

Minutes of Whaddon Parish Council meeting held on 11th May 2009 at 7.00p.m. in the Village Hall

Present: Chair Mrs C Byatt
 Councillors Mr W Burchett (from 7.25 pm), Mr L Ginger, Mrs M Peyton.
 Parish Clerk Mrs G van Poortvliet
 Parishioners 1 present

1.0 Apologies for absence – received from Cllr P Neale, Cllr N Strudwick, Cllr C Rose, District Cllr D McCraith and District Cllr N Cathcart. Notice of late arrival from County Cllr L Oliver.

2.0 Disclosure of Interests - none.

3.0 Approval of previous minutes – this item was postponed until the arrival of Cllr Burchett.

4.0 Matters arising from previous meetings:

4.1 Whaddon Roads and Transport: Roads – funding had been obtained for a turning-point for school buses/coaches at the top of Bridge Street. The existing road layout will need to be changed and there will be a visual impact. Cllr Ginger will meet Eternit's factory manager on 28th May to discuss villagers' concerns about lorries coming through Whaddon. **Bus-service** – as Meldreth PC had received only one request for the proposed bus-service a financial contribution looked unlikely. Cllrs wanted to revisit the original proposal for a service into the centre of Whaddon only. The arrival of County Cllr Oliver was awaited to discuss this further (see AGM minutes). **Salt-bin** – the damaged bin on Church Street had been removed. **Bus-shelter** – a new 'no smoking' sign had been put-up. Cigarette-ends were still being discarded behind the shelter.

4.2 Affordable Homes Update – Bedford Pilgrims Housing Association (BPHA) had advised that, in light of some comments made at the last PC meeting, they would be making the following adjustments to the Church Corner plans:

- Opening up the view a little through the development to allow wider views of the countryside behind.
- Realigning certain plots to maintain the view of the gable end of Rose Cottage from Harcamlow Way.
- Limiting the pallet of materials.

The Planning Consultants had asked the PC for a letter supporting the Church Corner planning application. Chair Byatt provided some background information as to alternative sites that had been investigated in Whaddon and the reasons why they were ultimately unsuitable. None of these alternatives were available for sale for affordable housing although the owner of Pickering Farm had not responded to contact-attempts. It was suggested that Mr Cooper might not be the ultimate owner of Pickering Farm – the Clerk would inform BPHA. The Church Commissioners had advised that there was no church-owned land in Whaddon. The PC resolved to write in support of the Church Corner Planning Application in principle.

5.0 Whaddon Playground Project (WPP) update – the playground had officially opened on 25th April. Chair Byatt thanked Mr Neil Gallery and Cllr Burchett for a very successful opening event. SCDC had confirmed that they would release the outstanding grant money to WPP. On receipt, the PC would pay the balance due to the play-equipment supplier. The ROSPA report had been completed and WPP would put together a maintenance schedule for the play-equipment. WPP would cut the grass under the trim-trail and zip-wire for the first six months – after this the gang mowers could be used in these areas. It had not been possible to empty the bin on the playground. The Clerk was asked to write to SCDC Refuse Department to ask why the black bins next to the Village Hall were not emptied unless they were put out onto the road.

It was agreed to return to item 3.0

3.0 Signing of minutes from the last meeting – councillors agreed that the minutes of the previous meeting were a true record and Chair Byatt signed them accordingly

6.0 New Correspondence

- East of England Regional Assembly – Regional Spatial Strategy review. Deadline for comments 23/04/09.
- Invitation to Bassingbourn & Melbourn Neighbourhood Watch Panel meeting on 20/04/09.
- Cambridge and Peterborough Association of Local Councils (CPALC) – details of Outreach Training for Parish Councils.
- SCDC – monthly PC update on planning consultations.
- CPALC – training schedule 2009/10.
- Equality and Human Rights Commission- Public Sector Duties with regard to Equality Bill.
- Information Commissioners Office – Freedom of Information Act DVD.
- CCC – request for notice of any street closures for the ‘Big Lunch’ initiative.

7.0 Finance

7.1 Signing of Cheques - the following were approved and signed:

Cheque No. 100633, for £1,207.50 to Mr L Parcuttt for quantity surveying services, Village Hall.

Cheque No. 100634, for £785.45 to Britannic Garden Furniture Ltd for bench seat.

Cheque No. 100635, for £1,150.00 to Scott Wilson for M&E consultancy services, Village Hall.

Cheque No. 100636, for £11.00 to Cambridgeshire ACRE for Model B Trust Deed, Village Hall.

Cheque No. 100637, for £62.88 to David Chappell for expenses for village sign renovation

Cheque No. 100638, for £454.25 to Playsafety Ltd for play area inspection

Cheque No. 100639, for £60.00 to Peter Chilvers for internal audit services

Cheque No, 100640, for £127.16 to CPALC for affiliation fee 2009/10

Receipts:

07/04/09 £5,000.00 CCC Play Pathfinder Grant

16/04/09 £200.00 CCC Play Pathfinder Grant – launch event

16/04/09 £7,975.00 SCDC Precept 2009/10 - first instalment

7.2 Approval of Draft Accounts/Annual Return – the Clerk circulated the draft Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31st March 2009. The PC approved these documents and Chair Byatt signed them. The internal audit had been successfully completed and the relevant section of the Annual Return had been signed.

8.0 Bench to be dedicated to Ted Webb – the bench donated by Mr Webb’s family has arrived and the dedication is scheduled for 30th May. Villagers are invited to meet for coffee at the Village Hall at 11 am and then proceed to the bench. The PC approved expenses for the dedication event.

9.0 Village Hall update - Chair Byatt provided an update from the VH Management Committee meeting of 6th April 2009. The leaking man-hole cover outside the VH had been repaired. The number of bookings had not improved. The draft accounts for the year to 31st March 2009 showed an increase in funds of just over £2,000. The Committee were in favour of putting the hall into a charitable trust in order to raise funds for the refurbishment and extension. A meeting with the solicitor had been arranged for 15th May.

10.0 Grass-cutting: verges – A1198: the CCC contractors who had cut the verges on the A1198 had not cut a sufficient swathe at the Whaddon Gap junction. Consequently visibility was hindered when exiting from Whaddon. Also, these contractors had failed to drive reasonably through the village. This would be referred to County Cllr Oliver on her arrival (see AGM minutes). Village: four of the tree-gator bags on the recreation ground had been damaged when the verges had been cut. SCDC had advised that the bags could not be repaired and would need replacing at a cost of £29.96 each. The Clerk would ask the contractor to purchase four replacement bags. It was agreed

that the PC would liaise with the contractor and remove the bags prior to any future verge cuts. It was noted that, as many villagers cut their own verges, the verge-cutting contract might not be good value-for-money. It was agreed to review this at the end of the season when the contract came up for renewal.

11.0 Comments from the Public – a member of the public commented that users of the playground were causing a potential hazard by parking on the road. The PC agreed to unlock the bollards, allowing vehicles to park on the grass as a short-term solution.

12.0 Any Other Business

Cllr Ginger asked the Clerk to remind Highways Agency that the footway on the east-side of Meldreth Road was now in a really bad state of repair.

Chair Byatt advised that a new football team, Whaddon Athletic, would be using the recreation ground. They were negotiating their requirements with the VH bookings officer.

Date of the next ordinary meeting - Monday 8th June 2009 at 7.30 pm.

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 8.15 p.m. It was directly followed by the AGM.