

WHADDON PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Whaddon Parish Council Meeting

at Whaddon Village Hall, Church Street, Whaddon, SG8 5RY.

on 12th February 2024 at 7.30pm

Present:	Chairman	L Ginger
	Councillors	C Hales, N Strudwick, D Townsend, J Hart.
	Members of the Public	One
	County/District Councillor	J Hales
	Parish Clerk	A Bridges

- 1. Apologies for absence** - S van de Ven, S A Hart, W Elbourn and A Birch sent their apologies.
- 2. Approval of minutes – approval and signing of the minutes from the Parish Council Meeting of 8th January 2024.** These were approved by all.
- 3. Receiving Declarations of Interest from Councillors on items on the agenda – none.**
- 4. Reports from Clerk and Councillors –** verbal updates about progress on resolutions and actions from previous Parish Council meetings.
A resident has agreed to maintain the telephone box on Meldreth Road.
- 5. Reports from District and County Councillors**
District Councillor Hales confirmed that civil parking enforcement (for parking on double yellow lines) is now active in Cambridgeshire.
- 6. Public participation**
A member of the public reported that the potholes in Melbourn and the surrounding area have been fixed according to the Highways website, but the potholes remain. District Councillor Hales said he had reported this to Highways.
J Hales left the meeting at 7.55pm
- 7. Sustainable Whaddon working group – discussion on ecology, wildflower and tree planting in the village.**
Paul Evans introduced the newly formed working group which emerged from the village plan, with the first public meeting on March 6th. They identified key areas they wanted to highlight to the Parish Council. Firstly, Mr Evans spoke of increasing wildflower areas, for example at the bottom of the slide in the recreation ground. The group felt that it was ecologically preferable to leave the top layer of soil, rather than prepare the ground, to allow for already growing wildflowers.
Mr Evans then spoke about their request to keep verge cutting at a minimum, again to allow them to flourish. It was pointed out that some wildflowers are also self-seeded ‘weeds’ which have ecological value, as well as sown wildflowers.
The working group had also requested that the Parish Council declared a climate emergency, which would acknowledge the council’s commitment to act now to consider the yearly flooding and hotter summers for example.
The Chairman spoke about the work that the Parish Council had been doing, which included a reduced number of verge cutting compared to previous years and that a

two-metre strip was cut for motorists' visibility, leaving the rest of the verge in a natural state. Seven trees were also planted during the last week in the village.

It was agreed that this should be discussed further at the next meeting after the working group had met again to discuss.

8. Planning update: 23/04708/HFUL. Single storey side extension and detached garage. 144 Meldreth Road Whaddon. This was approved.

9. Correspondence: noting receipt of significant items of correspondence

- Cambridgeshire County Council – questionnaire on weed control (12/2/24)

10. Finance to approve:

10.1 Staff wages and expenses – £492.61

10.2 Chairman's expenses (Jan – March 2024) - £50

10.3 LHI at Whaddon Gap (Cambridgeshire County Council) - £18,427.83

10.4 Bank reconciliation

10.5 Chairman's expenses for plastic covers and canes for the new trees - £10.54

11. To consider quotes for a new Parish Council website

The Parish Council discussed the accessibility requirements of the website and the need to be GDPR compliant and the quotes were evaluated. Cllr Strudwick asked about the existing website, which currently contained information on the Village Hall and the village and asked how this would now be funded. The Chairman spoke of the need to financially support the village website as this has many useful resources. Cllr Strudwick also stated that some financial information was missing from the current website, and this needed to be added. All agreed to accept the quote from Aubergine.

12. To consider quotes for two MVAS units (Movable Vehicle Activated Speed)

Two units were discussed – one for the A1198 and one for the village which needed to be movable. The A1198 location for the MVAS was discussed and it was suggested that the solar unit should be situated by New Farm. Cllr Townsend agreed that the Parish Council needed to support road safety, and this was a priority for residents. The post would have to be cemented in on the A1198 and both units insured in case of damage. It was agreed by all that two units should be bought from Elan City, the solar panel at £2,250 (plus vat) and £2,200 (plus vat) for the battery unit.

13. To discuss updates to the Whaddon Newsletter

Joan Pascoe was thanked for all her work for the newsletter. She informed the meeting that currently eight advertisers were in each issue and the price for this has not been raised since 2009. This remains at £12.50 for a half page each time and it was agreed to be raised to £15. The cost for other size adverts will increase pro rata.

It was suggested by the Chairman that the telephone numbers and addresses of parish councillors should be removed as these would be on the website. It was agreed that a list of names should remain in the newsletter for those who struggled with finding information online. Likewise, the neighbourhood watch information would be removed except for the main village contact. Useful contact information, such as how to report potholes could be included.

Lastly, it was suggested that the newsletter should be in colour and Cllr Hart felt that a different photo could be on the front cover, which was agreed to be positive idea.

14. Memorial bench for R. Jaggs

The Chairman spoke of the wish from the Jaggs family to have a commemorative bench at the far side of the recreation ground. They kindly offered to pay for the bench and installation.

15. Whaddon Village Hall and Recreation Ground Trust update – no formal update.

16. Village Upkeep and Maintenance – none.

17. Items for next meeting – noting of requests for agenda items. Cllr Townsend asked for riparian rights to be added onto the next meeting. Cllr Strudwick requested that a representative from the Village Hall Trust should attend the next meeting to update the Parish Council.

The meeting ended at 9.14pm.

Next meeting is March 11th at 7.30pm.