

## Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2008 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present:-	Chairman	Mr E Webb
	Vice Chairman	Mrs C Byatt
	Councillors	Mrs M Peyton, Mr P Neale, Mr L Ginger
	District Councillors	Mr N Cathcart, Mr D McCraith (from 9.15 p.m.)
	Parish Clerk	Mrs G van Poortvliet
	Parishioners	3 present

**1.0 Apologies for absence** were received from District Councillor Mr David McCraith who advised that he would be arriving late at the meeting. Councillor Dr Nigel Strudwick has an agreed leave of absence until May 2008.

**2.0 Disclosure of interests** – none declared.

### **3.0 Approval of minutes**

Councillors all agreed that the minutes of the previous meeting were a true record and the Chairman (Mr E Webb) signed them accordingly including one for the Main Notice Board.

### **4.0 Matters arising**

#### **4.1 Parish Paths**

- Councillor Neale reported that the Parish Path Partnership (PPP3) grant forms had been submitted and their receipt acknowledged.
- Councillor Byatt and Chairman Webb had spoken to the owner/manager of the Barn Shop about access to Footpath 1 on Sundays and after 6pm. It had been a condition of the original planning permission that the footpath would be rerouted. The Clerk will look-up the original conditions of the planning permission and write to the Footpaths Department.
- The hedge had been laid around the Whaddon Gap car-park. Help was received from Pete Conningsby, Bill Knight and Martin Byatt.

#### **4.2 Whaddon roads and transport**

Proposed bus service: Councillor Ginger stated that there had been no further news from the County Council. He expressed disappointment that nothing had been done.

Proposed bus lay-by: Councillor Ginger reported that no answer had been received on this either. The clerk was asked to contact County Councillor Oliver to get an update on both these issues.

School-bus drop-off: concern was expressed that a vehicle, frequently parked at the top of Bridge Street, is potentially dangerous for buses trying to turn around. Councillor Byatt undertook to speak to the owner of the vehicle.

Bus Shelter: the Chairman showed the councillors a survey, done by Mr Ron Albery, indicating the positioning of the new bus-shelter and the site of water, telephone and electricity services. The Clerk and the Chairman will forward copies of the drawings to the utility companies.

#### Roads and footways:

- It was noted that there was damage to the road at the top end of Bridge Street outside the bungalows. District Councillor Cathcart agreed to speak with SCDC about this.
- An email had been received from Meldreth Parish Council about the dip in Meldreth Road just outside of the Whaddon boundary. Markings had been made on the road indicating repairs were being undertaken.

Speed Limits: thanks were expressed to District Councillor Cathcart for writing to the Minister of Transport in connection with lowering speed-limits through rural villages.

### **4.3 Design Statement**

Chairman Webb put forward a list of names for consideration and other names were suggested by the Councillors. The Chairman will approach the individuals concerned. David Grech has agreed to address the first group.

## 5.0 New Correspondence

- Details of a Play Space Conference had been received from ACRE.
- Information had been received from the Parish Tree Warden Scheme about proposed training for tree wardens.
- A poster had been received about the Local Countryside Access Forum.
- Information about a workshop for Parish Councillors on Congestion had been received.
- Information and posters about the Cambridgeshire Registered Trader Scheme had been received. The clerk will put up the posters on the notice boards.
- An email expressing thanks for the Donation to the Mary Course Prize Fund had been received from Meldreth Parish Council.

## 6.0 Finance

### Cheques signed (6<sup>th</sup> March 2008)

Cheque No. 100574, for £100.00, to Meldreth Parish Council for the donation to the Mary Course Prize.

### Cheques signed today (17<sup>th</sup> March 2008)

Cheque No. 100575, for £11.00, to Cambridgeshire ACRE for Model Trust Deed document for Village Halls.

Cheque No. 100576, for £25.00, to Cambridgeshire ACRE for membership subscription.

Cheque No. 100577, for £55.00, to Mr E Webb for chairman's expenses.

Cheque No. 100578, for £50.00, to D.M. Charles, for printing Whaddon News.

Cheque No. 100579, for £261.00, to Michael Carter, for village handyman work.

Cheque No. 100580, for £14.08, to Nigel Strudwick, for website costs

Cheque No. 100581, for £862.94, to Mrs G van Poortvliet, for clerks wages and expenses.

