

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

Present:-	Chairman	Mr E Webb
	Vice Chairman	Mrs C Byatt
	Councillors	Professor A Milton, Mrs M Peyton, Mr P Neale, Dr N Strudwick
	County Councillor	Mrs L Oliver
	District Councillors	Mr N Cathcart, Mr D McCraith
	Parish Clerk	Mrs Y Albery
	Parishioners	4 present

1.0 Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mr L Ginger.

2.0 Approval of minutes

Councillors all agreed that the minutes of the previous meeting were a true record and the Chairman (Mr E Webb) signed them accordingly including one for the Main Notice Board.

3.0 Matters arising

3.1 PPP3 Kissing Gates.

Councillors Peyton and Byatt have now collected the RADAR gates and Peter and Chris Coningsby are in the process of installing them. Mr Andrew Stimpson has asked to be allowed to take some photos of the installed gates when completed.

3.2 Whaddon roads and transport

More accidents have been reported on the A1198. The Parish Councillors agreed that every effort should be made to have the speed reduced on this section of the A1198. It was suggested that the Clerk write to the Commanding Officer of the Bassingbourn Barracks requesting his support in pushing for a reduction. Letters should also be sent to the Chairman of Bassingbourn Parish Council and to residents of Cardiff Place for their support.

The Chairman read out a report from Councillor Ginger regarding the Eternit landfill project. The Councillors have been invited to view the landfill site after it has been finished and landscaped which will be some time in the spring of 2008. His report also indicated his concerns with lack of information on the Whaddon bus route and the proposed layby at Bridge Street. Concern was also shown by the Councillors at the lack of a pavement connecting the new development of affordable housing at the Meldreth end of Meldreth Road to Whitecroft Road.

3.3 Litter Pick

On 25th October about 20 bags of rubbish including household rubbish (which had been fly-tipped) was collected by a small team of Whaddon residents. The South Cambs. District Council organised the removal of the bags later on the same day.

3.4 Tree Preservation Orders

Further to the matter of removal of elm trees in a field adjoining the Church, District Councillor Cathcart has enquired into tree preservation orders relating to Whaddon and has found that there appears to be no such orders in Whaddon. In view of the importance of the trees to the village, he will suggest to SCDC that the Council write to the land owner and the Parish Council.

4.0 New Correspondence

Letter received from SCDC re: Litter and Dog bins. SCDC will empty the litter and dog bins which are on the footway and have requested that they be informed of the location of all such bins.

The Clerk has submitted a list as requested.

Letter received from SCDC concerning village lighting. SCDC has agreed that Whaddon Parish Council are only responsible for the two street lights at Ridgeway Close.

5.0 Planning

Application No. S/2107/07/F 34 Bridge St. Whaddon, for Mr P J Bringlow and Ms C Vivyett, for an extension.

Application No. S/1221/06/F 154 Bridge St. Whaddon, for Mr and Mrs Sarter. District Councillor Cathcart has made enquiries about the septic tank. He said that Building Control would normally view such an item before final installation. Councillors said that the whole area was extremely smelly and that the environmental officer should be called to the site to investigate. District Councillor Cathcart will make further enquiries.

6.0 Finance

Cheques already signed

On 29th October 2007 Cheque No. 100561 for £10.00 to CALC for Complete Employment Guide. The Clerk was awarded a Cost Of Living rise in salary, back-dated to 1st April 2007.

7.0 Neighbourhood Watch

Councillor Peyton reported that a 22 min. duration speed check was undertaken in the last week but the PCSOs were called away to another area. They will come back to do another check shortly.

8.0 Village Hall

8.1 Village Hall Report

Councillor Strudwick now gave a short report.

- The rebuild of the boundary wall is nearing completion
- The main hall floor needs replacing as a matter of urgency and a specification has been written.
- Tenders for the work will shortly be sent out
- Grants are available and will be applied for.
- A risk assessment of the Village Hall cleaners work is being undertaken.
- A quiz night is being arranged for Saturday 26th January 2008.

9.0 Councillors Expenses

After discussion, it was agreed that a token £5 per year may be claimed by each Councillor toward provision of paper and cartridges. Councillor Strudwick proposed the motion that this sum be granted and it was Seconded by Councillor Byatt. The motion was carried unanimously.

10.0 Bus Route and Layby

County Councillor Oliver now joined the meeting and gave a report on the bus route and layby. Other villages are being consulted on the proposed changes as any re-routing to include Whaddon may have an impact on their services.

The layby has not been forgotten but the department is undermanned and CCC is trying to provide an officer to undertake a Safety Audit of the area.

She suggested that the Clerk write to Mark Kemp on all the matters currently giving concern.

11.0 Comments from the Public

From the floor, the Parish Plan treasurer reminded the Councillors that there was still a sum of money in the account against which any expenses to do with the Parish Plan could be paid.

A member of the public stated that a local TV programme had indicated that 'smart water' was available through the police for use on the church lead-roof. This product is not destroyed by melting down so can always be traced. Councillor Milton stated that the 'smart water' was also being made available through insurance companies.

12.0 Any Other Business

District Councillor Cathcart gave a Case Number for the problem of rubbish burning at Meldform. The Case is No 129769, and the Contact is Mr Russell Watkins of SCDC.

Councillor Milton recommended that the leaves from the diseased trees along the side of the recreation ground should be burned. All councillors agreed that this should be done as soon as possible. It was also suggested to put a note on the Website asking owners of diseased chestnut trees to burn all fallen leaves in order to try to control the disease

Councillor Byatt reported that Andrew Stimpson had been enquiring about the possible poor state of repair of the styles on Footpath 2. Councillor Byatt had promised to check this out and report back.

County Councillor Oliver stated that discussion would be taking place concerning the proposed Congestion Charges in Cambridge, and people should 'log on' to the County Council's website re Congestion Charges.

Chairman Webb asked the Councillors if they were satisfied with the current grass cutting contract with R G Oliver & Son and did they wish to continue with their services in 2008. Agreement was unanimous but the price should be checked.

Three sacks of daffodil bulbs have been purchased for planting along the grass verges around the village. The Chairman asked for volunteers for help in the planting. There was one volunteer, a Mr Chris Rose who said that he was happy to do the planting himself on behalf of the Council. Chairman Webb informed the meeting that Councillor Strudwick would be visiting America from January until May 2008. He asked if there were any objections to Councillor Strudwick's office being retained during this period, there were no objections.

There being no other business the meeting was now closed.

The date of the next meeting will be 21st January 2008 at 7.30 pm.