

Minutes of Whaddon Parish Council meeting held on 14th October 2013 at 7.30p.m. in St. Mary's Church, Church Street, Whaddon, Nr Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 5RU.

Present: Chair Mrs M Peyton
 Councillors Mr L Ginger, Professor A Milton
 Parish Clerk Mrs G van Poortvliet
 District Councillor Mr N Cathcart
 Parishioners 3 present plus 3 representatives from Orwell Youth Group

- 1.0 Apologies for Absence** – received from Cllrs K French, J Lewis, R Scott, A Walker, District Cllr D McCraith and County Cllr A Dent.
- 2.0 Minutes – approval and signing of minutes from Parish Council (PC) meeting of 9th September 2013** – Resolved: that the minutes be signed by the Chair as a true and correct record.
- 3.0 Declarations of Interest** – none declared.

It was agreed to move to agenda item 11.0. Orwell Youth Group was invited to speak.

- 11.0 Orwell Youth Group - presentation:** a presentation was given, outlining what Orwell Youth Group does and how young people from Whaddon are involved. Orwell Youth Group asked the PC to support their grant application to Awards for All in order to continue to run a youth club, organise local community events and provide a youth voice for the area. Questions were taken. Resolved: that the PC write a letter in support of the Awards for All application. Action: the Clerk to liaise with Orwell Youth Group regarding the format of the support letter.
- 4.0 Report from Clerk and Councillors on business remaining from previous meetings:** a verbal report was given.
- Recreation Ground Railings – confirmation had been received from Whaddon Village Hall & Recreation Ground Trust that the railings were included within their insurance cover.
 - Street name signs – replacement signs for Meldreth Road had now been made and installation would be arranged by SCDC. It might not be possible for local residents to refurbish the Coningsby Terrace and Ridgeway Close signs due to health and safety considerations. SCDC could repaint them if the condition was suitable - if not, they could be replaced with new plastic signs. Action: the Clerk to photograph the Coningsby Terrace and Ridgeway Close signs and liaise with SCDC to see if repainting was possible.
 - Whaddon Traveller & Gypsy Site (A1198) – SCDC would be purchasing this site from CCC and upgrading the facilities. District Cllr Cathcart had been advised that the building works could be phased so that residents could stay on site during the upgrade. A copy of the schedule of works had been requested for the PC.
 - Netting around cricket square, recreation ground – the safety of the existing netting had been discussed at the last WVH&RGT meeting and responsibilities had been understood and accepted. Actions would be taken to address the concerns.
 - Obscured chevrons, Meldreth Road – the chevrons were obscured by an overgrown hedge and this had been reported twice to CCC. The online reporting service showed the issue as being closed although no information had been supplied to the PC as to why this was the case. The chevrons were still obscured. Action: the Clerk to contact County Cllr Dent to see if he had any further information and to report it again if necessary.

- 5.0 Reports from District and County Cllrs:**
District Cllrs' Report: a verbal report was given:

- Litlington Wind Farm – still no date had been set for the Planning Committee meeting.

- Social Housing – SCDC were to use a company that had been set up in the past to purchase properties for social housing. This was a change in housing policy.
- Buses – the contract for the Royston bus route falls due for renewal at the end of the year. The Whaddon leg could be under threat due to very low usage. The PC were advised to consider their response should this happen.

County Cllr's Report: County Cllr Dent had emailed a report by email. Key points were read out:

- Broadband – Connecting Cambridgeshire did not yet have any updates on the village. The Chair advised that another meeting with key parties was due to take place on 23rd October.
- You Choose survey – CCC want residents' input on where they should make £39m of savings for the next financial year. Action: the Clerk to email the survey link to residents.
- Potholes – CCC Highways will soon be readying roads to remove possible weak sites that could allow potholes to form in the winter.
- Cozy's Buses – the age of the buses had been discussed with CCC officers. County Cllr Dent had asked that buses with better access be introduced before the 2017 Govt. deadline.

6.0 Finance:

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

Cheques to be signed today (16th October 2013)

Cheque No. 100834, for £1,194.00, MD Landscapes, 11 x recreation ground cuts and 3 x verges grass cuts Jun, Jul and Aug 2013.

Cheque No. 100835, for £35.00, the Information Commissioner, data protection registration renewal fee.

Cheque No. 100836, for £200.00, Mr W Knight, maintenance works Pickering Woods car park.

Cheque No. 100837, for £240.00, PKF Littlejohn, external audit of annual return for year ended 31 March 2013.

