

Whaddon Parish Council Minutes

12th January 2026 at 7.30pm

Whaddon Village Hall

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

District County Councillor J Hales

Parish Clerk – A Culver

Three members of the public including Paul Evans from Sustainable Whaddon and Jonathan Birch from WVH&RGT

1. Apologies for absence - apologies from council members unable to attend – none.

2. Approval of minutes – approval and signing of the minutes from the Parish Council meeting of 10th November 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. Matters arising from previous minutes - Updates on actions and decisions from the last meeting.

DS confirmed that the new MVAS had been delivered, and it would require a new post of 8ft to support the solar powered unit. The Speed Watch team have agreed to finalise a suitable place for installation for the new post and will update the Clerk accordingly. Action: Clerk to insure the MVAS unit and liaise with County Highways when a suitable location has been decided.

P Evans, from Sustainable Whaddon, spoke about the new 12 swift boxes available for the village and there was a need to identify suitable houses to these to be installed. Residents are encouraged to come forward if they would like to be considered for one. Mr Evans also confirmed that there was now a swift box on the village hall and two on the church and confirmed that swift boxes needed to be on a north or northeast side, 5 meters from the ground and a clear flight path to be the most appealing for swifts and it is hoped that a swift ‘highway’ can be created as in other local villages with great success.

Lastly, Mr Evans spoke about the biodiversity plan which was being considered by Sustainable Whaddon and a draft policy will be shared with the Parish Council in March.

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

6. County and District Councillor reports – District Councillor J Hales confirmed that local elections will not be deferred and these will be in 2026 as normal.

7. Housing survey results update – The Clerk shared the results of the online survey and those responses posted to the village hall. Out of 48 responses, 14

residents responded that they have a need for affordable housing or and they actively would like this to be considered in Whaddon. This was agreed by the Parish Council to be a significant percentage who were in favour and therefore an in-depth village survey needed to be actioned. Action: Clerk to contact Cambridgeshire Acre to discuss next steps for an affordable housing survey.

J Birch, Chairman of the Village Hall and Recreation Ground Trust, entered the meeting at 8pm.

8. Whaddon Village Hall and Recreation Ground Trust update – Mr Birch spoke about the new garage door being installed this week. He also updated the Parish Council on a very successful recent wine tasting evening, which raised nearly £300 for the village hall and that future events were being planned,

District Councillor Hales and Mr Birch, Mr Evans and the member of the public left the meeting at 8.09pm

9. Finance - To discuss and approve the precept for 2026-2027.

The Parish Council agreed that the precept would remain the same level as the last financial year., which was £19,313. The Parish Council spoke about future possible projects, and it was agreed that this should be discussed at the February meeting. AB asked if projects for Cardiff Place residents had also been considered and the Parish Council discussed how to ascertain their views given, they were not directly in the village, but in the Whaddon parish.

Possible plans include – new fencing by recreation ground next to road and new playground equipment. Investigation and maintenance into watercourses in Bridge Street and the wider village

Approval of payments	£130
Church grass cut for 2025 – P Coningsby	
Elan City (MVAS approved in November meeting)	£3,000
Staff wages	Confidential
Clerk working from home allowance (Government set rate)	£312

Payments added to the agenda to avoid late payment include:	
Handyman payment	£331.91
E&E Plumbridge	£918
Jenny Grech – swift boxes for Sustainable Whaddon	£96

Cllr A Birch informed the meeting that she would be resigning from the Parish Council after seven and a half years and this would be her last meeting. AB was thanked for her role by all and WE spoke of her important contribution over the years.

DT agreed to take on Whaddon News article writing from AB and will now be in the planning committee .

The meeting ended at 8.41pm