

Minutes of Whaddon Parish Council meeting held on 14th June 2010 at 7.30p.m. in the Village Hall, Whaddon, nr Royston, Hertfordshire.

Present: Vice-Chair Mrs M Peyton
 Councillors Mr W Burchett, Mr L Ginger (from 7.40pm), Mrs J Lewis,
 Mr C Rose
 District Councillors Mr D McCraith
 Parish Clerk Mrs G van Poortvliet
 Parishioners 2 present

- 1.0 Apologies for Absence** – received from Chairman Strudwick, Cllr Neale, District Cllr Cathcart and County Cllr Oliver.
- 2.0 Declarations of Interest** – Cllr Burchett declared a personal interest in agenda item 7.0 as a member of Whaddon Playground Project.
- 3.0 Approval and Signing of minutes:**
- 3.1 last Parish Council (PC) Meeting (10th May 2010) - Resolved:** that the minutes of the PC meeting of 10th May 2010 be signed by the Vice-Chair as a true and correct record.
- 3.2 Annual Parish Council Meeting (10th May 2010) - Resolved:** that the minutes of the Annual PC meeting be signed by the Vice-Chair as a true and correct record.
- 4.0 Reports from Clerk and Cllrs on matters arising from previous meetings:** the Clerk and Cllrs provided verbal reports on the status of matters arising from previous PC meetings:
- Affordable Homes – the architects employed by Bedford Pilgrims Housing Association (John Martin Associates) would be submitting a revised planning application, for the Church Corner site, by the end of June. The latest plans were circulated. It would be important to get the support of both District Cllrs and to ensure that the s106 agreement was tightly worded. Villagers were encouraged to write in support for the scheme. Resolved: that an updated letter of support, in principle, for the proposed scheme at Church Corner be sent by Whaddon PC to the architects. Actions: Clerk to send updated letter of support. The Chairman and Vice-Chair to ask villagers to write in support of the development.
 - Speed-limit review A1198 – the PC had written to Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) Highways regarding the proposals arising from the review of the speed-limit on the A1198. A response had been received which indicated that CCC were willing to modify the review proposals to extend the 50mph limit up to the Whaddon Gap junction. They were unable to move towards a lower limit of 40mph. Action: Clerk/Chairman to reply to CCC response.
 - Parking at the top of Town Farm Close – clarification had been received from the Police regarding parking regulations. Cars should not be parked within 10 metres of the junction. Parking on the pavement could be dealt with by a ticket if the footway was completely blocked. It would be down to the local authority to put into place any parking restrictions.
 - Village Hall Charitable Trust – due to some changes in circumstances of potential trustees, it might be necessary to find some alternative trustees for the village hall (VH).
- 5.0 District and County Councillor Reports:**
- County Councillor Report: none given. County Cllr Oliver had sent her apologies.
- District Councillors' Report: A verbal report was given:
- SCDC had held its AGM and allocated committee membership. Both District Cllrs were members of a number of committees.
 - SCDC Chief Executive would be retiring. A committee would be put in place to select and appoint a new Chief Executive.

6.0 Public Participation:

- A member of the public commented that some signs had been put up by the VH management committee stating that the playground would be shut on Sunday 21st June. This was due to the recreation ground being used for car-parking for the Hidden Gardens event. Action: Cllr Burchett and members of the Playground Project to temporarily fence-off the play area in order to keep vehicles away but allow the playground to remain open for the Hidden Gardens event. Event organisers to provide a parking attendant.
- A member of the public reported that some trees on the verge by Whaddon Green were very overgrown. Action: the Clerk to report this to CCC Highways.

7.0 Playground Issues:

- 7.1 General Update from Whaddon Playground Project (WPP)** – the mound had been turfed. There was some damage to the climber. A shelf on the teen-shelter had been bent by children climbing on it. This would not be repaired by the manufacturer as it was classed as vandalism. Morley Manufacturing had been asked to look at the shelf to see if it could be strengthened.
- 7.2 Discussion and Decision on Waste Bins** – WPP had not been able to find a cheaper alternative to the recycling bins. Resolved: to spend £529.13 on the Linpac Environmental bin for the playground. Action: the Clerk to order the recycling bin.

8.0 Planning:

- 8.1 Noting of receipt of approved Planning Committee minutes from meeting of 12th April 2010** – receipt noted.
- 8.2 Noting of Planning Committee recommendations re S/0607/10/F, 8 Church Street, Whaddon for conservatory (retrospective) and S/0608/10/LB, 8 Church Street, Whaddon for retention of conservatory (regulation of unauthorised works)** – the Planning Committee recommended approval and fully supported both applications.
- 8.3 Noting of SCDC decision re S/0291/10/F North Road Farm, Ermine Street, Whaddon for alterations to unauthorised conservatory** – this application had been refused. The applicants had appealed against the decision.

