

CURBRIDGE AND LEW PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Parish Hall, Curbridge, Monday 8 February 2016, 6.00pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs. Glenn Gannon (Chair), John Courtney, Patrick Foley, Sue Richman, Mark Wilson, Tony Wilson.

IN ATTENDANCE: C. Cllr. James Mills, D. Cllr. Ben Woodruff, Nigel Parker - Clerk & RFO.

126. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

127. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

None.

128. MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2016, which had previously been circulated, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, with 2 amendments: In Attendance - C. Cllr. Mills not Wright (apologies from the Clerk); Note 122 - £20 not £10.

129. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT ON THE AGENDA

North Curbridge/Downs Road development - Cllr. Gannon had reviewed all his correspondence with Mr Shaw of WODC Planning and decided that no further action was needed at present. The Clerk had written to Mr Shaw about the status of the Development and was able to report back as follows: "probably 4 phases, each of 250 but not fixed as yet; date for start of phase 1, hopefully summer this year; date for start of A40 new intersection, contemporaneous with start on houses; date for construction of exit onto A4095, at start; reasons why nothing has started, PP not yet issued as Applicants/OCC have taken an age to complete their section of the legal agreement and this is only now just ready to sign."

130. DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

C. Cllr James Mills spoke around the report that he had produced. He said that bus routes through Curbridge would be unaffected by the OCC cuts. He offered to support the Council's efforts to get road repairs in Curbridge.

D. Cllr. Woodruff advised that the best way to ensure funding from local building developments was to construct a case for infrastructure investment and submit this to WODC in advance.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk should go ahead with this.

131. FINANCE

Payments

RESOLVED: that the following accounts should be paid: Clerk (Feb) £176.00; Cleaning (Feb) £64.00. There were no cheques for signing.

Bank balance 1 February 2016: £7,222.39

132. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

15/04075/FUL & 15/04076/LBC Caswell House - barn conversion to tourism activities. Approved by WODC Planning.

15/04527/FUL Beecham Cottage, Lew Road - agricultural land to domestic garden. RESOLVED: no objections

16/04497/S73 Brookfield, 100 Well Lane - non-compliance on roofing.

RESOLVED: no objections.

16/00366/HHD Blenheim Cottage, Church Row - single storey rear extension.

RESOLVED: no objections.

16/00314/FUL Lower Farm Lew - change from existing operations to 5 holiday lets. RESOLVED: objection on the grounds that the size of the development is totally out of keeping with the size of Lew.

133. PARISH HALL

Cllr. Gannon had obtained 3 quotes for the replacement of the panelling.

However, he had been advised that the bottom of the panels are below ground level and, therefore, prone to damp.

RESOLVED: to spend up to £1,000 to repair one section and investigate further.

Cllr. Gannon was still in the process of obtaining 3 quotes for the major works.

134. WATERWAYS AND ROADS

The Chairman thanked Cllr. M Wilson and the Clerk for the work that they had done clearing out the ditches approaching Curbridge. The Clerk reported on his correspondence with WODC Engineers, "In the short term, the culvert has been thoroughly surveyed and cleaned out. Additionally, the watercourse through the village and on the other side of the A road was comprehensively cleared of silt and vegetation. Subject to that riparian maintenance being carried out (and a substantial blockage not occurring) and the highway gullied being maintained, the situation for the village is much better than it was in 2007" - no further action. The Council were of the opinion that a sluice gate was needed at the culvert in Mr Strange's field; without this, the best option was the present arrangement, with regular ditch clearance.

The Clerk reported that he had been in touch with OCC Highways about the very poor state of Main Road and Well Lane. They had replied, "the carriageway will be kept (sic) in a safe state via defects system. We will add this to our list of sites for next financial year to be included in our patching programme. Due to financial cuts there is a very limited surfacing programme budget and it is unlikely to make it on the surface programme."

135. ASSET REGISTER

The Clerk presented the revised Register, which now included the £20 purchase price for the Playground land.

RESOLVED: to adopt the new Register for inclusion in the Annual Audit.

RESOLVED: to register the ownership of the Playground land with Land Registry at a cost of £30. Cllr. Gannon to arrange.

136. HM THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Cllr. Gannon was proceeding with plans for a 'bring your own picnic' on the Kitchener Field on Sunday 12 June; the Clerk said he would look into organising children's games. Cllr. Foley offered to organise the lighting of a beacon in Lew on 21 April, to link up with that national event. No action on Litter Pick.

137. THAMES VALLEY POLICE REPORT

Circulated previously.

138. WELL LANE PLAY AREA AND PLAYING FIELD

RESOLVED: to purchase the needed lexboard at a cost of £195 + VAT. Cllr. Gannon to arrange.

The Council's Inspection for December was signed off by the Chair.

139. ANNUAL CONSIDERATIONS

The Clerk had updated or rewritten a number of the Council's statutory requirements.

RESOLVED: to adopt the new Financial Regulations and Transparency Code and to readopt Standing Orders and Code of Conduct.

140. SUNDRY NOTICES

Parish Newsletter - the Chair said that he was working on the next issue. There was some discussion about the best ways of communicating with Parishioners; the Village web site was thought to be unsatisfactory since, apart from the posting of Council business, none of the rest of the site was ever updated. Cllr. M Wilson offered to look into getting Curbridge and Lew on Facebook.

Correspondence - the Clerk had received a letter from Citizens Advice West Oxfordshire, thanking the Council for their donation.

Next Meeting - Monday 14 March.