

Minutes of Whaddon Parish Council meeting held on 11th October 2010 at 7.40p.m. in the Village Hall, Church Street, Whaddon, nr Royston, Hertfordshire.

Present:	Chairman	Dr N Strudwick
	Councillors	Mr W Burchett, Mr L Ginger, Mrs J Lewis, Mr P Neale, Mrs M Peyton, Mr C Rose
	Parish Clerk	Mrs G van Poortvliet
	Parishioners	3 present

The Parish Council (PC) meeting started ten minutes late due to signing of the legal documents to lease the Village Hall and Recreation Ground to a Charitable Trust for a period of 99 years.

- 1.0 **Apologies for Absence** – received from District Cllrs N Cathcart and D McCraith and County Cllr L Oliver.
- 2.0 **Declarations of Interest** – none declared.
- 3.0 **Approval and Signing of minutes from Parish Council meeting of 13th September - Resolved:** that the minutes of that PC meeting be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.
- 4.0 **Reports from Clerk and Cllrs on matters arising:** the Clerk and Cllrs provided verbal reports on the status of matters arising from previous PC meetings:
 - Scaffolding Business Operating Opposite Whaddon Gap junction – Bassingbourn PC had contacted the Clerk to request further information about Whaddon PC's concerns.
 - Broadband Feasibility Study – a private study (funded by a group of residents) had now been completed by Rutland Telecom (RT). RT had advised that the solution was unlikely to be straight forward. It was important that the PC continue to look at all available options to improve broadband capability in the village.
 - Affordable Homes – the Chairman and Cllr Peyton had attended a meeting at South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) on 4th October to discuss design details for the Church Corner scheme (one of the conditions of the planning permission). The rooflines had been simplified and the landscaping would be more rural in nature. SCDC Conservation was happy with the proposals. The S106 agreement was with SCDC's legal department and a draft would be available soon. Bedford Pilgrims Housing Association would need to start the building work by January 2011 to secure funding.
 - Bridge Street Fountain – if listed status was to be sought for the Fountain, it would be necessary to make an application to English Heritage. Action: Cllr Peyton to discuss with Mr David Grech (from English Heritage).
- 5.0 **District and County Councillor Reports:** no District or County Cllrs were present. This item was postponed until the next meeting.
- 6.0 **Public Participation** – a member of the public stated that there had been an increase in the number of lorries, turning right out of Eternit, travelling via Whaddon. Cllr Ginger explained that there was no legal restriction preventing lorries coming through Whaddon but that Eternit had previously asked the drivers to use the Mettle Hill route instead. Action: Cllr Ginger to follow up with Eternit.
- 7.0 **Bus Service – decision re future of bus service:** Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) had indicated that it was not commercially viable to continue to provide the bus service, as operated during the trial period, without funding from the PC. CCC had offered to send the same buses into Whaddon but for them to turn around at Church Street/Bridge Street. They would no longer serve Meldreth Road (where there had been no passengers) or Mettle Hill. Resolved: that the PC accept the offer for the proposed altered bus service. Actions: Cllr Ginger and the Clerk to formally

accept CCC's proposal. Details of the revised bus service to go in the newsletter and the over-60s reminded to ensure that their journeys were being recorded by the bus-operator.

The Chairman gave thanks to County Cllr Oliver for intervening in this matter.

8.0 Speed Limits – agreement of action regarding application to CCC Transport Committee for a lower speed-limit on the A1198: CCC Highways were recommending a 50mph speed-limit on the A1198 from just north of Whaddon Gap to Kneesworth. The PC had discussed the possibility of a 40mph speed-limit with CCC Highways who had maintained it would not be possible to enforce it. Resolved: that the PC write to CCC Transport Committee to request a 40mph speed-limit on the section of the A1198 from just north of Whaddon Gap to Kneesworth. Actions: the Chairman to draft a letter and check if there was a deadline for submitting the request. The Clerk to check the Village Plan regarding residents' support for a lower speed-limit on the A1198. Cllr Peyton to organise a petition of local residents. The Clerk to write a paragraph for the top of the petition.

9.0 Village Hall (VH):

9.1 Noting of receipt of approved minutes from the Village Hall Management and Fund Raising Committee (VHMFC) meeting of 5th July – this item was postponed until the next PC meeting.

