

**Minutes of Whaddon Parish Council meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at 8.00p.m. in the Village Hall, Church Street, Whaddon, Nr Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 5RY.**

Present:	Chair	Mr L Ginger
	Councillors	Mr W Elbourn, Mrs K French, Mrs J Lewis (from 8.08p.m.), Professor A Milton (from 8.05p.m.), Mr R Scott
	Parish Clerk	Mrs G van Poortvliet
	District Councillor	Mr N Cathcart, Mr D McCraith
	Parishioners	1 present

- 1.0 Apologies for Absence** – received from Cllr A Walker and County Cllr A Dent.
- 2.0 Minutes – approval and signing of minutes from previous Parish Council (PC) meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> November 2014 and Precept Meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> January 2015** – Resolved: that the minutes be signed by the Chair as a true and correct record. (Cllr Milton joined the meeting).
- 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. (Cllr Lewis joined the meeting).
- Bridge Street Culvert (Byway 22) – the member of the public asked if there had been any developments regarding applications to make changes to the culvert and also requested that residents be informed of any applications received. The Chair confirmed that there had been no further developments regarding the culvert and that it was fully intended to consult local residents. It was also noted that the watercourse had been flowing very well recently.
  - Good neighbour scheme – one reply had been received from the appeal for volunteers in the December newsletter. Action: the Chair to put a notice in the next newsletter asking if any residents required help.
  - Street lights, Ridgeway Close – these were not shown on the relevant website as being due for an upgrade. Action: the Clerk to check with County Cllr Dent if Whaddon's streetlights were included in the upgrade programme and also to report to CCC that the streetlights were not working.
  - Litter bin, Church Street – the Clerk had received a phone call from SCDC confirming that they would replace the litter bin that had recently been destroyed by a vehicle. Action: the Clerk to check if a new litter bin had been installed.
- 5.0 Reports from District and County Cllrs:**
- District Cllrs' Report: a verbal report was given:
- Local Plan – this was being considered by the Inspector and it was hoped that a judgement would be made in March. Speculative planning applications from developers were a possibility until the plan was finalised but the District Cllrs were currently unaware of any for this area.
  - Ministry of Defence briefing – a scheduled meeting to discuss the Libyan Troops had been cancelled but it was hoped that this would be rearranged soon. No decision had been made regarding the future of Basingbourn Barracks.
  - Christmas bin collections – the Cllr gave feedback to the District Cllrs regarding the large amount of additional recycling that households had to cope with over the Christmas period because of changes in refuse collection dates. The District Cllrs advised the PC to formally write to SCDC expressing their views. Action: The Clerk and Cllr Ginger to draft a letter to send to SCDC.
- County Cllr's Report: an email report had been received from County Cllr Dent and circulated to the Cllrs. One of the Cllrs commented on the fact that CCC were enforcing Riparian Ownership

responsibilities with regards to water courses and asked who was policing this. Action: Cllrs to ask County Cllr Dent about this at the next PC meeting.

## 6.0 Correspondence

- Andrew Lansley, MP – email update following meeting with Secretary of State for Defence regarding the training of Libyan Troops at Basingbourn Barracks.
- Andrew Lansley, MP – email and copy of letter from Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government regarding concerns over recent appeal decisions for developments in Waterbeach whilst the Local Plan was examination stage.
- SCDC – update on Local Plan examination hearings programme.
- CAPALC – details of Cllr Training Programme Jan-Mar 2015.
- SCDC Senior Planning Lawyer – letter following Government Guidance on the future of S106 agreements re developments of less than 10 properties.
- SCDC – updates following fire at Bridgefoot Quarry plant.
- SCDC – invitation to Training Sessions on Planning for Parish Councillors on 27<sup>th</sup> Jan and 12<sup>th</sup> Mar. Max two Cllrs per parish. Deadline 21<sup>st</sup> January 2015. Action: the Clerk to notify SCDC that Cllrs French and Scott would attend.
- Basingbourn cum Kneesworth PC – email re HCVs potentially going via Mettle Hill rather than Whaddon when exiting Eternit. Basingbourn had given reasons why it was not ideal for HCVs to use the Mettle Hill route and asked that Whaddon work with them on a solution. This was discussed. The Cllrs believed that no local village would want HCVs coming through and suggested that requesting a one way route to Eternit, cutting HCV traffic by 50%, might help. It was thought to be potentially safer for HCVs to approach Eternit via Mettle Hill and exit via Whaddon Gap (where visibility is better). Action: the Clerk to put this suggestion to Basingbourn PC to seek their views.
- CCC – small grants available for Community WW2 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration events.
- Email from local resident – enquiring about an update on status of phone box in Meldreth Road (phone display reads ‘BT maintenance’ and phone box is being listed by BT as ‘available for adoption’). Action: the Clerk to check if phone is working and, if necessary, ask BT to return it to working order.
- Rural Services Network – request to sign e-petition regarding potential removal of funding for ACRE services. This had been signed by the Clerk. Cllrs and members of WVH&RGT were requested to sign.
- SCDC – consultation on whether SCDC should use article 4 directions to help retain village pubs (deadline 23 Feb 2015). Action: the Clerk to table an agenda item for the next meeting.
- St. Mary’s Parish Church – letter regarding request to plant WW1 commemorative tree in the churchyard (politely declined with reasons).

## 7.0 Finance:

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

### **Cheques already signed (17<sup>th</sup> December 2014)**

Cheque No. 100894, £50.98, Cambridgeshire County Council, street lighting energy year to 30<sup>th</sup> Sept 2014.

Cheque No. 100895, £102.00, Hales Printers, newsletter printing.

