

Minutes of Whaddon Parish Council meeting held on 13th October 2008 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present:- Acting Chair Mrs C Byatt
 Councillors Mr L Ginger, Mr P Neale, 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 5 present

1.0 Apologies for absence – were received from County Councillor Oliver and District Councillor McCraith who would be unable to arrive until approximately 8.45 pm.

2.0 Disclosure of interests – none declared.

3.0 Approval of previous minutes

It was agreed to amend Paragraph 3.1 (Minutes of last meeting) of the previous minutes to read ‘District Councillor Cathcart’ rather than ‘County Councillor Cathcart.’ 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.

4.0 Matters arising

4.1 Parish Paths/PPP3 – Councillor Neale had ordered an unpainted RADAR gate to go between the church and the recreation ground. Councillors had agreed either to seek volunteers to paint the gate or to ask the handyman to do it (a black powder-coated gate would cost approximately £455). Councillor Neale would make further enquiries regarding when the footpath signs could be renovated. The rubbish had been cleared from Whaddon Gap car-park.

4.2 Whaddon Roads and Transport – this item was postponed until the arrival of County Councillor Oliver.

4.3 Diseased Trees on Recreation Ground - Acting Chair Byatt thanked Councillor Rose for removing a ring of ivy from the sycamore tree at the back of the recreation ground. Four tenders had been received for the felling and disposal of the diseased horse-chestnuts:

I H Tree Services £6,150	S.J.H. Tree Surgery £3,200
Acorn to Oak £2,995	Acacia £1,185

The Parish Council (PC) resolved to accept the quote from Acacia. The work could commence on 4th November and Councillor Rose volunteered to mail-shot the residents nearest the recreation ground advising them of this. Councillor Strudwick would also put a notice on the web-site. Councillor Peyton and Roz Richardson (SCDC tree officer) had agreed on twelve Sorbus x thuringiaca Fastigiata and one Princetown elm to replace the horse-chestnuts. A letter had been received from Roz Richardson advising that 10 sorbus had been ordered for the 2008/9 planting season. It was thought that ten replacement trees would be sufficient. The Clerk would follow up about the elm. District Councillor Cathcart advised of the importance of adequately caring for the new trees. Councillor Strudwick thanked everyone involved in the arrangements for the diseased trees. William Knight had now removed the cherry tree and the Norway maple.

4.4 Bridge Street phone-box – BT adoption scheme – BT were offering parishes the option to either sponsor a phone-box (maintain the phone-service and contribute to the cost) or adopt it (keep the box without the phone equipment for heritage purposes). It was agreed that the sponsorship option could not be justified given low usage. The adoption scheme would cost £1 for the kiosk but there would be ongoing maintenance costs. The PC resolved to adopt the phone-box on Bridge Street and the Clerk was asked to action this.

4.5 Affordable Housing – Tracey Harrison of Bedford Pilgrims Housing Association (BPHA) had advised that BPHA were considering appointing a Planning Consultant to help get the

Church Corner scheme through a planning committee. BPHA had asked permission to quote the names of the District and County Councillors as supporters of the scheme. These had all agreed to lend support subject to the designs being appropriate.

- 4.6 Design statement update** – David Grech and Clare Sime had been asked to address the next PC meeting.
- 4.7 Update on co-option of new councillor and election of Chair** – there were two candidates for the Parish Councillor vacancy. Interviews would be conducted on 22nd October with the intention of co-opting the successful candidate at the next PC meeting. It was agreed to wait until all councillors were in place and present before the Chair was elected – Clare Byatt would continue as Acting Chair in the meantime.

5.0 New Correspondence

- Communities and local government – consultation on making and enforcement of byelaws. Deadline 20/11/08.
- Standards Board for England – Town and Parish Standard, September 2008.
- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils – training courses 2008/9. It was agreed to book Councillors Ginger and Strudwick onto a training course for the management and funding of Village Halls at a cost of £55 each.
- Cambridgeshire County Council – details of road shows to be attended by County Councillors and Officers to provide an opportunity to listen to the views of the public and local councillors.
- SCDC – NW Cambridge Area Action Plan Objection Sites Consultation. Deadline 20/10/08.
- Cambridgeshire Together – invitation to ‘Engaging Parish Council’ event on Wednesday 19th November 2008 (deadline 07/11/08). The Clerk was asked to accept on behalf of Acting Chair Byatt and Councillor Ginger and to check if any additional places were available for Councillor Strudwick.
- Email from Mr Nick Shaw (Chair of the Parish Plan Committee) – thanking the PC for sending him details of progress on the Parish Plan.
- Cambridgeshire Police – details of rollout and invitation to join Speedwatch. Deadline 20/11/08. The Clerk was instructed to accept this on behalf of Whaddon.
- SCDC Standards Committee Minutes 24/09/08.

