

Minutes of Whaddon Parish Council meeting held on 23rd April 2012 at 7.30p.m. in the Village Hall, Church Street, Whaddon, Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 5RY.

Present:	Chair	Mrs M Peyton
	Councillors	Mrs K French, Mr L Ginger, Mrs J Lewis, Mr P Neale
	District Councillors	Mr N Cathcart, Mr D McCraith
	County Councillor	Mrs L Oliver (until 8.10pm)
	Parish Clerk	Mrs G van Poortvliet
	Parishioners	1 present

- 1.0 Apologies for Absence** – received from Cllr C Rose. Cllr N Strudwick has been granted a leave of absence until May 2012.
- 2.0 Declarations of interest** – Cllr J Lewis declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 8.3 as Chair of Whaddon Village Hall and Recreation Ground Trust (WVHRGT).
- 3.0 Approval and Signing of minutes from Parish Council (PC) meeting of 12th March 2012:**
Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting be signed by the Chair as a true and correct record.
- 4.0 Reports from Clerk and Councillors – on matters arising:** the Clerk and Cllrs provided verbal updates on matters arising from previous PC meetings:
- Damaged Footway, Meldreth Road – notification had been received from CCC Highways that a works order had been put in for this repair work.
 - S106 monies re St. Mary's Close – the monies had now been received and would be ring-fenced in the PC's accounts.
 - Bus service – the Saturday morning bus service was still in operation and the discrepancy on the website had been corrected.
 - Village Speed Limit - a site-meeting had been arranged with CCC on 26th April to discuss appropriate speed restriction measures for Meldreth Road.
 - Bridge on Footpath 9 – following further inspection it was thought that the condition of the bridge was acceptable for the time being.
 - Replacement paving slabs for Bridge Street Fountain Garden – many of the paving slabs were broken but the existing slabs could no longer be sourced. The handyman had arranged quotes for various replacement options. Actions: the Clerk to table an agenda item for the next meeting. Clls to consider replacement options for discussion.
 - Verges grass-cutting – the first cut should be done by the end of April or early May (weather permitting).
 - Trees on verge in Bridge Street – a large branch had fallen from one of the trees. The handyman had been asked to remove it.
 - Environment Agency meeting re local rivers – The Chair gave an update from the meeting on 2nd April. The water table was extremely low. It would be necessary to stop pumping from the borehole feeding the drainage ditch in Bridge Street. The ditch would probably run dry at some point in the near future.
 - Village Newsletter – discussions were being held with potential new advertisers. Some local residents had offered to provide articles about village history. Action: the Chair to provide the residents' contact details to Cllr French.
- 5.0 Reports from District and County Cllrs:**
County Cllr Report: a verbal update was given by County Cllr Oliver:
- Bassingbourn Barracks – the current Army Training Regiment would be leaving in the middle of the year. As yet no assurances had been given that the clubs and societies currently using the facilities would be able to continue doing so. However, it was expected

that they would have use of the barracks' facilities until the end of December 2012 and possibly until the end of March 2013.

- Bassingbourn Youth Club – this was being reinvigorated and would start up after the May Bank Holiday, on Monday evenings. Volunteers were wanted to help run it.
- Buy with Confidence Scheme Launched – individuals can recommend trades-people and Trading Standards will check them out and add them to a list of vetted traders.
- Olympic Flame – will go via Cambridge on 7th and 8th July.
- Minor Highways Improvements Grants – 87 applications had been received for 20 grants. The first round of sifting takes place this week. County Cllr Oliver would make Whaddon's case.
- Local Government Shared Services – this was expanding to include Norwich City Council.

District Cllrs' Report – a verbal update was given by the District Cllrs:

- District Council Meeting – this would be held on Thursday 26th April.
- Planning Issues – at a recent seminar the idea of looking at 'clusters of villages' rather than considering them individually was explored as a way of improving sustainability.

6.0 Public Participation:

- A member of the public commented that the footway by the Church had recently been repaired but that horses had left hoof-prints in the surface. Action: the Chair to speak with the owners and ask them not to ride on the footway.

7.0 Planning:

- 7.1 Noting of Planning Committee Recommendation re S/0552/12/FL, installation of temporary 65m high meteorological mast, land to West of junction with Old Wimpole Road, Ermine Way, Arrington** – the PC had made no recommendation and commented that the proposed mast was too far away from the Parish to form a view.
- 7.2 Noting of approved minutes from Planning Committee meetings of 12/03/12** – the PC noted receipt of these minutes.

8.0 Finance: it was agreed to discuss item 8.3 first.

- 8.3 Consideration and approval of expenditure on Village Hall (VH) replacement windows:** WVHGT had applied for £2,460 to part-finance the replacement of the remaining windows in the VH. Cllr J Lewis had a prejudicial interest as Chair of WVHRGT and left the meeting.. Resolved: that the grant application for £2,460 be approved (£2,000 from the 2012/13 precept and £460 from under spent funds re the purchase of the front window in 2011/12). Cllr J Lewis returned to the meeting and was informed of the PC's decision. (County Cllr Oliver left the meeting).

