

Minutes of Whaddon Parish Council meeting held on 6th July 2009 at 7.30p.m. in the Village Hall

Present:	Chair	Mrs C Byatt
	Councillors	Mr L Ginger, Mrs M Peyton, Mr P Neale, Mr C Rose, Dr N Strudwick.
	District Councillors	Mr D McCraith, Mr N Cathcart.
	County Councillor	Mrs L Oliver
	Parish Clerk	Mrs G van Poortvliet
	Parishioners	5 present

- 1.0 Apologies for absence** – received from Cllr W Burchett.
- 2.0 Disclosure of Interests** – District Cllr Cathcart declared a shared personal interest in agenda item 10.0 Traveller and Gypsy sites in connection with a proposed site in Bassingbourn.

Chair Byatt stated that, due to her impending house-move, this was likely to be her last Parish Council meeting. Vice-Chair Strudwick thanked Chair Byatt, on behalf of the PC, for all the work she had done. District Cllr Cathcart also paid tribute to Chair Byatt.

- 3.0 Approval of minutes** – Cllrs agreed that the minutes of the last PC meeting were a true record and Chair Byatt signed them accordingly.

4.0 Matters arising from previous meetings:

- 4.1 Whaddon Roads and Transport: Bus-service** – a suitable turning-point for the proposed bus-service was discussed. Cllr Ginger suggested asking the bus-operator to come out and assess this. County Cllr Oliver would try to set up a meeting. **Roads** – County Cllr Oliver would forward to the PC the plan for the proposed turning-circle for school buses/coaches at the top of Bridge Street. She would also seek further information on timeframes. The work would not require the involvement of SCDC planners. Chair Byatt thanked County Cllr Oliver. Highways will look at the cracked footway in Church Street. Cllr Peyton commented that the verges were now encroaching on the footways and the roots could lift the tarmac. This could be treated with weed-killer and Cllr Peyton would see if this could be done by a local farmer with a suitable license for chemical-spraying.
- 4.2 Affordable Homes Update** – the PC had received an advance copy of the Church Corner planning application submitted by Bedford Pilgrims Housing Association (BPHA) to SCDC planners. As yet no notification had been received from SCDC. District Cllr Cathcart reiterated the importance of the PC being involved at the outset with the S106 agreement to ensure that the properties were not later re-designated as saleable. The PC would write to BPHA and SCDC planners. County Cllr Oliver confirmed that no other sites in Whaddon were supported by CCC for Affordable Housing other than Church Corner. The planning application was being circulated among the PC. The Clerk would also write to BPHA about the Design Statement (agenda item 7).
- 4.3 Whaddon Playground Project (WPP) update** – congratulations were offered to the Party in the Barn organisers – the event had raised over £2,500. The Clerk would check with WPP about progress on the car-parking signage, installation of additional bin and inspection check-list. The final payment for the play-equipment had been made.
- 4.4 Parish Paths Partnership (PPP3)** – Cllr Neale confirmed that £400 grant had been received last financial year for painting and installing the new RADAR gate. As this work had been done by volunteers the grant had been carried forward. An additional £350 grant had been received this year for improvements to the woods and permissive bridleways. Cllr Neale proposed to seek agreement from Mr Roger Huffer (the landowner) to do the work on the woods/bridleways and also to potentially spend some of the grant carried forward for the same purpose. The PC agreed to spend some of the brought-forward grant on the woods/bridleways subject to approval by CCC. Cllr Neale would meet with Mr

Andrew Stimson from CCC tomorrow night to discuss this and seek approval. A village working-day was suggested for the Autumn, to do some of the preliminary clearing and tidying in the woods. Cllr Neale would agree a date with Mr Huffer. Cllr Neale asked for any other ideas for spending the grant to be submitted to him. The RADAR gate will be installed sometime after the Church fete.

- 4.5 Village Maintenance** – at the previous PC meeting, Cllr Burchett had offered to quote for some ad-hoc maintenance work. Advice had been sought and it was believed that this would constitute a conflict of interest. Consequently Cllr Burchett would not be asked to do this work. SCDC Refuse department had replied to the PC's letter in connection with the Village Hall black-bin. They would not collect the bin from beside the VH unless the PC wished to pay business-rates. The PC would need to continue to organise volunteers, or pay for a handyman, to move the bin to the roadside for collection. District Cllr Cathcart had been unable to progress this further either. A job-description was needed for the village handyman and it would be necessary to consider whether the handyman should be a VH responsibility rather than a PC one.
- 4.6 Mediaeval Document** – the PC had now been invoiced for one third of the cost of the document. Cllr Strudwick was keen to make sure the document was accessible to the villagers and would discuss this again with CCC archivists. The Clerk would chase-up Bassingbourn PC to ascertain if they would also like access to this document.

5.0 New Correspondence

- SCDC – details of meeting re Gypsy and Travellers Development Plan Document issues and options 19/06/09.
- SCDC – invitation to low carbon living event 23/06/09.
- SCDC – invitation and agenda for Standards Committee meeting 17/06/09.
- SCDC – letter from Health and Environment Services in connection with Village Hall black-bin collection (see 4.5 above).
- CPALC – National Association of Local Councils, Chief Executives report.
- Webb family – card thanking the PC for the bench dedication and service.
- Bassingbourn resident – request for copies of the last three years accounts.
- SCDC – invitation to special planning parish forum meeting to discuss Gypsy and Traveller Development Plan Document 30/07/09.
- SCDC – results of SCDC Housing Transfer ballot.

