

**Minutes of the Whaddon Parish Council virtual meeting held on the
9th November 2020 at 8pm.**

Present:	Chair	L Ginger
	Councillors	A Birch, N Strudwick, W Elbourn, A Milton D Townsend & J Hart.
	Parish Clerk	A Bridges
	Members of the Public	None
	County Councillor	Cllr S van de Ven
	District Councillor	Cllr J Hales

- 1.0 Apologies for Absence** – Cllr Hales to join later due to other meeting commitments.
- 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 October 12th 2020 were a correct record** – Resolved: the minutes were approved and will be signed at a later date.
- 4.0 Reports from Clerk and Councillors – to receive verbal updates about progress on resolutions and actions from previous Parish Council meetings:**
- The Chair welcomed the newly appointed Cllr Townsend to the meeting, which will be announced in the next Whaddon newsletter.
 - There are no updates on County Broadband. Cllr van de Ven commented that 25 properties in outskirts of Meldreth and Shepreth are getting a faster BT connection.
 - Cllr Hart is now a signatory for the bank accounts.
 - The Clerk to organise filing of old documents in Cambridgeshire County Council archives.
- 5.0 Reports from District and County Councillors:**
- Cllr Susan Van de Ven spoke about the COVID-19 response in neighbouring villages. This included community food banks in Meldreth and Bassingbourn. Cllr Van de Ven spoke of the genuine need for food for some families who may not be in receipt of benefits. Cllr Birch asked how these households could be identified and Cllr Van de Ven explained that Meldreth Primary School identifies pupils who are in receipt of free school meals and arranges a weekly food box during holidays. There is also provision for others who may be in need and this is advertised in the village. Bassingbourn has a ‘care and share’ scheme for those to turn up and receive food.
 - Cllr Van de Ven asked if Whaddon Parish Council had considered applying for a newly available COVID-19 related grant. She felt this could benefit some of Whaddon’s residents who have pupils in Meldreth and Bassingbourn. The Chair replied that the Parish Council had already accepted a grant of £100.

- The County Council are now putting staff back in COVID-19 response teams, which may have an impact on resources and services provided by the Council.
- Cllr Hales discussed how identifying vulnerable people in this lockdown was different from earlier in the year. He reported that SCDC will contact directly highly vulnerable residents, giving advice if they need further support. This differs from before when this information was shared with community groups.
- The Chair asked why the base number of houses for the precept calculation was significantly lower this year, from 218.8 to 212.8. This is based on the number of category D homes. Cllr Hales said he would investigate this.

6.0 Public Participation – a written request from a resident for detailed COVID-19 information was declined, as this level of information was not available.

7.0 COVID-19 Issues – all leaflets from the Parish Council are now distributed and an email has also been sent out. This information is also on the website. **Action:** Clerk to put this on the notice board. No further requests from any residents. The Village Hall remains shut.

8.0 Correspondence and complaints:

- East West Railway Newsletter (15/10/20)
- Update on autumn events for Parishes – SCDC (16/10/20)
- Local Highways Authority - roadworks information (20/10/20)
- Covid community update information – SCDC (29/20/20)
- Greater Cambridge Local Plan information workshop invitation – Greater Cambridge Planning (4/11/20)

9.0 Planning Updates – 20/03295/HFUL 106 Church Street, Whaddon. SG8 5RX. Proposed single storey rear extension to form dining room. **Approved** by SCDC.

Cllr Strudwick and the Chair responded to the Government changes to Planning policy in a recent survey.

10.0 Finance: Approval of payments to be signed today:

- Staff wages and expenses – £491.70
 - CAPALC training - £125
 - Handyman – £130
 - Street lighting from October 2019 to October 2020 - £82.27. This was under review with CCC as both street lights had been removed.
 - Review of progress against budget until October 2020
- Cheques approved before the meeting:**
- Handyman expenses for Meldreth Road bus shelter – £415.67

11.0 Dog waste bin – The three quotes for a new dog waste bin, situated by the footpath on St Mary's Close, were discussed. The councillors all felt that the Glasdon bin at £265.19 (net) was a well-recognised brand and universally used. The other bins were not felt to be as robust. This will be attached to the footpath

sign, in the verge opposite to the houses. **Agreed** the Glasdon dog waste bin to be purchased.

12.0 Clerk's lap-top – The clerk reported that local computer and laptop repair company did not have a GDPR policy and therefore the lap top could not be sent there. The Chair has had the lap-top reviewed by a technician at Currys (from where it was originally purchased) and it was felt to be not worth repairing. Despite attempts to rectify the lap-top, the clerk reported that it continued to not work correctly. Cllr Strudwick asked if the clerk could share a lap-top with another Parish Council, but this was reported to be against guidelines due to GDPR. Cllr Strudwick stated he was uneasy with this. It was **agreed** by the meeting that a new lap-top could be purchased.

Cllr Milton left the meeting at this point.

13.0 Parish Plan – The Chair felt that the village had received enough information at the moment with COVID related issues and this will start in the new year.

14.0 Village Hall and Recreation Trust –

- Cllr Birch updated the meeting by stating that the village hall remained shut. No groups that hired the hall were exempt from the latest restrictions. There remains a weekly cleaning schedule so it can be opened as soon as official regulations change. Cllr Birch informed the meeting that Nikki Cross and Jane Huffer had joined the Village Hall Trust but there remains one vacancy. The recreation ground remains open.
- Cllr Elbourn had investigated possible local companies that will quote for the new rail fence. **Action:** Clerk to obtain quotes.

15.0 Village Upkeep and Maintenance – Cllr Strudwick stated that the road sign coming into Whaddon from the A1198 would be mended after he had reported it as damaged. Details for the next grass cutting tender for 2021-2024 had been finalised. **Action:** Clerk to send out grass cutting contract to potential contractors.

16.0 Items for the next meeting – none

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.18 pm

Date of next meeting – 11th January at 8pm

Precept discussion meeting on December 7th at 8pm (to be held as a closed meeting).