- 8.1 Approval of payments:** Resolved: that the following payments be approved:

Cheques already signed (17th March 2012)

Cheque No 100768, for £501.60, Gift Selection, Diamond Jubilee money boxes

Cheques already signed (29th March 2012)

Cheque No 100769, £100.00, Red Balloon Learner Centre, Cambridge, donation

Cheque No 100770, for £78.00, Hales Printers, newsletter printing

Cheque No 100772, for £35.00, CAPALC, councillor training

Cheques already signed (1st April 2012)

Cheque No 100771, for £279.94, Mr N Shaw, expenses re Diamond Jubilee party

Cheques to be signed today (23rd April 2012)

Cheque No. 100773, for £42.00, Mrs G van Poortvliet, reimbursement of expenses paid re domain website registration.

Cheque No.100774, for £2,460.00, Whaddon Village Hall and Recreation Ground Trust, donation towards new windows for Village Hall.

8.2 Consideration of PC Insurance: the Clerk had already obtained a quote that was considerably lower than the current insurer. Action: the Clerk to obtain a third quote. Cllr Lewis to provide contact details for WVHRGT's insurers.

8.4 Presentation of Draft Accounts for year ended 31 March 2012: the draft accounts were with the internal auditor and were due to be approved at the next PC meeting. Action: the Clerk to circulate the draft annual return and accounts in advance of the PC meeting.

9.0 Correspondence:

- SCDC – Standards Committee Newsletter Mar 2012 (details of new requirements for registering interests of spouses/civil partners and clarification re predetermination/bias).
- CCC – response from Richard Preston to our letter regarding the new speed limits on the A1198.
- CCC – request for comment on proposed location of 'SLOW' road markings at top end of Bridge Street (to be discussed at site-meeting on 26th April).
- CCC – briefing on CCC's position regarding Bus Subsidies and the Cambridgeshire Future Transport initiative.
- Invitation to sign a petition against wind turbines in Cambridgeshire.
- Cambridgeshire NHS – notification of outcome of public consultation re proposed redesign of mental health services across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.
- CCC – Integrated Plan for 2012-13.
- CCC – notification of delay in being able to respond to applications for Minor Highways Improvements funding and details of revised, two stage evaluation process.
- Cambridgeshire ACRE – info re Community Oil Buying Scheme and request for a local co-ordinator.

10.0 Whaddon Village Hall and Recreation Ground Trust (WVHRGT) update: a verbal update was provided by Cllr J Lewis (Chair of WVHRGT) from the WVHRGT meeting on 3rd April.

- Fundraising Events – the Comedy Evening had been a great success and raised £756. The Open Gardens event would take place on 24th June.
- Big Lottery Fund Application – WVHRGT were now in a position to finalise the application. A background information booklet was being prepared that could be used as the basis for all future grant applications.
- SCDC Grant – WVHRGT had started a dialogue with SCDC about drawing down the grant. SCDC had requested further information and project plan details.

11.0 Clerk's Appraisal and Salary – it was agreed to move this item to the end of the meeting.

12.0 Bridge Street Safety Signage – agreement of final scheme and expenditure: signage proposals and costs were discussed. Resolved: to purchase three x 3.5m posts, three x '20's plenty' signs and two x 'SLOW' signs with a diagram of children playing, plus appropriate fixings. Actions: Cllr Lewis to ask the supplier if the words 'Children Playing' could be removed from the 'SLOW' sign and to check if it was possible to get back-to-back fixings for two of the poles. The Clerk to order the signs and arrange payment. Thanks were given to Cllr Lewis.

13.0 Whaddon Booklets – consideration of status and agreement of actions: a booklet used to be given to new residents containing village history, maps and useful contact information (now out of date). Actions: Cllr Neale to scan the village history and map pages so that they could be printed out. New residents could be referred to the website for up-to-date contact information.

14.0 Parish Councillors' Election – noting of uncontested election results and discussion of action re Cllr vacancies: the Cllrs elected to Whaddon PC were Mrs K French, Mr L Ginger, Mrs J Lewis, Mr P Neale and Mrs M Peyton. Cllrs C Rose and N Strudwick had not stood for re-election due to work commitments. Dr Strudwick would continue to manage the website on behalf

of the village. Actions: the Cllrs to consider potential candidates to contact about joining the PC. The Clerk to leaflet the new homes in St. Mary's Close.

15.0 Parish Plan Update – no response had been received to requests for help in the Newsletter. Cllr Ginger would make a further request at the Annual Parish Meeting – after this it would be necessary to ask people directly.

16.0 Village Upkeep and Maintenance: nothing reported.

17.0 Items for next meeting

- Replacement of Paving Slabs in Bridge Street Fountain Garden
- Trees on verge in Bridge Street
- Co-option of Cllrs
- Reduction of speed limit in village
- Approval of accounts and Annual Return to 31 March 2012

18.0 Date of next meetings - Annual Parish Meeting 24th April; Annual Parish Council Meeting/next ordinary meeting 14th May – Resolved: to change the date of the next PC meeting to 14th May to ensure it was quorate. Action: the Clerk to book the VH and amend public notices.

The meeting was closed to the public and the Clerk also left the meeting (9.10pm).

11.0 Clerk's Appraisal and Salary – noting of completion of Clerk's appraisal and agreement to increase Clerk's salary to the next point on the scale (if appropriate): Resolved: to increase the Clerk's salary to the next point on the scale. Thanks were given to the Clerk.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20 pm