

Draft Minutes of Whaddon Parish Council meeting held on 9th November 2009 at 7.35p.m. in the Village Hall

Present:	Vice-Chairman	Dr N Strudwick
	Councillors	Mr W Burchett, Mr L Ginger, Mrs J Lewis, Mr P Neale, Mrs M Peyton, Mr C Rose
	District Councillors	Mr N Cathcart, Mr D McCraith
	County Councillor	Mrs L Oliver (from 8.30p.m.)
	Parish Clerk	Mrs G van Poortvliet
	Guest speakers	Ms D Bayliss, Mr Ian Dewar - Cambridge and Peterborough Association of Local Councils (CPALC)
	Parishioners	3 present

The Clerk apologised for her late arrival due to child-care issues. The meeting started five minutes late.

- 1.0 Apologies for absence** – County Cllr L Oliver gave apologies in advance for her late arrival.
- 2.0 Co-option of Councillor** – Mrs J Lewis was duly co-opted and welcomed onto the Parish Council (PC).
- 3.0 Declarations of Interest** – Cllr Burchett declared a personal interest in agenda item 10.0 as a member of Whaddon Playground Project. Vice-Chairman Strudwick declared a personal interest in agenda item 9.0 as Chairman of the Village Hall Committee.
- 4.0 Signing of minutes of last meeting (12th October 2009)** – Cllrs approved the minutes of the last PC meeting as a true record and Vice-Chairman Strudwick signed them accordingly.

It was proposed and agreed to alter the order of the agenda to allow item 7.0 to be dealt with next.

- 7.0 Talk from CPALC – Quality Councils** – Mr Ian Dewar and Ms Dianne Bayliss gave a presentation about the Quality Status scheme for Parish Councils and answered questions.
- 5.0 Report from Clerk and Councillor on matters arising from previous meetings:** the Clerk and cllrs provided verbal reports on the status of matters arising from previous PC meetings:
 - Handyman – a parishioner might be interested in taking on the handyman duties. Vice-Chairman Strudwick would follow up.
 - Affordable Homes - an email update had been received from Ms Tracey Harrison of Bedford Pilgrim's Housing Association (BPHA). Revised plans had now been received from the architects. However the unit sizes had changed, to accommodate comments from the planners, making them more expensive. BPHA were conducting some new financial appraisals. One option would be to make two units shared-ownership rather than rental units. Vice-Chairman Strudwick had asked BPHA not to make any units shared-ownership as the PC were very much in favour of affordable housing for rent. Vice-Chairman Strudwick to follow this up further with BPHA.
 - Bus-service - Cllr Ginger had spoken with Cambridge County Council (CCC) and also with the operator of the bus-service, which it was proposed to divert via Whaddon. Both were keen to provide a bus-service to Whaddon. The PC budget included funding for a bus-service trial. The Clerk would formally ask CCC to obtain detailed costs from the charter company for a service via Meldreth Road and Mettle Hill. The District Councillors would investigate if any match-funding was available from SCDC to help set-up a six-month trial service.
 - Over-flying by private aircraft – Vice-Chairman Strudwick had arranged for the Chair of Little Gransden Airfield to address the January PC meeting.

- Litter-bin for bus-shelter – the Clerk reminded the cllrs that the litter-bin to go next to the bus-shelter still needed to be installed.

6.0 District and County Councillor Reports:

The District Cllrs gave verbal reports.

- There had been no SCDC meeting since the last PC meeting.
- It was likely that there would be a substantial curtailment in SCDC's spending. This (second) round of expenditure cuts could no longer be met purely by efficiency improvements and cuts would be necessary to some services.
- It was likely that the Gypsy and Traveller consultation would move to a second phase with new sites being proposed.
- The Chairman's Delegation Meeting (part of the planning application process) would be changed due to protests from Parish Councils.
- SCDC are holding a Parish Cabinet Meeting on 25th November and two members of each PC had been invited. This was a new initiative and PC attendance was encouraged.

The arrival of County Cllr Oliver was awaited for the County Cllr report.

8.0 Public Participation

- It was reported that the Meridian Line school bus had been reversing out of Bridge Street onto Church Street which was potentially dangerous. The cllrs commented that this would be resolved by the bus turning-circle. In the meantime Cllr Ginger would talk with the owner of the bus-service.

9.0 Village Hall (VH) Matters

9.1 Report from the Management Committee Meeting (03/11/09) – a verbal report was given by Vice-Chairman Strudwick from the draft minutes of the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC) meeting on 3rd November.

- The VHMC held c. £8,400 in its current account and c. £12,500 on deposit.
- VH bookings remained low but there had been some new enquiries.
- It had been suggested that the VHMC arrange a working party to paint the rusty railings on the recreation ground and the PC buy the paint.
- The letting agreement would be amended to ensure that VH users removed their rubbish.
- A 'Hidden Gardens of Whaddon' event was planned for summer 2010.

9.2 Update on Lease and Charitable Trust

- CPALC had asked that the VHMC delay setting up the charitable trust until some clarification about transfer of assets had been received from the Asset Transfer Unit. Vice-Chairman Strudwick had updated the solicitors and the architects about the potential delay.
- Cllr Lee Ginger and the Vice-Chairman were progressing the grant application to SCDC for the refurbishment of the VH.

