

**CURRIDGE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

**www.curridgevillage.co.uk**

Secretary: Mrs Jean Rush, Conifers, Sandy Lane,  
Curridge, Thatcham, Berkshire. RG18 9DG  
Tel: 01635 200 445  
e-mail: gjrush@btinternet.com

**Curridge Residents' Association  
Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at  
8pm on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2009 at The Old Chapel, Long Lane.**

Janice Bridger took the chair.

*ACTION*

**1 WELCOME**

Committee members present: Janice Bridger (Acting Chairperson), Jenni Collins, Nicholas Collins, Rob Crispin, Diana French (Treasurer, who took the Minutes), Eric Friend, Kirsti Murray, Jean Rush (Secretary) and Cyril Wood

Thanks to Jenni and Nicholas for their hospitality.

**2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Committee members: Zoe Fannon, June Friend, Freda Hendel, Jane Minchin and Kathy Titcombe. District Councillor: Hilary Cole.

**4 MINUTES OF THE OPEN COMMITTEE MEETING** that was held on Tues. 21<sup>st</sup> October 2008 were read by all and signed as correct by Janice Bridger

**5 THE NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF NEW RESIDENTS AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR WELCOME AND DELIVERY OF HANDBOOK**

Committee member to call at the house of new residents to welcome them and provide a point of contact for information about the village.

NAME	ADDRESS	PERSON WHO WILL DELIVER HANDBOOK

**6 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

Minute 6 iv THE JUNCTION OF THE CURRIDGE TO WINTERBOURNE ROAD WITH THE OXFORD ROAD

Janice reported that on the Parish Plan Questionnaire 80% of residents supported action to improve this junction. Jean is collecting evidence of accidents and incidents at this junction and urges people to report all accidents and incidents to the Police (If non-emergency Tel: 08458 5055050) and to her. It was suggested that this could become one of the priority issues for the N.A.G. (Neighbourhood (policing) Action Group. See Item 9 Page 3

*All, Jean, Cyril*

Minute 6vi THE FUTURE OF DENISON BARRACKS See Item 13, Page 4 'Items from recent Parish Council meetings.'

Minute 9(5) The names of CRA Committee members are now displayed on the three notice boards in Curridge.

Minute 9(6) Jean has written an article for 'The Pathfinder' Parish Magazine for Hermitage and Curridge. The editors of 'The Pathfinder' would like more articles from Curridge to be submitted – reports from clubs and organisations, history, events etc. They would also like photographs of Curridge. Nicholas Collins has photographs. Please send articles and photographs to Margaret Goodman Tel: 01635201807 or [mumgoodman@hotmail.com](mailto:mumgoodman@hotmail.com) They would also like to hear from people who would like to receive 'The Pathfinder' and people who are prepared to deliver 'The Pathfinder' for ten months every year. (Tel: Jill Burgess 01635 202478) *Nicholas, All residents*

Minute 11 THE COMMUNITY LAPTOP PROJECT Jean was able to submit the names of six residents who have shown interest in taking part. Abbie Redwood from West Berks. Adult and Community Learning Team said in January 09 that it is likely to go ahead and Jean suggested that from then on Abbie should communicate directly with the people who are interested. Abbie's number is 01635 519060 or E-mail [aclteam@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:aclteam@westberks.gov.uk)

#### Minute 12 THE PARISH PLAN

Janice reported that, with the help of several industrious people, the questionnaires for the Parish Plan were delivered to and collected from all the households in the Parish. The return rate was very good – 83% or 84% from Curridge, higher from Chieveley, lower from Denison and 100% from Oare. Distributors Andy Parsons and Martin Lindeman from Curridge received prizes for 100% return rate before the deadline! The input of the data was undertaken by Greenham Common Trust and can now be analysed in several different ways. The data will be presented at the Parish Assembly in Curridge W.I. Hall on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April at 8pm, to which all residents are invited. *All residents*

The CRA Committee felt that the data should be made available on the Curridge website [www.curridgevillage.co.uk](http://www.curridgevillage.co.uk) after the Parish Assembly. Janice will seek Sarah Ward's advice about this. There will be an 'event' to mark the publication of the Parish Plan Document. *Janice*

The Parish Plan Steering Group is still looking for volunteers to join the group. If you are interested contact Jean and she will pass your details on. *All residents*

Sincere thanks were expressed to Janice Bridger for all the hard work she is putting into the Parish Plan.

