

Minutes of Whaddon Parish Council meeting held on 8th February 2010 at 7.30p.m. in the Village Hall, Whaddon, nr Royston, Hertfordshire.

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| Present: | Chairman | Dr N Strudwick |
| | Councillors | Mr W Burchett, Mr L Ginger, Mrs J Lewis (from 7.50p.m.), Mr C Rose |
| | District Councillors | Mr N Cathcart, Mr D McCraith |
| | County Councillor | Mrs L Oliver (from 9.00p.m.) |
| | Parish Clerk | Mrs G van Poortvliet |
| | Parishioners | 3 present |

- 1.0 Apologies for Absence** – received from Cllr P Neale (holiday) and Cllr M Peyton (sickness). Advance notice of late arrival received from Cllr Lewis and County Cllr Oliver.
- 2.0 Declarations of Interest** – Cllr Burchett declared a personal interest in agenda item 10.0 as a member of Whaddon Playground Project (WPP). Cllr Rose informed the Parish Council (PC) that he was now employed by Hertfordshire County Council and may be precluded from serving on the PC as a condition of his employment. Action: Cllr Rose to investigate further and advise the PC of the outcome.
- 3.0 Signing of minutes of last meeting (11th January 2010)** – Cllrs approved the minutes of the last PC meeting as a true record and the Chairman signed them accordingly.
- 4.0 Reports from Clerk and Councillors on matters arising from previous meetings:** the Clerk and Cllrs provided verbal reports on the status of matters arising from previous PC meetings:
- Village Handyman – a Village Handyman had now been appointed.
 - Repairs to the Meldreth Road Footway – the Highways department had no funds left to do this work in 2009/10 and had suffered budget cuts in 2010/11. Repairs would be done in 2010/11, on a sectional basis, with the most damaged sections first.
 - Installation of RADAR gate between Churchyard and recreation ground/ removal of ivy from Meldreth Road bus-shelter – this work had been delayed due to the cold weather and would be done when the weather improved (estimated at two to three months time).
 - Grass-cutting, recreation ground – MD Landscapes had now been appointed as the contractor for a period of three years.
- 5.0 District and County Councillor Reports:**
- The District Cllrs gave verbal reports.
- Bus-service trial-run – match-funding had been requested but the District Cllrs thought it unlikely that SCDC would provide funding because it could set a precedent.
 - There had been a SCDC meeting since the last PC meeting. SCDC were investigating ways to save money by collaborating with Uttlesford DC.
 - SCDC had formally adopted the final stage of the Local Development Framework.
 - Despite SCDC tenants voting not to transfer to a housing association, the District Council was performing reasonably well financially. SCDC was keen to ensure that any benefits were given to local residents.
- The County Councillor report was postponed until the arrival of County Cllr Oliver.
- 6.0 Public Participation** – a member of the public advised the PC that Whaddon Golf Centre had applied to the Camping and Caravanning Club to have a certificated camp-site on the piece of land adjacent to the Golf Centre car-park. The proposed site could take up to five caravans or motorhomes, at any one time, with additional tents if space permitted. Local residents had 28 days to object. The PC was asked to support the local residents in objecting to the proposed site. The Chairman explained that certificated camp-sites did not require planning permission and consequently no formal application would be submitted to the PC for comment. Action: the Clerk

to write to the Camping and Caravanning Club pointing out the dangerous bend in the road when turning right into Town Farm Close. This could be an issue when manoeuvring caravans into the proposed site.

