

**Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2008 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall**

Present:-	Chairman	Mr E Webb
	Vice Chairman	Mrs C Byatt
	Councillors	Mrs M Peyton, Mr P Neale, Mr L Ginger, Professor Tony Milton
	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** – none received. Councillor Dr Nigel Strudwick has an agreed leave of absence until May 2008.

**2.0 Disclosure of interests** – none declared.

**3.0 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.

**4.0 Matters arising**

**4.1 Parish Paths and Litter Pick**

- Chairman Webb reported that eight bags of rubbish had been collected at the litter pick on 3<sup>rd</sup> April and expressed thanks to the helpers. It had been necessary to purchase six litter sticks to enable the litter pick to go ahead as planned.
- The Clerk had spoken to the Countryside Access Team at Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) about access to footpath 1 from the Barn Shop and subsequently sent a letter to the owners of the Barn Shop, copied to CCC.
- The binding had been completed on the hedge around the Whaddon Gap car-park.

**4.2 Whaddon roads and transport**

Bus Shelter: the Chairman reported that the electricity and telephone companies had given the all-clear for work to commence on the bus-shelter. The clerk would chase up the water company.

Roads and footways:

- District Councillor Cathcart had spoken to SCDC about the damage to the road outside the bungalows at Ridgeway Close, asking for priority status. He would chase them up again.
- Councillor Ginger reported that the damage caused by the road-sweeper to the surfaces at Meldreth Road was worsening. The clerk will ask Highways for an update.

Proposed bus service: Councillor Ginger made a strong protest about the seeming lack of progress on rerouting a bus-service to include Whaddon. County Councillor Oliver explained that the delay had been caused by a change in route-ownership. The new owner had agreed to the proposed route-change. CCC would now consult with people who would be affected and give 56 days notice of any potential route-change. A bus-service could possibly be operational in July. The Councillors stated their appreciation of this news.

Proposed bus lay-by: County Councillor Oliver reported that it was hoped to get designs done by the end of May. It would then be possible to get a costing and look at funding avenues.

At this point County Councillor Oliver gave her apologies that she needed to leave the meeting. Chairman Webb introduced agenda item 9.0 (Low-Cost Housing) and asked for the views of CCC. County Councillor Oliver advised that CCC were keen to move forward on this issue and undertook to report back. County Councillor Oliver then left the meeting.

School-bus drop-off: Councillor Byatt reported that the owner of the vehicle, frequently parked near the school-bus drop-off point at the top of Bridge Street, would now park in Bumpkins car-park. Thanks were expressed to the Huffers for enabling this.

#### 4.3 Night-time parking on village highways

There was no further update on this issue. Councillor Peyton agreed to follow-up with Mike Monks of Neighbourhood Watch and also to bring the matter up at the Neighbourhood Panel meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> April. It was suggested that an item be included in the next Village Newsletter.

#### 4.4 Dyers Green Pipe

The pipe under Bridge Hill cannot cope with the volume of water. Chairman Webb had found out that, as the pipe goes under a byway, it is the responsibility of CCC. It was agreed to submit photographs of the pipe and past flooding along with a drawing of a potential new scheme. Councillor Byatt undertook to ask David Grech if he could do the drawing.

#### 5.0 New Correspondence

- NATS – information about proposed changes to airspace and consultation arrangements.
- Audit Commission – confirmation of appointment of Moore Stephens as auditor.
- SCDC – outcome of audit inspection.
- Allianz Cornhill insurance – notification of insurance premium for 2008/09.
- ROSPA – advice of playground inspection in May 2008
- East of England Regional Assembly –invitation to respond to public consultation on planning for gypsy and traveller accommodation in the East of England
- Moore Stephens – audit timetable and regulations
- SCDC – notification of an uncontested election for Whaddon. The clerk read out the names of the nominated councillors.
- SCDC – notification of an election for Bassingourne ward on 1 May 2008. The clerk read out the names of the candidates
- Bassingourne and Melbourne Neighbourhood Profile update
- Neighbourhood Watch – minutes of meeting
- Bassingbourne Village College – invitation to attend opening of sports centre on 3<sup>rd</sup> May
- SCDC Standards Committee – request for nominations for a Parish Council member to be a Monitoring Officer on the Committee

Councillor Byatt reported that the Clerk's trial period had been successfully completed. The Councillors agreed to offer the Clerk an employment contract and to increase the hourly salary to the next point on the Spinal Column.