#### Minute 14(i) THE CURRIDGE WEBSITE [www.curridgevillage.uk](http://www.curridgevillage.uk)

The CRA Committee is very grateful to Jeff Mead for putting the information from the new 'Handbook of Curridge' onto the website. Jenni Collins is to liaise with Jeff about the future of the Website and particularly about the process of keeping it updated. It was suggested that the date of each entry should be displayed so that the reader can tell if the information is up-to-date e.g. opening times of a pub, subscription to a club etc.

Zoe Fannon previously expressed an interest in helping with the website and will contact Jeff and Jenni. Kirsti Murray will get the contents of the new Handbook into a form where it can be put onto disk or memory stick and will liaise with Jeff. *Jeff, Jenni, Zoe, Kirsti*

#### Minute 14(ii) PROLIFERATION OF NOTICES

If you see any out-of-date posters or notices, please remove them and the drawing pins and staples. *All*

#### THE HANDBOOK OF CURRIDGE NEW EDITION JANUARY 2009

The new Handbook has now been published and distributed to households in Curridge.

Jean Rush was thanked for producing and the Handbook on behalf of C.R.A.

Jean has received several notes expressing appreciation. Copies that were given to the Chieveley Parish Councillors were well received.

Rob Crispin is to contact Major Nick Collins from Denison Barracks to arrange distribution of the Handbook to all households on the Camp. *Rob*

Jean does not want to produce the next edition of The Handbook. Kirsti Murray offered to type out this edition so that it can be put onto disc or memory stick for future use. Jenni also offered help.

*Kirsti, Jenni*

## **7 TREASURER'S REPORT**

CRA will have £734:11 in the HSBC bank account when recent claims have been met. The Handbook cost around £350 to produce.

Dianna ffrench was appointed Treasurer at the Open C.R.A. Committee Meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2008, taking over from Carolyn Poynter.

## **8 COMPLETION OF MANDATE FORM FROM BANK FOR CHANGE OF TREASURER**

Because the resolutions in a mandate for the change of signatories from HSBC have to be read out and agreed at a meeting it has not been possible for Diana to carry out her duties as Treasurer yet.

It was agreed that Carolyn Poynter and Grahame Pitts' names should be removed as signatories for the Association of Curridge Residents Account. It was proposed by Kirsti Murray, seconded by Eric Friend and agreed unanimously by the Committee Members present that there should be three signatories listed:- Jean Rush (Secretary), Janice Bridger (Acting Chairperson) and Diana ffrench (Treasurer). It was also agreed that any two of the listed signatories will sign cheques and other instructions for payment or accept instruction to stop such a payment on behalf of the Association.

Resolutions 1 to 5 of the Mandate were read out by Jean Rush (Secretary), accepted unanimously by the Committee members present and signed by Janice Bridger (Chairperson of the meeting) and Jean Rush (Secretary).

Jean, Janice and Diana will arrange a time to go to the bank together to submit the form, together with the Change of Address Authority. They will need to take identification. *Jean, Janice, Diana*

## **9 NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING IN CURRIDGE**

Jean has been contacted by Jason Murphy, a Police Officer based at Thatcham Police Station who has recently taken the position as the Neighbourhood Specialist Officer for two neighbourhoods one of which consists of the Parishes of Chieveley (including Curridge and Oare), Hermitage and Cold Ash. He explained that the Government has implemented Neighbourhood Policing Teams across England and Wales. Each neighbourhood has set up its own Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) which consists of partners and members of the community working in conjunction with the Police to tackle local issues within the neighbourhoods.

Cyril Wood agreed to be a representative from Curridge on the NAG, but he is unable to attend the meeting at 6:30pm on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March so Jean will attend in his place on that occasion.

Vandalism in the Curridge W.I. Hall area is one of the three priorities that the NAG is dealing with at the moment. It was suggested that the dangerous junction of the Curridge to Winterbourne Road and the Oxford Road should become a priority as soon as possible. *Cyril, Jean*

Jason Murphy wants to host a consultative exercise in Curridge, probably in May, and Jean has suggested to him that the mobile unit might be parked in the W.I. Hall car park or grounds. Jason will contact Doreen Handby about this.

Jason will be invited to attend the CRA Open Committee Meeting in October 2009 to meet residents.

## 10 A PLANNING APPLICATION AT CARBROOK

The Secretary made neighbouring residents aware of a planning application which involved a new, additional access to 'Carbrook'. The application was subsequently withdrawn because of concerns expressed by the Highways Officer. A later application, not involving a new access, has been approved.

