

Minutes of Whaddon Parish Council meeting held on 10th March 2014 at 7.30p.m. in the Village Hall, Church Street, Whaddon, Nr Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 5RY.

Present:	Chair	Mrs M Peyton
	Councillors	Mrs K French, Mrs J Lewis (from 7.40p.m.), Professor A Milton, Mr R Scott, Ms A Walker
	Parish Clerk	Mrs G van Poortvliet
	District Councillors	Mr D McCraith
	Parishioners	2 present

1.0 Apologies for Absence – received from Cllr L Ginger, District Cllr N Cathcart and County Cllr A Dent.

2.0 Minutes – approval and signing of minutes from Parish Council (PC) meeting of 10th February 2014 – Resolved: that item 5.0 of the minutes be amended from ‘One of the sites put forward by the PC for designation as a Local Green Space had been excluded by SCDC and insufficient local support had been demonstrated’ to ‘One of the sites put forward by the PC for designation as a Local Green Space had been excluded by SCDC as insufficient local support had been demonstrated.’ The amended minutes were signed by the Chair as a true and correct record.

3.0 Declarations of Interest – none declared.

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

- New speed limits, Meldreth – some ‘new speed limit’ signage had been put up but the Cllrs felt that, particularly when approaching Whaddon from Meldreth, there were insufficient repeater signs. Action: the Clerk to ask County Cllr Dent and County Cllr Susan van de Ven (County Cllr for Meldreth) to look into this.
- Village Handyperson vacancy – this had been advertised via the email system and would go in the next edition of the newsletter. Mr D Evans would continue to oversee the grass cutting contracts. The Chair asked the Cllrs to think of candidates who might be approached to take on the handyperson job.
- Main notice board – Cllr Ginger was obtaining some quotes for a new notice board. The possibility of attaching a notice board to the Village Hall (VH) was discussed as an alternative which would alleviate the problem of rotting posts. Actions: the Clerk to ask Whaddon Village Hall & Recreation Ground Trust if it might be possible to attach a PC notice board to the VH. The Chair to obtain a quote for a wall-mounted notice board.
- Bridge Street phone box – some volunteers were willing to finish painting the outside of the phone box. Someone was still needed who could fix shelves to the interior. Action: Cllr French to check if a request for help with carpentry could be put in the newsletter.

5.0 Reports from District and County Cllrs:

District Cllrs’ Report: a verbal report was given:

- Wendy Solar Farm – a meeting had been held in Wendy on 12th February to discuss a potential solar farm between Wendy and Bassingbourn Barracks. Stuart Rye, Chair of the Parish Meeting was to find out the feeling of Wendy’s villagers towards the proposal. Two further solar farms were being considered in the district – one between Bassingbourn and the A505 and another behind Bury Lane, Meldreth. SCDC are encouraging applicants and Parish Councils to get together to negotiate over these proposals.
- 2014/15 budget – this was approved by SCDC in February. Council Tax would increase by 1.99%. Funding from Central Government to SCDC was due to decrease by a quarter

every year. The new housing company set up by SCDC would bring in a future income stream and help to alleviate the need for increases to council tax.

- Council house refurbishment, Bridge Street – the Chair pointed out that the refurbishment works on the houses in Bridge Street had been left unfinished with wires taped to the outside of the buildings. Action: District Cllr McCraith to look into this.
- Local Plan – the final version of the Plan was due to go before a special meeting of SCDC on 13th March for adoption. Objections had mainly been received from areas where housing was envisaged.

County Cllr's Report: no County Cllr present at the meeting.

6.0 Planning – noting of SCDC's decisions

The PC noted that SCDC had approved Planning Application S/0083/14/FL, 128 Meldreth Road, SG8 5RP for erection of storage and stable building and change of use of agricultural land to equestrian use.

7.0 Correspondence

- Cambridgeshire County Council – notification that Whaddon PC's scheme has been approved for £3,000 funding under the Local Highway Improvement Initiative Scheme.
- WVH&RGT – minutes from meeting on 3rd February 2014 and agenda for meeting on 3rd March 2014.
- SCDC – invitation to Parish Liaison Meeting on 27th March 2014, Cambourne, 6.30-8.00pm. Action: the Clerk to RSVP on behalf of the Chair.
- WVH&RGT – invitation to opening ceremony on 14th May 2014, 3pm.

8.0 Whaddon Village Hall & Recreation Ground Trust (WVH&RGT) – update: Cllr Lewis gave a verbal report:

- Village Hall (VH) Refurbishment, back section – the building works were on track for completion on 20th March 2014 (deadline for Amey Cespa grant). The builders had been very good.
- Donations – thanks were given to the PC for their 10% contribution towards the Amey Cespa grant and to Mr Monks and Mr Shaw for donation of security lighting.
- Playground safety checks – the detailed monthly checks would start again in April.
- Cage for heat pump – this had now been completed. The PC had included this expense in their 2014/15 precept. A grant application would be made by WVH&RGT in April 2014.
- Comedy Night – this was planned for 5th April and was suitable for those aged 14+ years.
- Opening Event – an official opening for the sponsors would take place on 14th May. Wording for the plaque was being considered as well as whom to ask to open the VH.

