

CURBRIDGE AND LEW PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Parish Hall, Curbridge, Monday 13th February 2023, 6pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs. Glenn Gannon (Chair), Mark Wilson, Angela Boddington, Phil Boddington, Patrick Foley

IN ATTENDANCE: Howard Higgins (Clerk & RFO), Ben Woodruff (District Cllr.), 25 members of the public.

99. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Ted Fenton (County Cllr.).

100. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

None.

101. PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY

Clerk has received confirmation from West Oxfordshire District Council that no election has been called and therefore co-option is now permitted. Glenn advised of a candidate.

102. MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 9th January 2023, which had previously been circulated, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

103. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT ON THE AGENDA

None.

104. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS

No update on District Council matters.

The Parish Council has been supplied with possible build-out scenarios (Main Road, attenuation ponds end of village) with a representative from Oxfordshire County Council. Possible concerns over the farm access for articulated lorries. Owners met with the OCC Highways representative. The representative will check over the access issues and report findings. Any measures will be subject to consultation procedures.

Discussion about the junction with Downs Road and there may still be developer funds to improve the junction (tight turn and perhaps splayed access could be provided). RESOLVED: Clerk to contact appropriate parties to see if the junction can be improved.

OCC have advised on improved signage at the junction to try and encourage use of the A40 for Witney rather than traffic using Curbridge. It was also recognised that Well Lane is used as a rat run and possible measures discussed.

No action to date on alleviation ponds safety. RESOLVED: Clerk to pursue.

No update on other OCC matters as County Councillor not present.

105. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

● 22/03544/OUT - Outline application with some matters reserved for the provision of up to 20 dwellings (including affordable housing and self-build housing) with access, parking, amenity space, open space, landscaping, drainage and associated works. Land South Of Main Road, Curbridge.

Ben advised that due to the shortfall on the 5 year land supply being announced at the Lowlands Planning meeting for the previous application (22/00744/OUT) he changed his mind there and then

and backed the application. He is of the opinion that the appeal (made but not yet 'live') is likely to succeed as he advised the 5 year land supply issue overrides everything. Ben also referred to an appeal being allowed in respect of The Moors at Ducklington. The floor called into question Ben's position in respect of Ducklington and the rest of the Ward. Ben then left the meeting at 6.27 p.m.

There was debate over the current application with Glenn questioning various aspects of the application with responses being provided by the applicant (Mr S Forde) and his representative. This included lively debate over the lack of consultation with the Parish Council with contributions made from the floor.

In particular the floor made reference to the current backing up of sewage in parts of Curbridge which was notified to Thames Water and more development will only make the situation worse. Reference made to Thames Water being due to improve the sewage works at Witney but no mention of any improvements to the problematic system in Curbridge.

There is also a problem with pollution of Elmbank Ditch but this is a separate matter to the backed up sewage and various agencies are aware and is being resolved.

RESOLVED: The Parish Councillors unanimously objected to the planning application. Glenn summarised the following points:

- ❖ There has been no consultation with the Parish Council in respect of this application;
 - ❖ This is not linear development of the Village – this has still been ignored in this and the previous application, not only contrary to Planning Policy OS2 but also contrary to our Village Design Statement;
 - ❖ The proposal would fundamentally change the character and the existing form of development of the village;
 - ❖ This is not a sustainable location. Reduced bus service and the pub has closed since the last application. (There is plenty of local sustainable development still being built at Windrush Park and Colwell Green);
 - ❖ Sewage system is at capacity, this will only make the current situation worse for residents;
 - ❖ The access is very close to the busy A4095 crossroads and is not safe;
 - ❖ There is still an adverse effect on the Listed building;
 - ❖ Not satisfied ecology issues have been properly considered with the effect on wildlife;
 - ❖ 5 Year plan recognised at WODC rejection for the last application, but importantly the application still did not meet the requirements of the West Oxfordshire Local Plan.
- 23/00088/FUL - Removal of existing bungalow. Erection of a two storey dwelling with detached garage and associated works. The Bungalow, Station Road, OX18 2AR. RESOLVED: No comments.

106. FINANCE

Thanks expressed to Ted for funding received towards the Parish Hall roof repairs and funding received towards replacement village benches. Payments: Parish Hall renovations (£1,000, £270, £1,700); New benches (£2,223), Play area works (£2,508); Wages (£400); Parish hall electricity (£96.82). Bank balance as at 1st February 2023 = £15,437.26.

Clerk is still awaiting approval from WODC to the use of S106 funds towards new Play Area equipment with the delay seemingly caused by change of personnel at WODC. RESOLVED: Clerk to pursue.

107. WELL LANE PLAY AREA AND PLAYING FIELD

January inspection signed by Chairman. Swing seats replaced. Bark chippings topped up but more required, Glenn is awaiting costs from the contractor. There is a possibility of the contractor supplying a secondhand roundabout but further details required. RoSPA defects yet to be addressed by the contractor.

108. SUNDRY NOTICES

- Glenn advised roofing contractor is due to put scaffolding in place;
- New benches will be installed in due course;
- Clerk advised of a rural cost of living survey and the link is as follows:
https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Rural_Households_Cost-of-Living
- Glenn recommended a flyer to encourage residents to sign up to Parish Council updates.
RESOLVED: Clerk to action;
- RESOLVED: Disaster Action Plan, Standing Orders, Financial Regulations approved but contact details to be updated to mobile phone numbers for the Parish Council contacts in respect of the Disaster Action Plan;
- The King's coronation is on 6th May. Glenn asked if the village wants to organise anything. The Lord Kitchener Field and Parish Hall can be made available and the Parish Council can offer it's support. RESOLVED: Clerk to add to proposed flyer,
- The Date of the Parish Council meeting in May is due to fall on 8th May (bank holiday). A new date will be arranged at either of the next 2 Parish Council meetings.

Meeting closed at 7 p.m.

Next Meeting - Monday 13th March.

Glenn Gannon, Chair of the Council
Signed 13th March 2023