

Minutes of the Whaddon Parish Council virtual meeting held via Zoom on 8th February 2021 at 8pm.

Present:	Chairman	L Ginger
	Councillors	A Birch, N Strudwick, W Elbourn, A Milton, J Hart & D Townsend (from 20:54).
	Parish Clerk	A Bridges
	Members of the Public	Two
	County Councillor	Cllr S van de Ven
	District Councillor	Cllr J Hales

- 1.0 Apologies for Absence** – Cllr Townsend to join the meeting later due to work commitments.
- 2.0 Approval of Minutes** – approval and signing of the minutes from the Parish Council Meeting of 11th January 2021. Resolved: the minutes were approved and will be signed at a later date.
- 3.0 Receiving Declarations of Interest from Councillors on items on the agenda** – Cllr Hart and Cllr Elbourn stated they will not participate in item 8 due to being landowners in the area.
- 4.0 Reports from Clerk and Councillors – verbal updates about progress on resolutions and actions from previous Parish Council meetings.**

The new dog waste bin has been fitted by Ridgeway Close, replacing the damaged one.

The deposit for Morley Manufacturing has been paid and work is being undertaken to start the new fence. The church yard fence broken metalwork has been removed and it was agreed to replace panels by spare old panels from the car park fence if they are compatible.

There were no updates on the parking at Ridgway Close from SCDC. There have been further reports of cars both driving and parking on the communal grass outside the houses and also blocking the public footpath. Cllr Hales informed the meeting that surveyors from SCDC will assess the plans for demolition of the garages, which will greatly increase the parking spaces available. One garage is owned privately, and this resident will be contacted separately by SCDC. The councillors discussed erecting a fence around the grass and it was agreed that this would be considered after evaluating the situation when more spaces are created.

It was decided that the Parish Plan will start when meetings can be held in person, as it was felt that this would benefit from in-person discussions rather than via Zoom.

The new grass cutting contractor will meet with the Parish Council before the first cut later in the spring.

Cllr Strudwick asked for an update on the precept information to send to residents on the village email and the Whaddon News. Action: This will be completed by the Chair and sent in the next week.

5.0 Reports from District and County Councillors – verbal updates

Cllr van de Ven spoke about the problems with overflowing sewage water in Whitecroft Road in Meldreth and in Meldreth Road in Whaddon. Anglia Water agreed to send a tanker to pump the drains for two days, but the leaking had returned shortly after. Anglia Water were not able to resend the tanker as it was needed elsewhere, and Cllr van de Ven discussed plans to meet with Anglia Water to discuss long term plans for improving the system affecting both villages.

Cllr van de Ven spoke of the problem of ploughed over footpaths in the area and urged residents to report these to Highways online.

Cllr van de Ven confirmed the reduction in train services from Thameslink due to low passenger numbers during Lockdown. Foxton Parish Council and the Greater Cambridge Partnership scheme were in discussions to make Foxton Travel Hub car park more of a travel hub, rather than just a large car park. It has been established that the car park will initially have 500 spaces rather than 900. A public consultation on the Travel Hub is expected to start next month.

Cllr Hales also spoke of the sewage and drainage problems and urged residents to report issues to Anglia Water and to inform the Parish Council if they had problems in their own properties. He hoped this would give them more evidence to push for substantial changes from Anglia Water to improve the situation.

Cllr Hales reported that The South Cambs Business COVID Grant Scheme had been successful in helping businesses claim assistance and it is hoped that it will enable businesses to reopen after Lockdown.

Cllr Hales lastly discussed the Climate and Environment fortnight from February 22nd, in which SCDC will be hosting online events on living sustainably and tackling climate change.

6.0 Public Participation – none.

7.0 COVID-19 Update – an email update was sent to residents last week to give details of support for mental health access and COVID-19 vaccines for the over 70's. Cllr Hales spoke of the high standard of work from SCDC staff, many of whom have been redeployed in COVID related tasks. The Chair discussed the many positive contributions

from SCDC and CCC and Cllr Hales felt that this feedback from the Parish Council would be greatly appreciated to encourage staff morale.

