

Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 19th March 2007 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present:-	Chairman	Mr E Webb
	Vice Chairman	Mrs C Byatt
	Councillors	Mr P Neale, Mrs M Peyton
	County Councillor	Mrs L Oliver
	District Councillors	Mr D McCraith, Mr N Cathcart
	Parish Clerk	Mrs Y Albery
	Parishioners	6 present

1.0 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mr Lee Ginger and Prof. Tony Milton.

2.0 Approval of minutes

All councillors agreed that the minutes of the previous meeting were a true record and the Chairman (Mr E Webb) signed them accordingly.

3.0 Matters arising

3.1 Waste Collection Notices

The signs have not yet been removed but District Councillor Cathcart will ensure they are removed this coming week.

3.2 Whaddon Car Park Sign

Attempts have been made to clean the sign but have been unsuccessful. As there is a map underneath the graffiti which could be erased by cleaning, it was decided to ask County Farms to replace the notice.

3.3 Chevron Sign in Meldreth Road

The Chevron direction sign has now been erected.

4.0 Parish Plan Progress

4.1 Whaddon Design Statement

It was agreed that a Committee should be set up consisting of not more than six parishioners and would include one parish Councillor. Councillor Ginger has expressed an interest. Mr Ken Charles has also been approached by the Chairman. Chairman Ted Webb will continue to look for other interested parties.

4.2 Byway 22

A meeting will take place at the bottom of Bridge Street on 20th March with Ms Kate Day (CCC Officer for Paths) and Parish Councillors to view the state of the Byway.

4.3 Childrens' Play Area

A Mr Sanders of 'Playquip Leisure' visited the Recreation Ground on March 15th 2007 to ascertain the problem with the slide. The first thing he noticed was that earth had been raised up at the foot of the slide. This was dug away in order to view the end of the slide. He agreed that the slide was holding water and made suggestions as to how this could be remedied. It was agreed at the meeting that he would visit again and hoped to solve this problem. A full report of the meeting was given to all Councillors and a member of the Play Area group.

4.4 Affordable Homes

A meeting took place on 28th February 2007 in SCDC Offices to discuss the Whaddon Affordable Homes Project. Planning, Highways, BPHA, the Land Agent and three Parish Councillors and the Clerk were present. The meeting discussed the proposed diversion of the bridleway. Access to the development and diversion of the bridleway were unacceptable to the Parish Council in the present design. Highways came up with a better solution which will be included in the revised plans. It was requested that the height of the new houses should be slightly reduced to be more in keeping with the nearby cottage. There will be another meeting before the new plans go before the Planning Committee to which the Parish Council will be invited.

5.0 New Correspondence

CALC are arranging a meeting to take place in June, for Clerks and Parish Councillors to attend and discuss aspects of VAT relevant to parish council matters. A VAT representative will be present to answer questions.

SCDC have plans for another meeting to discuss Gypsy and Travellers sites.

The Parish Council is still receiving bills for the parish lighting. The County Council are continuing to invoice for six lights in the village, whereas the Parish Council has agreed to pay for only two lights and has informed SCDC several times.

6.0 Planning

S/00329/07/CW Land at UK Eternit Whaddon. (Landfill) The Parish Councillors were not against the application provided that lorries are not routed through the village. They also requested that notices be erected at Whaddon Gap stating 'No access to Eternit Site for HGVs'. Another sign should be erected opposite the exit of the Eternit site instructing drivers that there is 'No Right Turn'.

O₂ Mast. A meeting has been suggested by the company to listen to Parish Council's concerns.

7.0 Finance

Cheques to be signed tonight

Cheque No. 100536 £11.99 to Mr N Strudwick for website

Cheque No. 100537 £659.36 to Mrs Y Albery for salary and expenses

Cheque No. 100538 £36.00 to Mr K Charles for Village News Letter

Cheque No. 100539 £1050.00 to Whaddon Village Hall Management Committee. (VAT Refund)

VAT claimed back was £2351.29 on behalf of the Parish Council

8.0 Parish Paths Partnership Scheme (PP3)

The forms have been completed and returned in accordance with the PP3 scheme and have been acknowledged.

Mr Roger Huffer of Leyhill Farm asked for the Parish Council's written support in his application to Defra for funding to assist with maintenance of Permissive Bridleways on his land. The Parish Council is very happy to support him and asked for other members of the parish who benefit from the enjoyment of these bridleways, to also give written support in this matter.

9.0 Village Hall

SCDC has agreed to award 100% discretionary rate relief for the period 2007/2008.

Mr Clive Hough brought the latest plans for the Village Hall improvements. He was asked to make a planning application to SCDC for Outline Planning permission. Chairman Webb stated that those interested would be able to view the drawings after the meeting.

10.0 Comments from the Public

A member of the public brought to the attention of the Chairman that the railing around the Village Fountain had been damaged by a vehicle and was showing signs of rust. The Chairman asked for thanks to be recorded to Mrs Clare Byatt, Mrs Yvonne Albery and Mr Ron Albery for their recent efforts in clearing the wild flower garden at the fountain.

Mr Huffer said that he will contact the Forestry Commission and ask if they would refurbish the sign at the Whaddon Gap car park.

A member of the Play Area Group stated that the remaining quote for the playground equipment was expected at any time now. At the next Parish Council meeting they would be able to give a more accurate figure of final cost.

It has been noted by villagers that some of the 40 mph signs had been recently renewed, but the County Council claim that they do not have any funds to change the speed limit to 30mph as desired by most villagers.

Thanks were extended to the Parish Council and County Council for the prompt manner in which the requested 'chevron' sign was erected at the Chapel corner.

11.0 Any Other Business

Councillor Oliver made the following observations:-

The Police have asked that formal complaints should be made to their Call Centre if antisocial behaviour occurs in the village.

Talks are taking place in connection with the M11 widening scheme and the second runway at Stansted.

The growth in housing in this region is being reviewed and some of the greenbelt will have to be used to meet the demand for extra housing.

Councillor Peyton said that there would be a Neighbourhood Watch meeting on 20th March 2007

There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 9.00pm.

The date of the next meeting is 16th April 2007 at 7.30pm