

**Minutes of Whaddon Parish Council meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2013 at 7.35p.m. in the Village Hall, Church Street, Whaddon, Nr Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 5RY.**

Present:	Chair	Mrs M Peyton
	Councillors	Mrs K French, Mr L Ginger, Professor A Milton, Mr R Scott
	Parish Clerk	Mrs G van Poortvliet
	District Councillor	Mr D McCraith
	Parishioners	3 present

The meeting started five minutes later than advertised due to an overrunning of the Planning Committee meeting immediately preceding it.

**1.0 Apologies for Absence** – received from Cllr J Lewis, County Cllr L Oliver and District Cllr N Cathcart.

**2.0 Minutes – approval and signing of minutes from Parish Council (PC) meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> February** – Resolved: that the minutes be signed by the Chair as a true and correct record.

**3.0 Declarations of interest** – none declared.

**4.0 Report from Clerk and Cllrs on business remaining from previous meetings:** a verbal report was given.

- VAT on car-park and village hall (VH) – advice had been received from HMRC that VAT could be reclaimed on a car park for the recreation ground if the work was arranged by and invoiced to the PC. VAT could be reclaimed on VH refurbishment as long as nothing was received by the PC in return for their donation. Use of the VH for PC meetings, free of charge, would be considered receipt of something in return. The works would need to be organised by and invoiced to the PC. The PC would have to consider the financial implications of paying to hire the VH for meetings versus being able to reclaim VAT on donations for refurbishment work. Action: the Clerk to table an agenda item.
- Salt bins – CCC Highways had confirmed that St. Mary's Close was not an adopted road and that the PC would have to pay for any salt bins put there to be filled. It would be possible to have a salt bin filled in Town Farm Close but CCC Highways had queried if this was really needed. Salt bins would cost £95 + VAT. Action: the Clerk to table an agenda item.
- Street Signs – SCDC were responsible for refurbishment of the street signs. Action: District Cllr McCraith to find out who the appropriate contact was and advise the Clerk.
- Traffic Management, Meldreth Road – it had not been possible for a CCC Officer to attend a site meeting to discuss the proposals but they had agreed to look at the plans and provide estimated costs.
- Parish Plan – the Parish Plan Committee had held another meeting which had been attended by a representative from Cambridgeshire ACRE.
- Bridge Street Safety Signage – this had now been installed.

**5.0 Reports from District and County Cllrs:**

District Cllr Report: a verbal report was given:

- Litlington Wind Farm – this was still scheduled to be discussed at SCDC's April Planning Committee meeting but could be put back until the May meeting.
- Traveller and Gypsy policy – a workshop had taken place which had focussed on the benefits of providing extra pitches. No decisions had been taken.
- Bassingbourn Barracks – this had not been included on the list of barracks which would be accommodating regiments returning from Germany. The future was still uncertain.
- SCDC Council Tax – it had been decided to increase this by 1.99% due to long-term funding requirements for services.

County Cllr Report: no County Cllr present. An email update from County Cllr Oliver was read out – the key points were:

- Car sharing scheme – a new scheme ‘CamShare’ was due to be started and promoted across Cambridgeshire.
- Broadband – CCC had signed a deal with BT to provide a county-wide high speed network by the end of 2015. The scheme would build on the existing commercial broadband network. Speeds of at least 24Mbps would be available to more than 90% of premises and a minimum of 2Mbps to virtually all premises.
- Council Tax – CCC had approved a 1.99% increase in Council Tax for 2013/14. Cambridgeshire is the fastest growing county in the country.

## 6.0 Public Participation:

- A member of the public asked if it would be possible to have a salt bin on the corner of Church Street, near St. Mary’s Close, if it was not possible to have one in St. Mary’s Close. It was explained that Church Street was on a gritting route and CCC Highways would not fill salt bins which were on these routes.
- A member of the public enquired about the speed management schemes being suggested for Meldreth Road stating that it would be necessary that they could be negotiated by a combine harvester. The Chair explained that the type of measures being considered would be suitable for farm machinery to get through.
- A member of the public said that it would be good to have a cycle path between Whaddon, Cardiff Place and Bassingbourn. At the moment children were expected to cycle in the road. Action: the Clerk to ask County Cllr Oliver who to bring this up with.

