

Curdridge Parish Council

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

Present:

Cllr Eric Bodger (Chairman)
Cllr Larry Burden
Cllr Jonathan Carkeet (arrived item 23.17.1)
Cllr Paul Haskins
Cllr Philip Hedger
Cllr Lynne Newton
Cllr Sian Townsend

In attendance:

Jenny Whittle (Parish Council Manager – PCM via Zoom)
Jo White (Trustee of Curdridge Reading Room Charity)
9 members of the public

Public Session

Marianne Small spoke for nine minutes. She raised the issue of the faded white lines at the dangerous junction between the A334 and Reading Room Lane, asking that the Council reiterate her (so far unsuccessful) attempt to get action from Hampshire Highways. She also asked about a pothole on Reading Room private land, and therefore outside the Council's purview. There followed a long discussion of matters dealt with at three previous meetings (particularly having regard to being unhappy with WCC's processing of planning applications which the Chair said must be referred directly to WCC). She also spoke in favour of the Botley-Bishops Waltham bridleway.

23.26 Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Jenny Whittle (PCM), who is isolating with Covid-19, but who kindly agreed to observe the proceedings on Zoom. Council wished her a speedy recovery.

23.27 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest. Cllr Burden is a trustee of the Reading Room charity.

23.28 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 reports for this meeting.

23.29 To approve the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting on 19 January 2023

Resolved to approve the Minutes dated 1 February 2023. ACTION: PCM/CHAIR.

23.30 Reading Room Management

Reading Room trustee Jo White thanked the Council for its offer to assist the Reading Room charity in continuing to provide a valued service to the village. She explained that operating costs exceed income, and the 2022 Curdridge Show failed to cover the shortfall, reducing reserves by nearly £10,000. She thanked Council for the grant to fix the boiler and improve the energy efficiency of the heating system.

The charity is hoping to cut some of its overheads, including staffing, and has established a fundraising committee. It has been decided to run a series of small events, including a summer fete, to replace the Curdridge Show, which is high risk and has unsustainable operating costs (£37,000 in 2022; the marquees alone cost £6000), making the profit:cost ratio too small.

The deteriorating state of the buildings needs to be addressed, and the charity plans to get an architect to suggest ways to renovate in a way that creates more space available for hire. This should give rise to projects that are eligible for grants from outside bodies. It is clear that costs, and villagers' love of the building, preclude rebuilding. The Skinner Field is protected in perpetuity as open land for the use of villagers, so it is not clear how much it would raise even if the Council were able to buy it.

It was agreed to establish a joint working party to evolve lawful ways that the Council could help the Reading Rooms have a long-term future.

Resolved: Councillors Hedger and Townsend will represent the PC, with the support of the PCM, in addition to Cllr Burden, who is also a trustee.

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

23.31.1 Poplars Farm, Barn at Curdridge Lane Curdridge SO32 2BH - New driveway and associated works (as an alternative to that approved under 20/02762/FUL). Case Officer: Rose Chapman. Case No: 22/02867/FUL.

Resolved: To make no objection, but to recommend that a condition be attached to enforce the promise that "The private driveway currently approved under 20/02762/FUL will not be implemented..." ACTION: PCM.

23.31.2 Land adjacent to Boorley Park Primary School, Nairn Road, Botley, SO32 2SH - Erect single-storey children's nursery with off road car parking. Case No: F/22/94241 & 42.

Resolved: to Endorse Botley PC's concerns about insufficient parking, access road too narrow to deal with two-way traffic in the presence of pre-school pedestrians. Drop-off spaces need turning space to be extended to the west. ACTION: PCM.

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

There were no new planning decisions notified by Winchester City Council during this period. The chair commented that the Gordon Road application had been withdrawn.

23.33 Finance

23.33.1 There were no urgent payments to make. The Finance report will be reviewed on 16 February, when cheques will be signed. **ACTION: PCM.**

23.33.2 Parish Council Communication & Forward Planning Strategy. It was agreed to defer a decision on whether to pursue a Neighbourhood Plan— the working party will consult with Steve Tilbury to evaluate the cost-benefit of this and alternatives such as a village design statement. The Parish magazine reaches about three quarters of village households, but does not obviate the need for direct communications. In particular Council needs to understand parishioners' priorities for action, which were last surveyed for the 2011 revision of the Village Design Statement. Cllr Newton asserted that the top two concerns were speeding traffic and safe access to countryside (footpaths); Members added that recently a large number of residents have been concerned about the control of unwanted development. It was agreed that the initial strategy of engaging with stakeholders and surveying opinion were viable ways to determine

Council priorities, and that funding should be provided to support that effort and to publish its outcome.

