

CURBRIDGE AND LEW PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly Curbridge Parish Hall Monday 9 May 2022 at 7pm

PRESENT: Cllrs. Glenn Gannon (Chair), John Courtney, Patrick Foley, Phil Boddington, Angela Boddington, 1 member of the public, Howard Higgins - Clerk & RFO.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Ted Fenton (County Cllr), Cllr Mark Wilson

MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Assembly held on 17 May 2021 be confirmed as true and correct and signed by the Chairman.

ANNUAL REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

We have had a challenging year of enforcement actions and planning applications. The Parish Council always consider developments with the best interest of the residents, being mindful of design, sustainability, and ecology.

A lot of time and effort has been put into the creation of the Village Design Statement and it is short sighted of developers to ignore the wishes of the residents and the Parish Council.

If potential scaled development is applied for then the planning consultants and owners should do just that, consult.

Consult with us for local knowledge and understanding.

Our usual Parish Council activities continue, from grass-cutting contracts to dog bins, setting budgets, speed surveys and bus routes.

We said farewell to long -serving councillor Tony Wilson and welcomed Phil Boddington to take up the baton.

We continue to monitor and maintain the Well Lane play area although the rabbits seem to have the advantage at the moment.

I would like to thank my fellow councillors who continue to support me and the Parish though these challenging times, I would also like to express my sincere and grateful thanks to our ever optimistic, hard-working, and diligent Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer Howard Higgins.

RFO REPORT AND PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

The accounts of the Council for the previous year were accepted. Little to report though the year has proved challenging dealing with Barclays Bank. Hopefully the move to on-line banking may help to improve matters. Annual Governance and Accountability Return to be published on the Parish website.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT



Date: May 2022

My ref: Curbridge Annual Meeting

Your ref:

Councillor Ted Fenton

Witney West & Bampton Division

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I was re-elected in May of 2021, during the strangest election experience many people could remember, to represent the County Council Division of Witney West and Bampton which, of course, includes the Parish of Curbridge.

It is an honour to represent this lovely part of West Oxfordshire and I hope that over the last five years as you County Councillor I have been approachable and done my very best to help residents with their questions and problems. Local politicians have very few actual powers but the main part of the job as I see it is to represent the area and point residents in the right direction when they are struggling to find the help they need.

As well as representing the Division on OCC I am a group spokesman on Climate Change and the Environment and I was elected to chair the Witney and Carterton Locality meeting which consists of the five County Councillors who represent those towns and the villages around them. I have recently been appointed to the Audit and Governance Committee of the County Council and I continue to serve on the Cabinet Advisory Group on Minerals and Waste as I have done since my first election to the County Council.

The most significant event of the year at the County Council was the change in political leadership of the Council and a new administration at the helm. This is led by the Liberal Democrat and Green Party Alliance with the support of the Labour group. They have set out their nine priorities which can be found on the County Council website at: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/council/our-vision-0>

In this part of the world the main focus of attention and by far the biggest proportion of my inbox continues to be the roads and road safety. Highway maintenance is an ongoing issue but it is not one of the nine priorities and so it is becoming an increasingly uphill, or rather down pothole, battle to get roads fixed however I would encourage residents to keep reporting defects on the FixMyStreet app which is a free download and works very easily on most smartphones.

I am pleased to note the surface dressing on part of the A4095 Lew Road and, in particular, Well Lane in Curbridge – a repair which is long overdue and for which I have been pressing for some time.

Speeding is another major issue of contention and whilst the enforcement of speed restrictions is essentially a matter for the police it is worth noting that OCC have decided to continue with the process of making the introduction of 20mph speed limits through built up areas simpler and cheaper although the move is very popular and the limited funding allocated to it means that there is something of a backlog in dealing with the applications. I am pleased to note the apparent success of the vehicle activated speed signs which I have been able to fund out of the Councillor Priority Fund over recent years. Sadly that fund is not to be continued after the end of this financial year so any further applications should be made before Christmas to meet the January deadline.

Of course, OCC hit the national news recently of its imposition of vegan food at Council events but this sort of thing is of very little concern to most residents, I find, and there are better things with which to occupy Council time.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

None submitted

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL