

**Minutes of Whaddon Parish Council meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2014 at 8.00p.m. in the Village Hall, Church Street, Whaddon, Nr Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 5RY.**

Present: Chair Mrs K French  
 Councillors Professor A Milton, Mr R Scott, Ms A Walker  
 Parish Clerk Mrs G van Poortvliet  
 District Councillors Mr N Cathcart, Mr D McCraith  
 Parishioners 4 present

- 1.0 Apologies for Absence** – received from Cllrs L Ginger (holiday), W Elbourn (holiday) and J Lewis (travelling with work) and County Cllr A Dent (illness).
- 2.0 Minutes – approval and signing of minutes from previous Parish Council (PC) meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> August 2014** – 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.
- Village Handyperson – a formal acceptance had been received from Mr N Morley.
  - Grass in front of Ridgeway Close – SCDC had replied to the request from the PC to consider transferring the grass-cutting responsibility and budget to them. It would be too difficult to vary the grass-cutting contract mid-term but the contract would be renewed next year. The PC had asked SCDC to reconsider this when the contract was renewed.
  - Meldreth Road Traffic Management – Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) Highways had been informed of the outcome of the consultation and the comments made by residents at the previous PC meeting. A reply had been received and an on-site meeting arranged for 2<sup>nd</sup> October. One MR resident had contacted the Clerk to request additional information and express continued opposition to the current proposed scheme.
  - Whaddon Gap Car Park – this was owned by County Farm Estates (part of CCC). They had been asked to consider providing some ‘no overnight parking’ signs for the car park.
  - Bridge Street Drainage Ditch – a meeting with the Environment Agency to consider permanently diverting some water into the ditch had been arranged for 13<sup>th</sup> October.
  - Speedwatch volunteers – four new volunteers had come forward which would enable the scheme to continue operating in the village.
- 5.0 Reports from District and County Cllrs:**
- District Cllrs’ Report: a verbal report was given:
- Governance Committee Meeting – there had been discussion about the Cambridge City Deal to see how this could be made to work for everyone within the district, including the villages. There might be some merging of departments and the shape and nature of the local authority would change. Fear had been expressed about potential undue influence from Cambridge City. The Leader of SCDC was aware of this risk and would try to mitigate against it.
- County Cllr’s Report: an email update was read out. The main points were:
- Bassingbourn Barracks – County Cllr Dent was being kept informed on issues arising. There was a controlled rewards visits scheme for the Libyan Trainees. These visits would mainly take place on Fridays and would be supervised at all times.
  - Whaddon Gap Junction – accident rate statistics had been requested and issues raised about the work needed at Whaddon Gap.
  - Whaddon Gap Car Park – the issue of overnight residents in the car park had been raised and signs requested.

- Hedge Trimming – extra cuts and trimming back had been requested.

## 6.0 Correspondence

- CCC – report regarding severe weather-related incidents in August and the County Council's actions.
- CCC – details of Funding Fair for local Community Groups, 13<sup>th</sup> September, Cambourne Village College.
- SCDC – notification of changes to waste and recycling collections. Monthly green bins for December, January and February and changes to Christmas collections.
- SCDC – details of Disability Open Day, Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October, Council Offices, Cambourne.
- SCDC- September Planning Policy update.
- SCDC – update from Parish Planning Forum re frequently asked questions on overgrown trees and hedges.
- CCC – 2013 Road Safety Report and statistics.
- SCDC – copy of Certificate for Lawful Development re side extension at 126 Meldreth Road.

## 7.0 Finance:

**7.1 Approval of Payments:** Resolved: that the following payments be approved:

**Cheques to be approved for signing today (8<sup>th</sup> September 2014)**

Cheque No. 100884, £69.00, Whaddon Village Hall & Recreation Ground Trust, hall hire charges (5 Parish Council and 4 Planning Committee Meetings).

**7.2 Consideration of request from Whaddon Village Hall & Recreation Ground Trust (WVH&RGT) for S106 funds and precept funds for refurbishment works – WVH&RGT had**

applied to the PC for £5,590 (excl. VAT) S106 monies to rebuild the veranda on the Village Hall. The specification was for coated steel supporting posts, a tile roof and UPVC underside which would reflect light and be low-maintenance. Plans were shown to the Cllrs. Three quotes had been obtained (£5,590, £6,400 and £13,750.54). WVH&RGT had also requested £700 from the PC towards the cost of replacing most of the guttering on the VH (excluding the front apex). Several quotes had been obtained and WVH&RGT wanted to accept one for £1,770 - the balance would be met by WVH&RGT. Resolved: that the PC accept the quote of £5,590 for the veranda and use S106 funds for this purpose (SCDC's S106 Officer had confirmed that the funds could be used for a veranda). Resolved: that the PC would contribute £700 towards the cost of new guttering for the VH. The funds that had been originally included in the 2014/15 precept for refurbishing the back section of the VH would be reallocated to replacing the guttering instead.