#### 6.0 Planning

- S/0970/07/F 105 Meldreth Road – planning appeal dismissed. The Councillors expressed strong disappointment at the decision.
- A letter was read out from Mr Keith Miles (SCDC Planning Policy Manager) in response to the letter sent by the PC in February 2008 concerning potential changes to the village framework. It listed some new Planning Department initiatives to keep local councils aware of issues concerning them. This was considered a positive step by the Councillors.
- Chairman Webb enquired about the status of the SCDC Design Guide. District Councillor Cathcart undertook to make enquiries about this and also to seek further clarification about what documentation PCs needed to keep concerning planning decisions.

#### 7.0 Finance

Cheques signed (21<sup>st</sup> March 2008)

Cheque No. 100583, £695.00, Mr. R.L. Green for grass cutting and strimming – rec.ground.

Cheques signed today (21<sup>st</sup> April 2008)

Cheque No. 100584, £320.00, Mr W.Knight for hedge laying at Whaddon Gap car park.

Cheque No. 100585, £129.85, CALC for 2008/09 membership subscription.

Cheque No. 100586, £56.33, Mr E Webb for Littergrabbers.

Money Received

£7,750 from SCDC - 1<sup>st</sup> instalment of the 2008/09 precept.

Other matters:

The Councillors agreed to engage Mr Peter Chilvers as internal auditor at £20/hour.

## 8.0 Village Hall

Councillor Ginger provided an update:

- A meeting had been arranged with the architect (Barry Sharman Associates) to go through initial ideas and plans (22nd April 2008).
- It appeared to be advantageous to obtain charitable status for the Village Hall. The PC could act as Holding Trustees with a Management Committee acting as Managing Trustees. It was agreed to give this item priority agenda status at the next PC meeting.
- The next quiz night is 3<sup>rd</sup> May.
- Chairman Webb had agreed grass-cutting at the Recreation Ground with Mr Ken Green and Mr William Knight. There will be twelve cuts for £500 + VAT with additional strimming, as authorised by the PC, at £12.50 per hour (trimmer and fuel included).

## 9.0 Low-cost housing

Chairman Webb provided an update:

- Bedford Pilgrims Housing Association (BPHA) had written to County Farm Estates to open negotiations for the land off Church Street. A reply was expected by 24<sup>th</sup> April.
- Following negotiations, a meeting could be set up in the village for all interested parties.
- SCDC planners had concerns about the suitability of the site making it necessary to re-prove that all other sites had been considered and the design was appropriate.
- District Councillor Cathcart advised of the existence of an Affordable Housing Panel which would make a judgement before a case went before the Planning Committee.

## 10.0 Review of Progress on the Village Plan

It was agreed that, due to the importance of this item, it should be dealt with at a special meeting to be held in June after the formation of the new PC. District Councillor Cathcart undertook to investigate if anybody at SCDC could provide information about local by-laws.

## 11.0 Comments from the Public

A member of the public commented that the dog bins at the top of Meldreth Road needed emptying. District Councillor Cathcart undertook to advise SCDC.

A member of the public reiterated that the footway on Meldreth Road was deteriorating. The Clerk will pursue with Highways.

## 12.0 Any other Business

**Councillor Milton** enquired about the speed at which SCDC had been able to issue new bus-passes for the over 60s. District Councillor McCraith explained that there had been a problem with production and that old bus passes would be valid until the end of April when the new ones should have arrived.

**Councillor Peyton** asked the Clerk to seek out information about training courses for Councillors.

**Councillor Neale** reported fly-tipping on By-way 22. District Councillor Cathcart will ask SCDC to have this removed. Councillor Neale also reported some recent door-to-door beggars in Dyers Green.

**District Councillor McCraith** gave advance apologies of his absence until the July meeting.

**The Clerk** had received advice that it is possible for the PC to revise the expenditure limits on contracts in the Standing Orders subject to a vote at the AGM. The Clerk expressed thanks to Mrs Yvonne Albery for her continued support and assistance to the PC.

**Councillor Byatt** expressed thanks to Councillor Professor Tony Milton for all his hard work on the PC.

**There being no other business the meeting was now closed at 9.40 p.m.**

**The date of the next meeting will be 19<sup>th</sup> May 2008 at 7.00 pm followed by the Annual General Meeting at 8.00 pm.**