

**Minutes of Whaddon Parish Council meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2011 at 7.30p.m. in the Village Hall, Church Street, Whaddon, nr Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 5RY.**

Present:	Chairman	Dr N Strudwick
	Councillors	Mr P Neale (7.35p.m-8.55p.m), Mrs M Peyton, Mr C Rose
	District Councillors	Mr N Cathcart
	County Councillor	Mrs L Oliver (from 9.15p.m.)
	Parish Clerk	Mrs G van Poortvliet
	Guest Speaker	Major Stuart Irvine, ATR Bassingbourn
	Parishioners	3 present

- 1.0 Apologies for Absence** – received from Cllrs W Burchett, L Ginger and J Lewis and from District Cllr D McCraith.
- 2.0 Declarations of Interest** – none declared.
- 3.0 Approval and Signing of minutes from Parish Council (PC) meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> February 2011 - Resolved:** that the minutes of that meeting be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.
- 4.0 Guest Speaker – local Police Community Support Officer** – the PCSO was unable to attend the PC meeting. This item is postponed until the April meeting.
- 5.0 Guest Speaker – 2<sup>nd</sup> in Command, ATR Bassingbourn** – the Chairman introduced Major Stuart Irvine, 2<sup>nd</sup> in command, ATR Bassingbourn. Major Irvine gave a short talk about the Barracks, its current role and potential future changes. The future of the Barracks is under review but no decision is expected before the summer. Questions were taken from members of the public and Cllrs. Major Irvine commented how much the recruits appreciate Whaddon's annual Remembrance Day church service. An invitation was extended to the PC to tour the Barracks. The Chairman thanked Major Irvine for his time. Major Irvine left the meeting. Action: the Chairman to liaise with Major Irvine to organise a tour of the Barracks for members of the PC.
- 6.0 Reports from Clerk and Cllrs on matters arising:** the Clerk and Cllrs provided verbal reports on the status of matters arising from previous PC meetings:
- Speed Camera Signs – Cllr Peyton had ascertained that technically it would be possible for speed camera signs to be displayed in Whaddon although they would have to be funded by the PC. Actions: - Cllr Peyton to provide relevant Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) contact details. The Clerk to request quote for speed camera signs to be displayed at either end of the village.
  - Road safety talk – Mr M Monks (Neighbourhood Watch) had been corresponding with the police Traffic Officer about holding a road safety talk for local youth/residents. It was suggested that it might be necessary to tie the talk in with an event/attraction to encourage attendance. Actions: Cllr Rose to liaise with Mr Monks and the Traffic Officer re road safety event. Cllrs to email Cllr C Rose with suggestions for a suitable event.
  - CCC street lighting invoice – Mr P Quigley (SCDC) had confirmed that the additional 4 lights on the travellers' site, Old North Road for which the PC had been invoiced, were not the responsibility of the PC. Actions: the Clerk to request an amended invoice.
  - Talk by Emergency Planning Officer – it was suggested that this talk (requested for the May PC meeting by the Emergency Planning Officer), might be better at the Annual Parish Meeting (APM). Action: the Clerk to check if the talk could be rescheduled for the APM.
  - Litter Pick – this had been scheduled for Easter Saturday.
  - A1198 speed limit review – this would now be referred to a full CCC Cabinet Meeting for consideration.

- Proposed certified camp site, Whaddon Golf Centre – the Camping and Caravanning Club would not be proceeding with the application for a new camp site at the Golf Centre.
- Bridge Street Fountain Garden – Action: the Clerk to ask Cllr Lewis to arrange a discussion between the handyman and local resident volunteer about maintaining the garden.

## 7.0 District and County Councillor Reports:

District Councillor report: the Chairman read out an email from District Cllr McCraith:

- The SCDC budget had been approved on 24<sup>th</sup> February.
- SCDC Council Tax would be maintained at last year's level. This had been managed without redundancies. There would be no reduction in services other than that the contact centre will be closed on Saturday afternoons.  
District Cllr Cathcart gave a verbal report:
- It was hoped that any budget cuts would be made to back office functions rather than front-line services.
- SCDC had passed a resolution that any major developments of wind turbines are not built within close proximity to residents.
- Council House rents will be increased in line with inflation plus a bit extra. It is hoped to be able to maintain and repair the housing stock to a reasonable standard.

