

**Minutes of Whaddon Parish Council Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at 8.03 p.m. in the Village Hall, Church Street, Whaddon, Nr Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 5RY.**

Present:	Vice Chair	Dr N Strudwick
	Councillors	Mr R Scott, Professor A Milton, Mr W Elbourn
	Parish Clerk	A Bridges
	District Councillor	Ms P Hart, Mr J Hales
	County Councillor	Mrs S van de Ven
	Members of the Public	2 present
Absent:	Chair	Mr L Ginger

**1.0 Apologies for Absence – Cllr Ginger**

**2.0 Receiving Declarations of Interest from Councillors on items on the agenda – none declared.**

**3.0 Approval of minutes – to resolve that the minutes from the Parish Council (PC) meeting of July 9<sup>th</sup> 2018 are a correct record. Resolved: that the minutes be approved and signed by the Vice Chair.**

**4.0 Reports from Clerk and Councillors – to receive updates about progress on resolutions and actions from previous Parish Council meetings:**

- The village sign – the Vice Chair reported that the new sign would be finished shortly.
- The new dog waste bin arrived today and was erected by the bus shelter near Ridgeway Close.
- The Mobile Vehicle Activated System continues to be working well and continues to make a positive difference to the speed that cars are passing through the village. It is currently situated at the end of Meldreth Road. Worryingly, it recorded a speed of 68MPH during the early hours of the morning. It can store this information for at least six weeks at one time.
- The picnic bench will be ordered after the next Village Hall Trust and Recreational Ground Trust Meeting has taken place. Action: Clerk to liaise with the VH Trust.  
Cllr Hales entered the meeting at this point.
- Footpaths – The County Council has been approached to establish if they are doing a final cut before the winter and also to clarify the arrangement for next year's grass cutting schedule. Action: 2019 grass cutting schedule to be finalised.

**5.0 Parish Councillor vacancies**

**5.1** Co-option of new councillor - Anita Birch has kindly offered to fill one of the Parish Council vacancies and also become a committee member on the Village Hall Trust. All the current councillors agreed that she should be co-opted in the next Parish Council and would be pleased to welcome her in October.

**5.2** Parish Councillor vacancies – one position remains to be filled. Action: a further email to be sent around the village to recruit new interest.

## 6.0 Reports from District and County Councillors:

### 6.1 District Councillors:

- Cllr Hart and Cllr Hales firstly thanked the residents of Whaddon for their calmness during the crop fire on the Whaddon Rd at the end of July. The fire did appear very threatening and alarmed many residents. However, thanks to the Fire Service, the fire was controlled before large numbers of homes were affected.
- Cllr Hart described how South Cambs will introduce Universal Credit from the 17th October 2018. Both Cllr Hart and Cllr Hales have attended training to see how these benefits are issued, which already occurs in most parts of the country. South Cambs has been working with the Dept for Work and Pensions to ensure that claimants are not adversely affected by these changes.
- Cllr Hart reported that South Cambridgeshire Local Plan was ready to be signed off after modifications, on the 27<sup>th</sup> September. This will greatly help assess the suitability of new planning applications for residential developments in the region. The Cllrs were thanked by the Vice Chair for their work in this.
- Cllr Hart and Cllr Hales attended a presentation by Cambridge Ahead, who concluded that the region is experiencing a huge increase in demand for affordable housing and subsequent infrastructures and that Cambridgeshire needs to keep up with these requirements in order to retain existing businesses and continue to attract new industry.
- Lastly, Cllr Hart spoke of the new dedicated breastfeeding room in SCDC's Headquarters office in South Cambridgeshire Hall, Cambourne.

