

WHADDON PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Whaddon Parish Council Meeting

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

on 10th February at 7.30pm 2025

Present: N Strudwick Chairman (NS), J Hart (JH), A Birch (AB),
B Fairclough (BF) and A Culver (Parish Clerk)

County Councillor S van de Ven (SVD), District Councillors SA Hart (SAH) and Jose
Hales (JH)

Members of the Public – two and Paul Evans (PE) from Sustainable Whaddon.

1. **Apologies for absence** – Cllrs W Elbourn and D Townsend.
2. **Approval of minutes** – approval and signing of the minutes from the Parish Council meeting of 13th January 2025. It was added to the minutes that SVD had told the meeting that she will not be standing as a Councillor after May. This was requested to be in the minutes. The minutes were then agreed and signed.
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.**
NS confirmed that he had met the Chairman from Bassingbourn Parish Council, primarily to discuss the MVAS (Moveable speed activated sign) on the A1198. As concluded before, the original idea to add this to the road had been delayed as a solar powered unit would not hold sufficient power to record the amount of traffic on the road and there was no obvious power source. NS requested that this should be on the March agenda. NS also stated that Bassingbourn Parish Council were investigating redesigning the pedestrian crossing on the A1198 between Cardiff Place and the Barracks.

There was no formal update on the revised BVC bus timetable, and it is hoped to be confirmed soon.

Lastly, NS spoke of the two potential nominations for co-option. It was agreed that this should be done in the next meeting, and that a short summery from both should be given before the co-option in March, describing how they would fit into the Parish Council. It was also suggested by BF that a more formal co-option policy should be discussed and confirmed in a future meeting.

The Annual Parish Meeting was agreed to be on 28th March in the village hall.

- 5. Reports from District and County Councillors** – A written report was supplied and circulated to residents via email. SVDV told the meeting that Bassingbourn's MVAS had recently recorded a lower average mileage of motorists at 48mph along the A1198.

The SCDC four-day week consultation was also discussed and SAH stated that the response should be from the Parish Council, but residents are able to submit their own response. It was agreed that this should be discussed at the March Parish Council meeting, when all the documents had been read.

- 6. Public participation** - A resident introduced himself as recently moved to the village and NS offered him details of the village email system, which all agreed was a good way to keep informed.
- 7. Correspondence: noting receipt of significant items of correspondence** - NS spoke of an email reporting a closure of a footpath, in the field behind Bridge Street, due to a private event to be held in May, as per in 2024.
- 8. Parish Plan review** – BF spoke about the need to look at the raw data for the responses, so that the Parish Council could decide on priorities relating to the given numbers of responses and that this was in progress.
- 9. Sustainable Whaddon update** – PE spoke about the upcoming recycling talk, which was open for all residents to attend on 19th February at the village hall. The group had also decided on a bug hotel building event for families to be held in the May holiday with local materials. A Swift box initiative was also in progress. District Councillor JH recommended that the group should apply for a Community Chest grant, which supports local initiatives which promote the parish.
- 10. SCDC four-day week consultation** – this was discussed above.
- 11. Consideration of a donation to the Melbourn Mobile Warden Scheme** – District Councillor JH stated that SCDC have agreed to fund the scheme for the next ten years and that they will stop asking for Parish Council donations next year. It was suggested by NS and agreed by all that the Parish Council would donate £300 for a charitable donation.

12. Finance to approve:

- Staff wages and expenses – confidential
- Bank reconciliation
- Unity Bank signatories

13. Village upkeep and maintenance –

JH commented that a vehicle had been repeatedly driven over on the grass outside Ridgeway Close leaving large tyre marks.

It was agreed that the verge bank by the village hall needs to be cut back regularly this year, due to large amounts of weeds.

AB spoke about the drainage cover on the grass verge at the top of Bridge Street, which is potentially getting damaged due to the number of cars now driving on the area after the recent building work. NS agreed to contact the Highways Officer to report this.

NS spoke about the recent incident whereby an ambulance drove down the right of way in Dyers Green, Byway 22, to drop off a resident. The ambulance got stuck and was unable to turn around, due to the narrow nature of the track. The Rights of Way officer is dealing with the Ambulance service to update their maps to ensure this does not happen again.

14. Items for next meeting – noting of requests for agenda items: Co-option, MVAS and a Village Hall Trust update

Meeting ended at 8.50pm