

## Minutes of Whaddon Parish Council meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2009 at 7.30p.m. in the Village Hall

Present: Chair Mrs C Byatt  
 Councillors Mr W Burchett, Mr L Ginger, Mrs M Peyton, Mr C Rose,  
 Dr N Strudwick.  
 District Councillors Mr D McCraith, Mr N Cathcart.  
 Parish Clerk Mrs G van Poortvliet  
 Parishioners 3 present

- 1.0 **Apologies for absence** – received from Cllr P Neale and County Cllr L Oliver.
- 2.0 **Disclosure of Interests** – Cllr Burchett is a member of Whaddon Playground Project (agenda item 4.3).
- 3.0 **Approval of minutes:** it was agreed to make the following amendments:
  - 3.1 **last Parish Council Meeting:** the start time of the meeting was changed to 7.00pm.
  - 3.2 **2009 AGM:** it was agreed to correct the spelling of ‘Coningsby’.  
 Cllrs now agreed that the minutes of the last Parish Council meeting and AGM were a true record and Chair Byatt signed them accordingly.
- 4.0 **Matters arising from previous meetings:**
  - 4.1 **Whaddon Roads and Transport: Roads** – Cllr Ginger would search out plans for the proposed turning-point for school buses/coaches at the top of Bridge Street. Nearby residents would need to be informed about the changes and advised of construction-work. The District Cllrs thought it likely that CCC would need to consult SCDC planners about the scheme. Cllr Ginger had met Eternit’s works manager on 28<sup>th</sup> May to discuss villagers’ concerns about lorries coming through Whaddon. Due to the economic downturn the number of lorry movements at Eternit had greatly reduced. It was therefore unlikely that any increase in lorries was due to Eternit. However, if registration numbers and times/dates were reported to Eternit they would investigate and request that contractors use the Mettle Hill route (although this could not legally be enforced). It was also noted that half of the Eternit site was for sale. Cllr Ginger would email the resident who had commented to the PC about the lorries. Chair Byatt thanked Cllr Ginger. **Bus-service** – there was no further update. **A1198 verges** – the verges at the Whaddon Gap junction had now been re-cut, improving visibility when exiting.
  - 4.2 **Affordable Homes Update** – a letter had been sent to Bedford Pilgrims Housing Association (BPHA) and their planning consultants, supporting the Church Corner planning application in principle. BPHA and the planning consultants had thanked the PC. It had not been possible to establish for certain who the owner of Pickering Farm was - Cllr Peyton would investigate further. However, BPHA had commented that, due to the commercial-use status of Pickering Farm, the site was very unlikely to be affordable for low-cost housing. The first draft of the Design Statement will be presented to the PC at the July meeting. When available this should be passed to BPHA’s planning consultants. District Cllr Cathcart confirmed that SCDC planners had received an informal approach from BPHA about Church Corner and were considering their response. The planners’ objections still stood but they were entering into discussions with BPHA. It would be necessary to demonstrate that no other sites were realistically available. District Cllr Cathcart also advised the PC of the need to be involved with the negotiation of the S106 agreement to ensure that the housing scheme remained affordable in the future (some S106 agreements contained clauses allowing housing to be re-designated from rental to shared-ownership status).
  - 4.3 **Whaddon Playground Project (WPP) update** – Mr Neil Gallery, co-ordinator WPP, provided a financial statement and asked for the final payment (£33,656.81) to be made to Fenland Leisure Products (see 6.0 Finance). This would include a (reclaimable)

contribution from PC funds of £6,641.95 towards VAT. ROSPA had been chased-up in order to complete the maintenance schedule. FLP had been asked to check the top of the Bird's Nest swing. MD Landscapes would now be strimming the mound and cutting between the matting. Mr Jim Docwra had volunteered to mow under the trim-trail and zip-wire – the PC had offered to pay fuel expenses. Thanks were expressed to Mr Docwra. The bin on the recreation ground had now been emptied and WPP would buy an additional bin. The Clerk had written to SCDC Refuse asking them to empty the village hall (VH) black-bins, even when they had not been wheeled onto the main road. District Cllr Cathcart offered to follow this up and would also request a larger bin for the VH. The bollard at the entrance to the recreation ground was still down and seemed to be helping to alleviate playground-parking. It was suggested that the bollard be left down for another month and reviewed again. Parking signage was discussed – Mr Gallery would investigate wording. WPP's fundraiser, Party in the Barn, would take place on 26<sup>th</sup> June.

