

**Minutes of the Whaddon Parish Council virtual meeting held on  
13<sup>th</sup> July 2020 at 8pm.**

Present:	Chairman	L Ginger
	Councillors	A Birch, N Strudwick, A Milton & J Hart, W Elbourn
	Parish Clerk	A Bridges
	District Councillors	J Hales and P Hart
	County Councillor	S van de Ven

**1.0 Apologies for Absence** – District Councillor Hales and County Councillor S van de Ven to start the meeting at 8.15pm due to a Melbourn Planning Meeting

**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 June 15<sup>th</sup> 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 reported that there had been considerable discussion on social media about the amount of dog waste left on footpaths in the village. South Cambridgeshire District Council had confirmed they would empty a new dog waste bin by St Mary's Close but the Parish Council would have to pay for the bin. Action: Clerk to gain further information on prices of waste bins.
- County Broadband – Cllr Strudwick said that there was no further news and the decision to connect Whaddon would be made in the next ten days.
- The tree cutting along Dyers Green had missed one of the trees interfering with power cables but improvements have been made to telephone and internet connections with removal of other interfering branches.
- Despite a polite request to the householder to remove the bin sheds, on the verge outside no. 41 Bridge Street, The Chair reported that the matter has now been referred to County Highways. There have been numerous complaints to the PC about it, because of the obstruction of vision for motorists. The bins are on a County Highways owned verge.
- The Innovation Fund was then discussed. This gives grants to local communities for projects such as dementia friendly support. It was suggested by the Chair that the Palmer Trust could also consider working jointly with any future projects if the grant was successful.

- Three applicants have applied to become Parish Councillors which was very positive news for the village. It was agreed that there would need to be a simple process to help councillors in the selection of a candidate. The closing date for applications is the end of July.
- The meeting then discussed the Meldreth Road telephone kiosk. The Parish Council had received lots of encouraging suggestions, including the option of making the kiosk a greenhouse. It was felt that as telephone kiosks get very hot in summer and cold in winter it would be high maintenance. Cllr J Hart suggested that a plant exchange would be a similar idea, without the long-term commitment to keeping the plants alive. It was agreed that a regular weekly time would be ideal for adding plants. During the colder months it was suggested that the kiosk could be a toy exchange and it was felt that most people would be happy to use preloved toys in Covid times. It was felt that ideally a resident of Meldreth Road could take on the responsibility of checking the kiosk from time to time.
- Another good idea from a resident was displaying the fact sheets that David Grech produced about the village. It was agreed that the kiosk was too small, but it was suggested the display could go on the Village Hall external walls. The meeting concluded that the renovation of the kiosk was a large project and this needs to occur before any changes are made.

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

- Cllr P Hart firstly discussed the Greater Cambridge Infrastructure Opportunity Mapping Project which aims to ask each Parish to explore possible green space projects that could benefit the area.
- Cllr P Hart then discussed the Devolution White Paper which includes plans to restructure local authorities, although no detail has yet been given in Cambridgeshire.
- Cllr van de Ven talked about the Local Outbreak Control Plan for Covid-19 in which the Local Authority have been given responsibility for local outbreaks and managing the Test and Trace system. It was highlighted by the Director of Health that the Test and Trace will not work without social distancing and we need to keep a strong message about social distancing for people to understand the importance.
- The Foxton Travel Hub has now been approved despite a large amount of local opposition. Many residents felt it will consist of just a large car park in the village, with a small railway station and a very busy A10. The level crossing itself will have no changes. The Cambridge Biomedical Campus backed the plan as they were led to believe this would happen when first developing the area. Cambridge South station is due to open in the next five years which will arguably make the Foxton Hub largely redundant.
- Cllr van de Ven informed the meeting that The Melbourn Greenway project has been approved. This includes a bridge over the A505 at the A10 roundabout and a connecting cycle/foot path from Melbourn to Royston amongst other plans to benefit links.
- Cllr van de Ven spoke of the broken drain in Whitecroft Road for over a week despite it being reported as dangerous twice.

- The Chair asked the Cllr van de Ven about Thriplow Refuse Centre and she confirmed that the booking system remains in place, rather than being able to turn up. The Parish Council felt that that this may encourage fly tipping.
- The Chair reported that he wrote back to the resident in Ridgeway Close who was concerned about parking and garage space. It was confirmed that, in the short term, the unused garages are now to be used as parking spaces and further empty garages are also being investigated. Thanks was given to the Housing Officer for a pragmatic solution to the shortage of parking and space.

**5.0 Public Participation** – A resident had inquired why the Parish Council are not offering public Zoom meetings to the public. Cllr Hales confirmed that Shepreth and Melbourn are offering dial in codes to the meeting to those who asked the clerk beforehand. It was agreed that the next meeting would offer public observation/participation. Cllr Birch suggested the Parish Council should pay for a Zoom subscription, rather than having to rely on the limited free version, which was agreed. It was also agreed that the fee could be shared with the Village Hall Trust for joint use. Action: to pay for Zoom annual subscription for one year.

**7.0 Covid-19 Issues** – Cllr Hales described how the Melbourn Hub was winding down its services as shielding is officially ending at the end of the month. It was agreed that the medication pick up in Whaddon could also be stopped, as demand is now falling to about half of before. It was also felt that if anyone had any related needs further prescription needs, they should be encouraged to contact the Parish Council for support. Cllr Strudwick questioned the timing of reducing assistance in the village and Cllr Hales responded by stating the number of prescriptions and shopping requests have halved in Melbourn as people are now wanting to do it themselves. The pharmacy has also reported lots more traffic and the Hub have reduced their hours. Cllr Hales spoke of the information pack produced by Melbourn Hub which states they are closing services down but gives details of local charities who can help those who need it. Cllr van de Ven spoke of needing planned resources if there are future outbreaks and that a collaborating between local charities and the Local Authority in Cambridgeshire has not happened yet. Cllr Birch finished by stating how important it was to reinforce the public health message about social distancing at all times.

