

WHADDON PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Whaddon Parish Council Meeting

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

on 10th March at 7.30pm 2025

Present: N Strudwick - Chairman (NS), D Townsend – Vice Chairman (DT),
J Hart (JH), A Birch (AB), B Fairclough (BF), W Elbourn (WE) and David Short (DS)
A Culver (Parish Clerk)

Three members of the public
County Councillor S Van de Ven (SVDV)

- 1. Apologies for absence** – none.
- 2. Approval of minutes** – approval and signing of the minutes from the Parish Council meeting of 10th February 2025. These were signed and approved after minor alterations.
- 3. Receiving declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda** – none.
- 4. To discuss applicants for co-option to Whaddon Parish Council** – Two residents expressed their interest in joining the Parish Council and applied prior to the meeting. One resident subsequently withdrew their interest, due to work commitments. Therefore, David Short was welcomed to the Parish Council after a unanimous decision to co-opt him to join. DS was welcomed to the Parish Council.
- 5. Reports from Clerk and Councillors – verbal updates about progress on resolutions and actions from previous Parish Council meetings.**
NS, JH and WE signed the Unity Trust Bank form (as existing Parish Councillor signatories), to add DT as a further signatory. This was agreed in the February Parish Council meeting.
The BVC morning bus was confirmed to have now changed its route and now picks up students by the bus stop at the top of Bridge Street, rather than the other side of the road on Church Street. This change was due to the Parish Council highlighting the safety aspect of children crossing the road, on a corner, to wait for their school bus.
- 6. Reports from District and County Councillors** - SVDV gave a written report which was available on the village website. SVDV did highlight that the Anglia Water annual meeting is still outstanding, and she continues to chase for last year's update for agreed changes. The Parish Council discussed witnessing Anglia Water engineers measuring depth of each manhole last autumn.

7. **Public participation** – a resident asked why SCDC had gone against Government protocol, requiring self builds of new dwellings to adhere to biodiversity net gain policies, as per larger scale developers. This increases the cost substantially. SVDV asked the resident to email her this request, and she would investigate.
8. **Sustainable Whaddon update** – The group attended their last meeting at the beginning of March. Bat and swift boxes will be put up around the village, starting with the church when appropriate permissions are granted. The bug hotel build, to involve families, will be held on the first bank holiday in May.
The group have agreed to review and personalise the Biodiversity Policy for the Parish Council and will be ready to report back in the summer. Once this is done, the Parish Council will be able to approve this.
9. **To discuss a co-option policy** – it was agreed to discuss this in the April meeting.
10. **SCDC four-day week consultation** – It was noted that the Clerk should submit responses to changes that the Parish Council have experienced from the four-day week initiative. BF asked when the four-day week began and SVDV confirmed this started in October 2023. It was felt that it was generally difficult to establish an opinion on this, due to unique cases. However, it was generally agreed that there were no significant differences in the service offered. Clerk to respond to the consultation.
11. **MVAS update** – NS asked for a volunteer to research the possibilities of a MVAS which can record data for 20,000 cars a day on the A1198, which is not powered by mains electricity. DS offered to take this on.
12. **Parish Plan** – BF confirmed he has looked through the majority of the Parish Plan, adding numerical evidence to each question asked. Housing was requested to be added to the April agenda.
13. **Village Hall update** – written update. Solar panels are now installed and fully working. The RoSPA inspection has been done, with no major work needed. The hall will be redecorated in the next few months. The next quiz night will be in May and lastly, the insurance claim for the subsidence in the back of the hall is ongoing.
14. **Royal Mail delivery difficulties in Whaddon** – NS wrote to the MP, Pippa Haylings, about the lack of deliveries in the village, which had also been reported in Melbourn. Separately, Royal Mail have confirmed they are trying to increase the expected delivery time for first and second-class mail. A resident explained that Royal Mail has stopped paying postmen over time and so any mail not delivered in the time frame allowed, is taken back to the sorting office. NS offered to raise this with the MP again and this was agreed as appropriate.
SVDV and a resident left the meeting at 9.04pm
15. **Finance to approve:**
 - Staff wages and expenses – confidential
 - Whaddon News Printing - £248

These were confirmed and agreed. Clerk to check Chairman's allowance payment.

- 16. Village upkeep and maintenance** – JH requested that the grass should be cut on the recreation, as it was now very long. BF requested that the overhanging bush should also be cut back on the pavement by Town Farm Road.
- 17. Items for next meeting** – noting of requests for agenda items.
Housing needs data from the Parish Plan. Co-option policy.

The meeting ended at 9.15pm