

**Minutes of Whaddon Parish Council Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2017 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
	Parish Clerk	Mrs G van Poortvliet
	District Councillors	Mr D McCraith
	Members of the Public	1 present

**1.0 Apologies for Absence** – received from Cllrs A Walker (sickness), A Milton (sickness) and N Strudwick (holiday) and also from District Cllr N Cathcart and County Cllr A Dent (sickness).

**2.0 Receiving Declarations of Interest from Councillors on items on the agenda** – none declared.

**3.0 Approval of minutes** – to resolve that the minutes from the Parish Council (PC) meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017 are a correct record – Resolved that the minutes be approved and signed by the Chair.

**4.0 Reports from Clerk and Councillors – to receive updates about progress on resolutions and actions from previous Parish Council meetings:**

- Horse riding on footpaths – County Cllr Dent had advised that this was likely to be a police enforcement matter as it was illegal to ride a horse on a public footpath.
- Trees on verge by Recreation Ground – a site meeting with an arboriculture expert had been arranged for Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April.
- Faded 20's Plenty Signs, Bridge Street – no information about a guarantee or technical specification for these signs could be found on the invoice or manufacturers website. The signs had been purchased in August 2012. Actions: the Clerk to email the manufacturer about the fading. An agenda item to consider purchasing replacement signs to be tabled for a future meeting as necessary.
- Village Sign – the Working Group were generating ideas for the design of the new sign.
- Road safety signs for nursery schools – the owner of Bumpkins Nursery had met with CCC Highways and County Cllr Dent to discuss putting in 'Slow School' type road signage. County Cllr Dent had advised that the PC would need to support a Local Highways Initiative Scheme bid in 2018/19 to fund these signs. Action: the Chair to find out further information and see if alternative avenues were available to Bumpkins, as a private enterprise, to liaise directly with CCC Highways (outside of the LHI scheme) and secure the signs more quickly.

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

**5.1 District Cllrs Report – receipt of oral reports:** District Cllr McCraith gave an update:

- Local Plan – the hearings are scheduled to end in July 2017.
- Chief Executive – a new Chief Executive was due to be approved at an upcoming Extraordinary General Meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> April.

**5.2 County Cllr Report – receipt of oral report (if present) or noting of written monthly report:** no County Cllr was present. A written report for the year to March 2017 had been circulated to the Cllrs and presented by County Cllr Dent at the Annual Parish Meeting.

**6.0 Public Participation:**

- A member of the public reported that Meldreth Parish Council had heard that the Eternit Housing Planning Application would be considered by SCDC's Planning Committee on 3<sup>rd</sup> May. Action: the Chair to attend the SCDC Planning Committee meeting.

## 7.0 Correspondence and Complaints – noting of receipt of significant items of correspondence and complaints from residents:

- CCC – notification that Whaddon PC had been successful in their bid for LHI funding for a Moveable Vehicle Activated Sign, pole and sockets.
- SCDC – copy of a letter from the Inspectors examining the Local Plan with some interim findings on the proposals for Local Green Spaces.
- SCDC – notification that Community Chest Scheme grant applications are open from 1<sup>st</sup> April. It was noted that this could be used for funding replacement trees for the Recreation Ground verge.
- Melbourn Parish Council – invitation to Planning Training for Parish Cllrs on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 10am-4pm. Cllr French to attend.
- CCC Planning – notification of consultation on proposed revision of Local Validation Guidance List and Local Validation Check List for planning applications for the County Council’s own development and for waste development. Deadline 18<sup>th</sup> May 2017.
- Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Police and Crime Commissioner – invitation to Parish Council Conference on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> August, 10.30a.m-4.00p.m, Huntingdon.

## 8.0 Planning: noting of Whaddon Parish Council’s recommendation re S/0888/17/FL, 136 Church Street, SG8 5RX, two storey rear extension and other works: the PC noted that the Planning Committee had supported this application.

