

Minutes of Whaddon Parish Council meeting held on 8th September 2008 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present:-	Acting Chair	Mrs C Byatt
	Councillors	Mr L Ginger, Mr P Neale, Mrs M Peyton, Mr C Rose, Dr N Strudwick
	District Councillors	Mr N Cathcart, Mr D McCraith
	County Councillor	Mrs L Oliver
	Parish Clerk	Mrs G van Poortvliet
	Parishioners	2 present

Acting Chair Byatt opened the meeting and explained that Chairman Webb had sadly died on Thursday 28th August and his funeral service had been held on 5th September. Acting Chair Byatt paid tribute to the tireless hard-work done by Chairman Webb in a job that he loved doing – he would be greatly missed.

Acting Chair Byatt asked the councillors to give some thought to a donation or gift in memory of Chairman Webb and it was agreed that this be put on the agenda for the next meeting. Councillor Rose offered to undertake a second planting of daffodil bulbs in the Village. It was noted that Alison Blood had also offered to plant bulbs at the top of Bridge Street. It was agreed by the PC to purchase some sacks of bulbs. It was also noted that Chairman Webb had personally wanted to buy a bench to go next to the bus-stop.

The election of a new Chair and Vice-Chair plus the co-opting of another councillor would be put on the agenda for the next meeting. The Clerk would also put up the necessary vacancy notices.

1.0 Apologies for absence – had been received from County Councillor Oliver who was unable to arrive until approximately 8.30 pm.

2.0 Disclosure of interests – none declared.

3.0 Approval of minutes

3.1 Minutes of last meeting

After a short discussion with District Councillor Cathcart, it was agreed to amend Paragraph 11 (Any Other Business) of the previous minutes to read ‘the Government Inspectors had asked SCDC to look at amending the local development plan.’ Councillors now agreed that the minutes of the previous meeting were a true record and Acting Chair Byatt signed them accordingly, including one set for the Main Notice Board.

3.1 Minutes of the AGM

The Councillors approved the minutes of the AGM.

The Clerk was requested to email minutes of the last few PC meetings to Councillor Strudwick for publication on the website.

4.0 Matters arising

4.1 Parish Paths/PPP3 – the Clerk had queried the 2008/09 PPP3 grant and had been advised that it was £420 and not £800 which had been notified in error. Councillor Neale had been unable to contact Andrew Stimson of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) to get an update on the renovation of the footpath signs and the installation of the RADAR gate. Councillor Neale would follow this up. The Clerk had contacted Chris Bradley of SCDC who had arranged for fly-tipping notices to be put up in the Whaddon Gap car-park. There was still some old rubbish that required removal and the Clerk was asked to arrange this.

4.2 Whaddon Roads and Transport

Roads and footways:

District Councillor Cathcart had again chased-up SCDC about the repairs needed to the holes in the Ridgeway Close car-park. The repairs appeared to be the responsibility of SCDC.

Proposed bus service: the arrival of County Councillor Oliver was awaited to provide an update.

Bus Shelter: the Councillors agreed to accept a quote of £360 from M G Radford and Son to lay

paving under the bus-shelter and a path up to it. Catalogues with details of litter-bins were being circulated in the mail for the Councillors consideration.

Speed-measuring strips – the Clerk had received notification that it was the responsibility of the Cambridgeshire Constabulary to lay speed-strips on the road.

4.3 Diseased Trees on Recreation Ground

The Clerk had arranged for three tree-surgeons to tender for the felling and disposal of all 19 horse-chestnuts on the recreation ground. The closing date for the submission of tenders was 19th September. Councillor Neale recommended another tree surgeon who should be invited to tender. The remedial work required to the sycamore tree on the corner of the recreation ground was due to be carried out later this week. Councillor Rose was asked if he could remove a six feet ring of ivy from the sycamore at the back of the recreation ground to allow further assessment.

The Clerk had accepted the quote from William Knight for the removal of the cherry tree and the Norway Maple.

Roz Richardson (SCDC tree-officer) had been surprised about the choice of replacement tree made by the PC (Sorbus X Thuringiaca "Fastigiata"). She had suggested alternatives such as Limes and disease-resistant Elms as more suitable to a rural setting. The Councillors generally felt these trees to be too large and not necessarily suited to a windy and dry environment. It was agreed that Councillor Peyton would call Roz Richardson and discuss the matter with her.

4.4 Proposed removal of Bridge Street phone-box – the Clerk had responded to the SCDC consultation asking to keep the phone-box and stressing that the Meldreth Road phone-box should be coin-operated if the Bridge Street phone was removed. However, it was felt that the chance of keeping the phone-box was slim. Councillor Strudwick had circulated details of an adoption scheme allowing local councils to keep the phone-box itself (without the phone) for heritage purposes. Maintenance would be the responsibility of the PC.