9.0 Finance: it was agreed to consider agenda item 9.2 before 9.1.

9.2 Consideration of requests for funding from WVH&RGT:

WVH&RGT requested financial support from the PC to pay two invoices relating to the capital refurbishment works for the VH. The invoices were for building regulations and for fire extinguisher checks. Cllrs A Walker and J Lewis declared an interest as Managing Trustees of WVH&RGT and left the meeting. The PC resolved to pay the building regulations and the fire extinguisher checks (estimated at a maximum of £800). The funds were to be moved out of the Traffic Management reserve for this purpose. Actions: WVH&RGT to make a grant application supported by invoices for these costs. The Clerk to arrange for a cheque to be drawn up and paid before 31st March 2014 and to move the necessary funds from the Traffic Management Reserve. (Cllrs Walker and Lewis returned to the meeting and were advised of the PC's decision)

9.1 Approval of Payments: Resolved: that the following payments be approved:

Cheque already signed (18th February 2014)

Cheque No. 100857, £3,840, Whaddon Village Hall & Recreation Ground Trust, 10% donation towards Amey Cespa grant for refurbishing back part of Village Hall. This replaces cheque no 100855 (£4,000).

Cheques to be approved for signing today (10th March 2014)

Cheque No. 100858, £48.00, Cambridgeshire ACRE, subscription.

Cheque No.100859, £80.00, Mr P E Coningsby, grass cutting church yard.

Cheque No. 100860, £968.84, Mrs G van Poortvliet, Clerks wages and Expense Allowance for quarter to 31st March 2014.

Cheque No. 100861, £50.00, Mrs M Peyton, Chairs Expense Allowance for quarter to 31st March 2014.

Cheque No. 100862, £99.00, Whaddon Village Hall & Recreation Ground Trust, meeting venue hire Dec 2013 to Mar 2014.

Cheque No. 100863, £72.00, Mr D Evans, handyman wages re Bridge Street Pump Garden.

10.0 Public Participation:

- A member of the public reported that there had been a bad accident at Whaddon Gap junction the previous Tuesday and that a turning lane was needed. Action: the Clerk to ask County Cllr Dent for the best way to approach CCC regarding a turning lane.
- A member of the public asked if it was possible to see draft minutes from the previous PC meetings before the meeting itself. The Clerk advised that draft minutes were posted on the village website approximately two weeks after the meetings.
- A member of the public suggested that, if it was not possible to find a village handyman, that use could be made of volunteers to perform specific maintenance tasks instead.
- A member of the public reinforced the opinion of some of the Cllrs regarding the poor state of finish on the refurbishment work on the council houses in Bridge Street.

11.0 Traffic Management, Meldreth Road – update: £3,000 grant funding from CCC Highways had been confirmed towards a total scheme cost of c£10,000. The next steps were to park three cars in the proposed locations of the ‘squeeze’ give way features to observe the impact on traffic speeds in Meldreth Road and then to meet with CCC Highways representatives. Action: Speedwatch to arrange for observation of parked cars in Meldreth Road.

12.0 Community Plan – presentation and adoption: due to the absence of Cllr Ginger this item was postponed until the next PC meeting.

13.0 Broadband – update: a meeting had taken place on 3rd March attended by the Chair, County Cllr Dent, representatives from BT, Connecting Cambridgeshire and BT Openreach. Dr N Strudwick, Whaddon’s Broadband Champion, had joined the meeting via Facetime. It had been confirmed that Whaddon would have enhanced broadband by the end of 2015. Further consideration was being given to the best way to deliver this due to complications with the existing telecoms infrastructure in the village. One option was via radio backhaul which works on a line-of-sight basis using digital microwave technology. This system was secure and would not be affected by the weather but was an expensive solution for relatively few households. Whaddon PC would need to continue to apply pressure.

14.0 Salt bins for Town Farm Close (TFC) – agreement of actions: Cllr French had sent an email to residents of TFC explaining that the only feasible location for a salt bin was along the back of the car ports on the main approach to TFC. The responses received had been positive. Actions: the Clerk to advise CCC Highways that a salt bin would be placed on the adopted section of TFC and would need to be filled in due course. Cllr French and the Chair would look at where the bin should go and arrange for the shrubs to be cut back.

15.0 Charitable Donations – agreement of donations: the PC resolved to donate £100 to Magpas Helimedix. Action: the Clerk to draw up a cheque and arrange for it to be signed.

16.0 Village Upkeep and Maintenance – reporting of issues:

- Potholes – members of the PC had already registered the pothole on Church Street by the turning into TFC.
- Pickering Woods – a tree had fallen down in Pickering Woods and had been moved off the footpath. Action: Cllr French to inform Mr R Huffer about the tree.

17.0 Items for next meeting:

- Clerks Review (Action: the Clerk to circulate a copy of the job description)
- Adoption of Community Led Plan
- Discussion of process for making grants to community clubs and societies
- S106 funds
- Approval of accounts to 31st March 2014

18.0 Date of next meeting - Monday 7th April 2014; Annual Parish Meeting Monday 14th April 2014

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.17 pm