

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

Present: Chairman Dr N Strudwick
 Councillors Mr W Burchett, Mrs J Lewis (from 7.35p.m.), Mr P Neale,
 Mrs M Peyton, Mr C Rose
 District Councillors Mr N Cathcart, Mr D McCraith
 Parish Clerk Mrs G van Poortvliet
 Parishioners 1 present

- 1.0 Apologies for Absence** – received from Cllr L Ginger (family commitments). Advance notice of late arrival received from County Cllr Oliver (attendance at other Parish Council (PC) meetings).
- 2.0 Declarations of Interest** – Cllr Burchett declared a personal interest in agenda item 7.1 as a member of Whaddon Playground Project (WPP).
- 3.0 Signing of minutes of last meeting (8th February 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:
- Bank Mandate – this had now been successfully changed.
 - Woods and Paths Volunteer Day – this had been held on 27th February and had been well supported. Mr R Huffer had been happy with the work done.
- 5.0 District and County Councillor Reports:**
- The District Cllrs gave verbal reports.
- South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) had approved the financial package for 2010/11. Council Tax would increase by 2.9%. SCDC remained one of the lowest spending district councils in England.
- The County Councillor's report was postponed until the arrival of County Cllr Oliver.
- 6.0 Public Participation** – no comments were received from the public.
- 7.0 Playground Issues**
- 7.1 Update from WPP** – a verbal update was given. The wording was agreed for the disclaimer notices for the play area. Inspection reports were handed to the Clerk.
- 7.2 Agreement of expenditure on playground items** – three quotes had been obtained for the matting for the mound but WPP had yet to make a recommendation re the preferred option. The PC approved expenditure of up to £1,100 for the matting (based on the middle quote). WPP were still looking into grant funding towards the recycling bins.
- 7.3 Noting of receipt of donation** – Whaddon Youth Neighbourhood Watch had now closed their bank account and donated the balance of their funds to the Playground. This amount would be ring-fenced for expenditure on playground security and landscaping. Cllr Burchett thanked Neighbourhood Watch for the donation of £296.04.
- 8.0 Planning**
- 8.1 Noting of Planning Committee recommendation re S/0224/10/F, 105 Meldreth Road, for an extension** – approval recommended.
- 8.2 Noting of SCDC decisions re S/1578/09F, Minstrel Court, conversion of residential extension to function room and S/1606/09/F, 103 Meldreth Road, dropped kerb** – approval granted for both applications.

- 9.0 Adoption of Village Maintenance Schedule (VMS)** – the VMS was discussed. Thanks were given to Cllr Burchett. The PC approved the VMS subject to amendments being made to include the annual maintenance of the garden surrounding the pump (subject to volunteer help not being available) and clarification about which railings needed maintaining. Actions: Cllr Burchett to amend the VMS. Cllr Lewis to speak to local volunteer about the pump garden.
- 10.0 Annual Parish Meeting (27th April)** – ideas for topics for inclusion in the APM were discussed and noted. Action: Cllrs to email any further suggestions to the Chairman or Clerk.
- 11.0 Village Hall (VH) – Update on lease and charitable trust** – a verbal update was given. There had been no VH Management Committee meeting since the last PC meeting.
- SCDC had deferred Whaddon’s application for grant funding for the VH extension/renovation to 2010/11. SCDC’s Community Grant Facility had stated verbally that Whaddon’s grant request was being treated as a high priority – the VH had been identified as being in poor condition in a recent survey of village halls. Action: PC to keep in touch with Community Facilities Office for updates on status of application.
 - A statement of “support in principal” from SCDC would be useful when trying to obtain other sources of grant funding. District Cllr Cathcart stated that SCDC seemed amenable to giving this support.
 - Significant grant funding might be available for a ground source heat pump system. Action: the Clerk to investigate.
- 12.0 Affordable Homes Update** – the Chairman had received a verbal update from Bedford Pilgrims Housing Association. Revised plans for the scheme had been delayed due to the Highways Agency changing their opinion on the necessary amendments. County Cllr Oliver had been asked to intervene with the Highways Agency. An intermediate version of the plan was circulated.
- 13.0 Finance**
- 13.1 Approval of Payments** - the PC approved the following payments:
 Cheque No.100666, for £14.08, Dr. N.Strudwick, website expenses.
 Cheque No.100667, for £96.26, C.C.C., streetlighting energy and maintenance.
 Cheque No. 100668, for £81.19, EDF Energy 1 Ltd, energy charges re phonebox. Action: Clerk to speak with EDF as bill considerably higher than expected.
 Cheque No. 100669, for £795.64, Mrs G.van Poortvliet, clerks wages (11 weeks to 31 March 2010).
- 13.2 Discussion and Decision re Melbourn Library Donation** – the PC decided not to donate funds to Melbourn Library. Action: Clerk to inform Melbourn PC of decision.
- 13.3 Discussion and Decision re purchase of salt bins** – the PC approved the purchase of three salt bins at £100 each under the Cambridgeshire County Council scheme. Actions. The Clerk to order the salt bins and liaise with Highways Agency re their positioning.
- 14.0 Correspondence**
- SCDC – invitation to Cabinet Meeting, Parish Councils, 23rd March. Two places requested.
 - NALC consultation re strategy 2010-15. Deadline 12th March. The PC did not want to respond.
 - Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Draft Supplementary Planning Document Consultation. Deadline 29th March. Action: Cllrs to read consultation and email Clerk if they wish to respond.
- Action: The Chairman to respond, on behalf of the PC, to a previous CCC consultation re Local Transport Plan.

15.0 Reporting of Village Upkeep and Maintenance Issues

- The 'No Smoking' sign has been removed from the Bus Shelter. Action: the Clerk to investigate cost of 'screw-in' sign.
- As the police had conducted speed checks in the village, it might be possible to put up some speed camera signs. Action: Cllr Peyton to investigate.

16.0 Items for next meeting – councillor training

17.0 Date of the next meeting- Monday 12th April at 7.30 p.m.

County Cllr L Oliver had not arrived at this point. Items requiring County Cllr input were postponed.

The meeting was closed at 9.00 p.m.