

Minutes of Whaddon Parish Council meeting held on 14th February 2011 at 7.30p.m. in the Village Hall, Church Street, Whaddon, nr Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 5RY.

Present: Chairman Dr N Strudwick
 Councillors Mr L Ginger, Mr P Neale, Mrs J Lewis, Mrs M Peyton, Mr C Rose
 District Councillors Mr N Cathcart, Mr D McCraith
 Parish Clerk Mrs G van Poortvliet
 Parishioners 2 present (3 present from 8.00pm)

- 1.0 Apologies for Absence** – received from Cllr W Burchett and County Cllr L Oliver. Advance notice of early leaving of the meeting was received from District Cllr N Cathcart.
- 2.0 Declarations of Interest** – Cllrs Peyton and Neale declared personal interests in agenda item 14.0 (as residents of Dyers Green and friends of residents affected by the proposed change). Cllr Lewis declared a personal interest in agenda item 12.0 (as a resident of Bridge Street with young children). Cllrs Peyton and Neale declared personal interests in item 12.0 (residents of Bridge St).
- 3.0 Approval and Signing of minutes from Parish Council (PC) meeting of 10th January 2011 - Resolved:** that the minutes of that 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:
- A1198 Speed Limit – Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) Highways had not updated the PC regarding the PC's request for a 40mph speed-limit from north of Whaddon Gap to Kneesworth. However, the Chairman had since spoken with the relevant officer.
 - No parking sign (Ridgeway Close) – the loose sign had been reported by District Cllr Cathcart.
 - SCDC street lighting invoice – the 2010/11 bill was significantly higher than in prior years. The PC had been charged for 4 lights on the travellers' site, Old North Road. The PC had no record of being asked to take over responsibility for these lights. Actions: District Cllr Cathcart to request information from Paul Quigley (SCDC). The Clerk to follow up.
 - Affordable Homes – the land at Church Corner had been officially transferred from CCC to Bedford Pilgrims Housing Association. An archaeological dig was taking place. The PC had confirmed to SCDC that they had no further comments on the updated plans. The S106 officer at SCDC had been unaware of the S106 agreement for the site – this was being followed up by SCDC's Head of Planning.
- 5.0 District and County Councillor Reports:**
- District Councillor report: the District Cllrs gave a verbal report:
- There had been a District Council election at the end of January.
 - Anglian Water charge £13 per household for storm water and foul sewage. Households with a two-pipe system are entitled to claim a refund for this charge.
 - Finances – the budget was imminent. SCDC hoped not to increase Council Tax.
 - SCDC will be changing to a serviced debt arrangement for council house rental income. However, it is unlikely that there will be much change in the funds available for servicing council houses. Currently almost 50% of rental income goes to central government.
- At this point District Cllr Cathcart left the meeting (8.05pm).
- County Cllr Report: the Chairman read out a report provided by County Cllr Linda Oliver.
- Bus turning circle (top of Bridge Street) – the work should take place in March.
 - Bus routes – CCC are looking at ways to reshape services on subsidised routes. County Cllr Oliver will meet with Charter Travel (operators of Whaddon's bus-service) next week.

- Broadband – County Cllr Oliver is liaising with BT’s regional director regarding the broadband service. She is also following up the EREBUS initiative.
- Speedwatch – it was suggested that the PC make their views known to the police during the Neighbourhood Panel meetings.
- Finance – there will be no increase in Council Tax.
- County Council magazine – publication will cease due to expenditure cuts.

6.0 Public Participation – a member of the public asked for clarification about additional pitches at New Farm travellers’ site on the A1198. The PC confirmed that two additional pitches had been approved by SCDC on the understanding that the on-site facilities would also be improved.

7.0 Village Hall (VH) – update on lease and Charitable Trust: Cllr Lewis (Chair of the VH Trust) provided a verbal update. The VH Trust held a meeting on 17th January. The application to register the VH Trust as a charity had been prepared. The VH Trust now had its own reference number, the signed deeds were available for pick up from the solicitors and the VH Trust would be able to open a bank account. The lease had also been registered. The Managing Trustees were keen to progress the VH refurbishment by improving the appearance of the front of the VH. Quotes were being sought to replace the front window and it was hoped to organise a working party to clear the weeds. The Chairman commented on the slowness of the solicitors in dealing with the VH Trust.

8.0 Planning:

8.1 Noting of SCDC decision re S/2176/10/F, Taunus, 1 Old North Road (opposite Whaddon Gap) for change of use (retrospective) – permission for change of use granted.