Cheque No. 100582, for £455.22, to Mrs Y Albery, for clerks wages and expenses.

### Receipts:

£400 has been received from the Whaddon Village Hall Committee as the agreed contribution to the repair of the Village Hall Wall.

### Other matters:

Invoices had been received from Mr.R.Green for recreation-ground grass-cutting in 2007. Three extra cuts had been agreed and undertaken as well as six hours of strimming. It was decided that options needed to be explored for next year and that the grass also needed to be cut now.

## 7.0 Village Hall

Councillor Ginger provided an update:

- The Village Hall Committee had appointed a new architect – Barry Sharman Associates.
- Councillor Ginger and Chairman Webb had met with Philip Peacock from ACRE who had advised that the best way to attract funding is via a Charitable Trust. Funding is also available for environmentally friendly initiatives.
- The project is likely to be more economical and to attract more funding if it is done in one stage rather than refurbishing the back part of the hall at a later date. Revised plans are awaited from the architect.
- The next quiz night is 3<sup>rd</sup> May and the Village BBQ is 12<sup>th</sup> July.
- Notification had been received from SCDC that the Village Hall is exempt from Council Tax for another year.

## 8.0 Affordable Homes

Chairman Webb provided an update:

- An email had been received from Bedford Pilgrims Housing Association (BPHA) stating that funding had been obtained.

- District Councillor Cathcart had spoken to SCDC planning department who believe that there might be better sites for the project. Concern was expressed that this had not been notified at an earlier stage. BPHA will look into the matter and get back to the Parish Council.

#### **9.0 Night-time Parking on Village Highways**

Following some dangerous recent fog it was noted that the Highway Code requires vehicles parked on a highway at night to display parking or sidelights where the speed limit exceeds 30 mph. Mike Monks of Neighbourhood Watch had spoken to the Police Community Support Officer and had been advised to speak to the local beat policeman. Further developments are awaited.

#### **10.0 Review of Standing Orders**

Potential amendments were discussed. The clerk will seek advice from CALC in connection with revising the expenditure limits on contracts.

#### **11.0 Parish Council Elections**

Nomination Paper Packs and procedures were handed out to all Councillors present. Arrangements were made to distribute a mail-shot to all Whaddon residences.

#### **12.0 Comments from the Public**

A member of the public offered some photos of the hedge-laying at Whaddon Gap for the website. It was also commented that syringes and anti-coagulant had been found in the car-park. The councillors stated that care would need to be taken during the litter-pick on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2008.

A member of the public asked whether the Head of Planning can unilaterally make a decision on the site for the Affordable Housing. District Councillor Cathcart provided details of the safeguards of the Planning Committee and the appeals process.

The former clerk provided the name of an organisation that had cut the recreation ground grass in the past. She also commented that as planning applications are now on-line it is no longer necessary for the PC to keep all the planning information detail. The Clerk agreed to see if sufficient detail about the planning permission for the Barn Shop could be accessed on-line. DC Cathcart undertook to find out what information needs to be kept by the PC and what level of information is held by SCDC.

#### **13.0 Any other Business**

**Councillor Peyton** pointed out that the pipe under Bridge Hill cannot cope with the volume of water which has been coming over the top of the bridge. The Chairman undertook to look into this. Rabbits had also been causing damage to the trees on Byway 22.

**Councillor Byatt** had received a complaint that rubbish was being sneaked into residents' bins in Bridge Street. It was commented that more recycling needed to be encouraged. Mrs Jenny Grech had done the gardening at the fountain. Whaddon might be able to get a Wildlife Enhancement Scheme grant similar to that received by Meldreth.

**District Councillor McCraith** reported that plastic recycling was in the SCDC budget.

**The Clerk** had received a request from Arrington PC to put a link to Whaddon's website on their new website. This was agreed and it was also thought that Whaddon should consider doing a similar thing.

**Chairman Webb** commented that the daffodils planted in the village verges looked really nice. He also asked the councillors to review the progress made on the Parish Plan for the next PC meeting.

**There being no other business the meeting was now closed at 9.30 p.m.**

**The date of the next meeting will be 21<sup>st</sup> April 2008 at 7.30 pm.**