

WHADDON PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Whaddon Parish Council Meeting

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

on 14th April at 7.30pm 2025

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

One member of the public
County Councillor S Van de Ven (SVDV) and District Councillor J Hales (JH)

- 1. Apologies for absence** - A Birch (AB) gave her prior apologies.
- 2. Approval of minutes** – approval and signing of the minutes from the Parish Council meeting of 10th March 2025 Two minor adjustments were made and the minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman.
- 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 updated the Parish Council and stated that he had written to the MP Pippa Heylings regarding the delayed Royal Mail deliveries but had not received a response. The Parish Council agreed that Whaddon was receiving more frequent deliveries once again.
- 5. Reports from District and County Councillors** – a written report was supplied and sent to residents via the village email system.
WE spoke of a break in of an outbuilding, taking large amounts of expensive tools, with a delayed and inadequate Police response. SVD agreed that rural crime is a large problem in the area and residents should expect a quick response to anything they have reported. SVD offered to raise this at the next joint meeting with the local representatives from the emergency services.
SVD confirmed that Anglia Water is no longer responding to communication and that previous resolutions from previous meetings have not been fulfilled.
- 6. Public participation** – none.
- 7. Sustainable Whaddon update** – There will be an update at the Annual Parish Meeting.
- 8. To discuss a co-option policy** – BF suggested that nominations could be anonymised before the meeting to avoid any prejudice, which may be felt as Whaddon was a smaller parish. WE felt that as potential new councillors would be present at the co-option meeting, this would not be relevant. AB felt that BF's approach would be beneficial in larger parishes. SVD stated that elections for

Parish Council are not anonymised. It was suggested that the Clerk should draft a further and more simple policy to be agreed at the next meeting, as it was felt that the policy suggested was too complicated

9. MVAS update – DS confirmed he had spoken to Bassingbourn Parish Council, who plan to use a battery operated MVAS.

10. Finance to approve:

- Staff wages and expenses – confidential
- Handyman wages and expenses - £91.19
- Grass cut - £102
- Website domain (Catalyst2) - £95.98
- Handyman salary – The Clerk confirmed that the hourly rate had not been increased in the last 12 months. DS proposed £15 an hour. This was agreed by all.

The Clerk left the meeting at 8.35pm and the remaining minutes were taken by DT.

SVD and JH left the meeting. SVD was thanked for her hard work and commitment to Whaddon as this would be the last Parish Council meeting she would attend before she stood down from her role as County Councillor.

11. Parish Plan – housing needs. BF spoke about the Housing survey in the parish plan and reported that 58% of responses wanted 5 or more houses to be built.

Currently there is no option for no extra houses to be built.

BF looked at the Morden's affordable housing as a comparison and it was agreed that a more specific survey should be completed. This will highlight the types of need felt appropriate by residents.

The issue of reduced carbon emissions in new builds was also discussed as 75% of respondents in the parish plan wanted to see this incorporated. BF explained that building regulation policy stipulates this as standard and BF agreed to confirm with the author of the Parish Plan that this was an adequate resolution.

12. Village Hall update - none

13. Village upkeep and maintenance

The Parish Council spoke about the correspondence from residents concerning the overhanging trees towards the end of Bridge Street. It was agreed that it needs to be established who owns the trees and on whose land they are planted on.

JH agreed to investigate one of the trees adjacent to the recreation ground with the tree officer as there are signs of Honey fungus.

Clerk to contact the grass contractor about the width of the hedge on Church street that needs cutting as a safety priority.

14. Items for next meeting – noting of requests for agenda items – none.