

Minutes of Whaddon Parish Council Meeting held on 15th October 2018 at 8 p.m. in the Village Hall, Church Street, Whaddon, Nr Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 5RY.

Present:	Chair	Mr L Ginger
	Councillors	Mr R Scott, Professor A Milton, Mr W Elbourn, Ms A Birch (from 5.1 onwards)
	Parish Clerk	A Bridges
	District Councillor	Ms P Hart
	County Councillor	Mrs S van de Ven
	Members of the Public	4 present

1.0 Apologies for Absence – District Cllr Hales and Cllr N Strudwick

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 September 10th 2018 are a correct record. Resolved: the minutes were 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:

- The village sign – the Chair reported that the new sign has been delivered to Whaddon and the Parish Council are to ask a local carpenter to help install the new post and sign.
- Footpaths – clarification is needed for the arrangement for next year's grass cutting on footpaths when the Permissive Pathways routes have been finalised.
- Whaddon Gap junction improvements continue to be a low priority for funding from Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC). This will be revisited in the new year by the Parish Council.

5.0 Parish Councillor vacancies

5.1 Co-option of new councillor - Anita Birch was co-opted and welcomed to the Parish Council. Cllr Birch was invited to join the table of the Parish Council.

5.2 Parish Councillor vacancies - Joanne Vries was introduced as a further volunteer to become a Parish Councillor. All agreed that she should be co-opted in the next Parish Council and all Councillors are again pleased to welcome her. Action: co-option in the November Parish Meeting

6.0 Reports from District and County Councillors:

6.1 District Councillors:

- Cllr Hart spoke of the recent meeting in Shepreth Village Hall to raise awareness of the proposed Cambridge – Oxford railway and to discuss ways to be involved in the Governments consultation. More information can be found at www.CamBedRailRoad.org

- Cllr Hart also informed the meeting that the Boundary Commission for England has published their recommendations in changing parliamentary constituency boundaries. These can be found at www.bce2018.org.uk. Cllr Hart described how Melbourn and Bassingbourn wards would be fully within the Letchworth & Royston Constituency. This is subject to approval by Parliament before it is adopted and if this does occur, is scheduled to be introduced at the next general election, scheduled for 2022.
- A planning application for a large-scale waste incinerator in Waterbeach has been refused, explained Cllr Hart. She explained how this would have burnt rubbish to be used for both heat and electricity generation. It was turned down due to the potential impact on both the immediate neighborhood and for the wider area. Listed buildings at Denny Abbey were also cited as a cause for concern.
- The SCDC Planning Committee also concluded that more information is needed before they can approve the fifteen-year extension of Barrington quarry restoration.
- Cllr Hart spoke of the AgeUK Handyman scheme which is in partnership with SCDC and the County Council. This is a countywide scheme which entitles older people to a free home assessment and will fit any grab rails for free. More information can be found on the website: www.ageuk.org.uk/cambridgeshireandpeterborough/our-services/cambridgeshire-handyperson-service/
- Cambridgeshire District Council and voluntary organizations are working together to help volunteers set up new Repair Cafes. Cambridge Carbon Footprint and Transition in Cambridge already run a successful Repair Café and have assisted to set up several new ones in Cambridgeshire. Cllr Hart suggested that residents wishing to look at local repair cafes can find more information at www.repaircafe.org.uk or email spep@scams.gov.uk to volunteer their services.
- Cllr Hart also described how voluntary and community groups providing vital services can bid for a proportion of a £400,000 grant in South Cambridgeshire villages. These organisations provide housing advice, support for those facing homelessness, community transport and welfare advice amongst others.
- Lastly, Cllr Hart described how South Cambridgeshire residents will be allowed to purchase a second green bin from April 2019 (pending decision on the 8th November). This is planned to be £20 for the first year and £35 after.

6.2 County Councillor:

- Cllr van de Ven firstly reminded the Parish Council that residents can buy oil from the local Oil Club, who can assist with finding lowest price available. The club gets a rebate every year which is used for the local community, and last year the CAB drop in service at the Melbourn Hub benefited. For more information email jeremy@agricole.co.uk or www.agricole.co.uk. Similarly, a service to assist people to wish to switch their energy suppliers is provided by Cambridgeshire County Council and information can be found here: <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business/economic-development/energy-across-cambridgeshire/cambridgeshire-energy-switch/>

- Cllr van de Ven also spoke about the Community Rail Partnership applying for funding for Meldreth Railway station to become a fully accessible station with a ramp and lifts.
- While discussing railways and transport, Cllr van de Van described how she and a Community Rail Officer met with GTR staff to bring attention to the failures of the May timetable, which is still not in full operation. Cllr van de Van stated that some missing services have now been reintroduced and the remaining omitted weekday services are hoped to be restored by December. She also reported that the Rail User Groups were working together to campaign for fares to not increase in the new year.
- The Cambridge County Council budget is severely in deficit due to council tax freezes in recent years explained Cllr van de Ven and that they run the risk of becoming bankrupt within two years with increasing extra financial pressures.
- Cllr van de Ven commended the work of the local Highways Officer, who now covers 39 villages, whilst Cambridgeshire County Council advertises to try to fill positions. The Parish Council agreed that he worked quickly and effectively in response to the stolen manhole covers between Whaddon Gap and the village, with a permanent replacement scheduled on 5th November.
- Lastly Cllr Van de Van spoke of her support of a People's Vote on the terms agreed in Brexit, which she expressed at the County Council meeting in October. The People's Vote was also supported by local MP Heidi Allen and they both visited local business to ascertain their views on how Brexit will affect them.