Marianne Small and Sandra Grimes queried why Council is consulting a planning consultant for planning advice without going out to tender. The Chair explained that Council initially entered into an urgent joint contract with Whiteley Town Council in relation to the recent boundary review. His advice was instrumental in framing a policy that was overwhelmingly supported by residents in the consultation carried out by Winchester. Residents had also requested that Council support them by submitting a strenuous objection in relation to the number of SHEELA sites submitted within the parish to be included within the proposed new Local Plan. Although Members collectively have a vast amount of planning knowledge they felt it preferential to seek formal planning advice from Steve Tilbury who is now working independently of WCC, but has the specific in depth Local Plan knowledge to enable Council to submit a detailed and informed objection. He explained that Council also proposes to consult Steve Tilbury to produce a detailed schedule of Local Plan planning policies (from the proposed new Local Plan) that relate specifically to Curdridge parish, to enable Members to reference these in making strenuous objections to future planning applications (when required).

23.33.3 Schedule of Ear-Marked Funds. The chair thanked Cllr Carkeet for his spreadsheet of potential changes to the allocation of reserves. Cllr Newton was concerned about some of the changes to earmarked funds in the spreadsheet, but Cllr Carkeet emphasised that this was intended as a “straw man” to stimulate discussion of projects that would benefit parishioners and ensure that funding was available to execute them. It is important that reserves be retained only for contingencies and defined future projects, allowing tax demands on taxpayers to be minimized.

It was agreed that each councillor would review the items s/he was involved with, and feed back to Cllr Carkeet with suggested changes. ACTION: All members.

23.34 Correspondence & Telecommunications

23.34.1 Southern Water update.

23.34.2 Walking in England Campaign – update and information link (to be incorporated into the parish magazine).

23.34.3 Winchester City Council – road name suggestions for the North Whiteley Development.

23.34.3 Winchester City Council – notification of North Whiteley Development Forum public advertisement to be placed on notice boards. Cllr Bodger will attend.

23.34.4 Swanmore Parish Council – notification of next Winchester Distract Association of Local Councils (WDALC) Meeting on 8 February 2022. The chair added that this meeting would ask councils to insist on amendments to the proposed new Articles of HALC, which otherwise would remove the representation of district associations on the HALC board.

23.34.5 Winchester City Council – urgent telephone update on Council’s request for WCC Planning Department to consider taking into account more than one letter of support or objection to planning applications per household. WCC have advised that due to their Constitution (and legislation) they are only able to record one vote per household. However, they do take into account all comments received from various members of one household. An interruption from the public gallery expressed unhappiness with this policy.

23.35 To note Parish Clerk’s Update Report (previously circulated to Members). Noted

23.36 To receive reports from Parish Councillors

Cricketers Pond (urgent water testing) - Cllrs Carkeet and Townsend updated on the pond water testing requested by Cllr Newton (due to the failed condition of the pond). After shopping around, a much less costly source of analysis had been found and members approved the necessary expenditure of £163.50, less the amounts quoted for Enterococci (390) and Coliform (400) which were not required. Cllrs Townsend and Hankins will work together to collect

samples. **PCM to instruct South East Water Scientific Services to provide a revised quotation and sample kits. ACTION: PCM.**

Cllr Bodger reported his visit to Southern Water's water recycling pilot plant in Havant. The idea is to process up to 15% of the purified waste water from Budds Farm treatment works and feed it back into the reservoir. This should address the current supply shortfall, reducing abstraction from rivers and aquifers, especially in the dry months of the year. The pilot plant is relatively small, but the plan is to build a full-size plant on a 6ha landfill site just to the north of the treatment works.

23.37 To move Exempt Business

Council passed 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.

Before exempt business began, Council granted a further 15 minutes for public participation.

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

23.39 Mayor of Winchester's Community Awards – to discuss nominations.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.15 PM.