## 11 BYWAY 41 – DAMAGE TO THE SURFACE

Very large 'West London Composting' container lorries are using the byway to deliver compost to a Rookery Farm field. The lorry company maintains this is the only way they can gain access. The surface of the byway and the banks at either side are being badly damaged. The Secretary sent an e-mail to Elaine Cox at West Berks. Council's Rights of Way Dept. to make them aware of the situation. Elaine Cox replied that she would visit and investigate.

## 12 CHAPEL LANE RESURFACING

Regrading, filling, rolling and drainage work has been carried out by West Berkshire Council on Chapel Lane. The fact that it is used as a walking to school route by the schoolchildren was an important factor in this work being carried out. Elaine Cox from West Berkshire Council Rights of Way Dept. sent an e-mail to the Secretary implying that the surface damage is 'caused by private vehicular access to properties' and stating that 'We reserve the right in the future to ask for contributions from residents towards the cost of maintenance works.' Some C.R.A. Committee Members disputed this because it is a byway (Byway 30).

## 13 ITEMS FROM MOST RECENT PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Future of Denison Barracks A decision about the barracks is due in March.

A decision about the School of Military Survey is due in October 2010.

The future of the wooded area known as 'The Plantation' is a cause for concern. In the feedback from the Parish Plan questionnaire around 80% of residents value open spaces such as 'The Plantation'.

The name of the road from the junction opposite Crabtree Lane to the junction with the Oxford Road west of Arlington Grange (the Curridge to Winterbourne Road)

Chieveley Parish Council is anxious to establish the official name of this road because of the confusion caused for deliveries etc. 'Curridge Road' now seems to be the official name, but some residents maintain that in the past it was known as 'Winterbourne Road' or that it didn't have a name at all! The Parish Council is seeking evidence from old photographs, documents, maps etc. to clarify the situation. If you have any evidence please contact Jean or Tracy, the Parish Clerk (Tel: 01635 247507 or e-mail [chieveley.pc@btinternet.com](mailto:chieveley.pc@btinternet.com))

*All residents*

The reinstatement of land and the maintenance of trees after sand extraction

The Parish Council feels that conditions, regarding the reinstatement of sites, imposed on sand extraction companies in the area have/are not being met. The Parish Council has written to West Berkshire Council hoping to resolve the various issues.

The Annual Parish Assembly

All residents are welcome to attend the Annual Parish Assembly which is to be held this year in Curridge W.I. Hall at 8pm on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April. Data from the Parish Plan Questionnaires will be presented at the meeting and wine and cheese will be provided.

*All residents*

## 14 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

### (i) Chalky Lane (Byway 39)

Cyril Wood reported that the entrance to Chalky Lane near Chieveley Services is a disgrace because of rubbish and litter. There is fly tipping all the way along Chalky Lane. Also there is a place along Chalky Lane where the surface is badly damaged and it was felt that West Berks Council should repair it before it gets any worse and becomes very expensive. Cyril to report all this to West Berks. Streetcare and get a reference number which he should send to the Parish Clerk (see above) to follow up. *CYRIL*

**(ii) Grant from COMMA**

Eric Friend applied to COMMA, a body which takes a levy from mineral extractions to go back into local communities, to help with a scheme to improve the grounds of the W.I. Hall. £4,845 was made available and work has been carried out – tree surgery, re-fixing of fence posts, removal of bracken and brambles and the planting of new trees. Some spraying will be carried out before June. The area is considerably improved and the funding much appreciated. Eric was commended for obtaining the funding and thanked for informing the C.R.A..

**(iii) The Living Rainforest – Hampstead Norreys**

Hannah McVey (Rainforest Education Officer) contacted CRA via the website in January to advertise the fact they are recruiting part-time tour guides. If you are interested Tel: 01635 202444 or e-mail [education@livingrainforest.org](mailto:education@livingrainforest.org)

*All residents*

**(iv) Speed Limits on Rural Roads**

Janice informed the meeting that the Government will issue a consultation document, later in the year, which proposes to reduce the speed limit on rural roads from 60mph to 50mph. People will need to respond.

*All residents*

**15 DATE TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING**

The next Committee will be held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2009 at 8pm at Jean's house: Conifers, Sandy Lane.

Please submit Agenda items and refer any resident, who wants to discuss a concern at the beginning of that meeting, to Jean.