

**Minutes of Whaddon Parish Council Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at  
8.00pm in the Village Hall, Church Street, Whaddon, Cambridgeshire,  
SG8 5RY.**

Present: Chair L Ginger  
Councillors A Milton, A Birch, W Elbourn, R Scott & N  
Strudwick and J Hart (formally Vries)  
Parish Clerk A Bridges  
District Councillor S van de Ven & J Hales  
Members of the Public 3 present

**1.0 Apologies for Absence** – District Councillor P Hart

**2.0 Receiving Declarations of Interest from Councillors on items on the agenda** - None

**3.0 Approval of minutes – to resolve that the minutes from the Parish Council meeting of March 11th 2019 were a correct record** – Resolved the minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

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

- The meeting started by discussing the village sign. The Chair stated that it was anticipated that this could be unveiled at the village litter pick on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April at 10am (meeting at Ridgeway Close). It was commented that the new post was substantially taller than before, which was reported to be due to slightly larger size of the sign and that it would be fixed just below the top of the post to avoid possible damage.
- A quote was being sought for refurbishing the possible replacement local telephone box. Further recent correspondence had all been in favour of keeping the telephone box at the top of Bridge Street. Although some felt the village hall would be a more central point, it was argued that there would not be adequate space between the road and car park and the majority wanted to keep it as a landmark when it was originally situated. The Chair commented that full planning permission would almost certainly be needed to re-site the telephone box elsewhere. Resolved: telephone box to be installed at the top of Bridge Street.
- The Village Hall had recently had a its electrical inspection and was waiting for the defibrillator light to be installed. No electrical problems were reported in the inspection. Action: Clerk to chase light installation

- Grass cutting of public footpaths – The Chair had still not received a response from South Cambridgeshire District Council confirming financial support directly to the Parish Council to supervise grass cutting. Cllr van de Ven offered her assistance in getting clarification as it was agreed a resolution was urgent.
- The request for funding from Royston and District Community Transport was discussed and all agreed that the Parish Council should chose this as its annual charity with a £100 donation. Action: Clerk to arrange payment.

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

### **5.1 District Councillor**

- Cllr Hales began by discussing South Cambridgeshire District Council's plans to increase the level of council tax on long term empty houses. The Empty Homes Policy now states (from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019) that homes that are empty for two years or more will be charged double their regular Council Tax. Homes that have been empty for five years plus will have a 200% premium added and homes empty for ten years or more will have a 300% levy added to their tax. Alongside this, South Cambridgeshire District Council have pledged to build double the amount of affordable homes every year and these will be built to higher environmental standards.
- Cllr Hales also informed the meeting that South Cambridgeshire District Council has installed solar photovoltaic panels on the roof of the waste management depot at Waterbeach, which will generate income for the council which it can then invest in other green enterprises.

### **5.2 County Councillor**

- Cllr van de Ven firstly spoke of the recent potential sites for development which had been made available, although not yet in the public domain. These included potential sites in Whaddon and in particular County Farms owned land. Cllr van de Ven stressed that the Local Plan Call for Sites is the very start of approving land for potential development and the majority of these are rejected. The following link is for residents to look at:  
<https://www.scamb.gov.uk/planning/local-plan-and-neighbourhood-planning/emerging-local-plans-and-guidance/emerging-greater-cambridge-local-plan/call-for-sites/>
- Cllr van de Ven also described a potential conflict of interest (which was now being investigated) concerning the East West Railway and the above mentioned potential local plans. Cllr van de Ven informed the meeting that the County Council voted on their preferred route for the East West Railway in a meeting on the 14th March - the same time the submissions in the Local Plan Call for Sites were decided on. The potential development areas for Whaddon and Bassingbourn appeared to support the southern route options of the railway.
- Cllr van de Ven spoke of her recent meeting with Bassingbourn Barracks, who had been contacted by representatives from East West Railway. They

discussed the potential safety aspects of the turning into the Barracks, which is not signposted from Kneesworth. Cllr van de Ven has again brought this issue to attention to the Road Safety Team at the Council, who have previously declined to decrease the speed limit which would help increase safety. This issue also greatly impacts the Whaddon Gap turning, which is dangerous due to the speed of moving traffic.

- Cllr van de Ven also discussed the issue of families living on the Barracks walking to school on a very busy and narrow road. Children in Cardiff Place have bus transportation as their route involves crossing the main road.
- Cllr van de Ven discussed the lack of local support groups and services for families moving into Bassingbourn Barracks, partly due to the closed Children Centre in the village. She asked if they could be invited to join Whaddon's village email system, to be a part of the community, which was agreed to be a good idea.
- The £1 charge for library computer access, introduced in May 2018 has now been scrapped after it was concluded to not bring sufficient income to the Council.
- Cllr van de Ven reported that Thriplow Recycling Centre is now able to take paint. Cambridgeshire Community Reuse and Recycling Network (CCORRN) and Amey now take unwanted paint and resell it at reduced prices or donate it to local projects.
- Lastly, Cllr van de Ven informed the meeting that the Community Rail Partnership's relaunch event will take place on 24th May, at 11am at Shepreth Station, followed by refreshments at the Shepreth Plough. Cllr van de Ven asked the Parish Council if they would consider making a financial contribution to the funding of the Project Officer post, which enables the Partnership to help the local community, or to sponsor a flower tub on the station platform at Meldreth. Local businesses and families are also invited to sponsor one which are maintained by Duke of Edinburgh students.

## **6.0 Public Participation –**

- The issue of dog faeces being left in plastic bags in the village was raised again, after an email had been circulated around the village. Bags had been reportedly left hanging in the undergrowth in Whaddon Gap, which will obviously not rot down. **Action:** Clerk to send email to the clerks of neighbouring Parish Councils asking them to highlight the issue and reminding people to take their dog waste home with them.

## **7.0 Correspondence & Complaints –**

- An email from Local Highways (March 26<sup>th</sup>) responding to a complaint about blocked drains on Church Street, informing the resident they will be cleaned within the normal routine schedule.
- Email confirming date of Annual Parish Audit which will be brought to the June Parish Meeting (19<sup>th</sup> March).

- Email from a local resident complaining about the amount of dog faeces and also the amount left in plastic bags in fields and on footpaths (19<sup>th</sup> March).
- Email informing the Parish Council about the consultation for the Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council joint Minerals and Waste Local Plan (MWLP) (21<sup>st</sup> March).
- Email from insurance company requesting further details on telephone box for securing the policy excess (March 28<sup>th</sup>).
- CAPALC informing Parish Councils that Ian Dewar will be unavailable for an unknown period as the CEO of CAPALC and Penny Bryant will be Acting CEO in this time (1<sup>st</sup> April).
- Cambridgeshire County Council informing us of a new street lighting attachment policy (1st April)
- The Calor Rural Community Fund information (2<sup>nd</sup> April).

**8.0 Planning meetings and updates – S/0463/19/FL: Replacement and relocation of oil tank to front garden, 6 Ridgeway Close, Whaddon. SG8 5SA.** The applicant attended the meeting and stated she would like the oil tank moved to the front of her property, to give her more room in the back garden, where she spent the majority of her time. This planning application was **approved** by the Planning Committee. The Chair of the Planning Committee, Cllr Milton, requested the previous minutes to be brought to the next Planning Meeting. Action: Clerk to provide this at the next meeting.

## **9.0 Finance:**

### **9.1 Approval of payments:**

- Staff wages and expenses – £74.96
  - Cambridgeshire ACRE membership - £57
- Added to the original agenda to avoid late payments:**
- Electrician for village hall electrical check - £175
  - Catalyst2 for website - £17.99
- Bank reconciliation was approved by Cllr Scott.

**10.0 Annual Review of risk assessment for the Parish Council –** this review was decided to be postponed in the March meeting, by the Parish Council, in line with the recent GDPR regulations, in the May meeting. Action: risk assessment review to be completed in the May Parish Council Meeting.

## **11.0 Whaddon Village Hall & Recreation Ground Trust:**

### **11.1 Receipt of oral report from a member of WVH&RGT:**

- Cllr Strudwick informed the meeting that the WVH&RGT committee had renewed and updated the contract with the cleaner.
- The Trust had reclaimed the £115 bill for a damaged shelf, which occurred on a private hire of the hall.
- The Village Hall car park signs would go up in the near future.

- Cllr Strudwick reminded the meeting of the financial benefit to the Trust if local residents signed up to the Co-Op.
- The Parish Council meeting was reminded that the last film night would be on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April, before the longer lighter evenings made this more difficult. Whaddon's Got Talent would be the next social event held on the 18<sup>th</sup> May and all are encouraged to apply.
- Lastly, Bumpkins nursery have booked the hall until 1<sup>st</sup> June, after a water leak in their premises.

**12.0 Annual Parish Meeting – April 15<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm for refreshments.** All are invited to attend.

**13.0 Village Plan:** Cllr Hales reminded the meeting that SCDC may be implementing a trial of a simplified neighbourhood plan in the near future, which may be relevant and he would investigate this further. Action: money allocated to the Village Plan to be finalised and agreed upon in the Annual Parish Council meeting in May.

**14.0 Village Upkeep and Maintenance:** none

**15.0 Items for next meeting – Village Plan.** Review and allocation to projects from reserves. Re-election of Trustees to the Alfred Palmer Trust.

**Date of next meeting – The Annual Parish Council Meeting is on May 13<sup>th</sup> at 8pm.**

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.18p.m.**