Whaddon Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

Held on Monday 13 July 2026

Present

Councillors W Elbourn (Chairman), J Hart, D Short and B Fairclough.

Also Present

District Councillors J Hales and S A Hales; County Councillor A Bostanci.

Three members of the public were present: Paul Evans, Lee Ginger and Jonathan Birch (WVH&RGT)

A Culver – Parish Clerk

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1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr D Townsend (Vice-Chairman).

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes and Matters Arising

The Council considered matters arising from the previous meeting.

- The Clerk gave an update on making contact with the managing company of Cardiff Place, regarding installation of a gate in the perimeter fence to allow access to the permissive footpath.
- The Parish Council also discussed the correspondence with County Farms, who own the land that has been highlighted for as a potential area for a small number of affordable homes (at the rear of St Mary's Close). The Clerk to contact Kirsten Donaldson, Head of New Builds at South Cambridgeshire District Council, regarding funding for this.

4. Public Participation

Agenda Item 12 was brought forward.

Paul Evans updated the Council on the work of Sustainable Whaddon:

- Twenty-nine swift boxes have now been installed, with some already attracting interest for next year's swifts.
- There is currently a waiting list for further swift boxes in the village.
- Swift callers are manufactured by a village resident at a cost of approximately £15 each.
- A grant request of £280 was made to purchase two callers and 15 additional swift boxes.

Resolved: The Council unanimously approved the grant.

Paul also provided updates on other biodiversity projects:

- He requested that the biodiversity policy should be on the Parish Council website and BF reminded the Parish Council that it was agreed the policy should be amended by removing the reference to pesticides.
- He gave a presentation following attendance at the South Cambridgeshire Swift Corridor meeting.
- Around 50 responses have been received to the village energy audit, and these will be compiled into a report.
- A moth survey undertaken in Bridge Street identified 35 different moth species during the first survey.

5. County and District Councillor Reports

County Councillor A Bostanci reported on the proposed Melbourn Greenway project between Melbourn and Royston alongside the A505.

District Councillor S A Hales reported that a decision on Local Government Reorganisation was expected by Friday and this would determine the structure of the future unitary authority.

J Birch joined the meeting at 8.00 pm.

6. CPCA Bus Service Review and Consultation

The Council considered the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority consultation on supported bus services. This will be sent out to residents via the email, as they are encouraged to protect the service that still survives in the village.

Members noted that Whaddon has a very limited bus service, which is under threat. The proposed Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) model was discussed. Concerns were raised that reliance on smartphone booking systems could disadvantage older residents and others without access to suitable technology.

7. MVAS and LHI Application

The Clerk provided an update on installing the pole for the new Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign (MVAS) and had been told by Highways that there needed to be a Local Highways Improvement (LHI) application. The Clerk confirmed that this would be queried again.

8. Policy on Illegal and Unauthorised Encampments

The Council considered the draft policy.

Resolved: The policy was approved.

9. Whaddon Village Hall and Recreation Ground Trust

J Birch reported on the recent Trust meeting.

- Village Hall hire charges have increased slightly, representing the first increase in two years.

- Following advice from ACRE, an application has been made to the Charity Commission regarding the removal of holding trustees. The Village Hall Committee will continue to operate.
- Quotes are being sought for improvements to the playground.

Cllr Birch left the meeting at 8.20 pm.

10. Village Maintenance and Upkeep

Cllr Hart reported that the flower border on the right-hand side of the village entrance requires trimming to improve visibility.

11. Payments for Approval

Payee	**Amount**
Handyman	£165.00
E & E Plumbridge	£348.00
South Cambridgeshire District Council (Election Costs)	£105.00
Herts & Cambs	£450.00
E & E Plumbridge (Whaddon News)	£348.00
Staff Wages	£536.64
CAPALC	£357.04

Resolved: All payments were approved.

12. Grant Application – Sustainable Whaddon

The grant application from Sustainable Whaddon was considered under Item 4.

Resolved: A grant of £280 was approved to purchase two swift callers and 15 additional swift boxes.

The meeting closed at: 8.31pm