**7.3 Consideration of request from resident for 1) reimbursement of gardening costs for cutting back overgrown hedge on Church Street and 2) road safety mirror – a resident had**

paid for an overgrown hedge on Church Street, behind Town Farm Close, to be cut back on safety grounds – obstructed vision when exiting the driveway from their house. This resident had asked the PC to reimburse the gardening costs and also to provide a safety mirror to improve visibility when turning out of the driveway. Ownership of the hedge was disputed. A TFC resident had provided a copy of their property deed which showed that the hedge was not on their land. CCC Highways would not cut the hedge because it was not on the highway. This was discussed. The PC was not responsible for the hedge and the Cllrs did not want to set a precedent by providing road safety items for individual residents. The Cllrs resolved to reject the resident's requests but to try to get County Farm Estates (who had previously owned the land on which TFC was built) and CCC Highways to accept responsibility for the hedge. Actions: the Clerk to notify the resident of the PC's decision and to ask County Farm Estates to accept responsibility for the hedge and to advise them that a resident might approach them for reimbursement of gardening costs.

**7.4 Consideration of request for PC to pay for commemorative wreath for Remembrance Sunday – a resident had asked the PC to pay for a commemorative wreath and posy for Remembrance Day on behalf of the village. In other local villages PC's typically paid for these.**

Currently, in Whaddon, they were being paid for by a resident. The approximate costs were £17 for a wreath and £10 for a posy. Resolved: that the PC pay for a commemorative poppy wreath and posy for the village. Action: the Clerk to advise the local resident of the decision.

**8.0 Planning – noting of Parish Council recommendations re (i) S/1843/14/FL – 123 Meldreth Road, SG8 5RS for drop kerb to create new vehicle access and (ii) S/1772/14/FL – 116 Meldreth Road, SG8 5RP for widening existing dormer window – the PC had recommended approval of both the above applications.**

**9.0 Public Participation:**

- A member of the public commented that residents needed reminding that many children used the Bridge Street phone box library and that it was important to consider this before leaving books of an adult nature in there. Additionally, books were needed for teenage readers – e.g. graphic (manga style) novels. Actions: an email to be sent to residents regarding the library.

**10.0 Whaddon Village Hall & Recreation Ground Trust (WVH&RGT) – update:** Mrs W Evans, Vice-Chair WVH&RGT gave a verbal update:

- VH bookings – lettings had doubled since the refurbishment of the VH and there were repeat bookings and recommendations. The VH was used as a community resource and coffee mornings and table tennis were popular. It would be necessary to go through a winter to ascertain total running costs and see if letting fees were generating a surplus.
- Future works – these included tidying up the outside space to the side of the VH and raising funds to address the acoustic problems in the main hall (this was likely to be expensive).

**11.0 British Legion Commemorative Planting Project – consideration and agreement of action:** the Cllrs discussed the possibility of planting a WW1 commemorative tree in the village. Considerations included the type of tree that would be suitable, where it would go and the provision of a plaque. Actions: details of the project to be passed to the village tree warden for research. The Clerk to table an agenda item for the next meeting.

**12.0 2014/15 Risk Assessment - approval:** this had been prepared by the Clerk and reviewed by Cllr French. The PC resolved to approve the 2014/15 Risk Assessment.

**13.0 Membership of Committees – appointment of PC member to Planning Committee:** it was decided to postpone this decision until more Cllrs were present. Action: the Clerk to table an agenda item for the next meeting.

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

- Main Village Noticeboard – the posts were quite rotten and the noticeboard needed to be moved. The Chairman and Clerk had asked the contractor to move this as soon as possible.

**15.0 Items for next meeting:**

- British Legion Commemorative Planting Project
- Committee Membership
- Decision on Meldreth Road traffic calming

**16.0 Date of next meeting - Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2014 (8.00p.m.)**

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00p.m.**