**4.4 Bench dedicated to Ted Webb** – the dedication service had taken place on 30<sup>th</sup> May and had been very well attended. The Clerk would check that the bench had been added to the PC insurance. Planting a tree near the bench was suggested.

**4.5 Replacement trees on recreation ground** – the contractor who mows the verges had purchased four replacement tree-gator bags as requested. Although more than four bags had been damaged, the four most badly affected would be replaced. It was agreed to begin watering the trees every ten days.

## 5.0 New Correspondence

- Rural Services Network – invitation to sustainable rural communities seminar 26/06/09.
- SCDC – Equalities Policy 2009-2012.
- CCC – notification of £350 Parish Paths Partnership (PPP3) grant awarded for 2009/10. The grant will be put towards work required on improving the paths through the wooded area. It was also suggested that the grant money brought forward from last year (c£400) should also be spent on this project. It would be necessary to involve Cllr Neale and Mr Roger Huffer. Mr Pete Morley had etched and spray-painted the RADAR gate which would go between the church-yard and the recreation ground. This would be installed soon. The Clerk was asked to write in thanks to Mr Morley.
- SCDC – monthly PC update on planning consultations June 2009.
- CPALC – invitation to 'My Community' training.
- CCC – notes from PPP3 event 25/04/09.
- CPALC – best practice guides (local staff handbook & remuneration & contract arrangements for Parish and Town Clerks).
- SCDC – Standards Board England request for comments about the 2008 regulations (deadline 08/06/09).
- Limbach Banham Solicitors – summary of terms of ACRE model B lease for Village Hall.
- Cambridgeshire ACRE – service user survey. Deadline 26/06/09.

## 6.0 Finance

Cheques already signed (29/05/09):

Cheque No. 100641, for £2,143.22 to Allianz Insurance plc for insurance premium 2009/10.

Cheque No. 100642, for £253.00 to MD Landscapes for grass-cutting April 2009.

Cheques to be signed today:

Cheque No.100643, for £693.39 to Mrs G van Poortvliet for clerks wages and expenses 01/04/09 to 08/06/09.

Cheque No. 100644, for £253.00 to MD Landscapes for grass-cutting May 2009.

Cheque No. 100645, for £33,656.81 to Fenland Leisure Products for final balance due re play equipment.

Cheque No. 100646, for £26.60 to Mrs C Byatt for Chair's expenses – seat dedication

Receipts:

20/05/09 £647.89 Grass-cutting allowance: verges

01/06/09 £14,800.00 Whaddon Playground Project (tfr of £15,000 grant from SCDC less £200 opening ceremony grant already received)

02/06/09 £350.00 CCC PPP3 grant 2009/10.

The 2009 Annual Return had been submitted to the external auditors.

**7.0 Decision on Contribution to Mediaeval Document** – CCC Archives had been offered a rare document, dating from 1438, dealing with land transfers in Whaddon, Meldreth and Kneesworth. The purchase price for this document was £325 and CCC had asked the PC for a contribution. The document would be stored and looked after by CCC Archives. Meldreth and Bassingbourn PC's had each agreed to contribute one third of the cost. Cllr Strudwick made a case for the PC contributing towards the document and circulated an image of it. A discussion followed. Two proposals were made:

1) Whaddon PC contribute one third of the cost of the document

2) Whaddon PC co-ordinate private fundraising to contribute to the cost of the document

It was resolved that Whaddon PC contribute one third of the cost of purchasing the document. The Clerk would seek advice about ownership of the document.

