

Minutes of Whaddon Parish Council meeting held on 9th February 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, Mr R Scott
	Parish Clerk	Mrs G van Poortvliet
	District Councillor	Mr N Cathcart, Mr D McCraith
	County Councillor	Mr A Dent
	Parishioners	2 present

1.0 Apologies for Absence – received from Cllr A Walker.

2.0 Minutes – approval and signing of minutes from previous Parish Council (PC) meeting of 12th January 2015 – 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.

- Street lights, Ridgeway Close – these had now been repaired.
- Litter bin, Church Street – a new bin had been installed near the Village Hall.
- Christmas Refuse Bin Collections – a letter had been sent to SCDC regarding the Christmas bin collection schedule. A reply had been received saying that the PC's comments would be taken into consideration when making plans for the following year.
- Riparian Ownership Responsibilities (watercourses) – Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) would be seeking to enforce these although they would not be policing the matter. Members of the public could be held liable for failure to clear the sections of watercourses for which they were responsible.
- HCVs leaving or approaching Eternit – Bassingbourn cum Kneesworth PC had supported the PC's suggestion of asking Eternit to instigate a one-way system for HCVs. Actions: the Clerk to table an agenda item for the next PC meeting and to update Bassingbourn PC.
- Meldreth Road traffic management scheme – some preliminary construction work had begun.
- WW1 Commemorative Tree, Ridgeway Close – SCDC had given permission to plant a tree on the grass in front of Ridgeway Close on the basis that the PC would maintain it and that there were no objections from residents. The Clerk had written to the residents and had not received any objections. The tree selected by the PC was out of stock. The Cllrs authorised the Clerk to order a tree and planting pack when back in stock (approx. £90.00).

5.0 Reports from District and County Cllrs:

District Cllrs' Report: a verbal report was given:

- Local Plan Inspection – site-specific proposals were due to be considered at an upcoming meeting. The key issue was the adequacy of the housing supply. Planning Officers would inform District Cllrs if they received any speculative planning applications for their areas.

County Cllr's Report: an email report had been received from County Cllr Dent and circulated to the Cllrs. A verbal update was given by County Cllr Dent:

- Street lighting upgrade programme – the two street lights in Ridgeway Close were not CCC assets and were not included in the upgrade programme. Action: County Cllr Dent to double-check this.

- Broadband – Whaddon was scheduled to receive superfast broadband (minimum speed of 2.2Mbps for all households) in September 2015. As yet there was no detail as to which method BT planned to use to deliver this.
- Bassingbourn Barracks – a meeting would take place on 10th February to review the training of Libyan Troops. The future of the Barracks was very important.

6.0 Correspondence

- Waldon Telecoms – consultation letter regarding proposals to upgrade telecoms mast on A1198, Kneesworth. The Cllrs had not wished to comment on this.
- ACRE – confirmation that DEFRA would continue to support ACRE.
- Cambridgeshire Future Transport – notes from meeting on 21st January 2015.
- Cambridgeshire Police – request for topics/issues to be discussed at next Neighbourhood Panel meeting.
- Jennifer Lewis – letter of resignation from the Parish Council with effect from 31st March 2015. Thanks were expressed to Cllr Lewis for her hard work and achievements on the Parish Council. Cllr Lewis would continue to be part of WVH&RGT. Action: the Clerk to advertise the vacancy for a Parish Cllr and inform SCDC.
- SCDC – invitation to Parish Council Liaison meeting, Wednesday 11th March and request for discussion topics or questions. No Cllrs were available to attend the meeting.

7.0 Finance:

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

Cheques to be approved for signing today (9th February 2015)

Cheque No. 100898, £88.00, Society of Local Council Clerks, subscription.

Cheque No. 100899, £54.00, Cambridgeshire ACRE, subscription.

Cheque No. 100900, £222.00, M D Landscapes, grass cutting recreation ground and verges Oct/Nov 2014.

Cheque No. 100901, £6,708, Trulight Windows and Conservatories, veranda for village hall (S106 outdoor space).

Cheque No. 100902, £840, Trulight Windows and Conservatories, guttering for village hall.