### 6.2 County Councillor:

- Cllr van de Ven spoke of the lack of police presence in the villages and how this is affecting local communities. She noted that Cambridgeshire Police now have an online reporting facility for none emergency crimes at:  
<https://www.cambs.police.uk/report/Report>
- Cambridgeshire libraries have gained a £4,000 profit from introducing public charges to the internet, compared to the expected £108,000 profit that was initially projected. Usage has subsequently fallen by 54% and it is hoped a review will be carried out promptly.
- Cllr van de Ven reported that both Children's Centres in Bassingbourn and Melbourn continue to work with no direction or any firm future plans. Although both are due to close, there is still no proposal for subsequent outreach work.
- The Guided Bus has now extended to Royston, giving residents access to Cambridge and beyond the city.
- Cllr van de Ven spoke of the continued delays on the railways and that many of these were caused by infrastructure problems with Network Rail. Although some improvements have been made, the service remains below the standard experienced before the changes in May 2018. The next Rail User Meeting is on October 3<sup>rd</sup> in Shepreth Village Hall at 7.30pm.
- Lastly, Cllr van de Ven highlighted the meeting to explore the possible East-West rail link between Bedford and Cambridge. This will also be at Shepreth Village Hall on 25<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm and all are invited to attend.

## 7.0 Public Participation:

- A member of the public also discussed the shortage of local police and funding. She spoke of the vital need for residents to report any crime to the police to preserve the Rural Crime Team, who are facing budget cuts. Whilst Cambridge and Peterborough city receive the majority of resources, rural areas of the county do sadly also experience large amounts of criminal activity and rural police teams are a vital resource for our safety.
- The member of the public also spoke of the possibility of local police providing an informative talk to local residents on keeping valuables safe. The Parish Council agreed this would be beneficial and should be explored. Action: Clerk to explore this.
- Lastly, another member of the public spoke of horses fouling on footpaths in the village, causing problems for children and pushchairs wanting to use them. The Parish Council was informed that it is illegal to ride a horse on footpaths according to the Highway Code and residents were asked to kindly adhere to this.

## 8.0 Correspondence and complaints:

- Email from South Cambs stating that on the 3rd September 2018, South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council published the Inspectors' Reports on their respective Local Plans. This was discussed earlier in the meeting by Cllr Hart. The Inspectors' Reports are published on the Councils respective websites:  
[www.scambs.gov.uk/local-plan-examination](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/local-plan-examination)  
[www.cambridge.gov.uk/local-plan-review-about-the-examination](http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/local-plan-review-about-the-examination)
- Email asking for more information on the potential Oxford-Cambridge railway. This was also discussed by Cllr Hart earlier in the meeting.
- Email enquiring about access from the public footpath from the A1198 through a retail unit. The retail unit was reported to have access open to walkers.
- Letter from Barclays Bank asking for further information concerning signatories for the Whaddon PC bank account.

## 9.0 Planning:

### 9.1 Noting of Whaddon Parish Council's Planning Committee

**recommendations** re (i) **S/1769/18/FL**, Retrospective new stables to rear garden curtilage, 23 Bridge Street, Whaddon. Resolved: The Parish Council Planning Committee did not support the application.

(ii) **S/2193/18/PN**, Prior notification of agricultural or forestry development – proposed Grain Store. Leyhill Farmhouse, 2 Bridge Street, Whaddon. Resolved: the application was approved by the Parish Council

## **10.0 Finance**

**10.1** Bank reconciliation approval.

**10.2** Update on Bank account signatories – Barclays have contacted the Parish Council requesting further verification of a signature before the signatories are approved. Action: Chair to contact Barclays

**10.3** Cheques **to be approved for signing today (10<sup>th</sup> September 2018)**

- Cheque number 101041 - Staff wages and expenses - £724.89
- Cheque number 101042 – Hales Printers (Whaddon News) - £103.00
- Cheque number 101043 – Handyman - £42

## **11.0 Whaddon Village Hall & Recreation Ground Trust -**

Cllr Strudwick, WVH&RGT Chairman stated that there had been no meeting since the last Parish Council meeting, but there was to be one on 17 September. No progress has been reported on the issue of responsibility for the problems encountered over the past 18 months with the Hall heating.

**12.0 Proposed Safety Improvements to Whaddon Gap** – it was agreed that this item would be deferred until there is further information.

**13.0 Village Upkeep and Maintenance: to report upkeep and maintenance issues and agree actions:** The telephone box has benefited from being repainted over the summer.

**14.0 Items for next meeting – noting of requests for agenda items:** co-option of new Parish Council Councillor, Anita Birch.

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10 pm.**

**Dates of next Parish Council Meeting – Monday October 15th at 8pm.**