It was agreed to move to item 10.2

## 10.2 Whaddon Village Hall and Recreation Ground Trust (WVHRGT) – approval of 2012/13 grant application for running costs – the application was discussed. Resolved: that a grant payment of £885.39 be approved. The PC noted the additional application for £1,035 which could be considered again once the expenditure had been incurred and receipts produced. Actions: the Clerk to advise WVHRGT of the PC’s decision. The Clerk to ask WVHRGT to sign the grant application form and provide supporting receipts.

## 7.0 Finance – Approval of payments: Resolved that the following payments be approved:

Cheques already signed (22<sup>nd</sup> February 2013)

Cheque No. 100805, for £240.00, NJS Surfacing, Bridge Street Safety signage

Cheques to be signed today (11<sup>th</sup> March 2013)

Cheque No. 100806, for £30.00, Cambridgeshire ACRE, annual subscription.

Cheque No. 100807, for £283.88, Mr D Evans, handyman charges and materials re phone box, pump garden and Bridge Street notice board repair.

Cheque No. 100808, for £50.00, Mrs M Peyton, Chairs Expense Allowance quarter ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013.

Cheque No. 100809, for £889.71, Mrs G van Poortvliet, Clerks wages for 12 weeks ended 25<sup>th</sup> March 2013 and expense allowance for quarter ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013.

Cheque No. 100810, for £885.39, Whaddon Village Hall and Recreation Ground Trust, grant for administration costs.

## 8.0 Correspondence

- WVHRGT – minutes of meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> February 2013
- Mr P Coningsby – letter regarding damaged bench on corner of Meldreth Road

## 9.0 Planning Matters:

**9.1 Planning Applications - noting of Planning Committee recommendation re S.0155/13/FL, Hoback Farm, 81 Cambridge Road, Wimpole, for construction of Solar PV Development to include installation of ground based racking systems,**

mounted solar panels, power inverter stations, transformer stations, substation, fencing and associated gates and CCTV cameras mounted on free standing support poles – the PC had recommended approval of the scheme (with Cllr Milton voting against) with comments that the CCTV cameras should not point over the public footpath and should be no higher than 3.8m.

**9.2 SCDC Decision – noting of SCDC decision re Planning Application S0009/13/FL, 134 Church Street, Whaddon for an extension:** planning permission had been granted.

## **10.0 Whaddon Village Hall and Recreation Ground Trust (WVHRGT)**

**10.1 Update:** a verbal update was given by Cllr Ginger following a WVHRGT meeting the previous week:

- Plans had been drawn up for the kitchen area.
- It was hoped to get quotes for the building work by the end of March.
- The Village Hall would not be taking bookings from May 2013.
- Mrs W Evans had been doing an excellent job applying for grants and would soon be attending a meeting about grants in Gamlingay.
- The Annual General Meeting would take place on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2013 at 8pm.

## **11.0 Code of Conduct Complaints Procedure – consideration and approval of draft procedure:**

Resolved: to adopt the draft procedure with the timescale in point 3 amended to 15 working days (from 10 working days). Actions: the Clerk to amend the draft policy, circulate it and publish it on the website. The Clerk also to amend the umbrella Whaddon Parish Council Complaints Procedure to reflect the existence of a Code of Conduct Complaints Procedure and to circulate and publish this on the website.

**12.0 Charitable Donation(s) – discussion and approval of donation(s) for 2012/13:** Resolved to donate £50 to Magpas and £50 to Citizens Advice Bureau (Royston Branch if possible). Action: the Clerk to organise the donations.

## **13.0 Village Upkeep and Maintenance – reporting of issues:**

- Meldreth Street Lights – the new lights in Meldreth, especially those around Whitecroft Road and the station were blinding to motorists. Action: the Clerk to report this to Meldreth PC.
- Land behind Ridgeway Close – dumping of rubbish had taken place here. Action: District Cllr McCraith to report this.

## **14.0 Items for next meeting:**

- Co-option of new Cllr.
- VAT on donations to VH
- Salt bins

**15.0 Date of next meetings: Parish Council Meeting Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2013; Annual Parish Meeting Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April (7.30pm for 8.00pm)**

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50 pm**