

Minutes of Whaddon Parish Council meeting held on 13th October 2014 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, Professor A Milton, Mr R Scott
	Parish Clerk	Mrs G van Poortvliet
	District Councillor	Mr N Cathcart
	County Councillor	Mr A Dent (from 8.45p.m.)
	Parishioners	7 present

1.0 Apologies for Absence – received from Cllr J Lewis (travelling with work). Notification of late arrival received from County Cllr A Dent.

2.0 Minutes – approval and signing of minutes from previous Parish Council (PC) meeting of 8th September 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.

- Register of Members interest forms – a completed form had now been received from Cllr Elbourn. Action: the Clerk to forward this to SCDC and put a copy on the website.
- Good Neighbour Scheme – the Clerk had ascertained that various volunteer schemes could be set up and that advice was available on how to do this. Action: the Chair to draft a request for scheme volunteers for the website and newsletter.
- Salt Bin, Town Farm Close – Cllr French had cut back the shrubs at the entrance to TFC so that a salt bin could be placed there. Action: the Clerk to arrange for the salt bin to be removed from the Village Hall garage and put at the entrance to TFC.
- Main notice board – this had been renovated and moved to a wall of the Village Hall. The Cllrs commented on the excellent job that had been done by Mr S Coningsby.
- Hedge on Church Street (at the back of 3 Town Farm Close) – Cambridgeshire County Council had admitted that the strip of land on which the hedge was planted had not been included in the sale to the developers who built TFC. This land was included on CCC's Highways indicative map showing that it fell within their responsibility. However, CCC Highways had refused to take maintenance responsibility for this hedge on the basis that they would never have planted a hedge there and that the Common Law principle is that the hedge remains the responsibility of the adjacent land owner (no 3 TFC).
- Escaped horses – Cllr Elbourn reported that some horses had escaped from the field between Bumpkins pre-school and Green Farm on Meldreth Road and caused some disruption. This was not the first time that the horses had escaped. The Chair had already mentioned this to the landowner.

5.0 Reports from District and County Cllrs:

District Cllrs' Report: a verbal report was given:

- Unitary Authority – the idea of unitary authorities covering e.g. South Cambridgeshire, Cambridge City, Huntingdon and East Cambridgeshire – had been discussed.
- Local Plan – this was due to be considered by the Inspector the following month. At that stage only certain issues would be looked at whilst other issues would be postponed to a later date. SCDC were pushing for expediency but realistically it could be Spring or Summer 2015 before the Local Plan could be formally adopted by the District Council.
- Speculative Planning Applications – until the Local Plan is formally adopted the District is at risk from speculative planning applications from developers. An application had been

made in Melbourn for a site that had previously been rejected for the Local Plan. Although certain safeguards still exist, the PC should be aware of this possibility.

County Cllr's Report: this was postponed until the arrival of County Cllr A Dent.

6.0 Correspondence

- SCDC – invitation to Parish and Cabinet Liaison Meeting 8th October.
- Police – invitation to Police Panel Meeting 14th October, Cambourne Village College (Mr M Monks to attend).
- CAPALC – details of training courses for Cllrs. Action: the Clerk to resend these to Cllr Elbourn.
- SCDC – details of consultation re Neighbourhood Planning (deadline 31st October).
- SCDC – details of appointment of Inspector and dates of first hearings re SCDC Local Plan.
- CCC – information about Riparian Ownership responsibilities for those living along watercourses and request for this to go in Newsletter and website by November. Action: the Clerk to draft up information to go out via village email and the next newsletter.
- CCC – information on Park and Ride parking charges.
- SCDC – invitation to South Cambs Parish Council Conference and Community Funding Fair 28th October 2014.
- County Cllr report – September/Oct 2014

7.0 Finance:

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

Cheques to be approved for signing today (13th October 2014)

Cheque No. 100885, £50.00, Dovetail Design, renovation and repositioning of Main Village Notice Board.

Cheque No. 100886, £38.10, Cambridgeshire County Council, street lighting April to Sept 2013.

Cheque No. 100887, £102.00, Hales Printers, newsletter printing.

Cheque No. 100888, PKF Littlejohn LLP, £360.00, external audit of Annual Return for year ended 31 March 2014.

Cheque No. 100889, £552.00, M D Landscapes, 6 x recreation ground grass cuts and 1 x verges grass cut, Aug and Sept 2014

Cheque No. 100890, £35.00, Information Commissioner, data protection registration.

Cheque No. 100891, £986.94, Mrs G van Poortvliet, Clerks wages and expense allowance, 13 weeks to 29th September 2014.

7.2 Noting of external audit report – Annual Return 2014/15 – the PC noted that the external auditors had signed off the 2014/15 Annual Return. The necessary notices regarding the completion of the audit were on the main noticeboard.

8 Planning:

8.1 Noting of Parish Council recommendations re (i) 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 – the PC had recommended approval of these applications.

8.2 Noting of SCDC decisions re (i) S/0154/14/FL 132 Meldreth Road, SG8 5RP for change of use of land to equestrian and erecting a stable block at rear and (ii) S/1843/14/FL 123 Meldreth Road, SG8 5RS for dropped kerb – SCDC had granted approval for both applications.