8.0 South West Cambridge planning proposal update – there were no further updates.

The local MP Anthony Browne had expressed firm views against the proposal and those who have concerns are encouraged to sign up to the local South West Action Group for more information.

9.0 LHI Bid Update – Cllr Strudwick informed the meeting that the panel date is Wednesday 17th February. A 500-word statement has been requested beforehand, which Cllr Strudwick has shared with Bassingbourn Barracks and Cllr van de Ven. Cllr Strudwick confirmed that although Bassingbourn Barracks fully support the bid, they are unable to contribute financially due to MOD funding rules. Bassingbourn Parish Council will contribute £1,000 and Whaddon Parish Council £15,000 if successful.

Cllr Townsend entered the meeting at 8.54pm

10. Bridge Street Noticeboard

The noticeboard has been re-varnished and reinstalled, and the Parish Council thanked Steve Coningsby for all his hard work in doing this.

11. Correspondence –

- Email from prospective resident concerned about possible Thakenham development (13/1/21)
- Greater Cambridge Shared Partnership -information on the Greater Cambridge Local Plan (18/1/21)
- Greater Cambridge Shared Partnership Local Plan questionnaire (18/1/21)
- Zoom invitation - Thakeham Proposal discussion with Anthony Browne MP: Thursday 21st January at 5pm (21/1/21 and attended by the Chair).
- East West Rail £760m commitment to support next phase (25/1/21)
- Communities Duty - Voluntary groups vaccination information (28/1/21)
- Email from a resident at Ridgeway Close concerned with lack of parking (31/1/21)
- COVID-19 update from SCDC (5/2/21)

12. Climate emergency committee-

The Parish Council discussed the offer from Bassingbourn Parish Council to have representatives from Whaddon join their Climate Emergency Committee. Cllr van de Ven spoke of the committee's intention to raise awareness and develop environmental ideas at a local level, which are coordinated by SCDC. Cllr Strudwick asked if representatives from Whaddon could be invited to join and this was agreed by all. Action: email to be sent to residents.

13. Finance:

Staff wages and expenses - £399.71

Printing for Whaddon News - £112

- 14. Assets review** – this was agreed to be fully updated by the Chair and Clerk, with the new laptop and labour costs on the bus shelter added.
- 15. Planning updates** – none
- 16. Parish Council representation for the WVH&RGT**
Cllr Strudwick committed to stay as a PC representative on the Trust until May, when it is reviewed at the Annual Parish Council Meeting.
- 17. Whaddon Village Hall Representation and Recreation Ground Trust update** –
Cllr Birch informed the Parish Council that it had been the ACRE Village Hall Week at the end of January and the Trust was submitting the history and photos of the village hall to the virtual 'Village Hall Doomsday Book 2021' organised by ACRE.
- 18. Village Upkeep and Maintenance. Reporting of upkeep or maintenance issues and agreement of actions -**
The large beech tree on the grass corner opposite St Mary's Close was being tested by SCDC for disease and they will inform the Parish Council of the results.
Cllr Townsend described the very muddy and slippery conditions of the footpaths in the village and asked if residents could buy bark chippings to lay at entrances to help with walking. Cllr Hart offered to speak to Shires Tree Surgery who may be able to donate. It was agreed that this will be discussed with landowners.
Cllr Townsend also spoke of the large number of potholes in the nearby roads and it was confirmed that these will be repaired by Highways. Residents were encouraged to continue to report all potholes on the Highways website.
Cllr Elbourn spoke of the Melbourn Warden Scheme, which does not yet cover Whaddon, and felt it offered a highly valuable and cost-efficient service. These details were passed to the family of a vulnerable resident in the village as it was hoped the service would be available in the village soon.
- 19. Items for next meeting** – noting of requests for agenda items – the £100 charitable donation to be discussed.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.28 pm

Date of next meeting 15th March 2021 at 8pm.