

**Minutes of Whaddon Parish Council meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 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, Mr L Ginger (from 7.32p.m.), Mrs J Lewis (from 7.40p.m.), Mr R Scott (from 7.34p.m), Ms A Walker
	Parish Clerk	Mrs G van Poortvliet
	District Councillors	Mr N Cathcart, Mr D McCraith
	Parishioners	3 present

**1.0 Apologies for Absence** – received from County Cllr A Dent.

**2.0 Minutes – approval and signing of minutes from Parish Council (PC) meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> November 2013** – 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 Councillors on business remaining from previous meetings:** a verbal report was given.

- Salt bin, Town Farm Close – the residents had been emailed to explain that there was only one location suitable for a salt bin and to find out if they still want to have one in Town Farm Close.

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

County Cllr's Report: a written report from County Cllr A Dent had been emailed to the Cllrs. The main points were read out:

- Local Highways Initiative Grant Applications – the panel will meet on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> January to consider the applications (agenda item 11.0).
- Water on the A1198 at Kneesworth – this problem seems to have been contained.
- Potholes on the A1198 – the potholes from the Royston roundabout to Kneesworth had been reported.
- Broadband – Whaddon's hopes for an improved broadband service had received a setback (agenda item 12.0). A meeting with all parties involved was being set up.

District Cllrs' Report: a verbal report was given:

- Housing – SCDC are to use a company, South Cambs Homes, to purchase and sell properties. This is likely to be financed by a loan from the Public Works Board. The intention is to provide a different income stream, providing protection from government funding cuts and hopefully meaning that future increases to council tax will be lower.
- Local Plan – this was being finalised. All comments on the final consultation are now on the website and Officers are responding to them. SCDC will then consider these and vote on them. The timeframe for this should be c8-9 weeks.
- Whaddon Travellers Site, New Farm (A1198) – assurance was still being given that the residents would not be moved off the site whilst the redevelopment work was carried out.

**6.0 Planning**

**6.1 Noting of approved minutes from the Planning Committee meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> September 2013** – the PC noted the minutes.

**6.2 Planning Application S/2351/13/FL, 118 Church Street, SG8 5RX for an extension and alterations from single storey bungalow to two storey dwelling – noting of PC recommendation** - the PC had recommended approval of the application with requests for restrictions on weekend working.

**6.3 Planning Application S/1818/13/FL, 128 Meldreth Road, SG8 5RP for erection of a building and change of use of land from agricultural use to general storage for equestrian, domestic and general upkeep land – noting of PC recommendation –** the PC had recommended refusal of the application due to confusion about what land was included within the change of use request and the need for further information about drainage plans. Since then the applicants had withdrawn their application. A member of the public (a neighbour) asked to speak and updated the PC on the current status of the application. New plans had been submitted and the applicant was trying to resolve the drainage issue.

## 7.0 Correspondence

- WVHRGT – minutes of meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2013.
- SCDC – invitation to Parish Planning Forum on 3<sup>rd</sup> December.
- SCDC – information regarding nominations for Community Hero Awards. Closing date 24<sup>th</sup> January 2014. Action: the Clerk to complete the nomination form with the assistance of Cllr Lewis.
- SLCC – announcement that the government intends to abolish the requirement for two signatures on PC cheques which currently prevents use of electronic payment systems.
- WVHRGT – minutes from meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2013.
- CCC – notification of changes to the way street lighting energy usage is billed (move from March financial year basis to energy company year to September basis).

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

- Fundraising and events – a New Years Eve party had been held in the village hall. Also a Christmas Bazaar had raised c£500. Other events were planned to continue with fundraising.
- Village Hall refurbishment (phase 2) – grant applications had been made to the English Cricket Board and Amey Cespa. WVHRGT were due to hear by the end of the week if they had been successful in their application to Amey Cespa. If they were successful the building works would need to be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014.
- Lettings – the lettings officer had reported that people who wished to hire the VH were very impressed when they came for viewings.
- Thanks were given to the PC for their contributions and support of WVHRGT.

## 9.0 Finance: Cllr Lewis declared an interest in agenda item 9.1 as Chair of WVHRGT. It was agreed to alter the order of the agenda and move to agenda item 9.2.

**9.2 Consideration of request for funding from Petersfield School** – a request had been made for a donation of £400 to buy furniture for the school. This was discussed and it was agreed not to make a donation to Petersfield School. Children from Whaddon attend six local schools and it would be unfair to support one over the others. Action: the Clerk to write to Petersfield School to inform them of the decision.

**9.3 Approval of 2014/15 Precept** – at a meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2014 the PC had agreed a precept for 2014/15 of £16,400. Resolved: that the PC approve a Precept for 2014/15 of £16,400. Action: the Clerk to write to SCDC to request the 2014/15 precept and also to publish the precept calculations on the website.

**9.4 Approval of Payments and Noting of approved overspend on Parish Plan expenses:** Resolved: that the following payments be approved:

### Cheques already approved (19<sup>th</sup> November 2013)

Cheque No. 100842, for £13,080, NJS Surfacing, for car park for recreation ground.

