

WHADDON PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Whaddon Parish Council Meeting

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

on 13th January at 7.30pm 2025

Present: N Strudwick Chairman (NS), D Townsend Vice Chairman (DT), A Birch (AB), W Elbourn (WE), B Fairclough (BF) and A Culver (Parish Clerk)

Members of the Public – three including J Birch (JB), Chairman of the Village Hall and Recreation Trust, Paul Evans (PE) from Sustainable Whaddon.

County Councillor S van de Ven (SVD)

1. **Apologies for absence** – Cllr Hart gave her apologies.
2. **Approval of minutes** – approval and signing of the minutes from the Parish Council meeting of 11th November 2024. These were agreed by all and signed by NS.
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.
The Chairman of the Village Hall and Recreation Ground Trust, Jonathan Birch gave an update to the Parish Council. JB confirmed that they had accepted the quote for 25 solar panels on the roof of the village hall, to be installed in February. £15,000 of the cost was grant funded and the total amount paid by the Trust will be approximately £2,500 after paying a management fee to funding provider.
JB also spoke about the quotes for subsidence which was present in the corner of the village hall. These had been substantial, and JB stated that this was being investigated with the insurance company.
Quotes are also being sought for redecoration of the village hall.
JB left the meeting at 7.45pm
5. **Reports from District and County Councillors** – NS contacted Bassingbourn Parish Council to discuss the MVAS and is waiting for a response. SVD offered to help put NS in touch with the Chairman to facilitate a meeting.
NS spoke about the meeting at the top of Bridge Street with the school transport bus in November and reported there are several different options being evaluated before it is brought back to the Parish Council.
SVD spoke about her written report which has county wide updates. SVD confirmed that there was no further response from Anglia Water on local difficulties on drainage from high rainfall. This report was shared via email to residents.

6. **Public participation** – none.
7. **Correspondence:** noting receipt of significant items of correspondence – none.
8. **Sustainable Whaddon update** – this agenda item was discussed next in the meeting. PE reported that Pippa Heylings had agreed to open the new telephone kiosk seed exchange on Meldreth Road. Recent activity in the group included bug hotel building on the recreation ground for families at Easter, a recycling talk at the village hall on the 19th February . PE also stated that he had attended the recent SCDC climate action group meeting and had started links with other environmental local groups, who were keen to facilitate joint events such as a clothes swap. PE also spoke about the swift box corridor in Bassingbourn, which has increased the number of swifts significantly by installing swift boxes along Bassingbourn.
9. **Parish Plan review** – AB and BF looked at the numerical evidence of the requests of the parish plan replies. The possibility of investigating allotments was discussed as there 22 expressions of interest for this and it was agreed that AB and BF should look in detail about the numbers of requests for each item in more detail before the next meeting.
PE left the meeting at 8.35pm

10. Finance to approve:

- Staff wages and expenses – confidential
- Handyman - £347.51
- E&E Plumbridge (Whaddon News Printing)- £218
- Church yard grass cut 2024 - £110
- Clerk's working from home allowance – it was agreed that the Clerk would have the Standard Government tax free rate of £26 per month.
- Chairman's allowance - £200 for the financial year.
SDV and the member of the public left the meeting 8.52pm
- Discussion and agreement of the 2025/26 precept
The Parish Council agreed that the precept should remain at £19,313.39. All agreed.

11. **Parish Councillor vacancy** – Clerk to chase SCDC for permission to advertise for the co-option vacancy.
12. **Village upkeep and maintenance** – AB commented that the grass verge at the top of Bridge Street has been ruined after the recent building work.
13. **Items for next meeting** – noting of requests for agenda items.

The meeting ended at 9.30pm