County Cllr Report: postponed until the arrival of County Cllr Linda Oliver.

**8.0 Public Participation** – a member of the public commented on the amount of litter on the A1198 and that this was likely to be shredded and spread once the verges are cut. Action: to query with County Cllr L Oliver and report as necessary.

**9.0 Village Hall (VH) – update on lease and Charitable Trust:** the Chairman provided a summary from the draft minutes of the VH Trust meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> March. The application to register the VH Trust as a charity was progressing and a bank account had been opened. A new email address had been set up: [whaddonhalltrust@whaddon.org](mailto:whaddonhalltrust@whaddon.org). It would be necessary for the PC and VH Trust to agree who paid which expenses and to decide when the PC would make the related grant payment to the VH Trust. More capital grant funding might be available via the Big Lottery Fund. The VH will be used as a polling station for the national referendum/local election on 5<sup>th</sup> May. Action: the Clerk to schedule an agenda item regarding payment of VH expenses and grant.

## 10.0 Planning:

**10.1 Noting of SCDC decision re amended drawings for S/1047/10/F, 8 Affordable Dwellings, land to North West of Rose Cottage, Church Street, Whaddon** – permission granted.

**10.2 Noting of Planning Committee recommendation re S/0027/11, 87 Meldreth Road for two storey rear extension** – refusal recommended.

**10.3 Noting of Planning Inspectorate appeal decision re S/0665/10/F, land to west of A1198, Arrington** – appeal dismissed on grounds of aviation safety.

**10.4 Noting of approved minutes from Planning Committee meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> October 2010** – minutes noted.

## 11.0 Finance:

**11.1 Approval of payments:** Resolved that the following payments be authorised:

Cheque already signed (15<sup>th</sup> February 2011)

Cheque No. 100711, for £816.00, R.G. Oliver & Son, verges grass cutting. Noted that this cheque replaces cheque no 100708 (approved 14<sup>th</sup> February 2011) - this was erroneously made out for £680.00. Cheque no 100708 is now void.

Cheques to be approved today (14<sup>th</sup> March 2011)

Cheque No. 100713, for £64.39, Dr N Strudwick, for website expenses and Chairman's expense allowance for qtr to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011.

Cheque No 100714, for £938.65, Mrs G van Poortvliet, Clerk's wages and expense allowance for qtr to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011.

Cheque No 100715, for £50.00, Magpas, charitable donation (donation approved 14<sup>th</sup> February).

Cheques not approved

Cheque No. 100712, for £81.32, Cambridgeshire County Council, street lighting energy and maintenance, Ridgeway Close. Please note that this payment is only to be made on receipt of revised invoice (see action point, agenda item 6.0 above).

**11.2 Approval of expenditure for playground - Agreed:** that this item be postponed until next month

**11.3 Approval of expenditure for recreation ground railings - Agreed:** that this item be postponed until next month

**12.0 Correspondence:**

- SCDC – notification of review of recycling banks following introduction of Blue Bins.
- CCC – proposed changes to subsidised bus routes.
- CCC – invitation to register for Highways Warden Scheme.
- CPALC – notification that Parish Councils will now need to register with Inland Revenue for PAYE/national insurance purposes. Action: the Clerk to investigate and register.
- Caravan and Camping Club – notification that they are no longer proceeding with the application for a new exempted site at Whaddon Golf Centre.
- Letter from local resident in connection with above decision.
- CCC Traffic Management Department – documents from HCV strategy meeting (2<sup>nd</sup> March) and request for feedback on proposed new strategy by 15<sup>th</sup> April. Action: agenda item for April PC meeting.

**13.0 Bus service – discussion of proposed funding cuts to subsidised bus services and agreement of action if necessary** – item postponed until the arrival of County Cllr L Oliver.

