

Minutes of Whaddon Parish Council meeting held on 9th February 2009 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present:-	Chair	Mrs C Byatt
	Councillors	Mr W Burchett, Mr L Ginger, Mr P Neale (from 7.45pm), Mrs M Peyton, Mr C Rose
	District Councillors	Mr N Cathcart, Mr D McCraith
	Parish Clerk	Mrs G van Poortvliet
	Parishioners	3 present

- 1.0 Apologies for absence** – received from Cllr Strudwick and County Cllr Oliver. Cllr Neale also gave apologies that he would be arriving late.
- 2.0 Disclosure of Interests** – Cllr Burchett is a member of the Playground Project (agenda item 5.0).
- 3.0 Approval of previous minutes** - councillors agreed that the minutes of the previous meeting were a true record and Chair Byatt signed them accordingly.
- 4.0 Matters arising from previous meetings:**
- 4.1 Parish Paths/PPP3** – this item was postponed until the arrival of Cllr Neale.
- 4.2 Whaddon Roads and Transport:**
Roads – work had been completed on the Church Street street-name signs and the damaged sign in Meldreth Road had been replaced. Bus-shelter – the bus-shelter had been lowered to the correct height. Bus-service – Cllr Ginger provided an update. At the Meldreth PC meeting on 5th February, Whaddon PC had made a case for a financial contribution from Meldreth if the proposed bus-route was extended via Mettle Hill. Over 100 more people could benefit if the proposed additional development of the affordable homes site goes ahead. Meldreth PC would assess demand. Cllr Ginger wanted Whaddon to move forward anyway and undertook to update County Cllr Oliver.
- 4.3 Diseased Trees on Recreation Ground** – the root boles had now been removed. Cllr Peyton will contact the SCDC tree officer to find out when the new trees will be planted.
- 4.4 Design Statement** – this item was postponed until the arrival of Cllr Neale.
- 4.5 Affordable Housing update** – there was no update to report from Bedford Pilgrims Housing Association but further information is anticipated for the next PC meeting.
- 5.0 Whaddon Playground Project** – this item was postponed until the arrival of Mr Neil Gallery.
- 6.0 Update from the Parish Forum Meeting (PFM)** – Chair Byatt provided an update from the first PFM on 19th January, covering ecology, trees and planning. There had been some developments in the planning process particularly regarding the role of the Chairman’s Delegation Meeting (ChDM) which would now consider all applications for ‘minor’ developments, even when the views of the planning officer conflicted with those of the PC. The PC is not represented on the ChDM although the local District Cllr can voluntarily attend. The District Cllr can also make a written request, within 28 days of receipt of a planning application, for it to go before a full Planning Committee. PCs and District Cllrs needed to work together on this. Objections had been raised at the PFM about the lack of PC representation on the ChDM.

It was agreed to return to agenda items 4.1 and 4.4.

- 4.1 Parish Paths/PPP3** – Cllr Neale provided an update. The last footpath signs had been renovated. £330 from the 2008/9 PPP3 grant will be used for painting/installation of the new RADAR gate with £90 carried over. The 2009/10 PPP3 application will be for £550 to clear and tidy-up the Pickering Woods area and to install a gate/posts at the entrance to the footpath from the A1198. Mr. Roger Huffer is pleased to work in partnership with the PC on this. The PPP3 grant forms were signed by the Chair who thanked Cllr Neale for his work.

4.4 Design Statement (DS) – the first meeting of the DS Committee had been held and a schedule of work produced. It was hoped to have the first draft of the DS by June 2009. The next meeting will be in April. Chair Byatt will email David Grech regarding the project budget (£200).

7.0 Update from Speedwatch Meeting – the meeting on 20th January had been attended by Cllr Strudwick. The scheme is applicable to 40 mph speed limits and volunteers can monitor their own villages or other villages. Some PC members had volunteered to be trained. Neighbourhood Watch (NW) had been asked to seek further volunteers.

8.0 New Correspondence

- SCDC – information about Innovation Vouchers Scheme.
- Department of Transport – Consultation on Road Safety Compliance. Deadline 27/02/09.
- Bassingbourn/Melbourn NW Panel Meeting (20/01/09) – agenda and invitation.
- Cambs.and Peterborough Association of Local Councils – draft AGM minutes 2008.
- Rural Services Network – introduction to the Community Group.
- SCDC Housing Futures – copies of letters sent to tenants & invitations to drop-in sessions re proposed transfer of SCDC housing stock to South Cambridgeshire Village Homes.
- SCDC Parish Council update Feb 2009 – details of public planning consultations.
- SCDC – Safety Camera Survey. Deadline 17/02/09.
- CCC – notification that grass-cutting grant for 2009 will be £647.89 (5% increase).
- SCDC – application form for Community Chest (small grant scheme)
- CCC – details of new sites proposed for mineral and waste development

9.0 Planning

S/2150/08/F 36 Bridge Street, Whaddon, Mr A Townsend, for an extension. The PC had recommended approval.

