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June

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CURDWORTH PARISH COUNCIL INFORMATION

**Parish Councillors are always pleased
to hear from local residents**



PARISH COUNCIL CLERK

Louise Baudet
47 St Pauls Crescent, Coleshill,
Birmingham, B46 1BB
curdworthpc@hotmail.com
www.curdworthparishcouncil.gov.uk



Steve Allcock **Anne Rimmer**
(Chair) - 07771 633396 01675 475003

Terry Wilcox **Richard Habgood** **Alan Vaughton**
07483 853165 01675 820112 01675 470062

BOROUGH & COUNTY COUNCILLORS & MP

Craig Tracey
(Member of Parliament)
01827 715243
craig.tracey.mp@parliament.uk

Cllr Sandra Smith
(Borough Councillor)
07984 146455

Cllr Martin Watson
(County & NWBC Councillor)
07392 262598



MEETINGS:

Parish Council meetings are normally held
on the 2nd Monday of every month at
7.30pm at St Nicholas Church Hall.

HALL BOOKINGS:

Curdworth Village Hall - **01675 470181**
curdworthvillagehall@gmail.com
Church Hall - Noel Phillips - **07498 202262**

Want to report an issue to HS2?

Please can all residents contact HS2 directly on hs2enquiries@hs2.co.uk if they would like to report an issue about works in the locality. All contacts are logged by HS2 through this route and recorded.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Annual Parish meeting

May saw the 2024 Annual Parish meeting held in St Nicholas Church Hall and Cllr Allcock, Parish Council Chair presented the annual report for residents. A full copy of his report is contained in this edition of the Crier. The Council was pleased to take the opportunity to present a portrait of King Charles to Cllr Vaughton, from the Parish Council to the Village Hall Committee. The accession of His Majesty The King marked a new chapter in the national story. A new Reign means new national symbols, such as the face on stamps, coins, and banknotes, gradually changing from Queen Elizabeth II to King Charles III.

Portraits of past Monarchs also hang in public buildings across the United Kingdom, from local council offices and town halls to 10 Downing Street. They are a visible reminder of the institutions that unite our United Kingdom.

To celebrate the new reign of His Majesty The King, the Cabinet Office announced a government-funded voluntary scheme throughout the United Kingdom to allow public authorities to apply for a free, framed portrait. The Parish Council received their free portrait in April and felt that it should hang in the Village Hall as one of the focal points within our community.



Annual meeting

The Annual meeting saw Cllr Allcock re-elected as Chair and Cllr Vaughton re-elected as Vice-Chair, with other positions and representations also remaining without change for a further year.

HS2

The Parish Council would like to remind residents that HS2 have a dedicated portal on their website for residents to report any items of damage/repair or things that need addressing locally eg dirt on road. These complaints should go direct to HS2 and not through the Parish Council. If you want to find out about current works or have any questions you can call 08081 434434 or email hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk. There is also an online form on their website.

Speedwatch

We currently have a volunteer who has come forward who would like to support the Community Speedwatch Scheme, however we are unable to proceed with one volunteer and would like at least one or two other people. The commitment is minimal and by agreement with the volunteers involved and could be as little as a few hours each month. All the equipment you will need is provided and full training will be given by Warwickshire Police. If you can help please contact the Clerk to the Parish Council

Village Planters

Once again the Council will be de-weeding and then replanting the Village Planters with flowers and foliage for the summer months. Thanks to our Handyman and Councillors who are giving up their time to make the village look colourful over the coming months.

Fix My Street

The Parish Council has become aware that 'Fix My Street' is no longer used for the reporting of things such as potholes, residents should now log onto Warwickshire County Councils website. On the Home Page there is a link called 'Report it' with other links for reporting highway matters.

Curdworth Parish Meeting Chairman's Annual Report 7.00pm 13 May, 2024.

Introduction.

Good evening everyone and welcome to the Annual Parish Meeting.

It is a legal requirement to hold this meeting, it is not a parish council meeting, it is arranged by the parish council but it is primarily for us to provide you with an update on the council's activities over the last Parish Council year from May 2023 until May of this year and an opportunity for you to bring up any issues, questions or put forward any ideas and proposals in relation to the parish.

So, first we have to do the legal bit and I have to ask under item 1 of the agenda for any apologies for absence from Councillors.