## 9.0 Finance:

- 9.1 Approval of payments:** the PC resolved that the following payments be approved: Cheques to be approved for signing today (10<sup>th</sup> April 2017):  
Cheque No. 100985, £612.50 (Net £612.50), Steeple Morden Parish Council, quarter share of Speed Indicator Device and accessories (case etc).
- 9.2 Internal Auditor – appointment for financial year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017:** Resolved that Mr B Huett be appointed as internal auditor for the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017. Action: the Clerk to advise Mr Huett and liaise over the internal audit timetable.
- 9.3 Draft Accounts for year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 – presentation and review:** the Clerk presented the draft accounts for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 and invited questions. These accounts would form the basis of the 2016/17 Annual Return.
- 9.4 Consideration of reserves and approval for carrying forward specific ring-fenced reserves:** the Cllrs reviewed the reserves and resolved that the following unspent amounts from the 2016/17 precept be ring-fenced and carried forward to 2017/18: £363 Handyperson/maintenance, £588 WVH&RGT Grant and £500 Traffic Calming. The Cllrs resolved that, after these adjustment, the ring-fenced reserves carried forward to 2017/18 be as follows: PPP3 grant £270, Traffic Calming Measures £4,573.27, S106 Public Open Space £771.86, Village Maintenance £713.00, Start-up Grant Funding for new Village clubs/societies £200 and WVH&RGT Grant £588. The level of the General Reserve was adequate at approximately 7.6months of current precept.

## 10.0 Whaddon Village Hall & Recreation Ground Trust (WVH&RGT) – receipt of oral report from member of WVH&RGT: there had been no meeting of WVH&RGT since the last PC meeting. This item was deferred until the next PC meeting.

## 11.0 Meeting with SCDC’s Planning Department – update following meeting with representatives from Development Control. Agreement of actions: the Chair and Clerk had met with the Head of Development Control (who was about to leave SCDC) and her interim replacement at SCDC’s Offices in Cambourne on 15<sup>th</sup> March. District Cllr Cathcart had also attended the meeting. The complaints made in Whaddon PC’s letter to Development Control were discussed. The Development Control Officers admitted that there had been issues with some staff not responding

to emails or voicemails or managing expectations adequately. This was ongoing but was being addressed. SCDC would not be able to provide further support with advice about the diseased trees on the recreation ground (SCDC's Tree Officer had emailed an apology to the PC explaining this). SCDC were not willing to act to try to recover the S106 monies due from the development at 132 Meldreth Road. They had no legal recourse to demand this money from the developer and had no budget to compensate the PC directly themselves. The Officers had suggested that the PC contact the developers to see if they were willing to make a good will payment. A discussion was held. The Cllrs expressed strong disappointment that SCDC would not assist the PC further re the S106 monies as it had been their fault that the agreement had not been in place at the correct time. Action: the Chair to contact the developers of 132 Meldreth Road regarding the S106 monies.

- 12.0 Dog-waste bins – consideration of adequacy and locations: update following SCDC site visit.** **Agreement of actions:** the officer from SCDC had not yet been able to carry out a site-visit due to work priorities. It was hoped to be able to do this soon. Actions: – the Clerk to follow up with SCDC and table an agenda item as appropriate.
- 13.0 Annual Parish Meeting (3<sup>rd</sup> April 2017) – review of APM and agreement of any actions arising:** the APM had gone well, with around 20 attendees and speakers. There were no specific action points to take forward.
- 14.0 Bus Service Consultation – consideration of CCC's proposals regarding Whaddon's bus service. Agreement of PC response to consultation:** the Chair explained that the existing bus routes serving Whaddon – route 127 (twice a day) and route 15 (market bus - Wednesdays only), both to Royston - were going to be retendered. The options were to leave the services as they were, withdraw route 127 (keeping the market bus) or to review and change the existing bus routes. It would be possible to serve Whaddon by amending route 128 which would go to Royston via Meldreth, Melbourn and Shepreth. This service would be once a day and serve both Church Street and Meldreth Road. It would replace route 127 which was not well used. This was discussed. The Cllrs preferred the option of bus service 128 which gave access to other villages as well as Royston. Action: the Chair to respond to the bus service consultation on behalf of the PC.
- 15.0 Village Upkeep and Maintenance – reporting of upkeep or maintenance issues:**
- Potholes opposite Bumpkins, Meldreth Road– these potholes were now quite deep. Action: Cllr French to report this on-line to CCC Highways.
  - Fire hydrant, grass in front of Ridgeway Close – this had been knocked over and was broken. Action: the Clerk to report the damaged fire hydrant marker to the appropriate authority.
- 16.0 Items for next meeting – noting of requests for agenda items:**
- Diseased trees on verge by Recreation Ground
  - Dog waste bin review
- 17.0 Date of next meeting – currently Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017; consideration of moving to Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2017:** Resolved: that the meeting be moved to the 15<sup>th</sup> May 2017. Actions: the Clerk to change the booking for the village hall and notify all Cllrs of the change of date.

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25p.m.**