6.0 Finance

Cheques to be signed today (6th July 2009):

Cheque No. 100647, for £195.00 to Limbach Banham for Land Registry fees re voluntary registration of land (Village Hall).

Cheque No. 100648, for £80.00 to DM Charles for village newsletter.

Cheque No. 100649, for £108.33 to Cambridgeshire County Council for contribution to ancient document.

Cheque No. 100650, for £350.00 to CALC-CTP for CiLCA training course.

The costs of printing the village newsletter had increased to £80 per issue.

The bench donated by Ted Webb's family had been included on the PC's insurance.

- 7.0 Design Statement (DS)** – Mr David Grech, DS working group, was invited to address the meeting. A draft copy of the DS had already been circulated to cllrs. Comments were invited so that any required changes could happen prior to public consultation. The intention is for a black-and-white version of the DS to be distributed to the Village with the September Newsletter. Comments from the public would be invited and discussed at a later meeting. The draft DS was discussed and some initial suggestions made. Cllr Neale offered to collate comments from the PC. Chair Byatt thanked the DS team and asked them to get some estimates for the printing costs.
- 8.0 Village Hall Update** – Cllr Strudwick provided an update. There had been no VH Management Committee meeting since the last PC meeting. The date for the Village BBQ is 5th September.

There had been no change in lettings. The damaged floor in the corner continued to be observed. The next VH Committee meeting will be on 27th July.

8.1 Decision on leasing VH to a Charitable Trust (CT) – it had been established that leasing the VH to a CT would afford the best access to funding-sources and also allow the PC to retain the VH title deeds. At the last PC meeting a number of issues had still needed to be resolved but these had now been progressed:

- What should go into the lease – it seemed practical for the VH, playground and recreation ground to all be put into the CT and managed together. WPP had confirmed their support.
- Length of the lease – ACRE had suggested that a lease of 99 years showed commitment and would be viewed favourably by funding organisations. Whilst it would involve the PC in a lengthy commitment, there would be get-out clauses in the lease.
- Amount of rent – the rent charged to the CT should be one peppercorn due to administrative costs of collecting a rent of £1.

The PC would be able to make grants to the CT. A Deed of Dedication had been recommended by ACRE and was being investigated by the solicitors. The PC resolved unanimously that the VH, recreation ground and playground be leased to the CT for 99 years for a rent of one peppercorn. The establishment of the CT would be progressed throughout the summer.

9.0 Update on Parish Plan (PP) – Cllrs Strudwick, Peyton, Ginger and the Clerk met with Jo Fitzpatrick from ACRE, on 17th June, to discuss progress on the PP. Jo Fitzpatrick had appeared quite impressed at the amount that had been achieved. She suggested that a new PP be done every five years – Whaddon would need to begin a questionnaire/survey in 2010. ACRE had since indicated that they might be able to provide assistance on the Bridge Street pipe issue and had asked for information on what had been done to date. A discussion was held and it was established that the PC had not been able to find out who was responsible for the pipe. The Clerk would investigate further.

10.0 Traveller and Gypsy Sites – under SCDC proposals, two additional pitches could be added to the Old North Road site, Whaddon and five new pitches in Spring Lane, Bassingbourn. The consultation process is due to finish on 9th October. A discussion was held. It was felt that the PC should seek the opinion of Old North Road residents – Cllr Peyton would find out if there was a warden on site. The PC was of the opinion that the site in Bassingbourn was in the wrong place and should be opposed. An offer of support was given to Bassingbourn PC. The District Cllrs stated that Bassingbourn PC was due to agree its position on this at their PC meeting tomorrow evening – there was already strong opposition within Bassingbourn village. It was commented that SCDC should address the illegal traveller site at Metal Hill. District Cllr Cathcart was likely to attend the SCDC special forum meeting on 30th July (see New Correspondence).

11.0 Comments from the Public – a member of the public expressed strong opposition to expanding the number of travellers and gypsy sites in the area. Historically such sites had been wrecked and there were already too many sites in the vicinity.

A member of the public reported that, seemingly, when a local Bassingbourn farmer irrigated, the stream in Bridge Street dried up. The stream was generally very low and this year there had been no frogs spawning in it. Cllrs commented that the Environment Agency (EA) had said they would enforce the closure of drains dug by the farmer. Additionally, there had been very little rain so the water-table was low. Riparian owners were supposed to clear their sections of the stream which would help improve flow. Cllr Peyton would speak to the EA.

A member of the public asked if there had been any progress lowering speed-limits in Whaddon. Cllrs explained what had been done and the effect that Speedwatch was having. Speedwatch would make some checks in Bridge Street.

12.0 Any Other Business

Cllr Neale reported that people had been swimming in the reservoir which was very dangerous. The District Cllrs said that this should come up at the Bassingbourn PC meeting.

Cllr Peyton commented on the need to advertise for a new councillor. The Clerk would progress this. **District Cllr McCraith** advised that there were no contact details for the District or County Cllrs in the Whaddon newsletter. Chair Byatt would look into this.

Chair Byatt advised that the Church Fete would take place on 18th July and would be opened by the Bishop of Huntingdon. The Cantus Singers of Cambridge would perform on 25th July. The Church had applied to English Heritage for a grant towards the cost of the major works required to the church tower. District Cllr Cathcart suggested an application also be made to SCDC. An email had been sent to Jenny Grech re the offer of help with the fountain garden – this would be followed up. A volunteer was needed to help with the newsletter. Chair Byatt thanked everyone for working with her on the PC and paid tribute to the work started by Ted Webb.

13.0 Date of the next meeting - Monday 14th September 2009 at 7.30 pm.

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 9.35 p.m.