8.2 Noting of SCDC decision re S/1273/10/LB Green Farmhouse, 55 Meldreth Road for alterations, utility room extension and new pantiled roof – permission granted.

9.0 Finance:

9.1 Approval of payments: Resolved that the following payments be authorised today: Cheque No. 100708, for £816.00, R.G. Oliver & Son, verges grass cutting.

Cheque No. 100709, for £82.00, the Society of Local Council Clerks, membership 2011.

Cheque No. 100710, for £50.00, Dr N Strudwick, registration of VH Trust with Land Registry.

9.2 Approval of 2011/12 precept - Resolved: that the precept for 2011/12 be £15,950 (the same as 2010/11). Copies of supporting calculations were circulated. Action: Precept calculations to be published on the website.

9.3 Consideration (and agreement if necessary) of donation to Magpas Helimedix - Resolved: that a £50.00 charitable donation be made to Magpas Helimedix. Action: the Clerk to process the donation.

10.0 Correspondence:

- CCC Highways – notification that village maintenance grant (for cutting of verges) will be reduced by 25% for 2011/12

- SCDC – invitation to PC liaison event Tuesday 29th March, 7.00pm – Action: the Clerk to RSVP for the Chairman and Cllr Peyton to attend.

- Cardiff Place Residents’ Association – request for replacement dog litter bin plus additional dog litter bin. The Clerk had asked SCDC to look into this – following a site visit they had stated that the two dog litter bins on site were sufficient for the area and that any additional bins would need to be paid for. Action: the Clerk to inform the Residents Association’ of SCDC’s response.

- CCC – invitation to event to discuss lorry strategy, 2nd March 7pm, Swavesey. Action: Cllr Rose to confirm if he can attend.

- CCC – notification of new Highways reporting system.

- SCDC – request from Emergency Planning Officer to talk at PC meeting of 9th May re producing an emergency plan. Action: the Clerk to schedule agenda item for May meeting.
 - Letter from Lady Whaddon in response to PC letter regarding proposed campsite at Golf Centre and enclosed extract from Natural England regarding granting of certificates to proposed sites.
- 11.0 Adoption of NALC model standing orders** – the tailored version of NALC’s model standing orders was discussed. Actions: the Clerk to clarify whether ‘appointment’ (in section 21 a,b and c) refers to an employee or a council member. The Clerk to investigate a suitable disciplinary procedure and press policy for later adoption by the PC. Resolved: that the tailored version of NALC’s model standing orders be adopted by Whaddon PC. Resolved: that summons to PC meetings, committee meetings and sub-committee meetings may be served electronically (by email) to councillors. The electronic summons must confirm the time, date, venue and agenda of the meeting and be served at least 3 clear days before the meeting.
- 12.0 Bridge Street traffic-safety signage – consideration of options and agreement of expenditure if necessary** – a discussion was held about the various types of signage available and where the signs could be positioned. Actions: Cllrs Lewis and Neale to survey Bridge Street and make a proposal to the PC with recommended signage. The Clerk to schedule an agenda item for March.
- 13.0 Proposed infill of Barrington Quarry, S/01080/10/CW – agreement of PC response to additional information** – Resolved: that the PC support the plans. Action: the Clerk to respond to the consultation confirming the support of the PC and commenting that the plans were an improvement on the original version.
- 14.0 Proposed diversion of Public Footpath No 9 – consideration of revised plans and agreement of PC comments** – CCC had proposed a revised route for footpath no 9 , diverting it onto the path already in use by the public (through Fountains Farm farmyard). Resolved: that the PC support the proposed diversion of the footpath. Action: the Clerk to respond, supporting the proposed diversion of footpath no 9 and thanking CCC for listening to earlier feedback.
- 15.0 Village upkeep and maintenance – reporting of issues**
- There were now several potholes on Whaddon Gap – these had already been reported by the Clerk. The Clerk reminded Cllrs that anyone can report potholes on the CCC website.
 - There was quite a lot of litter on Whaddon Gap and Church Street. Actions: the Chairman to organise a litter pick during the school Easter holidays (date t.b.c). Parishioners to be asked to pick up litter on dog-walks etc.
- 16.0 Items for next meeting:**
- Guest speakers (Bassingbourn Barracks and local PCSO)
 - Recreation Ground railings – approval of expenditure on repairs
 - Discussion of recommendations for appropriate signage re children playing on Bridge Street and agreement of expenditure.
- 17.0 Date of next meeting (14th March 2011)**

The Chairman reminded the councillors that PC mail needed to be circulated in a timely fashion.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15 pm