### **8.0 Correspondance and complaints**

- Planning application 20/01503/LBC at 68 Bridge Street, Whaddon, approved (SCDC 16/6/20).
- Test and Trace information from Cambridgeshire NHS Trust (25/6/20).
- June bulletin of Greater Cambridge Planning service (SCDC 29/6/20).
- Email from resident concerned about the standard of verge cutting outside their house (30/6/20)

- Planning application 20/01260/LBC – 153 Bridge Street, Whaddon, Approved. (SCDC 3/7/20)
- Email explaining Zero Carbon Communities Grant funds from SDCD (3/7/20). Cllr Hales stated this was generally aimed at larger projects like solar power panels on village halls.
- Email from resident concerned at street light removal and changes to parking and garages in Ridgeway Close (3/7/20).
- Emailing from resident expressing interest in becoming a councillor in the Parish Council (4/7/20).
- Planning approval for application S/0077/20/FL – St Marys Church (SCDC 6/7/20). Approved.
- Email from resident inquiring about Meldreth Road telephone kiosk update (6/7/20).
- Two emails from local residents with ideas concerning the new use of the telephone kiosk on Meldreth Road (7/7/20).
- Email reporting damage to the dog waste bin in Ridgeway Close (7/7/20).
- Email from SDCD giving information on the new dog waste bin by St Marys Close (8/7/20).
- Email from resident giving ideas for the telephone kiosk in Meldreth Road (10/7/20).
- Two further emails from residents expressing interest in becoming a councillor (10/7/20).

## 8.0 Planning Updates –

- **20/01260/LBC** – Replace 11 windows and 1 patio door. 153 Bridge Street, Whaddon. Approved.
- **S/0077/20/FL** – Replacement of roof to knave and north and south aisles in tern coated stainless steel. St Mary's Church, Church Street, Whaddon. Approved.

## 9.0 Finance:

### 12.1 Approval of payments to be signed today:

- Staff wages and expenses – £388.95
- Handyman salary - £48.00
- Bank reconciliation approval
- Consideration and approval of the Annual Governance Statement 2019/2020
- Noting of Internal Auditor's report on Annual Return 2019/20
- Consideration of reserves and approval for carrying forward specific ringfenced funds - The Chair stated that the Parish Council have project reserve funds for the Village Hall, the second MVAS, LHI and the Parish Plan. It was agreed that the children's playground reserve should be reduced to £250 on advice that the VH Trust had received £1,900 from the Co-op fund for this project. The other reserve of money for the Village

Hall can be counted together (for the car park fence, general maintenance for the playground and the hall).

The amount for the LHI bid can be supplemented after last year's underspend, to bring it up to £15,750. This was agreed by all.

**10.0 Renovation of Meldreth bus shelter** – the handyman reported that he would be able to open up the front and improve its appearance. This would also include coating the roof in sealant paint. The cost for these renovations would be approximately £350. All agreed that this would greatly benefit Meldreth Road.

**11.0 LHI Bid –**

- Cllr Strudwick stated he had refilled the form from last year with some modifications. He informed the meeting that if the Parish Council allocated £15,000, this would equate to 50-60% of the total estimate which is £28,118. Bassingbourn Parish Council haven't yet confirmed that they are able to financially contribute. Cllr Strudwick spoke about researching the successful applications and he felt the A1198 application may have been rejected as it is a major road which they are reluctant to change.
- The Chair asked if everyone in the meeting was happy with the second bid. Cllr J Hart said she had concerns that the bid would be rejected again because the house opposite the Whaddon Gap junction makes road renovations more difficult. The Chair said he felt traffic islands would help this. A speed reduction to 40 MPH remained beneficial for all residents and motorists. It was agreed that a second bid was important, although discussions needed to occur for all eventualities.

**12.0 Ridgway Close parking** – the Chair reminded the Parish Council that SCDC had agreed to add a little extra fencing by Ridgway Close and Cllr Hales agreed to chase this. The addition of two garages to become short-term car parking spaces was welcomed.

**13.0 Grass cutting** – It was agreed that the grass cutting contract details must be reviewed shortly and this will include looking at how to manage the frequency of the grass cuts.

**14.0 Litter** – this has also been mentioned on social media in the village and it was reported that the handyman is still litter picking. It was felt that there was not a huge litter problem in Whaddon and that any signs may not have a beneficial effect, especially in the one area where litter is regularly deposited, along Whaddon Gap. Cllr Birch asked if it would be a good idea to ask the village for a view and it was felt this would be most effectively asked in the upcoming Village Plan questionnaire.

**15.0 Village Hall and Recreation Trust –**

- Cllr Birch stated the playground opened on the 4<sup>th</sup> July. Signs are up but waiting for better signage hopefully here by end of the week.
- Fenland have completed the playground inspection and the Village Hall Trust are waiting for various quotes for the work.

- Rose Fire and Security will complete the 6-month fire alarm checks this week, in advance of opening the village hall. It remains closed but have most paperwork done and the risk assessment will be completed within the week. The Chair thanked Cllr Birch for all her hard work with a very large amount of paperwork and continually changing Government advice.

**16.0 Village Upkeep and Maintenance** – Cllr Strudwick asked if the handyman can check for overgrowth on the pavements. Dead trees by the pump also need cutting down.

**17.0 Items for the next meeting** – additional meeting on August 10<sup>th</sup> 2020. Agreed that people can observe via Zoom.

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.55pm**

**Date of next meeting – August 10<sup>th</sup> 2020 at 8pm.**