7.0 Telephone Box (public library) update:

The telephone box was hit by a car on the 30th September and an insurance claim is in progress. The Parish Council have had suggestions that the replacement telephone box should be positioned by the Village Hall, so more residents can gain access to it. This proposal will be discussed with Whaddon residents in the future before a decision is made.

8.0 Public Participation:

A member of the public also expressed their gratitude to the local Highways Officer due to their speed of solutions to cover the missing manhole covers as previously discussed by Cllr van de Ven. It was also suggested that SCDC may choose to replace them with a material that is less valuable.

It was also noted by a member of the public that that tree overgrowth on Church Street was restricting motorists' visibility when turning into Bridge Street from Whaddon Gap.

9.0 Proposed East-West Railway:

It is expected that the Government will announce their preferred route for the potential new trainline late in 2018. It was highlighted that the road between Meldreth and Orwell, Malton Road, is used frequently and it was agreed that a bridge would have to be constructed if the new railway line used this route.

10. Correspondence and complaints:

- South Cambridgeshire Volunteer Community winter gritting scheme (13/9/18).
- South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) – information from Royal Mail concerning scam mail (18/9/18). Action: poster displayed on the Village Hall noticeboard.
- LDF – SCDC Local Plan announced (27/9/18).
- Cambridgeshire County Council – information for possible funding for a pilot scheme for an electric vehicle charging project.
- Cambridgeshire ACRE – details of a national Village Hall Open Weekend (2/10/18). SCDC – details of the Parish Planning Forum at 6pm on 30th October at South Cambs Hall at Cambourne (28/9/18)
- SCDC - South Cambridgeshire District Council Parish Emergency Plan Guidance Notes & Template (4/10/18).
- LDF – adoption of the South Cambs Local Plan (5/10/18).
- Email informing the Telephone Box in Bridge Street had been damaged (30/9/18).
- Email concerning Planning Application S/1769/18/FL in Bridge Street.
- Email from SCDC stating that on the 3rd September 2018, South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council published the Inspectors' Reports on their respective Local Plans. This was discussed earlier in the meeting by Cllr Hart. The Inspectors' Reports are published on the Councils respective websites:
www.scambs.gov.uk/local-plan-examination
www.cambridge.gov.uk/local-plan-review-about-the-examination

11.0 Planning:

11.1 Noting of Whaddon Parish Council's Planning Committee recommendations re (i) S/3396/18/FL – Single story rear and side extension and garage conversion. 117 Meldreth Road, Whaddon, Cambs, SG8 5RS. This was supported by the Planning Committee.

12.0 Finance

12.1 Cheques to be approved for signing today (15th October 2018)

- Cheque number 101044 - Staff wages and expenses - £371.95
- Cheque number 101045 – CAPLAC finance training course - £75
- Cheque number 101046 – Sign of the Times – village sign - £2,422.20

Payments to be authorised today:

- Picnic bench for playground - £472.80
- ICO data protection renewal fee - £40
- Catalyst2 – website domain renewal fee - £42
- Handyman – repainted bench by the bus stop on Ridgeway Close - £74.66

13.0 Whaddon Village Hall & Recreation Ground Trust -

Cllr Strudwick, WVH&RGT Chairman sent a report which firstly discussed the recent garage break in. The cricketers are replacing the stolen lawn mower and it was

confirmed that anti-theft measures for the garage were now in place. The heating system remains in dispute with the installers and it was also reported that the kitchen heater has been fitted without the correct tank.

Lastly, it was reported that there has been a substantial increase in wild animal faeces on the village recreation ground. Ethical solutions are being sought from Environmental Health and the Ecology Officer.

14.0 Village Upkeep and Maintenance: to report upkeep and maintenance issues and agree actions - There have been complaints about the large numbers of weeds growing up in the roadsides and verges of Whaddon. Weed killing across Whaddon has been reported as absent for many months. Action: To request this from CCC. (This was carried out on October 16th throughout the village).

Likewise, the SCDC street cleaner is scheduled to clean the roads every three months and this was felt to be well overdue.

The Bridge Street verges have recovered well after the wet winter and dry hot summer but residents were reminded to park in considerate places to avoid congestion and vehicles from having to use the verge to pass parked vehicles. The Chair had reported a number of highway defects, especially in Bridge Street.

15.0 Items for next meeting – noting of requests for agenda items: Co-option of new Parish Council Councillor Joanne Vries.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Dates of next Parish Council Meeting – Monday November 12th at 8pm.