

Minutes of Whaddon Parish Council meeting held on 10th February 2014 at 7.30p.m. in the Village Hall, Church Street, Whaddon, Nr Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 5RY.

Present:	Chair	Mr L Ginger
	Councillors	Professor A Milton, Mr R Scott
	Parish Clerk	Mrs G van Poortvliet
	District Councillors	Mr N Cathcart, Mr D McCraith
	County Councillor	Mr A Dent (from 7.55p.m.)
	Parishioners	1 present

- 1.0 Apologies for Absence** – received from Cllrs K French, J Lewis and M Peyton.
- 2.0 Minutes – approval and signing of minutes from Parish Council (PC) meeting of 13th January 2014 and the Precept Meeting of 7th January 2014** – 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.
- Village Hero Awards – the PC had nominated Mrs Wendy Evans for this award due to her outstanding contribution to fundraising for refurbishment of the Village Hall.
 - Traffic management, Meldreth Road – it had been decided to wait until the weather had improved before parking cars in Meldreth Road where squeeze features might go to observe the impact on traffic. Cllr Milton had attended the CCC Local Highways Initiative Grant Panel Meeting on 21st February to ask for funding for a traffic calming scheme.
- 5.0 Reports from District and County Cllrs:**
- District Cllrs' Report: a verbal report was given:
- Litlington Wind Farm – this planning application had come before SCDC's Planning Committee the previous week and had been refused unanimously. It was expected that an appeal would be made and it would go to the Planning Inspector.
 - Local Plan – a Portfolio meeting would be held on 11th February to discuss any potential changes required. A special Meeting of SCDC would take place on 13th March to vote on the Plan. One of the sites put forward by the PC for designation as a Local Green Space had been excluded by SCDC as insufficient local support had been demonstrated. The period of consultation had now closed. Action: District Cllr Cathcart to find out about the status of this and advise the PC.
 - Solar Farm, Wendy – a meeting was being held at Wendy Church & Village Hall on Wednesday 12th February, 5-7p.m. regarding a proposed solar farm at Vine Farm, Wendy.
- County Cllr's Report: this was postponed until the arrival of County Cllr Dent.
- 6.0 Planning**
- 6.1 Noting of approved minutes from the Planning Committee meeting of 9th December 2013** – the PC noted the minutes.
- 6.2 Noting of PC recommendation re Planning Application S/0083/14/FL, 128 Meldreth Road, SG8 5RP for erection of storage and stable building and change of use of agricultural land to equestrian use:** the PC had recommended approval of the application with comments that consideration should be given to the proximity of the new building to neighbouring properties, balancing closeness to the boundary (currently 5m away) with visibility of the new building from other properties and to ask that a distance of 7m from the boundary be considered. The PC also noted that SCDC had approved **Planning Application S/ 2351/13/FL, 118 Church Street, SG8 5RX for an extension and alterations from single storey bungalow to two storey dwelling.**

7.0 Correspondence

- South Cambridgeshire Local Police – details of changes to format of local Police Panel Meetings. Parish councils can put forward agenda items relating to local concerns at the four monthly Cambourne Area meetings. First meeting 11th February.
- WVH&RGT – minutes from meeting on 6th January 2014 and agenda for meeting on 3rd February 2014.
- Village Handyman – resignation (agenda item 13.0)
- LDA Design Consulting – invitation to discuss proposed solar farm at Vine Farm, Wendy, 12th February, 5-7pm, Wendy Village Hall & Church.
- SCDC Village Services & Facilities Update – request to provide up to date information for Whaddon. The Clerk had already responded to this.

8.0 Whaddon Village Hall & Recreation Ground Trust (WVH&RGT) – update: Cllr Ginger gave a verbal report:

- Amey Cespa Grant – WVH&RGT had been successful in their grant application and had been awarded £40,000 to refurbish the back of the Village Hall (VH). Thanks were given to Mrs Wendy Evans for securing this funding. The refurbishment would concentrate on the inside of the back section of the VH and would include insulation, a new roof, new windows, a disabled toilet, two additional new toilets and full redecoration. Works needed to be completed by 31st March 2014. A builder was ready to start and it was estimated that the work would take around six weeks to complete. The back section of the VH would be out of use during the refurbishment but portable toilets would be provided so that the main hall could still be used.
- English Cricket Board grant application – WVH&RGT had applied for ECB funding for work outside the back section of the VH, including the veranda.
- Coffee mornings – these were proving popular with residents.

