

**Minutes of Whaddon Parish Council meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2013 at 7.35p.m. in the Village Hall, Church Street, Whaddon, Nr Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 5RY.**

Present:	Chair	Mrs M Peyton
	Councillors	Mrs K French, Mr L Ginger, Mrs J Lewis, Professor A Milton
	Parish Clerk	Mrs G van Poortvliet
	District Councillors	Mr N Cathcart, Mr D McCraith
	County Councillors	Mr A Dent (from 8.12p.m.)
	Parishioners	1 present

The Chair welcomed everyone to the first Parish Council meeting in the newly refurbished Village Hall.

**1.0 Apologies for Absence** – received from Cllrs R Scott and A Walker. Advance notice of late arrival received from County Cllr A Dent.

**2.0 Minutes – approval and signing of minutes from Parish Council (PC) meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> October 2013** – Resolved: that the minutes be signed by the Chair as a true and correct record.

**3.0 Declarations of Interest** – none declared.

**4.0 Report from Clerk and Councillors on business remaining from previous meetings:** a verbal report was given.

- Salt bin, Town Farm Close – some residents had objected to the suggested location for a salt bin. Realistically this was the only place where a salt bin could be positioned. Action: Cllr French to email the residents to explain the situation and to find out if they still want to have a salt bin in Town Farm Close.
- Netting around cricket square, recreation ground – concerns about the safety of the netting had been discussed at Whaddon Village Hall & Recreation Ground Trust meetings. Warning signs were now displayed on the netting. Alternative forms of netting were also being looked into.
- Street name signs – replacement signs had now been installed in Meldreth Road and also in Coningsby Terrace. The Ridgeway Close sign had been removed by SCDC for repainting - a temporary sign had been left in its place.
- Obscured chevrons, Meldreth Road – the chevrons had been covered by a fallen tree which had now been removed by a resident, Mr P Coningsby. Action: the Clerk to write to Mr P Coningsby to thank him.
- Social Media Training for Parish Councils – the Clerk and Chair wished to attend this course. Action: the Clerk to book the training.

**5.0 Reports from District and County Cllrs:**

District Cllrs' Report: a verbal report was given:

- Social Housing – the District Cllrs provided clarification regarding information given at the last PC meeting. SCDC were to use a company that had been set up in the past to purchase properties for letting at market rents. This company would act as a property developer, adding to SCDC's stock of properties and letting them to tenants. Initially these tenants would be council tenants although this might not always be the case longer-term, depending on market conditions. SCDC hoped to raise funds by this means to help balance their books.
- Litlington Wind Farm – it was planned for this application to come before the Planning Committee in January 2014.
- Former Horse & Groom pub, A505 – the appeal against the refusal of planning permission to develop this site as a hotel had been dismissed.

County Cllr's Report: postponed until the arrival of County Cllr Dent.

## 6.0 Finance

**6.1 Formal noting of increased award of S106 monies for recreation ground car park** – the PC had approved an additional £350 from S106 monies towards the recreation ground car park. This was due to an increase in the cost of materials. The quote was still significantly cheaper than the other quotes obtained by WVH&RGT for this work.

**6.2 Approval of Payments - Resolved:** that the following payments be approved:

Cheques to be signed today (11<sup>th</sup> November 2013)

Cheque No. 100841, for £357.12, Cambridgeshire County Council, contribution to speed limit reduction 2012/13.

## 7.0 Correspondence

- CCC – invitation to meetings regarding public rights of way.
- CCC – information regarding Housing Related Support for Older People Project
- Email from resident regarding fly-tipping on land behind Ridgeway Close (see below).
- WVHRGT – agenda for meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> November and minutes from previous meeting.
- CCC – consultation on Statement of Community Involvement (deadline for comments 20<sup>th</sup> December).
- NHS Cambridgeshire & Peterborough – information on launch of 111 telephone medical advice service from midday on 12<sup>th</sup> November (Cambridgeshire) and 28<sup>th</sup> November (Peterborough). Service to provide urgent medical help and advice for non life-threatening situations. Action: the Clerk to advise residents via the village email system.

The complaint about fly-tipping behind Ridgeway Close was discussed. This had been reported to SCDC and a duty officer had visited the land and would make a report to the housing officer. It was not possible to close the land off altogether as access was needed to an electricity sub-station sited there. Another village resident was paying rent to use this land as an allotment but had allegedly not been able to gain access due to dumped materials – the resident had reported this to SCDC. Access to the land was not currently blocked and the resident had been advised to contact SCDC again.

