

MINUTES OF THE MEETING of the CUERDEN PARISH COUNCIL on MONDAY 24th July at 7.30pm

THE PUBLIC AND PRESS ARE INVITED TO BE PRESENT AT THE MEETING. THEY MUST ADVISE THE CLERK TO THE PARISH OF THEIR INTENTION, PROVIDING A BRIEF OUTLINE OF WHAT THEY WISH TO DISCUSS, NO LESS THAN 48 HOURS BEFORE THE INTENDED MEETING. *The scheduled June meeting postponed due to illness (clerk) therefore an urgent meeting arranged to deal with pressing matters.*

Clerk email: cuerdenparish@yahoo.co.uk

Meeting held at Cuerden Park

In attendance Cllr Nev Whitham, chair; Cllr Martin Brown; Alison Whitham; Ann Phelan.

1. Apologies for Absence, none.
2. Welcome made to Alison Whitham who has accepted the office of Parish Councillor for Cuerden Parish Council. Declaration signed, the Parish is now Quorate and can continue.
Congratulations also to Cllr Martin Brown for successfully completing his extraordinary pilgrimage from Canterbury to Rome, a sole journey on foot taking 56 days, raising several thousand pounds for local childrens' hospice Derian House.
3. **Disclosure of Personal/Prejudicial Interests.** Forms completed by all Councillors, NW has declared an interest as he is a Borough Councillor for Chorley Council. Web to be updated.
Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any personal interest in respect of the Council's Constitution and the Members Code of Conduct. If the personal interest is a prejudicial interest then the individual Member should not participate in a discussion on the matter and must withdraw from the meeting and not seek to influence a decision on the matter.
4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th February 2023 to confirm the minutes unable to earlier as parish not quorate.

Minutes February 6 2023 draft.odt

Matters arising from the minutes unless elsewhere on the agenda. Clerk had discussed the Parish status with Chorley Director of Governance Chris Moister who was of the opinion, generally as he had no personal experience of a Parish Council ceasing, to continue up to the local elections to give an opportunity for candidates to apply for the positions of Councillors. Suggested precept remains the same for now. Clerk liaised with Electoral Services to ensure the local election procedures were followed and the vacancies were advertised correctly. Re precept funds are rising (£600 recommended to be put aside for a general election) and previously discussed projects have been put aside. A number of items have been proposed in the past including the erection of an information/history board for the Parish adjacent to the entrance to Cuerden Valley Park however it was suggested more practical use would be to make use of the new website to add some appropriate historical information and additional photographs. Clerk had struggled to find suitable quality pictures that the web company could use so any (of the Parish) welcome. AW proposed we cover the cost of replacement dog/litter bins for the park as due to deterioration and vandalism the park needs them. Due to time constraints this subject will be covered in more depth and decisions acted upon at the next meeting.

5. **Adjournment for Public participation session** – no public attending.
6. **Parish Council Accounts for year end and audit.** Approval of accounts for year ending 31 March 2023 Clerk presented the accounts for 2022/23. It was resolved these be accepted and audit completed by NW and RFO. There were 7 transactions for the year.

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All financial documents relating to year end to be shared and agreed as accurate during this meeting.

Documents shared: All agreed.

Bank Reconciliation – shared, agreed and signed on 24/07/2023

Confirmation of dates - shared, agreed and signed on 24/07/2023

Explanation of Variances – shared, agreed and signed on 24/07/2023

Assets – shared, agreed and signed on 24/07/2023

Certificate of Exception – AGAR 2022/23 part 2. shared, agreed and signed on 24/07/2023

Accounting Statements 2022/23 shared, agreed and signed on 24/07/2023

Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2022/23 – shared, agreed and signed on 24/07/2023.

All submitted to website.

7. Planning report and any updates

Nell Lane – still concerns over this residential application despite things going quiet this year. Another year to enjoy walking the leafy lane.

Cuerden Hall – dispute over the access road – signs have now been posted at the disputed access stating the road is unsafe (the Cinder Tunnel has deteriorated further) so all deliveries and access are going up Berkeley Drive. A couple of damaging accidents have occurred on Berkeley recently including the demolition of one of the entrance pillars – some improvement to warning signage at the entrance could also be useful. This subject to be explored further. The access issue has been referred to Brian at LCC. Chorley planning have employed a consultant enforcement officer, Mark Bray, who seems to be far more proactive and has charged the Cuerden Hall owners/developers with a breach of condition notice for not following the correct arboricultural procedures with regards to removal. There are also concerns of Bluebell damage.

Clock House – the owner has recently passed and the future of this iconic local farm and listed building is now uncertain.

The Equine centre building Parkwood House was refused. AW had objected citing lack of an ecological survey when the site is adjacent to a biological heritage site and neighbouring applications had to provide this.

Cuerden Strategic site – LCC/2022/0044. Some amendments have been submitted to the Wigan Road access/egress so now more detailed arrangements are available to view. Also clarification regarding the residential development - outline is being sought for 116 houses and clarification regarding the arboricultural impacts has been submitted.

8. Accounts for Payment –

Annual Insurance 2023/23 - Renewal of the Parish Council's annual insurance premium was agreed as necessary and it was resolved that the annual premium be paid. (Clerk had earlier tried to source a less expensive provider without success)

Annual Insurance Zurich paid by Clerk	£218.96	Ref 00357
Parish clerk monthly fee x 5 @ £41 per month	£205.00	Ref 00359
Web fees paid x 5 months paid by Clerk	£138.00	Ref 00358

Payments agreed cheques pending second signature waiting for bank update and confirmation. NW & MB to attend to this matter with NatWest bank.

Other Correspondence. PKF Littlejohn had sent an email letter dated 17th July regarding the

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outstanding accounts for year-end however had kindly agreed to an extension to month-end to enable a quorate meeting to take place.

The Campaign for Rural England subscription is due, however dismissed as the general agreement was that their input regarding planning applications for the parish has been far from adequate and they are not worth expending further monies on.

Exchange of Information Only.

Councillors are respectfully reminded that this is not an opportunity for debate or decision making

Date and Time of Next Meeting. – Monday August 14th at 7pm (start times may be amended) at Clayton le Woods Primary School.

Ann Phelan Clerk note updated email: clerk@cuerdenparishcouncil.org.uk

Propose dates of next meetings (subject to change). Mondays 7pm till 8pm, 25th September, 27th November 2023 & 5th February 2024.

Chair

Date