

Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 20 November 2006 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present:-Chairman Mr E Webb
 Vice Chairman Mrs C Byatt
 Councillors Mr P Neale, Mr L Ginger
 District Councillors Mr D McCraith, Mr N Cathcart
 County Councillor Mrs L Oliver
 Parish Clerk Mrs Y Albery
 Parishioners 6 present

1.0 Apologies for absence received from Councillor Mrs M Peyton, Councillor A Milton

2.0 Approval of previous minutes

All councillors agreed that the minutes of the last meeting were correct and the Chairman (Mr E Webb) signed them accordingly including one copy for the Main Notice Board.

3.0 Matters Arising

3.1 Bridge Street bridge problem

The Contractors should be on site in the next two weeks to repair the bridge.

3.2 Field pest control

A meeting has been arranged for 20th December in the village hall and police Fire Arms Officer (Mr A Dobson) will be present to outline the use of firearms and answer any questions of concern as to their use. Mr Ken Charles will chair the meeting.

3.3 Planning notification to neighbours

District Councillor Cathcart reported that judgement was often made by the planning officers as to whether planning applications would affect anyone, however, any change to listed buildings would normally be notified to the neighbours as well as other means, such as by notices on telegraph poles, field gates etc.

4.0 Correspondence

Received from Highways Department, a questionnaire regarding their performance.

5.0 Planning

Planning permission granted.

Application No. S/1633/06/F for Mr and Mrs S Gibson, 122 Bridge Street. Permission granted for a Garden Store.

Application No. S/1601/LB for White Cottage, 153 Bridge Street. Permission granted for flexible flue liner in dining room hearth to serve boiler.

Application No. S/1274/06/LB for Mr and Mrs T Walker, 96 Meldreth Road. Permission granted for demolition of single storey bedroom and conservatory, to be replaced by bedroom with en-suite bathroom and sunroom.

Refusal of Consent

Application No. S/1339/06/LB for Mr and Mrs Webb, 42 Bridge Street. Replacement of 12 windows with double glazed timber casements.

Application No. S/1134/06/LB for Mr and Mrs N Shaw, 'The Grange', Bridge St. for alterations to a bressumer beam and renovation of bread oven. An appeal has been made to the Secretary of State.

A Councillor asked if, in connection with the two new houses being constructed on the Pickering Farm site, a scheme for soft and hard landscaping had been submitted to the SCDC for approval in accordance with 'condition 3' of the application. District Councillor Cathcart will investigate.

6.0 Finance

Monies received

£5000.00 grant from SCDC for help toward sewer connection.

£6000.00 payment from Village Hall Management Committee toward sewer connection.

Cheques already paid

Cheque No. 100524 £248.29 to Mr Mike Carter (Village handyman)

Cheque No. 100525 £267.91 to SCDC Building Control Dept.

Cheque No. 100526 £705.00 to Morley Marketing for supply and fit railing on recreation ground.

To be signed tonight

Cheque No.100527 £13,919.40 (inc. VAT £2073.10) BWC Contracts Ltd. for sewer connection.

Cheque No. 100528 £29.46 to Mr E Webb for telephone expenses.

7.0 Parish Paths Partnership Scheme

The Parish Council discussed the scheme and decided that they would ask someone to come to a meeting and give a talk on how the scheme could operate in Whaddon. The Clerk was asked to request an application form and set up a meeting with Mr Steve Tabbitt of Cambridge County Council.

8.0 Highways (Parish Plan)

The Parish Council has received a letter from a resident of Meldreth Road which included a survey of early morning traffic. The survey showed a significant increase in traffic, in particular, articulated lorries which caused disruption to her sleep. It was also evident that most of these vehicles were speeding. She asked if the Parish Council could write to Eternit asking the company to ensure that its vehicles used the Mettle Hill route where possible.

Discussion on the subject of highways then took place with County Councillor Linda Oliver. She agreed that since the Baldock bypass had been opened, much more traffic was using the A1198, but held out little hope that funding could be made available for speed restrictions or other improvements at the 'Whaddon Gap'

Parish Councillors raised the matter of general speeding through the village and County Councillor Oliver stated that it was a case of Whaddon having to wait its turn until its name came to the top of the list of requests for speed reduction. The Village has been on the list since Year 2001. Interactive signs requesting SLOW were suggested to be placed at both ends of the village. A member of the public asked why we could not change the signs ourselves, but due to legalities and local bylaws, this was not possible. PC David Martin would be asked to undertake more speed checks through the village.

9.0 Village Hall

The main comment on the latest plans for the hall, was that the proposed design would be far too large, but the area could be reduced by about 1000 sq. ft.

The sewerage connection to the main sewer in the road is now finished.

The bollards have been installed and the contractor performed this work free of charge.

Additional railing has been installed by Morley Marketing but an additional post will need to be fitted at the end of the railing. It has been suggested that the old gate post at the entrance to the hall could be used when the boundary wall is refurbished.

Mr Clive Hough is to produce a scheme for replacing the flooring in the main hall.

The Clerk is to start the process of formally making an insurance claim for the repairs which are required to the boundary wall.

10.0 Childrens Play Area

A questionnaire will be attached to the next News Letter requesting views from parents and children of their wishes for equipment for the Play Area.

A meeting has been set up to enable the children to attend and give their opinions. Funding for the new equipment is looking hopeful.

11.0 Comments from the Public

A member of the public asked if a chevron direction sign could be installed in Meldreth Road on Chapel Bend. On that corner there have been several minor incidents due to the sharp bend. Councillor Oliver will look into this matter.

12.0 Any Other Business

Councillor Ginger said that he had written to the County Council stating that as Whaddon was one of the few villages without a proper bus service, he had requested that the service to Bassingbourn be re-routed through Whaddon to provide an enhanced facility.

Councillor Oliver informed the meeting that cuts in subsidies were being considered to some of the bus services.

Chairman Webb stated that there had been a comment brought to his notice that perhaps a letter could be sent to Highways requesting a NO RIGHT TURN at the Barn Shop for traffic going north. As the A1198 is now exceptionally busy, traffic turning right creates a hazardous situation.

The Chairman then asked the Clerk to give a report on the current status of the proposed affordable housing for Whaddon. The Clerk had spoken to Tracey Harrison of Bedford Pilgrim Trust and was lead to understand that the Housing Corporation has spare funds for schemes which are already in the 'pipeline'. Acting on this information, the Bedford Pilgrims will buy the land using their Land Bank Fund. The money available is for building work to take place between April 2007 and March 2008

BPHA will have a meeting with Highways department and their architect in the next few weeks. The Chairman asked that when this meeting takes place, the parish Council would like to have a representative present as this would provide some local knowledge.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm

The date of the next meeting was set at 15 th January 2007