6.0 Finance

Cheques approved today (13th October 2008):

Cheque No. 100603, for £423.00 to M.D.Radford for paving under bus-shelter.

Cheque No. 100604, for £250.00, to Whaddon Golf Centre for removal of two trees on recreation ground.

Cheque No. 100605, for £319.36, to Mr M Carter for village handyman services.

Cheque No. 100606, for £43.32, to S J Webb for chairman’s expenses.

Receipts:

16th September 2008, £7,750.00, from SCDC, as second instalment of precept.

The Clerk reminded the Councillors that they needed to start thinking about the likely items of expenditure for the 2009/10 precept.

7.0 Village Hall Matters

Councillor Strudwick provided an update. Gemma West had been formally appointed as the cleaner. Acting Chair Byatt and the Clerk had met with the village handyman on 17th September and had received a list of his duties. He had confirmed his interest in continuing with the job. It would be necessary to seek further confirmation about whether the responsibility for emptying the waste-paper and dog-waste bins lay with the handyman or SCDC.

Councillor Ginger confirmed that the plans for the Village Hall extension were due to be submitted on-line on 14th October. Councillor Ginger had also attended a funding fair which had been very useful.

Councillor Strudwick reported that Stan and Jean Ralls had found some old Village Hall Committee minutes in the Village Hall and were looking after them. Councillor Strudwick agreed to go and see what was in these papers.

The Clerk had some names of contractors for the recreation ground grass-cutting. It would be necessary to put together a specification and invite tenders.

8.0 Donation in Memory of Ted Webb

Acting Chair Byatt reported that Mr Webb's family were aware that he had wished to donate a bench to the Village. She would provide some brochures to the family. Several suggestions were then put forward as to a suitable memorial for Mr Webb including naming of venues, something for the Village Hall, an annual prize and a tree. It was agreed to continue the discussion at a later date.

9.0 Comments from the Public

A member of the public commented that she would like to see Ted Webb's memorial associated with the village hall or the recreation ground in some way. She also asked about the impact of the Barn Owls nesting in the Village Hall on the refurbishment project. Councillor Rose provided details of the guidance given by the RSPB on this matter. A member of the public thought that a tree in the grounds of the Village Hall would be a nice memorial for Ted Webb.

10.0 Any Other Business

Councillor Neale commented that the Village Sign looked dilapidated. The Clerk was asked to follow this up. The verges were also in need of another cut. The Clerk had discussed this with Ian Oliver who was waiting until the grass stopped growing before the final cut.

District Councillor Cathcart advised that money was available for climate change initiatives. Parishes were being encouraged to come up with schemes that could reduce their carbon footprint.

Councillor Rose had bought four sacks of bulbs for a second planting around the village and had planted some in the corner of Church Street opposite Bridge Street. It was commented that the replanting could be done in stages and that Alison Blood had volunteered to plant at the top of Bridge Street.

Acting Chair Byatt advised that there would be a litter pick on Thursday 30th October at 10 am and asked the Councillors to help spread the message. SCDC had investigated a report of a burning at the Warmglade/Meldform site on 18th September 2008. It was Warmglade who were at fault and SCDC had responded very quickly. The new Bishop had visited Whaddon Church on 7th October.

The Clerk reported that there was no water in the Bridge Street drain. It was suggested that a reminder be put in the newsletter asking all riparian owners to dig out their section of the ditch.

At this point County Councillor Oliver and District Councillor McCraith joined the meeting.

4.0 Matters Arising (continued)

4.2 Whaddon roads and transport

Roads and footways: the Ridgeway Close car-park and the Bridge Street potholes had been repaired. Highways had confirmed that they would jet out the drain on the Church Corner site and refill the salt-bins. Cambridgeshire Constabulary had agreed to put some speed-strips on the straight section of Meldreth Road but were unable to confirm timeframes.

Bus-service: County Councillor Oliver provided an update. It would be possible to provide a bus-service to Whaddon but, as the County Council was facing spending-cuts, any service would need to be funded locally. The cost for the proposed service would be £2,080 per annum with an additional £1,560 per annum (total £3,640) if the route served Meldreth Road/Mettle Hill as well. It was established that SCDC might be able to make a one-off contribution from the Community Development fund although this was more

likely if the PC also made a contribution. The Councillors expressed disappointment and concern about the ability to pass these costs onto the Village. Councillor Ginger suggested that a reduced time-table (morning, lunchtime and evenings only) would reduce the costs whilst still providing a reasonable service. In addition, diverting the route via Mettle Hill might enable a financial contribution from Meldreth. It was agreed that the Councillors would try to sound-out views from residents and that the Clerk would try to initiate discussions between the route operator, Meldreth and the PC.

There being no other business the meeting was now closed at 9.25 p.m.

The date of the next meeting will be Monday 10th November 2008 at 7.30 p.m.