public Session & County & District Reports

There were no members of the public in attendance.

Cllr Huxstep reported:

Coronavirus (COVID-19) cases in Hampshire

As at 1600 yesterday the number of confirmed COVID-19 related cases in Hampshire stood at 3,345, nine more since 1st June out of a local population of 1,382,542. There have been, sadly, 945 corona-related deaths up to 22nd May. 22% of all deaths in Hampshire involved coronavirus between 29th February and 22nd May. Many of our residents are quite rightly fearing this pandemic; equally many are sticking zealously to the mantra “**Stay Home, Protect the NHS, Save Lives**” even though we are now transitioning from level 4 to level 3 in easing the lockdown.

The Coronavirus Hampshire Helpline Hantshelp4vulnerable is for frail or vulnerable residents who do not have support from family, friends or their local community, and who need urgent assistance with essential food or household supplies, the collection of medication, or who are at risk of loneliness. Anyone in need of help can call 0333 370 4000 seven days a week, from 9am-5pm.

Hantshelp4vulnerable provides advice and information, as well as co-ordinating requests for practical help, passing them through to the appropriate Local Response Centre – there is one based in each of Hampshire’s 11 districts.

Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs)

All of Hampshire’s 24 Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs), alongside HWRCs in Southampton and Portsmouth, are now open from 10am to 6pm. Use of sites is only for essential disposal of waste whereby storing such waste causes a risk of injury or to health.

As a result of a certain amount of traffic chaos a new pre-booking system to manage demand and reduce queuing traffic will be introduced in the middle of this month. Do check the hants.gov.uk website for further information when it is available. As per government guidelines, residents in the specified vulnerable category (those who are clinically extremely vulnerable, people over 70 and pregnant women) are strongly advised not to visit a site.

Hampshire Schools Opened on 1st June

Hampshire's pre-schools, nurseries and primary schools were ready yesterday to welcome more children back to school, joining sons and daughters of key workers and vulnerable children who have been attending early years provision or school throughout lockdown. Parents and carers are asked to exercise patience over the first few days as schools will be working in new ways and it is better to be careful and safe, than rush too many children in at speed. Unfortunately, in some schools it will not be possible to accommodate all children in all priority year groups while adhering to the national guidance, mainly due to school and classroom sizes presenting logistical problems.

With the Government advising that people should avoid using public transport as far as possible, children and young people are encouraged to walk, cycle or scoot to school where it is safe to do so and to continue to follow the 2 metres, physical distancing advice. If parents and carers must drive children to school, they are urged not to car-share but to transport only their own children. Those who have no alternative to public transport should follow the Government's advice.

As announced by Government, secondary schools are now planning for some part-time face-to-face contact with young people in Year 10 from 15 June 2020.

Upholding democracy during Covid-19 – Hampshire County Council holds its first virtual AGM

Hampshire County Councillors have taken part in the Authority's first ever virtual Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 29th May – maintaining open and democratic decision making during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The AGM was held remotely, and web-streamed live, via the County Council's YouTube channel, allowing the business of the Authority to continue amid ongoing social distancing restrictions. A recording of the AGM is also now available to view online.

Leader of the County Council, Councillor Keith Mans said: "Since our last full County Council meeting in February, the world has changed radically, and we are all now looking towards what might be our 'new normal'. While it's not currently possible for us to meet in person because of ongoing physical distancing, technology allows us to continue to fulfil our democratic mandate to the people of Hampshire – maintaining transparency and accountability around decision making, and our evolving response and recovery in relation to the Coronavirus pandemic. We anticipate that more of our Council meetings will be scheduled in due course, according to business need, and ensuring the safety of Councillors, officers and members of the public." "To date, the County Council has implemented an effective response to the Covid-19 pandemic across all its service areas. We have done this in line with central Government guidance, and we have also begun recovery planning - working closely with partners across all sectors. We continue to adapt this response in line with the evolving situation.

I appreciate that it's been difficult and people have sacrificed a great deal – I know that not seeing parents or grandchildren has been particularly hard for many, but by complying with the Government guidance and 'staying alert' we are saving lives.

We must not forget the lives that have sadly been prematurely lost to the virus – our thoughts and prayers are constantly with those grieving their loved ones. We must also remain thankful and appreciative towards the key workers who have kept going throughout the pandemic. On behalf of the Council, I would also like to extend our thanks to all Hampshire County Council officers for their dedication and hard work in difficult circumstances over recent weeks.

