

## Curdridge Parish Council

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**Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting  
held on Thursday 8 January 2015 at 7.10 pm  
at the Reading Rooms, Reading Rooms Lane, Curdridge**

**Present:** Mr K Bundell (Chairman) Mr R Kemp, Mrs N Lockyer and Mrs L Newton.

**Apologies:** Mr E Bodger, Mrs J Furby and Mrs C Weaver

**In Attendance:** Mr Murray (Clerk), Mr Gurdler and Mr Giles (WCC Tree Officers)

### **PUBLIC SESSION**

There were no members of the public present.

#### **35 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest

#### **36 TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING MEETING DATED 4 DECEMBER 2014 PREVIOUSLY AGREED ON 18 DECEMBER 2014.**

The minutes of the previous meeting were noted.

#### **37 TO MATTERS TO BE TAKEN FORWARD TO THE COUNCIL'S NEXT AGENDA.**

Mrs Newton reported that Mr Page had been muckspreading in the field adjoining his land. She also reported on the bins in Wangfield Lane and Netherhill that had been vandalised and rubbish in the road as it looked as if the bins on their sides had not been emptied. Pound Copse was mentioned as having bonfires and the site was littered with engine parts. The leaking manhole cover in Wangfield Lane had been reported to the Environment Agency.

A trainee for the defibrillator at the Reading Rooms was discussed and it was agreed that either Mrs Weaver or Mrs Newton would attend as Parish Council representative.

Footpath 3 was mentioned with regard to a clay pigeon shoot that had been taking place aiming towards the footpath with debris falling on the path, walkers and the railway. It had been reported to officers at HCC.

**38 TO DISCUSS AND DETERMINE AN AGREED WAY FORWARD WITH THE NEW TREE OFFICER(S) OF WCC PLANNING.**

The Chairman welcomed Ivan Gurdler and Andy Giles of Winchester's Arboriculture Service.

Members spoke of the rough deal that the Parish Council had experienced over several years - e.g. loss of trees over weekends, of mature oaks, the Triangle trees - and how they had felt let down by the previous officer, with phone calls not returned when expressing concern about trees at risk being reported, and that this had impacted on the perceived credibility of Tree Officers.

Discussion moved to the future and the new provision of services with three areas for the district and an assigned officer in each area. Mr Gurdler also explained how the Tree Officers worked with Enforcement when it was reported that there 'may have been a breach' of a TPO. It was also clarified that TPO'd trees and council owned trees were treated in the same way.

A 'breach' of a TPO included actions such as digging up roots, chopping off branches or other wilful damage. Wilful destruction was a different and more serious offence.

The officers also explained the need for the council to be confident of a conviction before undertaking a prosecution.

Clarification was also given to members that if a tree (or trees) were facing an imminent threat then a blanket TPO could be issued, but it would have to be revisited and on an individual tree basis justified using procedures in the Julian Forbes-Laird TEMPO test. The 'public impact' of the loss of a tree was also important in justifying a TPO.

Members were encouraged to email Mr Gurdler if they heard of imminent threats to trees such as planning applications, local information of works etc.

Current local issues were also discussed including the loss of SINC woodland in Curbridge, the proposed cycleway from the North of Whiteley plans impacting on the tree line at Fairthorne Manor and the Willows needing crown lifting at Tebourba Way in Outlands Lane.

The tree officers were thanked for their time, information and reassurances.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Signed ..... Chairman