**14.0 Bridge Street traffic-safety signage – consideration of options and agreement of expenditure if necessary** – Agreed to postpone this item until the April PC meeting. Action: Cllr Neale to contact Cllr Lewis to progress the survey of Bridge Street.

**13.0 Bus service – discussion of proposed funding cuts to subsidised bus services and agreement of action if necessary** – it was agreed to return to this item even though County Cllr Oliver had not arrived. CCC was proposing to reduce costs by removing subsidised bus services and looking at alternative ways to integrate services. Whaddon PC had spent several years trying to obtain a bus service which might now be removed. CCC had confirmed that bus service 127 would not be changed in the short to medium term. A discussion took place.

**15.0 Speed limiting measures – discussion of future actions** – the PC were keen to see speed limits reduced throughout the village, particularly on Meldreth Road and Church Street. Speedwatch had been operating for some time and it would be desirable to see a tangible benefit. CCC had limited funds to reduce speed limits. The traffic calming scheme suggested by CCC for Meldreth Road would cost around £35,000 – it would not be feasible for the PC to fund this amount. Mr M Monks (Speedwatch) was invited to speak. There was some evidence of pressure from Central Government for reduction of speed limits to 30mph in villages. (At this point Cllr Neale left the meeting, 8.55pm). Other county councils e.g. Suffolk, already had schemes in place to reduce speed limits. There was pressure for CCC to look at their current policies on speed limits (to be discussed at the County Cabinet meeting in April 2011). Action: Mr M Monks/the Chairman to draft a letter to County Cllr Macguire asking for a reduction in the speed limit to 30mph.

**16.0 Village upkeep and maintenance – reporting of issues**

- A resident had reported that engine oil had been dumped in a drainage ditch. The resident had been advised to telephone Environment Health. This was a County Council matter.

**17.0 Items for next meeting:**

- Talk from local PCSO
- Recreation Ground railings – approval of expenditure on repairs
- Playground – approval of expenditure
- Discussion of recommendations for appropriate signage re children playing on Bridge Street and agreement of expenditure.
- Approval of year-end accounts
- Response to HCV traffic survey
- Payment of VH grant and expenses

**18.0 Agreement of Date of Annual Parish Meeting** – provisional date of 19<sup>th</sup> April agreed. Actions: Date to be checked and finalised. Ideas for APM to be sent to the Chairman.

County Cllr Oliver entered the meeting (9.15pm).

**7.0 Report from County Cllr:** County Cllr Oliver provided a verbal update:

- Finance: the current intention is that CCC will not increase Council Tax for the next five years. There would be 450 redundancies. Savings of £50million to be made this year and £160m over the next five years. CCC Highways still have a budget (£28m) but would have to prioritise spend.
- Broadband: County Cllr Oliver had met BT's regional director to discuss. The situation was complex. The regional director had offered to meet with interested PCs (date t.b.a.). The Chairman offered Whaddon VH as a venue for the meeting.
- Bus turning circle: County Cllr Oliver to advise dates for works after tomorrow morning.

**13.0 Bus service:** County Cllr Oliver had met with the Bus Officer and Portfolio Holder. There would be no review of service 127 (Whaddon's service) until October 2011. In the meantime they are looking at reducing costs and integrating service 127 into other commercial services. It was stressed that Whaddon PC needed to concentrate on increasing passenger numbers. Some journeys were being subsidised at a cost of £15-18 per passenger per journey. The Chairman queried the calculation of these subsidies.**15.0 Speed limiting measures:** the PC made its case for wanting to reduce the speed limit in Whaddon to 30mph and its willingness to meet the cost of new signage and national advertising. County Cllr Oliver explained the budget constraints on CCC and the legal process that must currently be followed to bring about speed limit reductions (proof of current speeds must be given). A discussion followed in which members of the public were invited to participate. District Cllr Cathcart left the meeting (9.30pm).

Actions: Mr M Monks (Speedwatch) and the Chairman to advise County Cllr Oliver of location for a police speed analysis test to be organised.

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.33 pm**