The steps needed for recovery are being carefully considered across the County Council – and based on Government guidance and regulations, we are developing plans to reopen services when it is possible to do so safely. Our recovery approach will embrace the direct impacts of Covid-19 on the County Council itself, its wider direct partners, and on residents in communities and businesses across Hampshire.”

The new County Council Chairman for 2020/21 elected at the AGM was Councillor Mel Kendal. As the civic head of the county, he will represent the Authority on any royal visits and ceremonial occasions in Hampshire as well as carry out other civic activities and duties. The Chairman presides over County Council meetings and ensures they are conducted in line with Standing Orders and that they are a forum for debating issues.

Councillor Kendal is in his 24th year as a Hampshire County Councillor – serving New Milton. He is a former Deputy Leader of the Council (2011-13) and has served on various Executive Member functions in Hampshire’s Cabinet. Councillor Marge Harvey, County Councillor for Catherington, was elected Vice Chairman.

Stay safe, stay well, stay alert and please self-isolate if requested.

Cllr Roger Huxstep, Member for Meon Valley Division, Hampshire County Council

Cllr Achwal reported:

North Whiteley Development – the developers have been granted an extension of their working hours, which are now Monday to Saturday 6 am until 9 pm.

Winchester City Council Business Grants – Winchester City Council is inviting grant applications from businesses to help support them during the current pandemic. Locally Curdridge Cricket Club has been invited to apply.

20.105 Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Caister.

20.106 To receive Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

20.107 To approve Minutes of THE AGM dated 21 May 2020 (and to ratify the addition of Councillor Townsend as a Cemetery representative)

Resolved to approve the Minutes, including the addition of Cllr Townsend to the Cemetery Committee. ACTION: PCM.

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

THERE WERE NO NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED DURING THIS PERIOD.

NB: SHOULD YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON ANY PLANNING APPLICATION TO BE DISCUSSED ON THIS AGENDA, COMMENTS CAN BE MADE DIRECTLY TO WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL’S PLANNING DEPARTMENT WITHIN THE RELEVANT TIMEFRAME.

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

20.109.1 Lake House Lake Road Curdridge SO32 2HH – two storey rear extension with mezzanine sleeping level in roof space. Case Officer: Cameron Finch. Case No: 20/00656/HOU. **PERMITTED. Noted.**

20.109.2 Tamarind House The Plantation Curdridge SO32 2DT – removal of existing conservatory and replacement with single storey extension to provide living accommodation. Case Officer: Rose Lister. Case No: 20/00703/HOU. **PERMITTED. Noted.**

20.110 Correspondence

20.110.1 Hampshire ALC – advising that they have been liaising with Hampshire Legal Services (HLS) over the possibility of a provision of secure storage for deeds. HLS currently have a deed safe with the right conditions and set-up for storing documents and may be able to develop this as a charged service to offer to our member councils, if there is a demand for it. There is also the potential to include services such as scanning, copying and sending documents. Councils to let them know if they are interested. **Noted.**

20.110.2 Reading Rooms – update confirming they are having the building prepared for when they are able to resume bookings. **Noted; it was agreed that Council would continue with public Zoom meetings until August and review the position for the August meeting.**
ACTION: PCM.

20.110.3 AH Planning – advising of their service to prepare formal planning objections. **Noted.**

20.110.4 Cllr Huxstep – update report on HCC’s response to Covid-19 and plans for recovery. **Noted.**

20.110.5 Cllr Huxstep – update from Hampshire County Council requesting that their Household Waste Recycling Centres are only used for essential waste, due to the high demand. **Noted.**

20.110.6 Winchester City Council – thanking Councils for their support during the current pandemic and providing an update report (including a letter from the Chief Constable outlining her policing approach to relaxation on social distancing). **Noted.**

20.110.7 Business Stream (Cricketers Pond Meter Reading) – apologising for repeat estimation bill and enquiring whether Council can take a meter reading during the current time? It was agreed that Cllr Newton would carry out a meter reading to be provided to Business Stream by the PCM. **ACTION: CLLR BURDEN/PCM.**

20.111 Grounds Maintenance and Lengthsman

20.111.1 Cemetery – to review the grass cutting and establish a process to enable Council to maintain the Cemetery whilst protecting any wild orchids

Members were concerned that if the Cemetery is not mowed until the end of June each year Council would again receive complaints from family members. Cllr Newton advised Members that although it is desirable to protect wild orchids where possible, there are only two very small orchids in the cemetery (which are not doing well, as they do not like cultivated ground). She was uncertain whether the Glebe Field and Cemetery were formally registered as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC), but felt that if so, the whole of the Cemetery should be removed from the register, as the bottom section of the Cemetery has no wild flowers at all, even though it has been left unmown.