9.0 Village Hall (VH)

- 9.1 Noting of receipt of unaudited accounts for the year to 31 March 2010** – receipt noted.
- 9.2 Update on VH health and safety reports and agreement of next steps** – following the last VH Management Committee meeting, the three AIMS reports from 2005 had been reviewed by Cllr Lewis (Chair of the VHMC). The recommendations of the Water Quality report had already been actioned. The recommendations of the Disability Access Report would be incorporated in the new VH design. The Health and Safety Report (H&S) had included a number of recommendations, three of which were medium priority (the rest being low priority). Of the three medium priority items, one had already been actioned (garage roof) and one was in the process of being dealt with (training of cleaners). The final item related to the status of the rot to the VH floor. Some experts had looked at this as part of the recent HVAC assessment for the VH. Some remedial repairs had also been carried out. Resolved: that the VHMC be asked to look in detail at the recommendations from the H&S report. Actions: Cllr Ginger to pass details of the HVAC assessment relating to the VH floor to Cllr Lewis.

- 10.0 Finance - Approval of Payments.** Resolved: that the following payments be authorised:
 Cheque No 100678 for £121.59, Aon Ltd, additional insurance premium re Meldreth Road bus-shelter and additional replacement value for railings.
 Cheque No 100679 for £258.50, M D Landscapes, grass-cutting recreation ground, April 2010.
 Cheque No 100680 for £898.88, Bidwells LLP, valuation report for village hall.
 Cheque No 100681 for £60.00, P R Chilvers, internal audit.
 Cheque No 100682 for £123.70, Mr D Evans, handyman wages and expenses.

11.0 Correspondence

- CCC – letter requesting details of locations for three additional salt-bins ordered by Whaddon PC.

This was discussed. The Clerk had been informed by CCC Highways that the salt-bins could not be put beside gritted routes. Action: the Clerk to request that one salt-bin be placed in the middle of Bridge Street and one in Dyers Green. The third salt-bin should be kept in the VH garage for future use.

12.0 Business Operating opposite Whaddon Gap Junction – discussion and agreement of action –

concern was expressed about the scaffolding business operating opposite Whaddon Gap junction and the potential danger caused by commercial vehicles entering and exiting the premises. Action: District Cllr McCraith to bring the matter to the attention of Bassingbourn PC (the business is within Bassingbourn parish). The Clerk to consider including comments within the PC reply to the response from CCC re the A1198 speed-limit review (see agenda item 4.0).

13.0 Broadband Feasibility Study – discussion and decision re funding –

the Clerk had established that the only power available to the PC to fund a Broadband Feasibility Study was s137. The PC had already spent close to their s137 limit for the year on the bus-service trial. CPALC were looking for some villages to take part in a pilot scheme across East Anglia to bring fast broadband to areas where it was difficult to get access to it. Action: the Clerk to write to CPALC asking for Whaddon to be considered for inclusion in the broadband pilot scheme.

14.0 Proposed speed-measurement mast at Arrington – discussion and agreement of action –

this planning application was discussed (the PC had not formally been asked to respond). Arrington PC had objected to the proposed mast. Resolved: the PC did not wish to comment on this planning application.

15.0 Evening entertainment Events at the Barracks – discussion and agreement of action -

noise disturbance had been caused to some Whaddon residents by events at Bassingbourn Barracks that continued into the early hours of the morning. Action: details to be provided to County Cllr Oliver who had offered to further discuss this with the Barracks.

16.0 Village Upkeep and Maintenance:

16.1 Reporting of issues – the bin on the Meldreth Road bus-shelter was full and had not been emptied. Action: the Clerk to request that SCDC empty this bin as part of their refuse collection round.

16.2 Discussion and Decision re weed-spraying on recreation ground – the grass-cutting contractor for the recreation ground had asked if the PC wished to have the recreation ground sprayed to eliminate the weeds. This was discussed – it was thought to be difficult and expensive to adequately remove weeds from amenity grasslands. Resolved: the PC did not currently wish to commit additional funds to this.

17.0 Items for next meeting:

- Village Hall
- Review of Standing Orders
- Parish Plan
- Maintenance Schedule Adoption (September meeting)
- Quarterly financial update

18.0 Date of next meeting (12th July 2010)

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20pm