

Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 19th May 2008 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall

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| Present:- | Chairman | Mr E Webb |
| | Vice Chairman | Mrs C Byatt |
| | Councillors | Mrs M Peyton, Mr L Ginger, Mr C Rose |
| | District Councillors | Mr N Cathcart |
| | County Councillor | Mrs L Oliver |
| | Parish Clerk | Mrs G van Poortvliet |
| | Parishioners | 5 present |

1.0 Apologies for absence – received from Councillor Phil Neale and District Councillor David McCraith. Councillor Dr Nigel Strudwick has an agreed leave of absence until late 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 Update on Whaddon Roads and Transport

Roads and footways:

- Some minor work had been patched on Meldreth Road footway. The Clerk read out an email from Highways (dated 2nd May) confirming they were getting costs for resurfacing the footway at Meldreth Road and by the Church.
- The road outside the bungalows at Ridgeway Close had still not been repaired despite the priority status. District Councillor Cathcart will follow up with a letter.
- Four pot-holes had appeared in the verges at the edge of Bridge Street.

Proposed bus service: Councillor Ginger provided an update. Consultation on the proposed new route was underway and was due to end on 31 May. Parishioners had been notified via flyers, posters and the website. There had been feedback that it was disappointing that the Meldreth Road bus-stop would not be utilised. The strategy was to get the bus service running and then tackle this issue. Bassingbourn PC had recognised Whaddon's need for a bus service.

Night-time parking on village highways: The Police Support Officer had spoken to the owner of the illegally-parked vehicle, who had agreed to park within the law and use side-lights at night.

Bus Shelter: the Chairman reported that the shelter had been ordered. The PC would work with the Environmental Health dept. at SCDC to dispose of the asbestos-sheet roofing panels. Councillor Ginger offered to speak to Pete Conningsby to seek assistance with demolishing the old shelter. It was suggested that this be demolished after the end of the summer school-term (22nd July).

5.0 New Correspondence

- Energy Saving Trust – launching 'Village Green' and seeking a community to become most energy efficient in Cambridgeshire.
- Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) – proposed bus timetables for Whaddon and details of consultation arrangements.
- Cambridgeshire Association of Local Councils (CALC) – agenda for EGM re changes to their constitution.
- SCDC – consultation on proposed eco-town near Sawston.
- SCDC – consultation re homelessness strategy for comment by 31st July.
- SCDC – changes to complaints procedure re Code of Conduct.
- South Cambridgeshire Housing Futures Update – requesting response on how best to engage with local communities about the decision to transfer council-housing stock to a housing association.

6.0 Finance

The clerk presented the draft (unaudited) accounts for the year to 31 March 2008, to the Councillors. The Parish Council approved the accounts.

Cheques signed today (19th May 2008)

Cheque No. 100587, £1,107.75, Allianz Cornhill Insurance plc for insurance for year to 31st May 2009.

Money Received

£40 from Mr Ken Green for advertising in the newsletter 2007/8.

Other matters:

The Clerk had advertised the dates that the PC books and records would be available for public inspection (2nd June to 27th June 2008).

CCC had confirmed that the grass-cutting allowance for 2008/9 would be £617.04.

7.0 Village Hall Matters

Councillor Ginger provided an update:

- New plans had been drawn up by the architect. The Village Hall Management Committee were pleased with the initial plans.

7.1 Setting up a Charitable Trust

- It was proposed to set the village hall up as a charitable trust with the PC as holding trustees and a Management Committee as managing trustees. This would open up more avenues for fund-raising. The Majority of Village Halls are set up in this way. The PC resolved to take this proposal to the next stage and to seek professional advice on setting the Village Hall up as a Charitable Trust.

8.0 Dates of Future Parish Council Meetings

It was proposed to change the date of the monthly PC meetings to one that was more convenient to the Councillors. The PC resolved to change the PC meetings to the second Monday of the month.

9.0 Comments from the Public

A member of the public commented that it would make sense for the proposed bus-service to stop at Meldreth Road and then continue past the new housing development where it could pick up more passengers. It is a long walk from Meldreth Road to the Bridge Street bus-stop which might deter potential passengers. The Councillors commented on the added-time implication for this route but agreed to feedback the comments as part of the consultation.

10.0 Any other Business

Councillor Peyton asked if there had been any progress with the access to the footpath from the Barn Shop. CC Linda Oliver agreed to follow this up.

Councillor Byatt reported difficulties in producing the next edition of the newsletter due to illness. DC Cathcart agreed to see if it could be produced by the Bassingbourn newsletter editor.

There is a horse-chestnut tree on Church Street that is dying and also one dead behind the Village Hall. Chairman Webb agreed to seek advice from the tree-officer.

David Grech had agreed to do the drawings of the pipe at Dyers Green.

District Councillor Cathcart provided an update on the status of the SCDC Design Guide..

There being no other business the meeting was now closed at 8.05 p.m.

The date of the next meeting will be published following the Annual General Meeting.