**8.0 Public Participation:** a member of the public wished to hear about the plans for traffic management in Meldreth Road and to comment as required. It was agreed to move to agenda item 10.0.

**10.0 Traffic Management, Meldreth Road – discussion of options and decision:** a site meeting had been held on 6<sup>th</sup> November attended by a representative of Skanska (CCC's Highway consultants), the Chair of the PC, the Clerk and Mr M Monks (Speedwatch). A series of 'pinch' give way systems were considered an appropriate option for the straight section of Meldreth Road. One pinch could be installed at the entrance to Whaddon when approaching from Meldreth to force traffic to slow down there. It might be necessary to install two further pinches to prevent traffic speeding up again and to slow down vehicles approaching from the opposite direction. Entrances to driveways along this stretch of Meldreth Road meant there were limited options where to site the pinches and it may be unavoidable that some properties would overlook them. Further consultation with residents would be necessary before a decision was made. The consultant suggested parking cars where the pinches might go and observing if they had the desired effect on traffic. Outline cost estimates for three give way pinch features were feasible for the PC - also the PC could apply for up to 10% funding from CCC. A discussion was held. Action: the Chair (and Speedwatch) to arrange for cars to be parked on Meldreth Road in lieu of give way features and their impact on traffic observed. The Clerk to update CCC and to apply for grant funding under the Local Highways Initiative scheme. The Clerk to schedule an agenda item for the next PC meeting.

County Cllr Dent had joined the meeting and it was agreed to go back to agenda item 5.0

## 5.0 Reports from District and County Cllrs:

County Cllrs' Report: a verbal report was given by County Cllr Dent:

- Whaddon's Community Led Plan – a letter of formal support had been written by Cllr Dent. He also commented on the high quality of the CLP.
- Broadband – an Open Reach engineer had visited Whaddon to look at the infrastructure. The Chair had attended this meeting with Open Reach and Connecting Cambridgeshire - which took place on 23<sup>rd</sup> October - and provided an update. A solution using overhead fibres would not appear to be feasible for Whaddon as too many poles would need replacing which would be expensive. The preferred solution was to install a cabinet in the village and blow fibre through to it. The engineer was to check if all parts of the village were served from the same telephone exchange. A report is expected shortly.
- Bus service 127 – the part of the route serving Morrisons was to be reinstated.
- Salt bins – the bins would be filled and salt replaced, if necessary, later in the month.
- Bassingbourn Barracks – County Cllr Dent had met with the new Commandant and the meeting had been positive. The earliest that Libyan troops were expected was January 2014.

## 9.0 Whaddon Village Hall & Recreation Ground Trust – update: Cllr Lewis gave a verbal report:

- Village Hall refurbishment (phase 1) – the building work had been completed. Thanks were expressed to the members of WVH&RGT and to the builders for keeping the project on-track. Lots of very positive comments had already been received.
- Village Hall refurbishment (phase 2) – plans to refurbish the back part of the hall, re-do the toilets and provide a wet-room and changing area would require more funding. Approaches were being made to the English Cricket Board and Sports England regarding possible grants.
- Fundraising and events – an official opening for all those who had donated funds would take place on 21<sup>st</sup> January. WVH&RGT were also organising a quiz night on 16<sup>th</sup> November, a Christmas Fair on 7<sup>th</sup> December and a New Years Eve party.

**11.0 Broadband – update:** this item had largely been covered under County Cllr's Report (5.0) above. It was also noted that work to improve Whaddon's broadband was believed unlikely to happen until 2015 due to the difficulties involved. Dr N Strudwick, the Broadband Champion, had produced a report that would also be published in the village newsletter.

## 12.0 Village Upkeep and Maintenance – reporting of issues:

- Public Footpath Sign, Recreation Ground – this was currently sited in the wrong place. It was to be moved to a better location as part of the building work for the new car-park for the recreation ground.
- Parking outside the Village Hall by residents – this was discussed and would be reviewed when the new recreation ground car park was in place.

## 13.0 Items for next meeting:

- Meldreth Road traffic management – update and agreement of action.
- Broadband update
- Approval of 2014/15 precept

**14.0 Date of next meeting - Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2014.** A precept meeting would also be organised for early January 2014.

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.55 pm**