

CURBRIDGE AND LEW PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Parish Hall, Curbridge, Monday 12 October 2015, 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.

76. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

77. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

None.

78. MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 2015, which had previously been circulated, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

79. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT ON THE AGENDA

North Curbridge/Downs Road development - meeting between Cllr. Gannon, D. Cllr. Woodruff and Mr Shaw of WODC Planning still to be arranged.

Police speeding posters - in addition to Lew, these had now been put up in Curbridge by the Clerk and Cllr. M Wilson. Cllr. Wilson said he would put up some more approaching the Lord Kitchener from Witney.

WODC Local Plan - Hearing now to be held 10.00am Monday 23 November; Cllr. Courtney is planning to attend.

Work alongside A4095 - Cllr. T Wilson said that he was now happy with the clearing and 'making good' work done by Mr Valentine.
RESOLVED: that the Clerk should write thanking Mr Valentine.

Grants for Churchyard maintenance - the Clerk said that he had received a letter of thanks from Mr Don Rouse on behalf of Holly Trinity but that the cheque to St Mary's had yet to be banked.

A4095 Main Road Junction to Witney Roundabout - the Clerk reported that Highways did not consider the overhanging growth to be a sufficient hazard to pedestrians and cyclists to do anything about cutting it back. Cllr. M Wilson said that there were similar problems on the footpath along Downs Road.
RESOLVED - that the Clerk should re-approach OCC Highways about both areas. Meanwhile Cllr. M Wilson would see if Mr Andrew Parker might cut back the growth and Cllr. Foley would approach similarly Mr Julian Wade.

Main Road - the Clerk reported that OCC Highways had inspected the suspected subsidence in Main Road outside Grey Gable house, "there was nothing that was above our intervention level. I will monitor the area and if this area does become a defect I will arrange for repairs."

Daffodil Planting - Cllr. Richman said she had planted 300 daffodils around Curbridge.

80. DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

C. Cllr. Mills reported on the A40 Consultation and said that he had raised the issue of the likely increase in traffic through Curbridge. He also alerted the authorities to the poor state of the road between Main Road and the Ducklington bypass.

D. Cllr. Woodruff spoke of the Local Plan and said a resolution was unlikely before January 2016.

81. FINANCE

The Clerk reported that the Annual Audit had now been passed by the External Auditors.

RESOLVED: that the Annual Audit be approved and accepted by the Council.

The Clerk presented the 6 Months Accounts but said they did not give an accurate steer on the position since WODC's invoices were so far in arrears. He was awaiting also the VAT refund that was taking a long time to be paid.

The Clerk had written to the Bank about the myriad problems in changing the Mandate (letter circulated previously); the latest delay had been caused by the Bank's saying that Cllr, A Wilson's signature was 'outside the box', yet they had held the form with this signature since January.

RESOLVED: that Cllr. Wilson should sign the form again.

The Clerk had circulated his letter to WODC about their invoices. He said that in return he had received a rather perfunctory email of acknowledgement.

RESOLVED: that the following accounts should be paid: Clerk (Oct) £176.00; Cleaning (Oct) £64.00, HMRC PAYE Quarter 2 £180.80, BDO Annual Audit £192.00, Thames Water Village Hall £25.87; Clerk's expenses Apr-Sept £48.28.

82. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

15/02768/FUL, Manor Farm telecoms - granted by WODC

15/02933/FUL, Witney Lakes Greenkeeper's Shed - granted by WODC Planning.

15/02524/FUL, Ditcham Farm, Lew, part conversion of barn to 1st floor self contained living accommodation - withdrawn.

14/02214/HHD, Brookfield, 100 Well Lane. WODC Planning confirmed that there had been no breach of planning consent.

Land west and south of Main Road for possible housing development.
RESOLVED: to oppose this proposal on the grounds of extending the boundaries of Curbridge, invasion of privacy of existing homes and setting a precedent.

83. VILLAGE HALL

The Clerk and Cllr. Courtney reported on a meeting that they had had with Ms. Lynne Newin from ORCC. It was agreed to discuss this further at a meeting of the Village Hall Working Group, after the next PC Meeting.

Meanwhile, prompted by Ms. Lewin, the Clerk had been investigating why no fee had been received when the Hall was used for elections. It turned out that the Parish had never charged for this in the past. The Clerk recommended that a fee of £100 be requested from WODC for the 2015 General Election.
RESOLVED: to accept this recommendation.

84. ASSET REGISTER

The Clerk reported that he and Cllr. M Wilson had met to discuss this and that their findings would be reported at the next PC Meeting.

85. RISK ASSESSMENT

The Clerk reported that he and Cllr. M Wilson had met to discuss this and that their findings would be reported at the next PC Meeting.

86. THAMES VALLEY POLICE REPORT

Their report had been circulated previously. No comments.

87. WELL LANE PLAY AREA AND PLAYING FIELD

Cllr. Gannon reported on the findings of the ROSPA Annual Inspection. There were a number of minor issues, some of which had been put right already and some were being quoted on.

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

88. SUNDRY NOTICES

Tree Planting - the Clerk said that the application for free trees from the Woodland Trust had been successful and that 30 saplings would be delivered to his house between 2-6 November.

Salt Bins - the Clerk reported that these were available at a cost of £250 plus VAT each, supplied, installed and filled.
RESOLVED: not to proceed.

Triangle of land opposite Thatched Cottage in Main Road - this small area, believed to be owned by the Blenheim Estate, had once been used for car parking and would be useful as such to the residents opposite. However, it was now planted with mature trees. No further action.

Next Meeting - Monday 9 November.

Cllr. Glenn Gannon, Chair of the Council
Signed 9 November 2015