9.2 Update from Chair of the VHMFC following meeting of 20th September – a verbal report was given by Cllr Lewis.

9.3 Receipt of recommendation from VHMFC re future of spare railings/gates. PC decision re future of railings/gates – the VHMFC had recommended that the spare railings (11 of one type and 4 of another) and gates (2) be sold for the best possible price. It was unlikely that these items would ever be re-used. It would be necessary to get a valuation. Resolved: that the VHMFC try to sell the gates/railings for the best possible price. The Chairman thanked the VHMFC.

9.4 Update on lease and Charitable Trust (CT) – the lease had now been signed. Limbach Banham (LB) solicitors would now create the CT, register it with the Charities Commission and put the lease into operation. Once the legal work had been completed, the CT would need to hold an EGM to elect its officers. The VH had been awarded a grant of £25,000 from SCDC towards refurbishment. Action: the Chairman to take the signed documents to LB. Cllr Lewis to call an EGM for the CT.

9.5 Agreement on division of responsibility between the CT and PC – a discussion was held. The CT would henceforth be responsible for all the assets and the related costs and liabilities relating to the VH and recreation ground. The PC would provide a grant to the CT to cover expenses previously incurred by the PC. Action: the Clerk to attend the EGM for the CT and advise on all costs and responsibilities now under the remit of the CT.

10.0 Maintenance Schedule – allocation of responsibility for managing the maintenance schedule: maintenance items relating to the VH or recreation ground would be the responsibility of the CT going forward. However, as the PC had a budget allocation for painting the railings on the recreation ground it would initially carry out this work. A member of the public commented that maintenance costs could be reduced by using volunteers. The PC position was that, should volunteers not be available, it would be necessary to pay for the work to be done. Action: Cllr Burchett to liaise with the handyman to organise the PC maintenance projects that need doing each year.

Fountain Garden (Bridge Street) – Cllr Peyton had spoken with the volunteer who maintained the garden and established that some help would be appreciated. Action: Cllr Burchett to speak with the handyman to see if he could assist with maintenance of the fountain garden.

11.0 Finance

11.1 Approval of Payments:

Resolved: that the following payments be authorised today:

Cheque No.100695, for £50.00, Dr N Strudwick, Chairman's expense allowance, qtr to 30 September 2010.

Cheque No.100696, for £20.00, Mr P Neale, expenses re cutting back of overhanging tree.

Cheque No. 100697, for £962.69, Mrs G van Poortvliet, Clerk's wages and expenses qtr to 30 September 2010.

Cheque No. 100698, for £710.88, M D Landscapes, recreation ground grass-cutting for Jul, Aug and Sept.

Cheque No. 100699, for £120.00, Mr D Evans, handyman wages.

Cheque No. 100700, for £90.00, D M Charles, newsletter printing.

11.2 Financial update for six months to 30th September 2010 – the Clerk presented an update.

12.0 Parish Plan – agreement of next steps – Action: the Clerk to contact Sarah Johnson from Cambridgeshire ACRE to try to schedule a meeting with Cllrs Ginger and Rose to provide advice.

13.0 Correspondence:

- Local Government Chronicles – Big Society Survey
- SCDC – Ballot papers for Standards Committee Member (deadline 22nd October).
- NHS Cambridgeshire – consultation re Pharmaceutical Services (deadline 25th November)

14.0 Village Upkeep and Maintenance – reporting of issues:

- The footway on Meldreth Road had yet again been damaged by the road-cleaning machinery used by SCDC and required repair. Actions: the Clerk and Cllr Ginger to inform CCC Highways and SCDC of the situation.
- Whaddon Playground Project (WPP) would soon be installing the new recycling bins on the recreation ground and wished to purchase a toolkit from the ring-fenced funds. The benches near the VH were in a poor state of repair. Actions: authorisation of expenditure for the playground to appear on agenda for next meeting. Cllr Burchett to ask the handyman to either repair the benches or remove them.
- A rainwater gully in Church Street (outside Turpin's Farm) was blocked. Action: the Clerk to report this to CCC Highways.
- Several residents had commented on the particularly low level of water in the stream in Bridge Street. It was noted that this was a drainage ditch rather than a stream and that there had been very little rain recently.
- The bollard at the entrance to the recreation ground needed to be reinstated to prevent vehicles driving on the grass in winter.

15.0 Items for next meeting:

- Adoption of model standing orders
- Update on bus-service
- Guest visitor from Bassingbourn Barracks
- Talk from local PCSO
- Playground Project – agreement of expenditure
- Parish Plan
- Barrier over entrance to Whaddon Gap Car Park

16.0 Date of next meeting (8th November 2010)

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20 pm