

Minutes of Whaddon Parish Council Meeting held on the 13th January 2020 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall, Church Street, Whaddon, Cambridgeshire, SG8 5RY.

Present:	Chairman	L Ginger
	Councillors	R Scott, A Birch, N Strudwick, W Elbourn & J Hart
	Parish Clerk	A Bridges
	District Councillor	P Hart
	Members of the Public	One

1.0 Apologies for Absence – A Milton, District Councillor J Hales (attending another meeting) and County Councillor S van de Ven.

2.0 Approval of minutes – to resolve that the minutes from the Parish Council meeting of November 11th 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 reporting that the telephone box would be ready to be open as a library once again tomorrow, after the books had been put by back by the Clerk and handyman.
- The Village Plan will be explored after the Parish Council learns if the Local Highways Improvement scheme bid has been successful.
- Cllr Scott reported that online banking has been set up with Barclays Bank. However, it was agreed that further discussions were needed with the bank, as the Clerk does not have access to the account online.
- It was confirmed that a second MVAS unit would be purchased after the Parish Council is informed of the result of the LHI bid as before.
- A new dog waste bin, situated by St Mary's Close, was agreed by all to be beneficial in the village. Action: Clerk to contact South Cambridgeshire County Council to ensure this would be cleared weekly before one is requested.

5.0 Reports from District and County Councillors:

5.1 District Councillor

- Cllr Hart firstly spoke of the verges outside Ridgeway Close and stated how disappointed she was that no action could be taken by Cambridgeshire Highways.
- Cllr Hart informed the meeting that unfortunately the church would have to seek planning permission for a new material used on the roof and that this decision was given 15 weeks after the first enquiry. This of time was agreed to be unacceptable, as the church is unable to proceed further until planning approval is given.
- Lastly, Cllr Hart described SCDC's and Cambridgeshire City Councils roadshows to promote the Greater Cambridge Local Plan. This seeks residents' options on jobs, homes, infrastructure, climate change and social inclusion. All are encouraged to have their say and posters were given to display details in the village. The Chair asked why no roadshows were local to Whaddon and Cllr Hart agreed that this would ideally be held in Melbourn and she would investigate.

6.0 Public Participation – a resident inquired why the children's Christmas party had not taken place last year and how disappointed some residents were as a result. It was noted that in previous years money had been fundraised by the Party in the Barn and also by the previous group of residents, who had stepped down after running it for many years. It was suggested that this would be looked into by the Village Hall Trust.

7.0 Local Highways Improvement – Cllr Strudwick informed the meeting that he would be presenting the case to the Highways Department later in the week for a speed reduction on the A1198 to help give safer junctions at Whaddon Gap, The Barracks, Cardiff Place, Cambridge Crescent and the New Farm site. The outcome of this would be known by March 2020. A recent meeting with Bassingbourn Barracks had again illustrated their support for these changes, and it was hoped that their presence at the meeting would give the case significant backing. It was agreed that if successful, they would add a further MVAS unit on the road to encourage a reduction of speed. It was also commented that a recent accident at the area had sadly demonstrated how dangerous the A1198 junction can be.

8.0 Ridgeway Close/Bridge Street Parking – The area was currently very rutted and muddy, which was partly due to parking and the large number of vehicles driving over it (whilst passing other vehicles on the road) which has not been helped by soil being added to the potholes by County Highways. A recent meeting on 20th November between SCDC Housing department, District Councillor Jose Hales and the Chair of Whaddon PC had discussed the possibility that a footpath could be built alongside the fence for bollards to be put in. A further parking space would be made available in the area behind the garages by adding another bay and also remarking the parking bays. It was agreed that a roadside kerb would be the best option long term, but the budget did not allow for this.

9.0 Correspondence & Complaints –

- Email from a Ridgeway Close resident asking for more parking spaces (20/11/19)
- Email from Simeon Carroll (Highways Officer) confirming possible location of planting a tree on the verge opposite Ridgeway Close (22/11/19)
- Email from resident inquiring about the possible location of the possible planting of a tree in the village (26/11/19).
- Email from resident concerning the grass verge cut in December (6/12/19)
- Email from local resident asking about putting horse riding signs on the road in Whaddon (16/12/19)
- Email from Cambridge County Council for their Local Plan consultation in January 2020 (20/12/19).
- Email from Highways Department at CCC giving information about a temporary speed restriction the A1198 from February 3rd 2020 (6/1/2020).
- Local Plan information from Cambridgeshire County Council (13/1/2020)

10.0 Finance:

10.1 Approval of payments to be signed today:

- Staff wages - £823.42 (£90.58 expenses).
- Chair's expenses (until April 2020) - £50
- WVH Trust – handyman costs - £260

Payments approved in November and signed today:

- Cllr Joanne Hart – plants for Meldreth Railway station sponsored flower tub - £28.73
- BT Payphones - £1 – adoption of telephone box in Meldreth Road.

10.2 2020-2021 Precept – Agreement and approval of 2020-21 precept – consideration of recommended precept £17,478. Resolved: this was agreed and the Chair to sign and complete the necessary paperwork. This is the same total amount as last year, although in actual terms it is £0.58p yearly increase for Band D homes due to the slight decrease in houses paying tax in the village this year.

11.0 Planning meetings and updates –

Noting of Whaddon Planning Committee recommendations re planning applications (i). **S/3574/19/FL** – Construction of an all-weather arena – 128 Meldreth Road, Whaddon. SG8 5RP. Approved. (ii) **S/3927/LB** - Replace 11 windows and 1 patio door. 153 Bridge Street. Whaddon. SG8 5SG. Approved.

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

- Cllr Birch told the meeting that the phone line had been installed to enable WIFI to be set up in the village hall. It was widely agreed that this could encourage commercial lettings. Cllr Birch spoke of the recent WVH meeting, where a potential increase in hourly rates was also discussed for later in the year.
- Cllr Birch confirmed the lights and alarm had been checked.
- The garage had been inspected and was structurally sound, meaning a new roof and doors would be installed on the original base. A separate store would be built by the cricket club to house their equipment. Cllr Scott questioned if lights would be installed in the garage, but this was not currently planned.
- Cllr Birch confirmed that recent fundraising events had been successful and the next film night would be on February 22nd where two sittings of the Greatest Showman (one for children and an evening showing for adults) was planned. The Party in the Barn was planned for July 11th 2020.
- Cllr Birch reported that the Trust felt a Christmas tree outside the village hall would be appreciated next Christmas.
- Cllr Strudwick informed the meeting that the architect had responded to their correspondence and informed the Trust that the actual contract for managing the installation of the heating equipment was with another company and not his own, as previously noted. Further discussions would be held between Cllrs Strudwick and Cllr Ginger as to proceed further.

13.0 Meldreth Road telephone box – the Chair confirmed that the Parish Council would adopt the telephone box, although it is still currently connected to BT. It was reported that the box itself is in a poor condition and would need restoring. It was agreed that an email could be sent to residents asking for ideas on its new use.

14.0 Tree planting – The Chair confirmed that the Parish Council did not plant a tree in November. South Cambridgeshire District Council had recently offered a voucher for three trees to be planted on Parish Council land. The Chair also spoke of the possibility of planting a group of saplings in the village to enhance the village and encourage environmental benefits.

15.0 Village Upkeep and Maintenance - reporting of upkeep or maintenance issues and agreement of actions: none.

16.0 Items for next meeting – none

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.35pm.

Date of next meeting – 10th February at 8pm.