Item 2, As there was a meeting last year councillors do have to approve any documentation, as we all have seen last years minutes are there any matters arising? if not are we ok to have a proposer and seconder and we can move on.

Item 3 on the agenda is the annual report of Curdworth Parish council for 2023/24

This document outlines what your Parish council is what it does what it provides and how it has represented the Parish of Curdworth.

The Parish Council is made up of a compliment of up to seven members who form a strong body made up of Chair, vice Chair Treasurer, working group chairs covering safety, Planning etc and members with years of experience and specific expertise, for which I thank all councilors.

The Council has again benefited from the guidance of our Clerk and I wish to record my personal thanks for her commitment.

The main areas of expenditure are those associated with the Clerk's salary and items of general village and playing fields maintenance that the Parish council are responsible for. Details of course are shown in the accounts for the Parish Council and are available to view on the Council website or if you wish to examine in greater detail, by appointment with the Clerk.

An external audit of the Parish Council account records was as usual carried out approved and signed, confirming there was nothing that would give concern that all relevant legislation and regulatory requirements had not been met.

OK so that is the boring and legal bits that we have to tell you, we can move on to a summary of activities in the last year, here are a few of the highlights.

We started off the year After the April elections aware that a couple of councillors were resigning which would leave us with either elections or co-option to consider later in the year.

In May we received the go ahead to carry out maintenance work in line with the TPO on the holly tree on the village green and we commenced discussions around the activities we were considering for the upcoming coronation.



Maintenance work around the village also continued, bus shelters cleaned, trees trimmed, PC and WI notice boards cleaned and repaired, the group of litter pickers again did and continue to do a great job in keeping our village tidy.

At the end of May we undertook a survey to understand if the village wanted to continue with the rather expensive Crier magazine or would a simple newsletter do the job, result was a resounding vote in favour of retaining the monthly Crier.

June saw our coronation celebrations take place, despite the weather, Thanks to all who supported this collaboration between the PC and the church led by the events committee, it was an enjoyable event.

The PC commitment to the Village defibrillator was confirmed with a donation to its annual subscription and on going costs and we were able finally to co-opt Cllr Terry Wilcox, a long time supporter of the council, to join us.

Over the summer, we were given the green light to look at proposals for a suitable pathway linking Oaklands, Breeden Drive, up through the copse, to the top of Church Lane and on to the play and exercise area. Suitable contractors were to be approached, quotations considered, to allow us to progress grant funding applications.

We were also successful in obtaining funding for an additional street lamp on Coleshill rd to eliminate a 'dark spot' and improve safety.

During September we heard the bad but not entirely un-expected news that developers were considering an appeal to the decision of NWBC in Feb 23 to decline the application for a lorry park off Marsh lane. In October we were officially informed that an appeal hearing had been organized for 17 Jan 2024.

The PC spent many hours reviewing the latest status and presented our addendum to the original submission by the due date in November.

We were also informed that a further application for commercial use of the land to the north of the lorry park proposal was also pending, this time from a developer called Asteer planning on behalf of Richborough estates.

At the end of sept we received a note of resignation from cllr Harris due to work commitments, we thank him for his support. However we were pleased to to be able to welcome Cllr Peter Wright who joined us from the Whittakers P C.

The Halloween event at the end of October, again despite the weather was a success, thanks again to the events committee.



Back to Maintenance issues, following a commissioned structural survey we identified issues with the boundary wall on the village green alongside Beehive lane, we identified costs for wall removal, vegetation clearance, regrading and creation of a pathway to avoid walking in the roadway. Grant funding requests are being progressed

We also identified the costs to deal with a couple of the trees only in the copse at the top of Breeden drive. Work to prune Beech trees and holly trees only will be required. This was undertaken in Febuary. Following a survey with affected residents the harvesting of some 20 trees with-in the copse did not go ahead.

During the winter the Parish Council continued communication with NWBC on the Curdworth Neighbourhood Plan. The document now has progressed through legal and conformance checks, with some final tidy up, now it is on to submission and approval at one of the full planning meetings where it will be formally adopted.

Towards the end of last year, it was also clear that Birmingham Airport activity post Covid had been picking up however some aircraft still appeared to be taking the old flight path. It is reported that the airport have still not fully implemented the proposed re route which takes aircraft around rather than over the village although it is clear that we do have an improved situation from where we were pre pandemic.