Cheque No. 100838, for £397.20, Whaddon Village Hall & Recreation Ground Trust, grant for purchase of trolleys for tables and chairs for village hall.

Cheque No. 100839, for £50.00, Mrs M Peyton, Chair's expense allowance for quarter ended 30th September 2013.

Cheque No. 100840, for £959.69, Mrs G van Poortvliet, Clerk's wages and expense allowance for quarter ended 30th September 2013.

6.2 Closure of 2012/13 audit and noting of external auditor's opinion: the external auditor had signed off and approved the 2012/13 Annual Return. The PC noted the auditor's comments.

6.3 Presentation of draft accounts for quarter ended 30th September 2013: the PC noted the accounts.

7.0 Correspondence

- SCDC – estimated tax base for 2014-15 precept (201.1 properties compared with 195.4 properties 2013-14).
- Copy of letter from Mr K Green to SCDC proposing changes to the village framework.
- SCDC – notification that the Council had recommended the purchase and upgrade of facilities at the Traveller and Gypsy site in Whaddon.
- CCC – details of new structure for Rights of Way team.
- SCDC – notification of appeal decision re proposed wind speed measurement mast off Ermine Way, Arrington. Appeal dismissed – potential danger to aircraft operating in area.
- CAPALC – details of Social Media Training session on 22nd November. The Clerk was interested in attending the training and other Cllrs could be too. Action: the Clerk to email Cllrs to see if they were interested in attending.

8.0 Planning Matters:

8.1 Planning Applications – noting of SCDC decision re S/1660/13/FL, 99 Cardiff Place for a two storey rear extension, single storey side extension and porch and

S/1258/13/LB Frog Hall House, Bridge Street, Whaddon for replacement windows – planning permission had been granted.

8.2 **Noting of approved minutes from Planning Committee meeting of 19th June 2013** – noted.

9.0 **Public Participation:** a member of the public asked if the upcoming broadband meeting was specific to Whaddon. The Chair explained that the meeting did relate to Whaddon specifically. She also advised that BT had asked for residents to notify the Broadband Champion every time that they report a fault to BT.

10.0 **Whaddon Village Hall & Recreation Ground Trust – update:** Cllr Ginger gave a verbal report:

- Village Hall refurbishment – the building work was on-schedule for completion by the end of October with no significant variances from budget. It had been decided to delay the installation of a secondary heating source to assess the impact made by the insulation and under-floor heating.
- Fundraising and events – WVH&RGT were organising a quiz night on 16th November, a Christmas Fair on 7th December and a New Years Eve party.

12.0 **Community Led Plan (CLP) – key findings:** Cllr Ginger outlined the eight key findings from the draft CLP.

- Produce housing-needs survey to properly ascertain demand for housing in the village.
- Seek safety improvements to A1198 junctions at Whaddon Gap and Cardiff Place.
- Review other traffic issues in village and ensure existing plans reflect needs of villagers.
- Investigate demand for a Good Neighbour scheme.
- Work on obtaining major improvements in broadband provision
- Set up a formal litter picking system.
- Publicise the village website.
- WVH&RGT and the PC to consider all ideas for new activities in the Village Hall.

It was hoped to finalise the CLP and present it to the village by the end of November. The Chair thanked the CLP Committee for all their hard work.

13.0 **Proposed speed limit changes in Meldreth (Whaddon border) – consideration of PC response to consultation:** Meldreth PC had asked for support for their proposal to extend the existing Whitecroft Road 30mph zone to include the West Way and Burtons and the rest of Fenny Lane and also to introduce a 40mph speed limit between Meldreth and Whaddon. This was discussed. Comments from an absent Cllr were read out. Resolved: that the PC support the proposal made by Meldreth PC. Action: the Clerk to write to support Meldreth PC.

14.0 **Traffic Management, Meldreth Road – update and discussion:** the Clerk had spoken with the recommended consultants but was still awaiting further information about their services and costs. Action: the Clerk to contact the consultants again regarding costs and to arrange a site meeting.

15.0 **Village Upkeep and Maintenance – reporting of issues:**

- Telephone box, Bridge Street – the conversion to a library was still ongoing. Action: the Chair to speak with the handyman to obtain more information on progress.

16.0 **Items for next meeting:**

- Meldreth Road traffic management – update and agreement of action.

17.0 **Date of next meeting - Monday 11th November 2013 (Village Hall).**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.08 pm