

Whaddon Parish Council Minutes

14th July 2025 at 7.30pm

Location: Whaddon Village Hall

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

District Councillor J Hales & A Bostanci (County Councillor)

Russell Moore - Cambridgeshire ACRE

Paul Evans - Substantiable Whaddon

Jonathan Birch - Chairman of Whaddon Village Hall & Recreational Ground Trust

Clerk: A Culver

1. Apologies for absence - apologies from council members unable to attend. SA Hart (District Councilor), D Short and J Hart gave their apologies.

2. Approval of minutes – approval and signing of the minutes from the Parish Council meeting of 9th June 2025. These were agreed by all and signed by WE.

3. Declaration of interests - Members to declare any personal or prejudicial interests in agenda items. None

4. Presentation from Cambridgeshire ACRE on affordable housing. Mr Moore gave a presentation on affordable housing and housing surveys to ascertain need in rural areas, with a question and answer session afterwards.

5. Matters arising from previous minutes - Updates on actions and decisions from the last meeting.

The Clerk had informed SCDC about the Parish Councils' view that the area of land behind Ridgeway Close was unsuitable for allotments.

6. Public participation - Opportunity for residents to raise concerns or ask questions about local issues. None.

7. County and District Councillor reports

Cllr Bostanci introduced himself as the new County Councilor for the parish and explained that he was a local resident who had been on Meldreth Parish Council for a number of years. Cllr Bostanci was welcomed to the meeting.

District Councillor J Hales spoke about the local government reorganisation survey, which asks for opinions on future structure of local government, as county, city, and district councils in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough will be replaced with unitary councils. This will take place from April 2028.

8. To discuss a grant application from Sustainable Whaddon Swift for Swift boxes

Paul Evans spoke about neighboring villages successfully creating a swift 'highway', by installing numerous boxes in each parish. He explained that the grant request for £500 will be spent on buying materials to make boxes for swifts and bats.

This grant was approved by the Parish Council and Sustainable Whaddon will send invoices for up to £500 to the Clerk, rather than have transferred funds as there is no central bank account for the organisation.

9. Planning applications - Review and discussion of planning applications and decisions.

25/02360/HFUL - Demolition of garage. Single storey front, side rear extension to form a residential annexe ancillary to the main dwelling. 144 Meldreth Road, Whaddon.

This was approved by the Parish Council.

10. Approval of payments - Consideration and approval of outstanding payments.

The Clerk stated that two further invoices were added to payments - £106 for grass cutting and £249.60 to SCDC for collecting the dog waste bin.

Herts and Cambs grounds maintenance - grass cutting	£852
N Strudwick – Chairmans Allowance	£100
Staff wages	Confidential

11. To consider quotes for new noticeboards

WE suggested that he would contact Steve Conningsby for a quote to make two noticeboards locally, before the Parish Council would look at buying them commercially. This was agreed by all.

12. Parish maintenance - Updates on maintenance works, including roads, footpaths, and public spaces.

The Clerk to request once again that the hedge should be cut alongside Town Farm Close by the contractor.

13. Correspondence - Review and discussion of correspondence received since the last meeting.

The Parish Council discussed Royal Mail's written response to reduced postal days in Whaddon. This stated that mail deliveries were as normal, but the Parish Council felt that the service was still reduced. It was agreed that councilors should keep a tally on deliveries.

14. To consider a Parish Council social media account

It was felt that the Parish Council should look at setting up a .gov email address for councilors' emails and it was felt that this should be the main method of communication.

Jonathan Birch (Chairman of Whaddon Village Hall & Recreational Ground Trust) entered the meeting at 9pm.

15. Whaddon Village Hall and Recreation Ground Trust update

Mr Birch spoke firstly of the very successful village fete over the previous weekend.

Mr Birch explained that maintenance work needed to be undertaken on the Village Hall and garage. He stated that roof tiles were missing from the garage and work was

required on the corner of the Village Hall, which was not covered by insurance. This was estimated to be approximately £9,000 in quotes obtained. Mr Birch felt that this expense could be split 50/50 between the Parish Council and the Trust and WE agreed that as the landlords, the Parish Council had some responsibility to ensure that the property is kept in good structural condition. It was agreed that this should be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting and the Clerk suggested to Mr Birch that invoices for work should be shared to give a full understanding of the future work.

The meeting ended at 9.26pm