

CURBRIDGE AND LEW PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting

Parish Hall, Curbridge, Monday 13th May 2019, 6pm.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Ben Woodruff (district cllr.), Ted Fenton (county cllr.) Six members of the public, Howard Higgins (Clerk & RFO)

13. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Officers having stepped down, this being the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, the following were elected: Chair - Glenn Gannon, proposed by Mark Wilson, seconded by Patrick Foley; Vice Chair - Mark Wilson, proposed by Tony Wilson, seconded by Patrick Foley. Both were elected unanimously.

14. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

15. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

None

16. MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 8th April 2019, which had previously been circulated, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

17. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT ON THE AGENDA

Clerk provided update on the following:

- Topsoil and seeding of the grass verges along Well Lane has been progressing with some chasing of the Gigaclear contractor. At the meeting it was ascertained that the area outside 41 & 43 Well Lane had been missed. RESOLVED: Clerk to contact contractor to rectify.
- The grate near the new roundabout on Downs Road previously reported to WODC remains blocked. Clerk has again chased WODC to address.
- Dog bin still to be provided adjacent to the Kitchener Field. Clerk has had difficulty with Ubico (WODC related party) in getting a quote for using existing metal posts (rather than having another metal post installed). May yet need to look to alternate providers for an answer.

18. PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY

There have been 3 applicants up to the closing date of 10th May 2019. RESOLVED: All applicants to be interviewed for the vacancy.

19. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS

Ted Fenton provided an update on wider county matters including the political changes in some districts following the recent elections. This may have a possible effect on wider County planning for housing. There is a request from the fire service for residents to take care with barbeques following the improved weather.

The new roundabout on the A40 has not yet been adopted by OCC. The Parish Council raised the issue of safety in light of continued accidents on the new A40 roundabout (predominantly from the west to east direction of flow).

Ben Woodruff advised that the problem with the ash tree issue has been addressed. Clerk raised the issue of a lack of response from WODC planning department following three requests on the same issue in respect of the flood alleviation ponds (being planting along A40 side and no lifesaving equipment). The clerk visited WODC offices to press for an answer. Ascertained that no lifesaving equipment was included in the plans and that WODC do not know what sort of planting is planned. Clerk raised the issue of the time wasted in getting this response. Ben Woodruff advised this is also a problem for the district councillors.

20. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- 19/00905/HHD - Extension to garage/store - Stables at Duttons House, Lew Road. RESOLVED: No comments

21. VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT

Update provided by Richard Smith and consultation period now closed. There is a need to present the VDS to the planning officers. It was requested that Ted Fenton and Ben Woodruff make the formal arrangements for a meeting. This is likely to be in business hours at WODC offices though Glenn did ask that the Parish Hall also be considered as a venue. ACTION POINT: Ben Woodruff to arrange meeting.

Roger Smith advised that he has carried out a water test on Elmbank Ditch as part of a Earth Watch project for supplies leading to the Thames. The results showed a good water quality in Elmbank Ditch. On a different point further bird species have been identified in the parish.

22. FINANCE

Internal auditors report checked. There is a recommendation to check the cleaners salary given the low level of hall bookings. Discussed and also need to bear in mind use of hall for meetings. RESOLVED: to keep on review.

Annual audit adopted (no changes to draft figures provided by RFO and minuted at the previous meeting). AGAR (annual governance and accountability return) forms signed.

RESOLVED: Cheques for signing:

Salary (£224.00); Insurance (£765.08); Printing (£37.38); Water (£9.14); Accountancy (£180.00); Auditor (£135.00).

Bank balance as at 1st May 2019 = £13,623.93 (first half year precept received).

23. WELL LANE PLAY AREA AND PLAYING FIELD

April inspection signed by Chairman. No further repairs for time being due to possible larger scale works.

Quotes have been obtained from three parties to update the play area. Section 106 funding has been agreed for this specific project but the quotes obtained are in excess of the funding. The clerk can apply for further funding from WODC but there is no guarantee the funding will be provided. There is a surplus carried over from last year which may help but this will eat into funds. RESOLVED: Work is required and one supplier preferred. ACTION POINT: Glenn will revisit preferred supplier to see if further savings available.

Clerk is waiting for an answer as to how to get the S106 funds due for this project.

24. SUNDRY NOTICES

- Parish Hall. Possible S106 further funds available for 'sports and recreation' (different to play area) but clerk waiting for further information.

- Pint-of-life. This is a charity which will provide lifesaving advice at an event due to take place at the Lord Kitchener on 24 June 2019. RESOLVED: As this will be of benefit to the local community it was agreed to provide a donation of £100 to the charity to help cover the cost of the event.
- Also the landlord is considering having an external defibrillator installed (for the benefit of the wider community). RESOLVED: to provide a £500 donation on installation of the defibrillator.

Next Meeting - Monday 3rd June

Cllr. Glenn Gannon, Chair of the Council

Signed 3rd June 2019