S/0062/09/F 55 Meldreth Road, Whaddon, Dr D Vickers, for erection of outbuilding for garage/storage. This planning application was discussed and the PC recommended refusal on the following grounds: Location (i) the proposed structure sits outside the Village Framework; (ii) its proximity to a bend in the road could potentially be dangerous when entering or exiting by vehicle; (iii) it is sited on a flood plain. Impact on Surroundings (i) the proposed structure is well forward of the house and on a bend in the road, increasing its prominence; (ii) the existing hedge is not very tall and could not provide adequate screening for the size of the building. The PC had no objection to the appearance of the building, just to its location within the plot. The District Cllrs were asked to support refusal at a ChDM or to request that the application go before a planning committee if the planning officer recommends approval.

It was also decided to convene planning committee meetings at 2pm on the second and fourth Mondays of the month should there be any planning applications to discuss.

It was agreed to return to agenda item 5.0 and Mr Neil Gallery was invited to address the meeting.

5.0 Whaddon Playground Project (WPP) – Mr Neil Gallery, Co-ordinator WPP, provided an update. Pathfinder had awarded WPP a £40,000 grant and had been particularly impressed by their consultation with local children and the range of play-equipment. Pathfinder had asked for further landscaping/planting and for a small sign detailing funding-source. The equipment had to be installed by the end of March 2009. A deposit of £6,967.71 was needed for the equipment. A cheque for £6,500 was handed to the PC from WPP – the grant will be paid directly to the PC. Mr Gallery also asked for the £3,000 funding promised by the PC. A further £15,000 grant had been awarded by SCDC and could be drawn down once the installation work started. Mr Gallery circulated a schedule of works. The location of the youth shelter is still to be decided. WPP funds can cover the equipment insurance premiums for the next few years. The PC congratulated WPP on an excellent job. An opening ceremony and picnic is planned for early April.

10.0 Finance

Cheques already signed (14th January 2009)

Cheque no. 100616 for £35.00 to Cambridgeshire ACRE for subscription (this replaces cheque no 100614, for £25.00).

Cheques approved today (9th February 2009)

Cheque No. 100617, for £736.00 to R.G. Oliver & Son for verge cutting.

Cheque No. 100618, for £1007.43 to Mrs G van Poortvliet, for Clerks wages and expenses.

Cheque No. 100619, for £90.52 to Cambridgeshire County Council for street lighting.

Cheque No. 100620, for £1,138.50 to Sharman Knowles Partnership, for VH architects fees.

Cheque No. 100621, for £6,976.71 to Fenland Leisure Products, for deposit on playground equipt.

Receipt

£6,500 from Whaddon Playground Project – transfer of funding to PC

10.1 2009/10 Precept – at a special meeting held on Monday 26th January 2009, the PC had agreed the precept for 2009/10 at £15,950 (3% increase). Calculations were circulated.

- 11.0 Clerks Pay and Quality Status** – the Chair had carried out a staff-appraisal with the Clerk. It was agreed to move the Clerk up from NALC spinal column 16 to 17 with effect from 1st January. The purpose of Quality Status is to give the village a better PC. The process for obtaining Quality Status and the different routes for the Clerk's training and qualification were also discussed.
- 12.0 Village Hall Matters** - Cllr Strudwick provided a report from the (unapproved) minutes of the VH Committee meeting on 27th January. The PAT testing on the VH equipment had been completed. The VH had approximately £7,200 in the current account and £12,500 on deposit. Numbers of bookings were not high. It was not the handyman's responsibility to empty the bins but it was suggested that this be considered. A new cleaner was still required. Some old VH minutes had been handed to the Ralls for archiving. The date for the BBQ is 5th September. Cllr Ginger confirmed a mechanical and electrical engineer had been appointed. Cllr Strudwick, Cllr Ginger and the Clerk will seek advice from a solicitor re establishing the VH as a charitable trust.
- 13.0 Comments from the Public** – a member of the public commented on dog-fouling on the footpaths around Town Farm Close. This is difficult to police. Cllr Peyton had reported some loose dogs to the police. There is no dog warden for South Cambridgeshire. A member of the public expressed concern that the PC does not have sufficient weight at the ChDM (planning process).
- 14.0 Any Other Business**
- Cllr Ginger** asked the Clerk to remind Highways to resurface the footway in Meldreth Road.
- Cllr Peyton** reported that Operation Anglia had been a success and the police had stopped people on the A1198 and the Mettle Hill junction for various motoring infringements. They will continue to carry out checks in this area. NW Panel meeting - the police had committed to concentrating more on shed/outbuilding burglaries.
- District Cllr McCraith** reported that SCDC had passed the document to be sent to tenants for Housing Futures (the transfer of SCDC Housing Stock to a housing association)
- District Cllr Cathcart** remained opposed to the above transfer of housing stock and wanted this postponed due to the economic climate (some housing associations had gone into liquidation).
- Cllr Neale** commented that the postal deliveries remained inadequate. The Clerk had written to Royston Sorting Office.
- Chair Byatt** reported that the police planned to send representatives to PC meetings. Cllrs were reminded to advise the Clerk of any upcoming holidays.
- The Clerk** – the new PCSO for Melbourn, Shaun White, had contacted the Clerk to ask if there were any issues in Whaddon.

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

The date of the next meeting will be Monday 9th March 2009 at 7.30 p.m.