

MINUTES OF THE MEETING of the
CUERDEN PARISH COUNCIL on **MONDAY 6th February 2023** from **19.00pm**

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.

Clerk email: cuerdenparish@yahoo.co.uk

Meeting held at Clayton le Woods Primary School, meeting commenced at 7.00pm

In attendance Cllr Sarah Elsy, Chair; Cllr Nev Whitham; Cllr Martin Brown; Cllr Maureen Hesmondhalgh; Ann Phelan.

1. Disclosure of interests – No interests to disclose.
2. Minutes of meeting held in November, 2022 agreed to be true and accurate.



cuerden Minutes
November draft.odt

3. Matters arising from the minutes unless elsewhere on the agenda –

MS had looked at the notice board but has not yet decided on any method of restoration but waiting for better weather. AP will look at replacing cork backboard inserts.

Winter grit can be supplied by the Council on request, a bin location at the junction of Shady Lane and Cuerden Close suggested by SE.

NW has notified residents of the result of the Broadband survey which appears to be a tick box exercise. Doubts any benefit for the neighbourhood will come from it, broadband signals in the area being very poor and improvements would be welcome.

4. Items for discussion –

Resignation of Councillors. Sarah Elsy and Maureen Hesmondhalgh handed in their resignations, citing the lack of support from Chorley Council regarding the approval of planning applications at Cuerden Hall for a change of use to residential which has resulted in the applicant blocking off the second access/exit road into Cuerden Close with fences, effectively making this a cul-de-sac for the 20 properties and without an effective turning circle. Despite a condition stating this access must be retained, the applicant has taken advantage of another condition which states it can be closed to the residents of Cuerden Close when contractor/construction vehicles are using the road for reasons of safety. Enforcement have done little to resolve the conflict of interests despite few contractor vehicles currently using this road to the Hall. It was suggested an official complaint to MP Lindsay Hoyle be raised. Clerk to update Chorley Council regarding resignations.

Going forwards. It was suggested, as this results in the Parish becoming non-quorate and new councillors are very hard to recruit, that the Parish disband and merge with Clayton le Woods Parish, especially as MB was also considering resignation but was prepared to continue up to the May elections. Discussion followed as to who might have knowledge of such a situation and Chris Moister Director of Governance Chorley Council was suggested. Clerk is to make contact and report back to NW & MB with best course of action and to post a recruitment poster in the Parish noticeboard for both councillors and parish clerk positions. NW, as currently vice chair is to act as Chairperson following SE resignation and MB as vice-chair.

Pending Elections. It was discussed and decided that although currently non-quorate the parish would continue up to the May elections as there was still a possibility of recruitment and continuity. Clerk to liaise with Electoral Services Chorley Council regarding the procedures for

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recruitment prior to the elections

Precept. There was adequate funding available to cover the costs of any elections (£600 had been noted as required in previous minutes). Whether the precept remains the same or is removed for the coming year will depend on advice from the Director of Governance, yet to be obtained. Projects have yet to be initiated.

Website. The website is now functional with basic information uploaded. An attempt to get relevant photos – three required - wasn't successful as the quality/pixels of pictures submitted hasn't been adequate. Any quality relevant photos would be welcome. The future of the website now depends on whether the Parish will continue, meanwhile payments for the monthly fee will continue to be paid by the clerk until the bank situation is sorted.

Insurance. This is due later in the year and will be reviewed then.

5. Adjournment for Public participation session – no public attending.

6. Bank update – attempts to get SE added to the signatory list and Julie Brown removed has proved difficult and still waiting for confirmation from the bank (Nat West). SE and NW have completed all the relevant paperwork. The bank will not deal with anyone other than the signatories (i.e. clerk) and communication has been slow.

7. Planning report and any updates - App 23/00048 Berkeley Drive, 24/1/23 at Parkwood House, Berkeley Drive, Cuerden, for the erection of a building for wildlife and equine examination. No objections to date, application is to be monitored. It is located within green belt. Cuerden Strategic site – App LCC/2022/0044 – There have been some amendments submitted including the Wigan Road access/egress so more detailed arrangements are available to view and also clarification regarding the housing development – outline being sought for 116 homes and clarification regarding arboricultural impacts. The owner of Cuerden Lodge, Shady Lane, has offered land there for housing – potentially 10 homes - to the Local Plan. Described as “brownfield” the land sits within greenbelt and is adjacent to Cuerden Country Park. Agreed this was a matter of concern for the parish, NW has already submitted an objection.

Accounts for Payment –

8. Parish clerk Oct-Jan inc @ £41 per month	164.00	Ref 0355
Web fees paid to Feb inc by Parish Clerk refunded to A Phelan.	55.20	Ref 0356

Payments agreed cheques given to clerk

Any Other Business. No other correspondence received. - 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. – 17th April 2023 at 7pm, (start times may be amended)

Ann Phelan Clerk email: cuerdenparish@yahoo.co.uk Meeting closed at 17.55pm

Propose dates of next meetings (subject to change) All Mondays

26th June; 25th September, 27th November 2023

Chair Date