7.2 Approval of reallocation of £300 funds in 2015/16 budget – the PC had been notified by WVH&RGT that they would contribute £300 towards the insurance for the playground from some funds that were ring-fenced for this purpose. Resolved: that the PC reallocate the £300 from WVH&RGT insurance to WVH&RGT renovation projects (e.g. acoustics). Action: the Clerk to notify WVH&RGT of their revised 2015/16 budget from the PC.

7.3 Charitable Donations – agreement of donations: the PC resolved to donate £100 to Magpas Helimedix. Action: the Clerk to draw up a cheque for signing at the next PC meeting.

8.0 Public Participation:

- A member of the public asked whether there had been any further developments regarding the Bridge Street culvert (Byway 22). County Cllr Dent confirmed that there had not been. The issue of reporting blockages in the watercourse was discussed. These can be reported using CCC's online 'report a fault' system. Action: County Cllr Dent would ask County Farm Estates to look at the overgrown drainage ditch at the bottom of Bridge Street.

9.0 Planning: SCDC consultation re using article 4 to help retain village pubs – agreement of Parish Council response:

this was discussed. An email from a resident who supported this proposal was read out. Resolved: that the PC support the proposals to use article 4 to help retain village pubs. Actions: Cllr Scott to draw up a list of local pubs that ought to be protected. The Clerk to respond to the consultation.

It was also noted that a new planning application had been received re 132 Meldreth Road following a complaint by a resident that the original plans appeared to have been varied by the

developers. Action: the Clerk to organise a Planning Committee meeting on Monday 23rd February.

- 10.0 Whaddon Village Hall & Recreation Ground Trust (WVH&RGT) – update:** Cllrs Lewis, Chair WVH&RGT, gave a verbal report:
- Thanks were expressed to the PC, on behalf of WVH&RGT, for the funds for the veranda and guttering. These works had now been completed.
 - Continuing renovation works – the next stage of the village hall (VH) renovation would be the acoustics (see below), tarmacking to the rear of the hall and moving the entrance to the garage to allow improved access and increased parking area. Three different types of parking scheme were being looked at and quotes obtained.
 - Acoustics – a meeting had been held with some acoustic engineers. They had observed that sound reverberation levels in the VH were particularly bad, being exacerbated by the angle of the roof. The engineers had suggested putting panels on the ceiling to help alleviate the problem. WVH&RGT were currently getting some quotes for attaching such panels.
 - Overnight parking outside the VH by residents – this was queried by some Cllrs and had been discussed by WVH&RGT.
 - Lettings income – over £5,000 had been taken in lettings income so far this year. WVH&RGT had started to rebuild their reserves as a result. Electricity costs had been much reduced.
- 11.0 Bus Service Review – update from Cambridgeshire Future Transport (CFT) meeting –** a verbal report was given by the Chair who had attended the CFT meeting on 21st January 2015. Notes from the meeting had been circulated. Key points were that Whaddon’s bus service was not well-used. One current proposal was to remove the weekly Market bus but instead provide a daily service to Royston, potentially via Melbourn doctors’ surgery. Other considerations were to provide shoppers with longer in Royston and to replace scheduled bus services with Dial-a-Ride.
- 12.0 Annual Parish Meeting – consideration of topics for discussion - ideas included:**
- WVH&RGT
 - Updates from County and District Cllrs
 - Police and Neighbourhood Watch report
 - Parish Plan update
 - Alfred Palmer Trust
 - Clubs and societies using Village Hall
- 13.0 Whaddon Gap Car Park (litter) – discussion and agreement of actions –** it was noted that there was much litter and many fly-tipping instances in this car park. The litter bin was old and needed replacing, litter was falling through the slats. The car park was owned by CCC. Action: County Cllr Dent to take this up with County Farm Estates and to request a new litter bin.
- 14.0 Village Upkeep and Maintenance – reporting of issues:**
- Potholes, Whaddon Gap – these had been reported and repaired the next day.
- 15.0 Items for next meeting:**
- HCVs approaching or leaving Eternit.
 - Housing Needs Survey (Action: the Clerk to request an ACRE representative to attend)
- 16.0 Date of next meeting - Monday 9th March 2015 (8.00p.m.)**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.18p.m.