### **Cheques to be approved for signing today (12<sup>th</sup> January 2015)**

Cheque No. 100896, £1,028.94, Mrs G van Poortvliet, Clerks wages and expense allowance for qtr to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014 plus reimbursement for website domain registration.

(Cheque No. 100897, £133.33, Mr L Ginger, Chair’s expense allowance, May-Dec 2014 (8 months).

**7.2 Noting of progress against budget to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014** – the Clerk presented the draft accounts and took questions.

**7.3 Approval of Whaddon Precept for 2015/16** – at a Precept Meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2015 the PC had agreed a precept for 2015/16 of £16,950. Resolved: that the PC approve a Precept for 2015/16 of £16,950. Action: the Clerk to notify SCDC of the precept request and to publish the precept calculations on the website.

**7.4 Verges grass cutting tender 2015-2017 – awarding of contract** – four contractors had been invited to tender and four tenders had been received. Resolved: that the tender be awarded to M D Landscapes. Action: the Clerk to advise the contractors of the outcome of the tender process.

**8.0 Planning: noting of SCDC's recommendations re (i) S/2202/14/FL 173 Bridge Street, SG8 5RP to remove 1970's derelict garage and erect working artist's studio and timber car port (ii) S/2391/14/LB 173 Bridge Street, SG8 5RP for enlargement of porch to allow for wheelchair and redesign internal layout of extension to allow wheelchair turning (iii) S/1959/14/FL 25 Bridge Street to re-site 1250 litre domestic oil storage tank and associated concrete base (iv) S/2084/14/LB and S/2085/14/FL 100 Church Street, SG8 5RX for construction of single storey conservatory, kitchen and entrance link block with internal alterations to existing shower room and living room. Erection of detached garage including part demolition and rebuilding of existing wall and (v) S/1043/14/FL 122 Bridge Street, SG8 5SN for extension and alterations to garage** – SCDC had granted approval of all these planning applications.

**9.0 Public Participation:**

- A member of the public had contacted SCDC to comment that reducing bin collections over the Christmas period, when people had more waste, was not necessarily a good idea.

**10.0 Whaddon Village Hall & Recreation Ground Trust (WVH&RGT) – update:** Cllrs Lewis, Chair WVH&RGT, gave a verbal report:

- New Year's Eve Party – this had been very well attended and had raised £315.
- Charity Commission Report and Accounts – these were about to be submitted.
- Veranda – a date for the works on the veranda was being agreed with the contractor.
- Acoustics – an initial discussion with some acoustic engineers had been arranged. The member of the public queried if curtains might aid the acoustic problem.

It was suggested that WVH&RGT might like to apply to CCC for some funds to hold a WW2 themed event. Action: Cllr Lewis to bring this up with WVH&RGT.

**11.0 Meldreth Road Traffic Management – update on road painting proposals and approval of final scheme design and costs** – a sketch provided by CCC Highways showing the proposed location of road painting was circulated (6 x 30mph carriageway roundels, 1 x SLOW road marking and carriageway painting to suggest a narrowing of the road roughly opposite no 116 Meldreth Road). The approximate costs for one build-out at the entrance to the village in Meldreth Road plus the road painting would be c £6,500 plus £1,425 for the safety audit. There would be some CCC Local Highways Initiative grant towards the scheme but it had not yet been confirmed how much that would be. It was expected that the maximum contribution from the PC would be £7,000. The PC resolved to approve the Meldreth Road Traffic Management Scheme design and costs. Actions: the Clerk to inform CCC Highways of the PC's approval of the scheme and also to ask if it would be possible to have the SLOW road marking by the Church re-painted when the contractors were on site.

**12.0 British Legion Commemorative Planting Project – consideration of alternative locations for tree:** as it would not be possible to plant a Commemorative Tree in St. Mary's churchyard, alternative locations were discussed. Action: the Clerk to ask SCDC for permission to plant a

commemorative tree on the grass in front on Ridgeway Close. This could replace a tree that had been cut down there.

- 13.0 Cambridgeshire Electoral Boundaries Review – agreement of PC response to consultation:** views were being sought on the proposal to reduce the number of County Cllrs by six and potentially redraw some of the electoral boundaries. This was discussed. The PC wished to oppose moves to reduce the number of County Cllrs at a time when the county population was increasing. Also increases in the workload of County Cllrs should be resisted. A preference was expressed for Whaddon to remain within the same electoral district as Bassingbourn due to the proximity of the Barracks to our community, Bassingbourn Village College being our catchment school and the fact that Cardiff Place, Bassingbourn is in Whaddon Parish. Action: the Chair (and Clerk) to draft a response to the consultation and submit it on-line (deadline 19<sup>th</sup> January 2015).
- 14.0 Litter – discussion and agreement of actions** – it was noted that there was a lot more litter in the village, especially along Whaddon Gap. A proportion of this litter was McDonalds packaging. Actions: Contact SCDC to see what litter picking equipment they can provide (District Cllr Cathcart to provide contact details) and ask them to collect rubbish after the event. Purchase equipment not provided by SCDC (litter-pick sticks, gloves and hi-vis jackets needed). Agree date for event and publicise. Write to McDonalds and invite them to attend.
- 15.0 Village Upkeep and Maintenance – reporting of issues:**
- Farm track before Whaddon Gap car-park – it was reported that lots of vehicles had been driving on this track recently. This land belonged to County Farm Estates.
- 16.0 Items for next meeting:**
- PC response to SCDC consultation re using article 4 to help retain village pubs.
  - Update from Bus Review Meeting
  - Consideration of topics for Annual Parish Meeting
  - Charitable Donations
  - Broadband update (Action: the Clerk to ask County Cllr Dent to provide an update)
- 17.0 Date of next meeting - Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2015 (8.00p.m.)**

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15p.m.**