**8.0 Village Hall Update** – Cllr Strudwick provided an update. There had been no Village Hall Management Committee meeting since the last PC meeting. On 15<sup>th</sup> May Chair Byatt, Cllr Strudwick and the Clerk had met with Limbach Banham solicitors (LB) to further discuss putting the VH into a charitable trust. This meeting had resolved a number of queries and confirmed that leasing the VH to a charitable body was the best option, allowing the PC to retain the VH title deeds. A summary of the model lease agreement had been received from LB today and was being reviewed. A number of issues still needed to be resolved before progressing the matter further:

- Length of the lease – some investigation was required into the minimum length of lease required by the funding organisations.
- What should go into the lease – it would be necessary to decide whether to include the playground and recreation ground as well as the VH itself. Administratively it might be easier to have one body looking after all these assets. WPP would be consulted.
- Identifying potential Management Trustees – half of these should ideally be from VH user-groups.

**9.0 Village Maintenance** – a number of ad-hoc maintenance projects had been identified e.g. refurbishing the phone-box and the benches next to the VH and installing some new litter-bins. The village no longer had the services of a handyman and it would be necessary to look for a replacement. Various options were discussed. Cllr Burchett confirmed that he would perform safety checks on the play equipment and empty the bins on the recreation ground. He also volunteered to install the two new bins. Cllr Burchett would quote for the other ad-hoc work. The Clerk would check this for potential conflict of interest. The Clerk would also seek advice from local PC's to see how they dealt with maintenance issues. Cllr Strudwick offered to help draw up a job description for a new handyman.

**10.0 Councillor and Clerk Training** – the Clerk had started the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA) training. A schedule of CPALC training courses was circulated. It is a requirement for Quality Council status that councillors undertake training.

**11.0 Comments from the Public** – a member of the public asked if anyone was responsible for maintaining the area around the fountain and volunteered to help. Chair Byatt would mention this to Mrs Jenny Grech. A member of the public requested permission for some residents to hold a cricket game in August. Mrs Wendy Paton (Village Hall bookings) should be contacted to organise this. A member of the public reported horse-muck on the footways. Chair Byatt would speak to the riders concerned. A member of the public asked if the PC was responsible for the trees opposite his house in Bridge Street – they were blocking the light during the summer. The

PC would bear this in mind. A member of the public suggested that the handyman vacancy be advertised in local publications e.g. Meldreth Matters.

#### **12.0 Any Other Business**

**Cllr Peyton** provided a Speedwatch update. To date 1933 cars had been recorded and 15% were exceeding 43mph. Speedwatch is helping to reduce speed through the village. The police have also been to monitor speed in Whaddon. The main location for speeding is Meldreth Road (coming into Whaddon). There is very little recorded speeding in Church Street although the road-noise increased the perception of speeding. The next Neighbourhood Watch Melbourn Panel meeting would take place on 21<sup>st</sup> July – Cllrs Peyton and Strudwick would be attending.

**Cllr Rose** advised that he had received complaints from residents about the noise caused by (the perceived speeding) of motorbikes travelling to and from the recent motorbike rally. The PC was doing as much as was legally possible to tackle speeding.

**Cllr Strudwick** advised that there were now seven residents trained to use Speedwatch equipment. The team needed to produce a plan to systematically cover the village.

**District Cllr McCraith** advised that the Housing Futures vote had taken place last Thursday. 75% of tenants had voted against the transfer of SCDC's housing stock to a housing association.

**Cllr Rose** reported that the Church Street footway, by Town Farm Close, was cracking. The Clerk would report this to Highways.

**Chair Byatt** reported that a resident had requested that the bank where the new trees had been planted should not be strimmed due to nature/environmental consideration. The PC would consider this when the grass-cutting contract was renewed at the end of the season.

#### **13.0 Date of the next meeting - Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2009 at 7.30 pm.**

**There being no other business the meeting was closed at 9.40 p.m.**