

CURBRIDGE AND LEW PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

Virtual meeting using Zoom software, Monday 12th April 2021, 6pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs. Glenn Gannon (Chair), John Courtney, Angela Boddington, Mark Wilson, Tony Wilson.

IN ATTENDANCE: One member of the public, Howard Higgins (Clerk & RFO), Ben Woodruff (District Cllr.), Ted Fenton (County Cllr.).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr. Patrick Foley.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

None.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 8th March 2021, which had previously been circulated, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT ON THE AGENDA

Parish Clerk advised that the urban grass cut has now transferred from OCC to the Parish Council. This was completed in late March and the tardiness in resolving was entirely the fault of OCC (resolved by their complaint process).

5. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS

Ben provided an update on District Matters. There is a new COVID-19 test centre in Carterton for non-symptomatic testing.

There has been confirmation that WODC are responsible for litter picking along the local roadsides. This was clarified following action by Glenn. There was a recent litter pick by WODC along Starnham Lane (road from Curbridge to Ducklington). ACTION POINT: Ben to look into getting deterrents in place (such as warning signs) in respect of fly-tipping along Starnham Lane, which is an ongoing problem.

Glenn raised the issue with Ben about the poor state of the culvert for Elmbank Ditch that runs across Main Road. This was shown to be in a poor condition from a survey in 2013 and Glenn has been trying to pursue with WODC and whether this was considered for planning purposes in light of the large neighbouring housing developments (surface water feeding into Elmbank Ditch).

Ben has met with Steve Forde about the use of the site close to the Main Road/A4095 junction and confirmed there is an intention for a small scale housing development (number of houses or actual size of intended development is not known and there are no details). This site is currently being used as a builders yard (along with spoil) which has expanded across onto the field. The current use of the site is subject to complaints to the planning department at WODC. Steve Forde has been instructed by WODC planning enforcement officers to put the land back to its previous condition. Discussion ensued and the Parish Councillors strongly expressed their concern at what seems a flagrant breach of the planning regulations at this site and the need for prompt and firm enforcement action by WODC. Ben advised he will contact Steve Forde. Ben left the meeting.

The Village Design Statement is with WODC to start to final approval process.

Ted Fenton joined the meeting and provided an update on County Council matters. He advised that lateral flow tests for COVID-19 are available for all. Ted was updated on the use of the site as a builders yard.

6. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- 21/00517/S73 – Variation of condition 2 of planning permission 20/02605/FUL to allow the addition of an oak framed canopy to front elevation, additional two rooflights and a rear dormer window. 2 Well Lane, Curbridge. RESOLVED: No comments.

Glenn provided an update about the planning application for a new shop at Ducklington Farm. He has added his own support to this application.

7. FINANCE

Cheque payments made: Dog bin emptying and Play Area inspection (£230.54); Lord Kitchener field dog bin emptying (£200.30); Various subs (£12, £36, £55, £42); Parish Hall items (£92.12, £50.94); Bus Shelter paint (£17).

Bank balance as at 1st April 2021 = £2,368.95.

Clerk provided draft year end figures. Lower year end balance but VAT claim of over £2.5K to be submitted. Books and records have now been passed to the internal auditor. First half of annual precept has been received.

8. WELL LANE PLAY AREA AND PLAYING FIELD

Play Area COVID-19 risk assessment reviewed and no change.

March inspection signed by Chairman.

As funds now available Glenn will contact preferred installer to arrange installation of the 'springy' play equipment.

9. SUNDRY NOTICES

- Parish hall needs a few more items as well as a Health & Safety check. RESOLVED: to be actioned by Glenn and Mark.
- Clerk advised the grass cutting contract has been signed and sent to contractor.
- The bus shelter had been subject to graffiti and cleaned by Clerk. Offending areas painted over. General concern about the abuse of these facilities and if this continues then the Parish Council will have to consider steps for its removal.
- Question raised about the possibility of getting double yellow lines at end of Well Lane (Main Road Junction) due to the nature of parked vehicles and obscured line of sight on a bend near a junction. RESOLVED: Clerk to contact OCC about procedure for getting yellow lines in place.
- The Lord Kitchener field will need an inspection for next months meeting of the recreation ground charity. RESOLVED: Mark to check.
- John queried if wayleave has been considered in respect of the Lord Kitchener field given the position of electricity poles. RESOLVED: Clerk to investigate.

Next Meeting - Monday 17th May.

**Cllr. Glenn Gannon, Chair of the Council
Signed 17th May 2021**