- 7.0 Light Aircraft Aerobatics over Whaddon – follow-up and agreement of actions** – the Clerk had requested representation for Whaddon on the Little Gransden Airfield Local Consultative Committee. Actions: the Chairman to confirm who the representative would be and publicise details of the complaints procedure on the website and in the newsletter.
- 8.0 Adoption of Village Design Statement** – The PC agreed to adopt the Design Statement subject to amending the appendices to include the two houses in Dyers Green that are within the village although outside the parish.
- 9.0 Village Hall (VH):**
- 9.1 Update on lease, charitable Trust and Grant Applications** – the application to SCDC for grant funding for the VH refurbishment had been submitted. Thanks were given to Cllr Ginger and Mr A Buchanan for their assistance. The dispute between ACRE and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils (CPALC) about transfers of assets continued to delay the transfer of the VH to a charitable trust. The issue surrounded the length of the lease and whether granting a long lease to the Trust (as required by funding bodies) constituted a disposal of the asset by the PC. The National Association of Local Council’s lawyers were looking at the model lease.
- 9.2 Membership of Village Hall Committee** – the PC duly appointed Cllr Lewis to the VH committee.
- 9.3 Update from Village Hall Committee meeting of 27.01.10** – the Chairman provided an update from the draft minutes of the VH Committee meeting of 27.01.10.
- 10.0 Playground Issues – agreement of expenditure on litter bins:** the PC agreed to spend £529 (+VAT), from the ring-fenced playground funds, to buy a double recycling bin.
- 11.0 Affordable Homes Update (Church Corner):**
- Bedford Pilgrims Housing Association (BPHA) had now received comments back from their architects and the Highways Agency. They hoped to have revised plans by 12th February. These would be shown to the PC and then submitted to SCDC towards the end of February. It was thought most likely that the case would go before the Planning Committee in May.
 - Funding for the proposed scheme, from the Homes and Communities Agency, had been lost when the plans were withdrawn. BPHA would need to reapply for funding on 1st April.
 - BPHA would be requesting 100% rental units (as preferred by SCDC’s Housing Department) with a worst-case scenario of six rental units and two shared-ownership units.
- 12.0 Village Maintenance Schedule (VMS)** – Cllr Burchett took the PC through a draft VMS showing the maintenance jobs required and their estimated costs. Action: Cllr Burchett to circulate the schedule for comments with the aim of adopting it at the next PC meeting.
- 13.0 Annual Parish Meeting – agreement of date** – the PC agreed to hold the Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday 27th April (subject to the VH being available).
- 14.0 Neighbourhood Watch Update re Speeding** – there had been no Speedwatch activity since mid-November 2009 but it was hoped to re-start it later in February. There had been some recording errors in the summaries produced by the police. A police camera-van had been on Meldreth Road at 8.10 am on Thursday 4th February.
- 15.0 Finance**

- 15.1 Approval of Payments** - the PC approved the following payments:
 Cheque No.100663, for £35.00, Cambridgeshire ACRE, subscription to Cambridgeshire ACRE and Cambridgeshire Playing Field Association Network.
 Cheque No.100664, for £82.00, S.L.C.C., subscription to Society of Local Council Clerks.
 Cheque No. 100665, for £64.63, M.D. Landscapes, recreation ground grass-cutting, 12 November 2009.
- 15.2 Precept** – following their meeting on 25th January, the PC had requested a precept of £15,950 (the same as 2009/10) for 2010/11. Calculations were circulated. The PC approved the precept for 2010/11.
- 15.3 Approval of 2009/10 cost-of-living wage increase for the Clerk** – the PC approved a cost-of-living increase for the Clerk based on the NALC National Agreement on Pay. This would be back-dated to 1st April 2009.
- 15.4 Approval of increased hours for the Clerk for 2010/11** – due to increased workload it was proposed to increase the Clerks hours to (a maximum of) ten per week. The Clerk left the meeting while this was discussed. The PC agreed that the Clerks hours be increased to (a maximum of) ten hours per week for 2010/11.

As County Cllr Oliver had now joined the meeting it was agreed to return to agenda item 5.0

5.0 County Councillors report

- Bus-service – approval was now being sought for the changes to bus-route 127 to include Whaddon. Once approved the new bus-service could start after 56 days (mid-April).
- Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) was due to approve its 2010/11 budget. Council tax would increase by 3% (one of the lowest increases in the country). There had been a decrease in central funding and CCC faced a 35% budget decrease over the next five years. They were looking to make savings through redundancies and by sharing costs on back-office services.

16.0 New Correspondence

- Cambridgeshire Together Rural Strategy – requests for comments on draft Rural Strategy (deadline 23 April).
- CPALC – invitation to make nominations for Buckingham Palace Garden Party on 22nd June 2010. (Deadline 8th March). No nominations made.
- CPALC training schedule 2010 – details of Chairman and Councillor training courses

17.0 Reporting of Village Upkeep and Maintenance Issues

- There were some deep potholes on Bridge Street by Ridgeway Close. Action: the Clerk to report this to the Highways Department.
- During the snow a car had lost control on the road by Bumpkins – the road through Whaddon had not been gritted. County Cllr Oliver commented that CCC's salt allocation had been reduced so only the main roads had been gritted. It was advisable to purchase another salt bin for the village. Action: purchase of a salt bin to be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

18.0 Items for next meeting:

- Salt bins
- Planning
- Playground expenditure
- Adoption of Maintenance Schedule

19.0 Date of the next meeting- Monday 8th March at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting was closed at 9.30 p.m.