4.5 Affordable Housing – the Clerk had spoken to Tracey Harrison of Bedford Pilgrims Housing Association (BPHA). BPHA would be putting in a planning application for the Church Corner site. Although BPHA expected the application would go to a Planning Committee, they were encouraged by the support of the PC and the District Councillors. All the Councillors confirmed their support subject to the designs being an appropriate, un-standardised model. Neither the Clerk nor BPHA had been able to get a response from the owner of the Pickering Farm site.

The Affordable Housing file had now been passed from Mrs Yvonne Alberry (previous clerk) to the Clerk.

4.6 Updated Village Plan – the plan was approved by the PC subject to a few updates noted by the Clerk. The updated version would be put on the web-site and sent to Cambridgeshire ACRE and the Chair of the Parish Plan Committee (Mr N Shaw).

5.0 New Correspondence

- SCDC – notes on the South Cambridgeshire speeding and traffic summit held 22/07/08.
- South Cambs Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership – invitation to ‘Trickster’ musical (about Bogus Callers) on 22/09/08.
- Cambridgeshire Link – details of new scheme.
- Cambridgeshire Access Team – annual report 07/08.
- Commission for Rural Communities – A guide to becoming a quality council.
- Invitation to ‘Cutting Crimes in your Community’ Conference on 10/09/09.
- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Preferred Options 2 Consultation – 08/09/08 to 20/10/08.
- Minor Highways Improvements Schemes 2009/10 bids.
- Invitation to meet the new Bishop of Huntingdon – Foxton Village Hall, 07/10/08

6.0 Finance

Cheques approved today (8th September 2008):

Cheque No. 100598, for £7,054.71 to Queensbury Shelters Ltd for bus-shelter.

Cheque No. 100599, for £2,684.88, to Sharman Knowles Partnership for architect services re village hall alterations.

Cheque No. 100600, for £319.36, to Whaddon Golf Centre for 5 cuts of recreation ground and strimming

Cheque No. 100601, for £913.06, to Mrs G van Poortvliet for clerks wages and expenses.

Cheque No. 100602, for £60.00, to D M Charles for Whaddon News

6.1 Budget Update

The Clerk provided an update on progress against the 2008/09 budget.

7.0 Village Hall Matters

Councillor Strudwick provided an update from the minutes of the last Village Hall Committee (VHC) meeting. The VHC had been very sorry to hear about the death of Ted Webb. SCDC planners were generally in favour of the plans for the Village Hall extension but had suggested a few minor changes. Councillor Ginger explained that the planners had asked for a flat roof over the entrance area to give a great distinction between the old and new halls. The PC was asked for permission to submit the Village Hall plans for planning permission - this was agreed unanimously. Councillor Ginger would attend a funding fair on 13th September.

The Village Hall accounts had been signed off. There was approximately £6,000 in the current account and £12,500 in the deposit account. Gemma West had agreed to take on the position of cleaner. Acting Chair Byatt and the Clerk would meet with the village handyman on 17th September and would agree a set of terms and conditions with him. Village Hall lettings were disappointing. There was an owl nesting in the roof of the Village Hall.

Acting Chair Byatt thanked Jim Docwra for cutting the grass and clearing up around the Village Hall prior to Ted Webb's funeral. The contract with Ken Green and William Knight for cutting the recreation ground had now been completed. It was estimated that another four cuts plus additional strimming might be needed. The PC agreed a maximum of four additional cuts at £50 per cut. The Clerk was asked to accept the quote from Ken Green. The grass-cutting would need to go out to tender for next year as William Knight was unsure about committing to doing it again. It was agreed to put together a specification and invite tenders.

7.1 Village Hall Refurbishment Expenses

It was agreed that there were likely to be sufficient funds within the PC budget to pay for the expenses incurred this year. A further meeting would be needed in future to agree guidelines about which expenses would be paid by the PC and which by the VHC.

At this point, Acting Chair Byatt asked County Councillor Oliver (who had now arrived at the meeting) to provide an update on the **bus-service**. County Councillor Oliver explained that there were proposals to reshape the route (which was intended to serve Whaddon) to include two other villages. Discussions were currently taking place. With regards to access to the footpath from the **Barn Shop**, an enforcement officer had visited the premises and a new gate arrangement was being designed. County Councillor Oliver also explained that a review of the **speed-limit** on the A1198 was being undertaken. There was no chance of getting any speed-reduction measures in Whaddon which was nowhere near getting onto the list for review.

8.0 Comments from the public

There were no comments.

9.0 Any Other Business

Councillor Peyton commented that Church Corner had been flooded recently. The Clerk would report this to Highways and would also request that the salt-bins be refilled. There had been a theft from a car in Bridge Street – residents were reminded to lock their cars.

There being no other business the meeting was now closed at 9.30 p.m.

The date of the next meeting will be Monday 13th October 2008 at 7.30 p.m.