County Cllr Dent joined the meeting and it was agreed to return to agenda item 5.0

5.0 County Councillors Report: a verbal update was given by County Cllr Dent.

- Bassingbourn Barracks – a Black Watch regiment was in residence making preparations to train the Libyan Army. Local employees were also being engaged to work at the Barracks. Training of the Libyan Army was expected to start in March 2014 and continue for 18 months to two years with training running in 10-12 week tranches. Negotiations were ongoing regarding the use of Barracks' facilities by local clubs and societies.
- Local Highways Initiative Grant Applications – Whaddon had scored 8th out of 120 applications indicating there was a good chance that funding would be awarded. Decisions are not expected to be announced until March 2014.
- Broadband – a further meeting between BT Openreach, Connecting Cambridgeshire, County Cllr Dent and PC representatives had been arranged for 3rd March 2014. Dr Nigel Strudwick, Whaddon's Broadband Champion, would be joining the meeting via Skype.
- The Chair asked about the recent changes to the speed limits in Meldreth. There had been no signs advising of the changed speed limits and there did not appear to be sufficient repeater signs. Action: County Cllr Dent to ask CCC Highways about this.

9.0 Finance:

9.1 Approval of Payments: Resolved: that the following payments be approved:

Cheques already signed (22nd January 2014)

Cheque No. 100854, for £1,635, Whaddon Village Hall & Recreation Ground Trust, grant for running expenses 2013-14.

Cheques to be approved for signing today (10th February 2014)

Cheque No. 100855, £4,000.00, Whaddon Village Hall & Recreation Ground Trust, 10% donation towards Amey Cespa grant for refurbishing back part of Village Hall.

Cheque No. 100856, £87.00, Society of Local Council Clerks, subscription 2014. There was no supporting paperwork for Cheque No. 100855 so it was agreed that the cheque not be signed until this had been received. Actions: the Clerk to obtain supporting documentation for cheque No 1000855 and to arrange for the cheque to be signed. The Clerk also to arrange for cheque no 100856 to be countersigned as only one cheque signatory was present.

9.2 Review of PC Accounts to 31st December 2013 – the Clerk presented the accounts and took questions from the Cllrs.

10.0 Public Participation: no comments made.

11.0 Traffic Management, Meldreth Road – update: this had been covered under agenda items 4.0 and 5.0 (County Cllrs Report).

12.0 Community Plan – presentation and adoption: two of the three Cllrs present had been involved in the production of the Community Plan. This item was postponed until the next PC meeting.

13.0 Village Handyman – noting of vacancy and agreement of actions: Mr D Evans had resigned as Village Handyman but had offered to continue to look after the Bridge Street Fountain Garden. A discussion was held. Thanks were expressed for the hard work and enthusiasm shown by the handyman. Actions: the Clerk to write to Mr Evans to thank him for his service. The Clerk to clarify the position with Mr Evans regarding overseeing of the grass cutting contracts. The Clerk to draw up an advert for a new handyman for the email system, notice board and newsletter.

14.0 Village Upkeep and Maintenance – reporting of issues:

- Main Notice Board, Church Street – this was now in quite a poor state of repair and needed to be clamped shut. The posts were also rotting. Action: quotes to be obtained from local cabinet makers to either repair or make a new notice board.
- Phone box, Bridge Street – the refurbishment had not been completed. Action: the Clerk to see if Mr Monks and Mr Shaw would be willing to undertake this work. If not the job could be passed on to the new Village Handyman (when appointed).
- Bus service 127 – the Chair had used this bus service and noted that there was no ticket machine on the bus so it would not have been possible to record passenger numbers. Also the bus being used was a school bus that was not suitable for the elderly. County Cllr Dent commented that the buses did meet current legal requirements with regard to accessibility but that he would look into the issue of the ticket machines.
- Cambridge Energy Switch - a Cllr asked if this scheme had been publicised via the village email system. Action: the Clerk to ask for information to go out via the email system.

14.0 Items for next meeting:

- Adoption of Community Led Plan
- Meldreth Road Traffic Calming
- Broadband update

15.0 Date of next meeting - Monday 10th March 2014.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40 pm