10.0 Playground Issues

10.1 Recommendations for playground signage – Whaddon Playground Project (WPP) had received a quote of £192.50 (+VAT) for the parking and disclaimer notices for the playground area. The wording for the disclaimer notice had not yet been finalised. The PC agreed to the purchase of the signs subject to seeing the wording for the disclaimer notice. Some rubber matting was needed for the mound and would cost £345 (+VAT + delivery).

10.2 Decision on positioning of Bicycle Racks – it had been agreed by the VHMC that the bicycle racks would go on the back wall of the VH until such time as the VH was extended.

10.3 Decision on funds to be transferred to the Parish Council and the balance to be retained by WPP for fundraising events – Cllr Burchett informed the PC that WPP held c£1,900 in their bank account. Some of this would be needed for the 2010 Party in the Barn fundraising

event. Cllr Burchett proposed that WPP retain the funds needed for the event and transfer the balance to the PC. The issue was discussed but no decision was made by the PC.

It was agreed to return to item **6.0 District and County Councillor Reports** and County Cllr Oliver provided a verbal report from the County Council.

- Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) was facing cuts of 35% over five years. It would be working with other councils to make efficiency savings by sharing some back-office functions.
- Waterbeach mechanical and biological treatment centre had opened. This would reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill.
- A traffic officer had visited Whaddon. The recommended method to slow traffic down was a gateway followed by bollards on a central island in Meldreth Road. The estimated cost would be £35,000-£40,000. This would need to be met by the PC.
- The review of speed limits on the A1198 had finished and the results were being analysed.

11.0 East of England Plan Consultation:

11.1 Discussion of issues and comments from the public – a discussion was held and comments invited from the public. District and County Cllrs advised that the region was struggling to meet its current housing targets and it was unrealistic to increase these further. Any change in targets needed to be deliverable, sustainable and supported by jobs.

11.2 Agreement of PC response – the Clerk and Vice-Chairman would draft a response based on the comments made.

12.0 Planning

12.1 Report from Planning Committee meeting (23/10/09) and recommendation re S/1404/09/F extension and new porch canopy, 122 Bridge Street – the Planning Committee had recommended approval but SCDC had refused planning permission.

12.2 District Council decision re S/1271/09/F extension and alterations, 118 Meldreth Road – planning permission had been granted with some conditions.

12.3 Discussion of proposed change of use of Minstrel Court, Old North Road – an email had been received, from the owner of Minstrel Court, asking for the PC's views on the proposed change of use of the premises to hold wedding receptions. The issues were discussed. The Clerk would advise the owner of Minstrel Court that the PC was unable to comment until they saw the proposed plans. The District Cllrs would follow up the historic planning application infringements relating to the premises.

13.0 Design Statement (DS) Update – Mr D Grech from the DS Group gave a verbal update. The PC was shown the comments made via the consultation exercise. Mr Grech would send the PC an amended version of the DS for potential adoption at the next PC meeting.

At this point Cllr Neale left the meeting.

14.0 Speedwatch Update - CCC had visited the village and made some recommendations for the speed-reducing measures needed (see County Councillor report). However, CCC had no funds for these works which would have to be funded by the PC. Pressure needed to be put on the police to carry out speed-checks in Whaddon. Neighbourhood Watch (NW) and County Cllr Oliver would ask the police to do this. NW would address the PC in January.

Cllr Neale returned to the meeting.

15.0 Finance – approval of payments – there were no cheques for approval.

16.0 Correspondence

- SCDC – invitation to meeting with Councils Cabinet (discussion on S106 agreements), Cambourne, 25 November 2009. Vice-Chairman Strudwick and either Cllr Ginger or Cllr Lewis to attend.
- SCDC – invitation to Planning Parish Forum Meeting, Cambourne, 10 December 2009.
- CPALC – invitation to AGM, 21 November 2009. Cllr Ginger to attend.
- Rural Service Network – Communities Survey (for State of Rural Services Report) re public transport, affordable housing, primary schools, facilities for young people and support services for older people. The PC did not want to respond to this survey.
- Letter from Andrew Lansley MP acknowledging our response to his letter re travellers and gypsy sites and noting his current actions.
- SCDC Local Development Consultation on four Supplementary Planning Documents. Deadline for comments 4th December 2009.

17.0 Verges grass-cutting – agreement of actions re tendering – the Clerk would check when the contract for cutting the verges was due to expire.

18.0 Reporting of Village Upkeep and Maintenance Issues

- Cllr Burchett requested that the cllrs email him with ideas for items to be included in the maintenance schedule.
- An update was requested on the deteriorating footways on Church Street and Meldreth Road. The Clerk would telephone Highways to follow-up.

19.0 Items for next meeting:

- Talk from Chair of Little Gransden airfield
- Election of Chair and Vice-Chair
- Selection of tender for recreation-ground grass-cutting
- Adoption of Design Statement
- Bus-service
- Village Maintenance Schedule
- Affordable Homes

20.0 Date of the next meeting- Monday 11th January at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting was closed at 9.50 p.m.