Cheque No. 100843, for £5,520, HNH Builders Ltd, for village hall kitchen refurbishment.

Cheque No. 100844, £100, Mr L Ginger, Community Led Plan expenses.

### Cheques already approved (9<sup>th</sup> December 2013)

Cheque No. 100845, £102, Hales Printers, newsletter printing.

Cheque No. 100846, £945, Mr N Shaw, Community Led Plan printing costs. The PC noted the overspend of £212.95 on Parish Plan costs which had previously been approved.

Cheque No. 100847, £8979.60, Whaddon Village Hall & Recreation Ground Trust, transfer of Capital Grant received from SCDC for Village Hall refurbishment.

**Cheques to be approved today (13<sup>th</sup> January 2014)**

Cheque No. 100848, £50, Mrs M Peyton, Chair's expense allowance qtr to 31 December 2013.

Cheque No. 100849, £968.84, Mrs G van Poortvliet, Clerk's wages and expense allowance for qtr ended 31 December 2013.

Cheque No. 100850, £50, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Association of Local Councils, social media training (M Peyton and G van Poortvliet).

Cheque No. 100851, £175, Caldecote Parish Council, Cllr Training Sessions (A Walker x3 and R Scott x2)

Cheque No. 100852, £708, M D Landscapes, for recreation ground grass cutting and verges grass cutting to November 2013.

Cheque No. 100853, £848, Mr R J van Poortvliet, table tennis tables for table tennis club (£106).

Bank mandate – Barclays still had not processed the Simple Servicing Authority to allow the Clerk to make transfers between accounts. The Chair was still on the mandate in her maiden name. Action: the Chair to make a complaint to Barclays about the poor service.

**9.1 Consideration of requests for additional funding for Village Hall expenses** – Cllr Lewis declared an interest in this item as Chair of WVH&RGT and left the meeting.

WVH&RGT had applied for a grant of £40,000 from Amey Cespa for phase 2 of the Village Hall refurbishment. If they were successful in their application they would need to contribute 10% (£4,000) to the work. WVHRGT did not have £4,000 available and had asked for a donation from the PC. Resolved: that the PC transfer £4,000 from the Traffic Management ring-fenced reserve into a ring-fenced fund for VH refurbishment. Action: the Clerk to inform WVH&RGT of the PC's decision.

WVH&RGT had made a grant application to the PC for £1,635 for 2013/14 running costs. This had not been received in time for the meeting and was not supported by invoices. Agreed: that the grant be approved in principal and a cheque drawn up when the supporting documentation had been provided. Action: the Clerk to liaise with WVH&RGT to obtain the relevant paperwork and to get a cheque drawn up when it had been received.

Cllr Lewis returned to the meeting and was informed of the PC's decisions.

**10.0 Public Participation:**

- a member of the public reported that the edges of the highway at the top of Bridge Street, between Ridgeway Close and the bend were breaking up. This was an ongoing problem made worse by parking. Action: the Clerk to report this to CCC Highways and ask them to repair the highway and see if anything else could be done to address this.

**11.0 Traffic Management, Meldreth Road – update and agreement of PC attendees for Local Highway Improvement Panel Meeting:** it was planned to wait until the weather improved before parking cars on Meldreth Road (in lieu of give-way features) and observing the impact on traffic. The PC had applied for £3,000 towards a £10,000 traffic calming scheme. CCC was considering the applications on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> January. Actions: the Clerk to see if Cllr Milton could attend on behalf of the PC and advise CCC.

**12.0 Broadband – update:** Connecting Cambridgeshire had reported that it would be too difficult to get fibre to a cabinet in the village. They had suggested using a wireless connection - this would be weather-dependent and more expensive for users. County Cllr Dent was trying to organise

another meeting with BT Openreach, Connecting Cambridgeshire and representatives of the PC to see why Whaddon could not have a cabinet as had originally been promised.

**13.0 Social Media – update from workshop** – the Clerk and the Chair had attended a workshop on social media for PC's. An update was given. The workshop had provided some useful ideas and also identified some potential pitfalls of using social media for PC affairs.

**14.0 Village Upkeep and Maintenance – reporting of issues:**

- Wheelie bins – during recent windy conditions some wheelie bins had been blown out into the roads and into the path of motorists. Action: an email to be sent to residents asking them to bring their bins in as soon as possible after the collections and to bring in neighbours bins if they are able.
- Grips – these had not been cut in Bridge Street and Whaddon Gap for several years and there had been pools of water during the wet weather. Action: the Clerk to ask CCC Highways to reinstate the grips in Bridge Street and Whaddon Gap.
- Street lights – one of the Cllrs asked if it would be possible to have street lights in Whaddon. The recent Community Led Plan indicated that 2/3 of residents did not want street lights.

**15.0 Items for next meeting:**

- Adoption of Community Led Plan
- Accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013

**16.0 Date of next meeting - Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2014.** Apologies received from the Chair and Cllr Lewis.

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.12 pm**