

**Minutes of Whaddon Parish Council annual meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> June 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, Professor A Milton, Mr R Scott, Ms A Walker
	Parish Clerk	Mrs G van Poortvliet
	District Councillors	Mr N Cathcart, Mr D McCraith
	County Councillor	Mr A Dent
	Members of the Public	5 present

**1.0 Apologies for Absence** – none received, all present. Advance notification of late arrival received from County Cllr A Dent.

**2.0 Minutes – approval and signing of minutes from the Annual Parish Council (PC) meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> May 2015** – 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.

- Meldreth Road traffic management scheme – the Clerk had reminded CCC Highways to arrange for the sign to be moved to a more suitable position. No reply had yet been received. Action: the Clerk to make contact with CCC Highways regarding the sign.
- Heavy Commercial Vehicles (HCVs) using Eternit, Meldreth – the Chair had attended a Meldreth PC meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> June to propose asking Eternit to introduce an anti-clockwise one-way system for HCVs using their site. This would involve HCVs turning left at Mettle Hill junction in Meldreth. The Chair reported that Meldreth PC were supportive of the suggestion and of trying to get a ‘gentleman’s agreement’ with Eternit. Action: the Chair to arrange a follow-up meeting with Eternit.

At the Meldreth PC meeting the possibility of setting up a working group between the parishes of Meldreth, Shepreth, Whaddon and Bassingbourn-cum-Kneesworth had been put forward. The aim would be to try to get a joined-up view of what was happening in the local area and work out responses to common issues. Action: the Clerks of the local PC’s to liaise regarding setting up a cross-parish working group.

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

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

- Local Plan Inspection status – SCDC had received a letter from the Inspector pointing out issues that needed clarifying and questioning certain assumptions made in the Plan. This letter was not a rejection of the Plan. SCDC Officers were now working to provide the information requested. It was appreciated that it was very important to resolve this quickly and it was hoped that it would be done within six months. SCDC remained hopeful that the Local Plan could be adopted with minimal changes made.
- Vice-Chair of the District Council – District Cllr McCraith was now Vice-Chair of the District Council.

County Cllr’s Report: this was postponed until the arrival of County Cllr Dent.

**6.0 Correspondence**

- SCDC – letter and Press Release regarding preliminary conclusions of the Local Plan Inspection.

- Cambridgeshire County Council – briefing on Greater Cambridge City Deal and A428 road corridor scheme options.
- Rural Services Network – information about the National Rural Crime Survey.
- County Cllr Dent – monthly County Cllr report.
- CCC Flood and Water Team – information about consultation on Flood Risk Management Strategy (open 3<sup>rd</sup> June to 14<sup>th</sup> July).
- Rural Services Network – details of new Fly Grazing Legislation.

**7.0 Finance: Approval of payments: Resolved:** that the following payments be approved:  
Cheques to be signed today (8<sup>th</sup> June 2015)

Cheque No. 100912, £92.00, Hales Printers, newsletter printing.

**8.0 Planning:**

**8.1 Noting of approved minutes from Planning Committee Meeting of 30<sup>th</sup> March 2015:** the PC noted the minutes.

**8.2 Noting of Planning Committee Recommendation re S/1240/15/FL, 20 Bridge Street, Whaddon, SG8 5SQ for demolition of existing conservatory to be replaced with new garden room and demolition of part of single storey pitched road to rear. First floor rear extension to include two new bedrooms:** the Planning Committee had recommended approval of this application.

**8.3 Noting of receipt of applications where no PC comment is required re i) S/1222/15/PB, land to rear of 112 Church Street, Whaddon, SG8 5RX for conversion of existing barn & piggery to form 3 dwellings (Permitted Development) and ii) S/1271/15/LD, 37 Bridge Street, Whaddon, SG8 5SG for a proposed single storey side and rear extension (Lawful Development):** the PC noted these applications. The Planning Committee had agreed to write to SCDC re application S/1222/15/PB as there were some concerns that this might not meet the criteria for Permitted Development. The application was brought to the attention of the District Cllrs who also advised writing to the Planning Officer and Mr P Sexton at SCDC.

**8.4 Proposed Anaerobic Digestion Plant, Shepreth (S/2944/14/FL) – update on application status and transport assessment:** the Clerk provided a verbal update following the Shepreth Planning Committee meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2015.

- Shepreth PC had recommended refusal of this planning application so it would now have to go to the SCDC Planning Committee.
- The proposed transport route for Heavy Commercial Vehicles was currently via Mettle Hill, Kneesworth rather than via Whaddon.
- The proposed Plant was relatively small, employing around 13 people and with projected vehicles movements averaging 40 per day (of which HCV movements would average seven per day).

The District Cllrs undertook to keep the PC informed of any further developments.

