

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

Present:	Chairman	L Ginger
	Councillors	R Scott, A Birch, N Strudwick & J Hart
	Parish Clerk	A Bridges
	District Councillor	J Hales & P Hart
	County Councillor	S van de Ven
	Members of the Public	One

**1.0 Apologies for Absence** – A Milton, W Elbourn.

**2.0 Approval of minutes – to resolve that the minutes from the Parish Council meeting of October 14<sup>th</sup> were a correct record** – Resolved: the minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

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

**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 a discussion about the telephone kiosk, which is ready to be used once the shelves had been fitted. The second telephone kiosk on Meldreth Road will also be purchased by the Parish Council for £1 as BT are decommissioning it due to lack of use.
- The Village Plan was agreed to be deferred until next year.
- The Chair and Cllr Scott discussed arranging a meeting with the bank to set up online banking for the Parish Council.
- The second MVAS unit was agreed to be also delayed until the outcome of the LHI Bid (Local Highway Improvement).
- The LHI bid, (which aimed to reduce the speed limit on the A1198 between Kneesworth and Whaddon Gap) was then discussed. Cllr Strudwick spoke of the Feasibility Report sent by Cambridgeshire County Council Highways' department in response. The report had significantly changed the plans given by the Parish Council in the original bid and concentrated on Whaddon Gap junction, which although very important, ignored the wider issues of the other junctions onto the A1198 and especially that from/to the Barracks. Highways felt it they could not support the reduction in speed limit along the A1198 due to the high average speed of cars and that it would be difficult to enforce by the Police.

Cllr Strudwick reminded the meeting that the bid had to be agreed by the 20<sup>th</sup> December and how disappointed he and the Chair were that this revision was

sent without any prior discussion or notification to the Parish Council. Cllr van de Ven agreed that this was not ideal practice and she would investigate this with the Highways department.

Cllr Hart argued that their new proposal of a central island in the road by Whaddon Gap seemed to be less safe than the existing lay out and all agreed. A discussion then developed on the best course of action. Cllr Hales spoke of the increasing numbers of Army personnel with their families arriving at Bassingbourn Barracks and although the Barracks are unable to make a financial contribution, their support is vitally important in the success of the bid. It was agreed that a road safety team needed to inspect the area and a further meeting between the Parish Council, the Barracks and Cllr van de Ven would be arranged. It was widely felt that it may be prudent to delay the bid to another year rather than rush it through with an unsatisfactory outcome.

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

### **5.1 District Councillor**

- Cllr Hart firstly spoke of the verges outside Ridgeway Close and stated that Cambridgeshire County Council currently owned the land. It was suggested that if SCDC had ownership of the patch, they would be more able to make added parking spaces for their nearby tenants and it would be easier for CCC to gift this to SCDC.
- Cllr Hart also informed the meeting that the next Local Plan meeting will be delayed until New Year.

The Chair then spoke of Hertfordshire Fire Authority's plan to charge an hourly rate rather than flat fee to call-outs in neighbouring counties. The Chair described how Whaddon and other communities in the far south of Cambridgeshire may be disadvantaged as the travel time from Parkside, in the centre of Cambridge, is considerable and that the first response to the village and the surrounding area is generally from Royston Fire Station. It was suggested by Cllr Hales that all Parish Councils in the area should write to the Fire Authority requesting confirmation for processes across county borders and wait times expected. Action: Clerk to liaise with other Parishes.

## **6.0 Public Participation – None**

## **7.0 Correspondence & Complaints –**

- 18/10/19 – Intended telephone box removal on Meldreth Road information (SCDC)
- 20/10/19 – Information request from a resident regarding the permissive footpath alongside Whaddon Gap.
- 21/10/19 – Request from resident asking for horse riding road signs on Meldreth Road to help deter fast drivers.
- 23/10/19 – LED update to street lighting from SCDC
- 29/10/19- Precept information for Whaddon (SCDC)
- 5/11/19 – Adoption of the telephone kiosk on Meldreth Road from BT for £1 (BT)

**8.0 Street Lighting Arrangements-** The Clerk stated that the street light was still on and she reminded the meeting that SCDC needed to upgrade the lights or remove them. As only one was working, it was agreed to remove both of the lights. Action: Clerk to contact SCDC.

## **9.0 Recreation Ground Park Fence**

### **10.0 Finance:**

**10.1** Approval of payments to be signed today:

- Staff wages - £366.42.
- Chair's expenses (until December 2019) - £50
- ICO (Information Commissioner's Office) - £40
- RBL Poppy Appeal - £30
- Cllr Joanne Hart – plants for Meldreth Railway station sponsored flower tub - £28.73

**10.2** 2020-21 Precept Planning – agreement of date for Precept Meeting and noting of potential projects requiring funding. Agreed: the meeting will be on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm at Cllr Birch's home.

### **11.0 Planning meetings and updates –**

Noting of Whaddon Parish Councils Planning Committee recommendations:

- i) **S/3122/19/FL:** Demolition of existing front garage and replacement with 4 parking spaces. Demolition of 2 existing rear sheds and replacement with 1 shed. Mrs Godfrey, 40-42 Bridge Street Whaddon. SG8 5SQ.  
Approved.

### **12.0 Whaddon Village Hall & Recreation Ground Trust – verbal update:**

- Cllr Strudwick informed the meeting that he will write an email with a set deadline to the architect in regard to settling the dispute over the installation of the heating.
- The Trust were still awaiting further information from Connecting Cambridgeshire about free WIFI in the hall.
- The emergency light has a date to be fixed.
- The playground maintenance is up to date.
- The Local Community Fund of £1,945 is to be paid by the Co-op and will be put to part fund fencing around the smaller children's playground.
- Cllr Birch stated that the first film night of the season had raised £130 profit and the second film night is on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November showing Grease.
- Cllr Strudwick informed the meeting that he has stepped down as Chairman of the Trust but will continue to be a Trust member. Cllr Strudwick was thanked warmly for all his work while chairing the Trust and Cllr Birch was thanked for taking over the role.

**13.0 Plant a Tree Day** –The Parish Council agreed that a rowan tree could be planted for Plant a Tree day on November 30th.

**14.0 Village Upkeep and Maintenance - reporting of upkeep or maintenance issues and agreement of actions:** Cllr Scott spoke of finding 43 vodka bottles by the verge in the village and the Chair said he would report this to the Community Police Support Officer. Cllr Scott also requested (in his role as handyman) that a hi-viz vest, and an industrial litter picker would be useful for his work. This was agreed but the Chair said that Cllr Scott needs to review any other items that should be provided to enable parish work to be carried out more efficiently and safely.

**15.0 Items for next meeting** – Request by Cllr Joanne Hart for a dog waste bin to be situated on the public footpath starting by St Mary's Close.

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.28p.m.**

**Date of next meeting – 13<sup>th</sup> January at 8pm.**