

Minutes of Whaddon Parish Council meeting held on 14th September 2015 at 8.00p.m. in the Village Hall, Church Street, Whaddon, Nr Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 5RY.

Present:	Chair	Mr L Ginger
	Councillors	Mr W Elbourn, Mrs K French, Mr R Scott, Ms A Walker (from 8.05p.m.), Dr N Strudwick
	Parish Clerk	Mrs G van Poortvliet
	District Councillors	Mr N Cathcart, Mr D McCraith
	Guest speaker	Mr M Deas (Cambridgeshire ACRE)
	Members of the Public	5 present

- 1.0 Apologies for Absence** – received from County Cllr A Dent (sickness).
(Cllr A Walker joined the meeting)
- 2.0 Minutes – approval and signing of minutes from the Parish Council (PC) meeting of 10th August 2015** – Resolved: that the minutes be signed by the Chair as a true and correct record.
- 3.0 Co-option of Parish Councillor** – it was resolved that Dr N Strudwick be co-opted to the PC.
Actions: the Clerk to update the website, main noticeboard and Cllrs contact list with Dr Strudwick’s details.
- 4.0 Declarations of Interest** – none declared.
- 5.0 Whaddon Housing Needs Survey – presentation of results by ACRE**: Mr M Deas, Rural Housing Enabler, ACRE gave a verbal report outlining the key findings from the Housing Needs Survey conducted in April 2015.
- The survey response rate had been around 30% which was fairly typical.
 - 55% of respondents broadly supported a small Affordable Housing development with 42% opposed. Typically support levels were between 55 and 75%.
 - Support was often expressed with caveats e.g. regarding the size and location of any development, housing being allocated to people with local connections etc. Opposition was mainly around lack of infrastructure in the village. There were some objections to extending St. Mary’s Close (no potential location had been mentioned in the survey).
 - A small housing need was identified (around six households), for fairly small properties.
- Mr Deas explained that small schemes were not always economically viable and that ACRE did not usually build schemes that exceeded identified local need. However, extending an existing scheme or including some market housing could make a scheme more affordable. Bedford Pilgrims Housing Association would be prepared to work with Whaddon on an affordable housing scheme although this would probably not be a priority at present.
- Mr Deas took questions from the Cllrs and public.
- Actions: the Clerk to table a future agenda item for Affordable Housing to be considered. Mr Deas to check with BPHA if the full survey report could be published on the Whaddon website.
- 6.0 Report from Clerk and Councillors on business remaining from previous meetings**: a verbal report was given.
- Meldreth Road traffic management scheme – replacement reflective bollards had now been installed on the build-out to replace those destroyed by a vehicle.
 - Cross-Parish Working Group – Meldreth PC Clerk would arrange another meeting.
 - Village Handyman – it had still not been possible to establish if the handyman wanted to work with Whaddon PC. A discussion was held regarding the possibility of giving specific jobs to others in order to get them done. Cllr Walker volunteered to paint the bus shelter.

Actions: Cllr Elbourn to speak with the handyman to try to resolve the issue before the October PC meeting.

- Trees on verge by recreation ground, Church Street – Mrs M Peyton, Whaddon’s tree officer, had looked at the trees. Two were dead and several others appeared to be diseased. They were damaged near the base and this damage had not been caused by strimming – it was believed to be insect damage and would not be treatable. SCDC had been requested to send someone out to look at the trees and provide advice.
- Cloud file storage – the Clerk had researched some cloud storage options but was unsure if free solutions were adequate for storing PC data. It might be necessary to pay for data storage. Action: Dr Strudwick to look into this with the Clerk and report back to the PC at a later stage.
- Broadband – the upgrade to fibre appeared to be progressing according to plan. Cllr Strudwick (Whaddon’s Broadband Champion) advised that residents would need to contact their internet service provider, once the upgraded service had gone live, and request to change to a fibre-based package. It would not happen automatically.

7.0 Reports from District and County Cllrs:

District Cllrs’ Report: a verbal report was given by the District Cllrs:

- Civic Affairs – a meeting would be held on 24th September to decide whether to reduce the number of District Cllrs.
- County Council Planning Policy – the PC were advised to check with County Cllr Dent regarding possible changes in the County Council’s policy relating to small exception sites for affordable housing. This was following a Housing Association dropping out of a potential scheme in Litlington. Action: the Clerk to ask County Cllr Dent if there had been a change in policy.
- Bassingbourn Barracks – there had been suggestions in the press/social media that our local MP was seeking views on whether Bassingbourn Barracks might be suitable to house refugees/asylum seekers. This was only a suggestion and no decision had been taken regarding this.

County Cllr’s Report: County Cllr Dent was not present at the meeting. The monthly report for September had been circulated to the Cllrs by email.

8.0 Correspondence

- PCSO – request to send a representative to the Modern Day Slavery Summit on 17th October, SCDC Cambourne. (Mr M Monks (NHW Co-ordinator) was asked by the Cllrs not to attend as they did not see why this issue was a priority at village level).
- SCDC – invitation to attend a workshop re District Council’s electoral arrangements, 27th August (not attended by PC). Copy of notes from workshop also sent to PCs (emailed to Cllrs)
- County Cllr Dent – September 2015 County Cllr Report (emailed).
- SCDC – results from questionnaire sent to Clerks and Chairs of PCs regarding District Cllrs attendance at PC meetings (emailed)
- SCDC – details of current ward sizes for District Cllrs (emailed)
- SCDC – update on correspondence with the Inspectors regarding Local Plan Examination timetable (emailed)
- CCC – invitation to comment on draft Cambridgeshire Flood and Water Supplementary Planning Document. Deadline 16th October 2015 (emailed)
- Meldreth PC – invitation to Cllr Training, Meldreth 24th October (Cllr Elbourn to attend)
- Barclays Bank PLC – notification that from 10th November 2015 original paper cheques will not be returned alongside bank statements.

9.0 Finance:

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

Cheques to be signed today (14th September 2015)

Cheque No. 100917, £27.00 (Net £27), Mr M Monks, poppy wreath and posy for Remembrance Day Service.

Cheque No. 100918, £92.00 (Net £92.00), Hales Printers, Whaddon News Sept 2015 edition.

9.2 Approval of additional copies of newsletter – there had been insufficient newsletters this quarter due to more properties being occupied in Cardiff Place. Cllrs approved expenditure for ten additional copies of the newsletter (at c£0.50/copy). Action: the Clerk to ask the newsletter editor to request an additional ten copies of the newsletter to be printed going forward.

10.0 Planning: Noting of SCDC decision re S/0850/15/LB and S/1283/15/FL, 100 Church Street, Whaddon, SG8 5RX for enlargement to previously approved rear ground floor entrance link to provide utility space, small roofed boiler enclosure and gate added to bin store. Re-thatching to match existing at north and south cottage elevations, and altering of conservatory glazing material: this application had been approved by SCDC.

11.0 Public Participation:

- A member of the public (Whaddon's Speedwatch co-ordinator) gave an update following recent Speedwatch activity. The Speedwatch team had monitored Meldreth Road on a Friday morning and evening. Some vehicles were observed travelling at c50mph. It was commented that a further speed reduction measure would be needed at the other end of Meldreth Road in order to slow traffic down. The build-out was quite effective in rush-hour but not when there was less traffic. There was now only one set of working Speedwatch kit to be shared within the district – this could impact on the number of trials that could be done.

12.0 Whaddon Village Hall & Recreation Ground Trust (WVH&RGT) – Update: - a verbal update was given by the Chair:

- Car park – WVH&RGT had been successful in obtaining £19,500 funding to date. There were still some grant applications in progress. Thanks were expressed to Mrs W Evans for her fundraising efforts.
- Village Hall Lettings – usage of the hall remained very good and was meeting expectations.
- Acoustic panels – these were about to be ordered with a view to them being installed in the Autumn months by some local residents.

13.0 Alfred John Palmers Trust – update and agreement of actions: all of the existing Trustees had replied to the Clerk's letter. Mr C Coningsby would like to remain as Trustee but Mr R Andrews and Mr S Smith wished to stand down. Thanks were expressed by the PC to all the trustees for their years of service. Cllr W Elbourn expressed interest in being a Trustee. Actions: the Clerk to organise a vacancy notice for a new Trustee for the village email and noticeboards.

It was agreed to move agenda item 14.0 to the end of the meeting.

15.0 Village Upkeep and Maintenance – reporting of issues:

- Whaddon Gap Car Park – it was noted that incidents of fly-tipping seemed to be increasing. Action: the Clerk to contact SCDC to see if anything could be done to try to reduce fly-tipping (e.g. signage or cameras).

16.0 Items for next meeting:

- Grass cutting specification (recreation ground)
- Affordable Housing – agreement of actions

- Clerk – annual review

17.0 Date of next meeting - Monday 12th October 2015.

(Cllr A Walker and the District Cllrs left the meeting)

14.0 SCDC Consultation on moving to all-out elections – agreement of PC response: this was discussed. It was agreed that the PC recommend moving to all-out elections on the grounds of removing unnecessary duplication of effort and expense. Action: the Clerk to respond to the on-line survey on behalf of the PC.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.55p.m.