Resolved that:

- i)* the top section of the Cemetery would continue to be mown.
- ii)* If the Cemetery is registered as a formal SINC with HCC, the PCM would arrange for it to be removed from the SINC register.
- iii)* the PCM would also check if Glebe Field is registered as a SINC.
- iv)* Cllr Newton and Cllr Townsend would work together to develop a formal written Maintenance Policy for Glebe Field (to include information about wild flower species identified there) which could be referred to by Council should Cllr Newton not be available to advise at any time in the future.

20.111.2 Cricketer Pond/The Pound - to review the grass verge cutting schedule
Cllr Newton had requested this item on the Agenda, as she was still concerned that the reduced number of cuts (5 per year) were not needed if HCC carried out their annual cut in Spring. Members felt that as Council had received complaints in the past about these two junctions being dangerous when regularly cut that Council should first trial reduced cutting.

Resolved that:

- i) Council will continue to cut the Cricketers Pond verge (outside of the picket fence on the Calcot Lane boundary and the post & link chain fencing on the Botley Road boundary) three times per year, in addition to HCC's annual cut(s), but will establish when HCC carries out its annual cut(s) to ensure that Council does not cut the grass at the same time and will request them to also only cut outside of the fencing if this is legally viable.**
- ii) Council would like to extend the grass cutting of the verge at the Pound further along Botley Road to ensure good visibility when exiting The Plantation. The PCM will also enquire of HCC who owns this verge and whether this would be a possible.**
- iii) Council will continue to budget for five cuts per year in case the grass grows too long and requires additional cuts at any time. ACTION: PCM.**

20.112 Cemetery Rules & Regulations - to consider increasing the extension period for Grants of Exclusive Rights of Burial from 10 years to 30 years

The PCM explained that Council used to reserve graves for a period of 90 years, but this had been revised to 30 years in recent years, with reservation renewals being for a 10-year period. The Chair had felt 10 years was too short for a renewal period and had suggested a renewal period of 30 years. Members agreed.

Resolved to amend the Cemetery Rules & Regulations to stipulate that renewals for Grants of Exclusive Rights of Burial would be for a term of 30 years. ACTION: PCM.

20.113 To note Parish Council Manager's Update Report (previously circulated to Members) – Noted.

20.114 To receive reports from Parish Councillors

Speeding Traffic within Curdridge – The PCM had reported the increased speeding traffic during lockdown to Hampshire Constabulary. Cllr Burden felt that speeding had reduced slightly since there had been more traffic on the roads. Cllr Wallin advised that he is liaising with residents in Kitnocks Hill to try to set up traffic speed monitoring in that area.

Cllr Kemp advised that he had once again received several complaints from residents in Lockhams Road who had asked if they could contribute towards paying HCC to reduce the speed limit from 40 mph to 30 mph in Lockhams Road. Cllr Bodger advised that the sum specified is what HCC charge developers to cover legal and administrative costs when a development requires the imposition of a new speed limit. HCC continues to prioritize places where there is evidence that speed is causing death or serious injuries. The agreement of the Police is needed to ensure that any limit will be enforced. Cllr Townsend advised that speed limits in Lockhams Road are being monitored, so that this information can be provided to HCC to persuade them to consider reducing the speed limit in Lockhams Road. Cllr Bodger confirmed he had changed the batteries in the Wangfield Lane SLR Sign but needed to change the batteries in the one on Curdridge Lane. It was agreed the batteries would be changed when the SLR is relocated to Lockhams Road shortly.

Cricketers Pond (deer) – Members asked the PCM to write to HCC to advise that they have received further complaints, as the dead deer is now in the pond and is being eaten by vermin and degrading. **ACTION: PCM.**

Hamble River (M27 road water pollution) – Cllr Kemp had spoken to the Harbour Board who were carrying out a two-phase project to reduce the level of pollution caused by water from the M27 draining into the river.

Curdrige Affordable Housing Project – Cllr Bodger advised that the legal agreement has now been signed by Hastoe and the project can now move forward. An online meeting between all parties had been arranged to discuss the way forward. Cllr Bodger will keep Members updated.

20.115 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

20.116 To receive an update on open Enforcement cases and decide upon any action required.

There were no new cases arising.

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm.