

**Minutes of Whaddon Parish Council Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2019 at 8.00 pm in the Village Hall, Church Street, Whaddon, Cambridgeshire, SG8 5RY.**

Present:	Chair	L Ginger
	Councillors	A Milton, J Vries & N Strudwick
	Parish Clerk	A Bridges
	County Councillor	S van de Ven
	District Councillor	P Hart
	Members of the Public	5 present

**1.0 Apologies for Absence** – District Councillor J Hales, Cllr A Birch, Cllr R Scott and Cllr W Elbourn

**2.0 Receiving Declarations of Interest from Councillors on items on the agenda** - Cllr Strudwick spoke of his position as Chair as the Whaddon Village Hall & Recreational Ground Trust in relation to the grant request from the treasurer (agenda item 9.1) The Parish Council recognised this and felt that as it was not a contentious issue Cllr Strudwick could remain in the room throughout the meeting.

**3.0 Approval of minutes – to resolve that the minutes from the Parish Council meeting of January 14th 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 Chair firstly suggested that the East West Railway would be moved further up the agenda to allow the public participation earlier in the meeting, which was agreed by all.

The potential defibrillator light outside the village hall was discussed. Two quotes have been given, the first for £299 (plus VAT), the second which is an estimate for £165 (plus VAT) and a third quote is expected shortly. Action: Clerk to provide a third quote.

- The new village sign should be installed towards the end of March.
- The insurance money for the damaged telephone box has been received and the two possible site suggestions for the replacement will be discussed in the next Whaddon News. Action: Parish Council to source a new telephone box and finalise its location.
- Grass cutting of public footpaths – The Chair is still waiting on confirmation that SCDC will provide financial support for the Parish Council to supervise grass cutting. Action: Clerk to contact MD Landscapes to provide a quote to cut the footpaths not covered by local farmers.

- The lack of defibrillator close to Cardiff Place was discussed again. Cllr van de Ven had attempted to contact Bassingbourn Barracks again today to discuss this, without success. Cllr Hallett, the Vice Chair from Bassingbourn Parish Council (attending as a member of the public) said that a further defibrillator would be installed in The Causeway in Bassingbourn imminently, raising questions if Cardiff Place would need a separate unit.

Cllr Hart entered the meeting at this point (due to a prior engagement).

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

### **5.1 County Cllr Report – receipt of oral reports.**

- Cllr van de Ven stated that there has been a small increase in council tax by Cambridgeshire County Council (5%) for the first time in many years in an attempt to offset the large debt. This is coupled with significant cuts to services, for example, post-16 education transport, means key areas remain unfunded.
- Cllr van de Ven spoke of the publicity that has been given to the national £420 million cash injection for road repairs. The £6 million awarded to Cambridgeshire falls short of the estimated £350 million needed to bring the regions roads up to standard. None of this extra fund has been allocated to improve Whaddon's roads.
- Cambridgeshire police recently attended a meeting in Melbourn to give local residents information on their work. Cllr van de Ven described the large range of unseen police work undertaken, which includes cybercrime and modern-day slavery. The police have a monthly surgery at Melbourn Hub and all are invited to attend these.
- Cllr van de Ven informed the Parish Council meeting of the upcoming 'Mental Health Support in the Community' information evening on March 13<sup>th</sup> at the Melbourn Hub. This will include talks from Mind and Allyance school counselling and again all are invited to attend.
- Cllr van de Ven talked about the recent Cam Val Bus Users Meeting at the end of January. Because of the recent Mayor's bus services review, it has been agreed that the supported bus services will continue in the short term, which is a success, however these will be reviewed again next year.
- Cllr van de Ven informed the Parish meeting of the recent Cambridge Line Rail User Groups meeting on the 8th February in Letchworth. Whilst Royston and Letchworth has had their timetable fully restored, Meldreth station is still waiting for restoration of a fast service from the May 2018 timetable changes. Cllr van de Van spoke of all the local rail user groups working together to ensure a full timetable has resumed and noted that Meldreth station usage has grown over 40% in five years, which is substantially more than any other local railway station.

## **5.2 District Councillor – receipt of oral reports**

- Cllr Hart spoke of the possible Brexit impact on the region and reported that Cambridgeshire County Council has been working with the Federation of Small Business & the Chamber of Commerce. They have explored concerns highlighted by the future loss of EU funding to the area and that 20% of the region's workforce are from the EU, with a high proportion working in social care.
- The South Cambridgeshire Customer Portal was described by Cllr Hart as a new method for residents to find information and to get in touch with the council. It aims to make the process much easier for residents, although Planning Applications will not be able to be submitted this way.
- Cllr Hart also discussed the South Cambridgeshire District Council Business Plan which is presented to the full council next week. This explores businesses, affordable housing and environmental priorities in the region.
- Lastly, the Chair asked Cllr Hart about possible solutions to deter parking on the grass at Ridgeway Close at the top of Bridge Street as the grass is becoming damaged. Cllr Hart stated she was happy to explore this and report back.