The annual playground and exercise area inspectors report has been completed, again no major issues and the minor points are being addressed to ensure the area remains safe to use.

The December xmas lights switch on event on the village green this year had something different with Curdworths Polar express stopping on the green for the children, again a great event, thanks to the events committee and all helpers, the Parish Council were pleased to support with new lighting for the Christmas Tree.

As we entered the new year of course the focus for January was the lorry park appeal, set for the 17th. With a site visit on the 18th. The hearing and the site visit were supported, all we could now was to wait for the planning inspectorate decision

At the beginning of the year the PC reviews the Precept, which is the parish councils financial request for the 2024/5 year. you will I am sure be pleased to note we requested a minimal increase of just 3% in consideration of the difficult financial environment.

This together with income from the hire of the football and cricket pitches and some VAT refunds, interest etc provides our income to cover expenditure for the year.

At the end of January we invited a member of the North Warwickshire Highways agency to join us for a village 'walk a bout' giving us a chance to point out areas of concern and hopefully get urgent responses. We highlighted such items as broken road signs, poor line markings, inappropriate speed limits etc.



Febuarys PC meeting is traditionally a quiet meeting however this year due to a bereavement the meeting had to be cancelled

After a wait of several weeks we were extremely pleased to be informed that the planning inspectorate upheld the decision of the planning board in Feb 2023 and that the proposed truck stop will not be progressed. Great news for the village but also a great help in supporting our concerns for further future developments in and around the parish in greenbelt areas. Just a word of caution, although stopped for now there is still the option of a judicial review open to the developers, we can only wait and see.

Just prior to our March meeting stage 2 of the village green update commenced with the removal of the trees and shrubbery alongside the edge of the green on Beehive lane. This has opened up the view of the green and allowed us to begin to clear and tidy up the area prior to stage 3, surface levelling, commencing.

March proved to be interesting in that following clarification of legislation in 2023 the process of churches requesting financial help from parish councils was clarified inevitably resulting in the Rector for our parish churches requesting financial support for the upkeep of the church yard.

Parish Councils can now choose to support however with many of the Parish councillors declaring an interest in this item the PC are not Quorate and unable to make any sort of decision as to support, furthermore the PC would consider such support an issue for all Parishoners as such funding could only be provided by the annual precept affecting all parishoners. The PC agreed to review over the period prior to the setting of the precept for 2025/6.

Yet again in March requests for the Parish council to remove trees in the copse at the top of Breden Drive were made. We surveyed the affected houses last year and in line with the responses at that time left the tall trees alone and agreed to trim the trees against the boundary fences to fence height, this work was completed at the beginning of March.

One or two residents still feel they have the right to Demand the tall trees that cast a shadow over their gardens are removed, therefore over the summer all residents will be asked to respond to a couple of issues affecting the village to give the PC some guidance on how to proceed.

1, We will canvas the idea that the PC is to fund out of the precept a contribution towards the upkeep of the churchyard?

And 2, Do you agree that all of the tall trees in the copse, those identified with a blue spot (21 of them) be removed?

When you see the requests please respond accordingly to allow us to action.

Our April meeting took us to the end of yet another year of activities. We discussed the the reports of certain drivers ignoring the no entry signs on Coleshill rd into Beehive lane and travelling the wrong way up a 1 way road to enter the Pub or shortcut to the Paddock. The PC have referred the residents concerns through the Borough and County councils and proposed changes around signage.

We heard back from WCC. As expected they have agreed to The provision of improved illuminated signs and re-painting of the road markings.

They have referred our concerns to the Police and requested additional monitoring, they have also confirmed that the use of one way spiked plates in the road surface could not be utilized on the public highway, we have to hope that additional monitoring results in offenders being identified.

So here we are in May 2024, The start of a new year for the Parish Council. This will be the start of my Final year as chairman of the Parish Council, I feel I have done my bit now and plan to stand down this time next year, I may still remain as a councillor but it is time for someone else to lead.

Many of the councillors currently on the council have also indicated that during this coming year they will be standing back from their current roles or in some cases resigning from the council.