9. Public Participation:

- A member of the public reported on behalf of Neighbourhood Watch that the Village Hall had been broken into along with some sheds in Church Street. A Crime Prevention Officer would be coming to give some advice the following week.
- A member of the public reported that the culvert between numbers 134 and 154 Bridge Street had been dug up and altered to incorporate an additional, much larger, pipe and asked if the PC had been aware that this work was going to be done and why the alterations were necessary. The Chair replied that the PC had not been aware that this alteration was going to be made. Action: the Chair to ask County Cllr Dent to get CCC Highways (who are responsible for the highway) to look into this.
- A member of the public commented that there had, at one point in the past, been a sluice gate on the above culvert.
- A member of the public asked for clarification as to whether horses would need to go through the garage of 132 Meldreth Road to get to the paddock and stables at the rear. The Cllrs confirmed that this was the case and that the garage had been designed especially for this purpose.

10.0 Meldreth Road Traffic Management – update from meeting with CCC Highways and decision on scheme – the Chair, Clerk and Mr M Monks (Speedwatch co-ordinator) had met with a CCC Highways Officer, in Meldreth Road (MR), on 2nd October. An update was given. The advantages and disadvantages of combining a pinch squeeze feature at the entrance to the village and an interactive flashing speed sign at the other end of the straight section of MR had been discussed. A safety audit was needed before any scheme could go ahead. The PC agreed to authorise CCC Highways to arrange a safety audit. Actions: the Clerk to request a safety audit and costings for two scheme variations - one with two squeeze features and one with one squeeze feature and one interactive speed sign. An agenda item to be tabled for the next PC meeting.

It was agreed to return to agenda item 5.0

5.0 Report from County Cllr – County Cllr Dent gave a verbal report:

- Whaddon Bus Service – this is a subsidised service and CCC are looking to make cuts wherever possible. Residents are advised to complete the bus service questionnaire.
- Bassingbourn Barracks – the new Lieutenant Colonel was in place and would investigate the possibility of clubs and societies using the facilities on the barracks. The current political situation in Libya means that training of the next tranche of troops is under discussion. All potential trainees have already been vetted. No decision has been made regarding the future of the Barracks after the Libyan training programme.
- CCC Funding – funding is available to low-income households for school meals and childcare.
- Roads and Transport – temporary closure of sections of the A14 was likely to displace traffic to the A1198. Hertfordshire County Council had expressed concern about infrastructure projects that had been approved in Cambridgeshire e.g. housing and solar farms that would impact on road and rail usage in Hertfordshire. There was also concern about the number of HGV's potentially going into Wendy for a local business and to build a solar farm.
- Hedge on Church Street, behind TFC - County Cllr Dent confirmed that the householders at no 3 TFC did appear to be responsible for this hedge. Action: County Cllr Dent to provide details of a website with information on hedge responsibility under Common Law.
- The Cllrs commented on the new road surface on the A1198 and how much it had reduced traffic noise in Whaddon.

11.0 Bus Service – update from Cambridgeshire Future Transport meeting and agreement of actions required: the Chair provided an update from the meeting. CCC were looking to cut

subsidised bus services by 40%. Both the daily and Wednesday only service to Royston from Whaddon were under review. Residents should be encouraged to fill in a questionnaire. Action: the Clerk to email the questionnaire link to those on village email and the Clerk and Chair to deliver questionnaires to remaining residents.

- 12.0 Bridge Street Water Course – update from meeting with the Environment Agency and agreement of actions:** the Chair and Mr M Monks had met with an environmental officer and hydrologist from the Environment Agency (EA) regarding the possibility of keeping some water flowing in Bridge Street at all times. The EA only have responsibility for the main river, Whaddon Brook, and any decision regarding changes to the Bridge Street drain would be up to CCC. The EA's primary concern was where the sewerage plant meets the water course. Flows of water down Bridge Street were currently impeded as parts of the ditch needed clearing out (especially in the gap between Dyers Green and the rest of Bridge Street) and bridges over the ditch were at different heights. Action: the Chair and Mr Monks to meet with County Cllr Dent regarding changes required to encourage water to flow down Bridge Street all year.
- 13.0 British Legion Commemorative Planting Project – consideration of options and agreement of action:** the Tree Officer was away so this was postponed to the next meeting. Action: the Clerk to table an agenda item for the next meeting.
- 14.0 Whaddon Village Hall & Recreation Ground Trust (WVH&RGT) – update:** the Chair gave a verbal update following a meeting of WVH&RGT the previous week:
- VH bookings – lettings continued at an unprecedented level and funds were ahead of the business plan.
 - Future works – the next refurbishment projects would be the veranda and guttering which might start before Christmas. The acoustic issues in the main hall were the next priority although this was likely to be expensive. It was also hoped to fence around the toddler play area.
 - Macmillan Coffee Morning – this had raised around £355 which was very impressive for a village of Whaddon's size. Thanks were given to all who helped and supported this event.
- 15.0 Membership of Committees – appointment of PC member to Planning Committee:** it was resolved that Cllr W Elbourn be appointed to the Planning Committee.
- 16.0 Village Upkeep and Maintenance – reporting of issues:** none reported.
- 17.0 Items for next meeting:**
- British Legion Commemorative Planting Project
 - Decision on Meldreth Road traffic calming
 - Accounts to 30th September 2014
- 18.0 Date of next meeting - Monday 10th November 2014 (8.00p.m.)**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.35p.m.