## **6.0 Public Participation & 11.0 East West Railway**

- The Chair informed the meeting that the public consultation was now available online and that a telephone briefing at the end of January gave further details of this process. The two local meetings, one at Bassingbourn Primary School from 10am until 2pm on 16<sup>th</sup> February and the second at Orwell Village Hall, from 2-6pm on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February. All interested residents are encouraged to attend to gain more information and to have an opportunity to express their views and opinions. Three out of the five possible routes may affect Whaddon and the Chair spoke of a possible further meeting at the beginning of March in Whaddon to discuss a response to the consultation.
- Cllr Hallett, the Vice Chairman from Bassingbourn Parish Council, stated he was here to share knowledge and information with Whaddon on the East West Railway. Cllr Hallett emphasised the need to communicate with each other as the consultation period was short (March 11<sup>th</sup>) and again encouraged residents to attend the Bassingbourn or Orwell meetings. Cllr Hallett told the meeting that it was difficult to represent the local population's views as there had not been any attendance at either the Bassingbourn or Meldreth Parish Council meeting. The two views that had been expressed informally were in favour.
- Cllr van de Ven raised concerns about the lack of local connectivity with the proposed plans, with few stations planned and none connecting to existing stations. She also spoke of the proposed lack of level crossings and the isolation of some of the proposed routes and how this would impact on the

local infrastructure and environment. The Chair commented that new railways were built with bridges to minimise road and pedestrian disruption. Cllr van de Ven also spoke of the lack of a proposed route to North Cambridge, which currently has fewer transport links, which she felt would have been beneficial.

- Cllr Hart and all the meeting agreed that the maps are very vague, covering different areas of land, causing confusion and uncertainty to local residents. A member of the public described how Royston was not even on the map and that this ambiguity increases anxiety. He felt that many people would be opposed to the plans if they were fully aware of the implications that come with a new railway.

#### **7.0 Correspondence & Complaints –**

- Request for funding from Royston and District Community Transport (10/1/19) Action: this will be discussed in the April Parish Council Meeting
- Insurance claim for the telephone box finalised (Email dated 18/1/19)
- East West Railway consultation invite for Parish Chair (via telephone) 28/1/19
- Email from PCSO James Lynch inviting local communities to hold a Police Surgery (23/1/19) Action: Chair has contacted the PCSO with suggested dates and is awaiting a reply.
- Complaint from a Whaddon resident concerning the large amount of dog faeces on public footpaths and pavements, with a request to put more signs in village asking dog owners to clear up after their dog. (8/2/19). Resolved: it was agreed that an email should be circulated to residents requesting their co-operation.
- Information concerning the Great British Spring Clean, 22 March 2019 – 23 April. (8/2/19). Action: a further litter pick to be arranged in Whaddon. It was suggested by a member of the public that this should be done before the grass grows and covers the old litter.
- Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Planning Consultations invitation to submit comments 11/2/19.

**8.0 Planning meetings and updates – S/0171/19/FL – Proposed two and one storey extensions following demolition. 87 Meldreth Road, Whaddon. This was approved by the Planning Meeting.**

#### **9.0 Finance:**

**9.1** Consideration of request for grant funding from Whaddon Village Hall & Recreation Ground Trust – Action: the Parish Council agreed to the request to fund the insurance (£1,451.84) and the ROSPA inspection (£120) but felt that the electrical appliance testing (£63) should be the financial responsibility of the Trust.

**9.2** Approval of payments:

- Staff wages and expenses – £362.73

- Grass cutting - £96
- Village bench installation (approval only) - £120
- Handyman - £50
- CAPALC (counsellor training) - £75

**9.3** Agreement and approval of the bank reconciliation.

**10.0 Whaddon Village Hall & Recreation Ground Trust:**

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

- Cllr Strudwick informed the meeting that the WVH&RGT committee held a meeting on January 21<sup>st</sup>. The recent damage to the bar was discussed and it was felt that a change in the deposit system may be required in the future.
- Issues concerning the heating system installation were ongoing and it is hoped a response from the heating company would be imminent.
- Cllr Strudwick explained that the Trust would like to improve the garage area of the recreation ground, including the building of a cricket club store. Three film nights, starting with The Blues Brothers on February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7.30pm, have been arranged to start fundraising for these. Tickets are available from the Golf Centre or Anita Birch at £5 each.
- It was agreed by the Trust that a new cigarette bin would be installed outside to decrease litter.

**11.0 East West Railway** - this was discussed above.

**12.0 Training Opportunities:** The Chair reminded all that it is useful for everyone to have refresher training, as well as the new counsellors. Cllr Vries agreed that her recent training was insightful and beneficial.

**13.0 Village Plan:** The Parish Council agreed that a committee from the village should be encouraged to establishing views and opinions for the future of Whaddon. Action: to be discussed further in the April PC meeting.

**14.0 Permissive Paths:** Local farmer, Mr Huffer, updated the meeting about his revised scheme for the permissive paths across his farmland. Broadly they will remain the same, although some will be reduced in width. The Parish Council agreed to pay a proportion of the hedge cutting costs in Pickering Wood, which is carried out by a separate contractor. Mr Huffer and the Parish Council felt that a map showing the footpaths and permissive paths should be distributed to residents, so they could be clear to all. It was also emphasised that local dog walkers must control their animals in a responsible way as there is some evidence that damage to crops has been occurring. Mr Huffer said that the permissive paths would remain as such for the next twelve years. This did not mean they were an automatic right of way though and some areas could be temporarily shut for short periods for farming and maintenance purposes. The Chair and Parish Council thanked Mr Huffer for his work in keeping the paths

open, which were regularly enjoyed by large numbers of residents of the village and further afield.

**15.0 Village Upkeep and Maintenance:** A member of the public reported that the large number of fallen leaves on the footpath from the church along Meldreth Road obstructed pedestrians from walking easily and it was agreed that a more permanent solution would be beneficial next autumn.

**16.0 Items for next meeting** – noting of requests for agenda items - none

**Date of next meeting – Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March at 8pm**

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