It is therefore important that if any members of the Parish who believe they would like to help out make themselves known please over the next few months as it would be unfortunate if the good work undertaken in the last few years is unable to continue.

So, to finish up, the usual reminders, Fly tipping is always a concern, NWBC are keen to prosecute offenders, so if you see anything please record as much detail as possible, and report it.

We do of course request that all road users give consideration to others and do not obstruct the footpaths, driveways and bus stops and of course be considerate outside the school and nursery.

So that's a summary of what has been undertaken, it has been a busy year But work goes on, As with any community, Communication Is key, not just this once a year parish meeting but regular monthly Parish Council meetings usually on the second Monday of every month. There is a standing agenda item for public consultation where you are encouraged to raise issues.

The Parish Council continues to publish 'The Crier'



The Parish Council web address provides another area of communication and information and the Parish Councils own Facebook page and Curdworth Talk-ing Post allow timely reminders of events, meetings and links to the Website.

The Parish council Notice Board alongside the WI noticeboards outside the Village Hall displays hard copies of Parish Council information.

if you have an interest please get in touch and help the PC coordinate with the proper authorities to ensure our community here continues to be a great place and a safe place in which to live and work.

Works relating to HS2 continue in our area despite the slow down, with Compounds being constructed Road closures, Marston box bridge installation etc, My thanks go to Members of this council who attend HS2 meetings on our behalf and report back at PC meetings.

Please remember your Parish Council continues to be involved with many activities on your behalf including attending training sessions by WALC on a regular basis and meetings such as HS2 Special management Zone. One important group we are involved in is the North Warwickshire Area Committee. This group brings together all of the Parish, town, borough and county Councils, quarterly, to review and exchange ideas etc.

Your Parish Council responds to planning applications, monitors reports from the West Midlands Traffic Commission and local transport provision for schools. We Continue holding membership of WALC and NALC the Warwickshire and National associations of local councils and we are active supporters of the North Warwickshire neighbourhood watch activity.

In closing i would like to record my thanks to my fellow Parish council members, who give their time on a voluntary basis, to residents who help and support us with information around traffic issues, grant funding etc and to County Councillors and the MP's office for their continued support of Curdworth Parish Council.

Thanks to the members of the Curdworth Events Committee for their excellent work and organization around community events and Finally, many thanks to residents for attending and supporting our monthly Parish Council meetings in the Church Hall and for the great support shown in our work to object to the truck stop proposal.

so that's it for this annual report, I can open up the meeting to yourselves for any parish matters, any questions you may have, or if you just wish to make any comments, if not and you are all happy can I just say once again thank you for your support in what has been a very good year for our Parish and after a short break we will move on to our usual Parish Council meeting.

Steve Allcock.
Chair, Curdworth Parish Council.

WHO DOES WHAT ?, LOCAL AUTHORITIES FOR THE PARISH OF CURDWORTH.

| Authority | Curdworth Parish Council | North Warwickshire Borough Council | Warwickshire County Council |
|------------------|--|---|---|
| Address | Parish council clerk 47 st Pauls Crescent Coleshill Birmingham B46 1BB | South Street Atherstone Warwickshire CV9 1DE | Shire Hall Northgate Street Warwick Warwickshire CV34 4RL |
| Telephone | | 01827 715341 | 01926 410410 |
| Web Site | www.curdworthparishcouncil.gov.uk | www.northwarks.gov.uk | www.warwickshire.gov.uk |
| Email | curdworthpc@hotmail.com | customerservices@northwarks.gov.uk | www.warwickshire.gov.uk/contact-us |
| Responsibilities | Allotments Bus shelters Christmas lights Civic/Mayoral events Community centre/village hall bookings Football pitches Grass cutting Litter and dog bins Memorial gardens Neighbourhood plan Noticeboards Planning applications recommendations Play/exercise equipment Skateparks | Abandoned vehicles Benefits support Business support Bus passes Community safety Police and emergency services Council tax billing and collection Elections Environmental health Grass cutting Health and social care Housing Leisure centres and sport Parking Planning applications and approvals Rubbish collections and recycling street Scene, road cleaning | Adult social care and D12:D23 health Archive services Bus services Children and family social care Gritting services Libraries Public footpaths Registrations, birth, death and marriage. Roads Highways and travel. Safety and crime schools and learning. |