**9.0 Public Participation:**

- A member of the public commented that the frequency of the recreation ground grass cutting was insufficient for cricket matches at the beginning of the season and that grass cuttings left on the rec also made it difficult for the cricketers. The Cllrs noted the issues raised but commented that the PC did have a contract for grass cutting. The contract specification could be reviewed when the contract was renegotiated. Action: the Clerk to check when the grass cutting contract expires and table an agenda item to review the specification as appropriate.
- A member of the public queried if the PC was aware that a cable for the solar farm at Shingay cum Wendy might need to cross Bridge Street in Whaddon. The Cllrs had not

been aware of this. The contractors would need to apply for the necessary Highways licence to dig up the highway.

It was agreed to return to agenda item 5.0 at County Cllr Dent had now joined the meeting.

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

County Cllrs report: a written report had been circulated to the Cllrs. A verbal report was given by County Cllr Dent:

- Shepreth Anaerobic Digester – the proposal to route HCVs via Mettle Hill, Kneesworth had been objected to by Bassingbourn cum Kneesworth Parish Council (see item 8.4).
- Bassingbourn Barracks – a meeting was due to take place on 16<sup>th</sup> June with the Ministry of Defence and the Defence Infrastructure Organisation to discuss the future of the Barracks. District Cllr McCraith commented that he had asked our new Member of Parliament, Heidi Allen, to take this matter up with Michael Fallon, Defence Secretary.
- Armed Services Ceremony – a ceremony was due to take place in Shire Hall on 22<sup>nd</sup> June to thank the Armed Forces based at Cambridge.
- Broadband – County Cllr Dent advised that the PC request their Broadband Champion to check proposed coverage for Whaddon on the Connecting Cambridgeshire website. Some villages had discovered that not all houses had been covered. No final decision had yet been taken regarding the infrastructure by which broadband would be delivered to Whaddon – it could potentially be via fibre-optic cable from Arrington exchange or a line-of-site radio system from Arrington. Actions: the Clerk and Chair to take these matters up with the Broadband Champion.

#### 10.0 **Whaddon Village Hall & Recreation Ground Trust (WVH&RGT) – update:** a verbal update was given by the Chair.

- AGM – this had taken place on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2015. Mrs J Lewis had been re-elected as Chair of the Trust.
- Trustee vacancies – many people had wished to join the Trust and there was now a waiting list for Trustee positions. It would also be necessary for the PC to appoint a representative.

#### 11.0 **Alfred John Palmers Trust – review and agreement of actions:** Mr C Coningsby, a Trustee of Alfred John Palmers Trust, addressed the meeting and explained the aims and set-up of the Trust. The three current Trustees had all now served for some time and some were keen to step down if replacements could be found. It was also thought that the purpose of the Trust should be reviewed and possibly updated. The PC was responsible for appointing Trustees. The Trustees could decide upon the best future direction of the Trust. Actions: the Clerk to write to the three Trustees asking them formally if they wanted to remain as Trustees or resign. The appointment or re-appointment of Trustees to be considered at the next PC meeting.

#### 12.0 **Cambridgeshire County Council Electoral Boundaries Review – response to consultation:** the current proposals incorporated the comments that Whaddon PC had made. Whaddon would be in the same electoral district as Meldreth and Bassingbourn. Action: the Clerk to respond to the consultation that Whaddon PC had no further comment and was happy with the current proposals.

#### 13.0 **Risk Assessment 2015/16 – signing off by Cllrs:** the Risk Assessment had been produced by the Clerk. Highlighted risks were, as in previous years, related to reliance on one individual to make changes to the website on behalf of the PC. Recent changes in legislation (under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014) meant that the consequences of potentially not being able to post certain information on the website were now more serious. County Cllr Dent offered to check and sign off the PCs Risk Assessment on behalf of the PC - he had the relevant experience and accreditation. Actions: the Clerk to provide a copy of the Risk Assessment to County Cllr Dent

for review. The Chair to speak with the website manager to see if a solution could be found to enable members of the PC to post PC information on the website if necessary.

**14.0 Speedwatch – status update:** Mr M Monks had decided to stay on as Speedwatch Co-ordinator for Whaddon. The Cllrs expressed their thanks for the excellent job done by Mr Monks. A member of the public commented that she had been tailgated by parents collecting children from Bumpkins Nursery, Meldreth Road. The same person offered to have a speed bump outside their house in Church Street to try to reduce traffic speeds. The Cllrs thanked the member of the public for the offer and would bear it in mind in future reviews of traffic measures in the village.

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

- Litter – it was noted that empty bottles and cans were again appearing on Whaddon Gap.
- Bollards, Church Street – the black and white bollards on Church Corner were badly damaged. County Cllr Dent had already reported this to Highways.
- Handyman – the handyman had not yet started the scheduled maintenance work for 2015/16 and it had not been possible to contact him. Action: Cllr Elbourn to speak with the handyman.

**16.0 Items for next meeting:**

- Alfred John Palmers Trust - review
- Risk Assessment 2015/16 – signing off
- Clerk – annual review
- Parish Cllr vacancy

**17.0 Date of next meeting - Monday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2015 (8.00p.m.)**

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30p.m.**