

Whaddon Parish Council Minutes

February 9th 2026 at 7.30pm

Whaddon Village Hall

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

District County Councillor's – S A Hart and J Hales

Parish Clerk – A Culver

Three members of the public including David and Jenny Grech from Sustainable Whaddon.

1. Apologies for absence - none

2. Declaration of interests - none

3. Matters arising from previous minutes – WE spoke about recent correspondence from a resident confirming that the 'Shred the Shires' one wheel event will run again from 1st to 4th May in the same site as in previous years. The Parish Council discussed this and felt that there was no objection as the site was properly cleaned afterwards and the visitors were quiet and considerate to residents.

BF discussed the need for a summery for the Parish Plan. BF felt that a conclusion to the issues raised in the Village Plan and the Parish Council's response would be helpful and he confirmed that the main points were -

- 21% of residents supported a shop in Whaddon – unfortunate the Parish Council does not have this remit.
- 40% wanted a Meldreth to Whaddon cycle path, the Parish Council have discussed this and agreed this had to wait until Eternit was linked with either village to reduce the large cost of this project.
- 63% of residents were concerned about speed traffic – new MVAS was ordered last month.
- 17% support further reduction of speed – a 20MPH has been considered by the Parish Council on numerous occasions and was felt to have benefit in some areas of the village, but there was not significant support for this in the plan.
- 1% requested that the byway at the top of Dyers Green should be downgraded to a footpath by Cambridgeshire County Council - bollards have been installed by the Parish Council and this is continued to be monitored
- 58% requested a new housing survey – this is currently in discussion.

- 54% of residents wanted more plants in the village– this is to be discussed further in the meeting.
- Other items that were raised included requests for an ecology group to be set up – this has been done with Sustainable Whaddon and solar panels on village hall – this was completed last year.
- Lastly, BF spoke of the 23% of residents who felt that they may be interested in an allotment – the Parish Council have discussed this, and the lack of available space was felt to be the main contributing factor. It was felt that this should be considered again in a future meeting.

BF was thanked for his work analysing the results of the Parish Plan and condensing all the information for the Parish Council to work with. It was agreed that this should be concluded at the Annual Parish Meeting.

4. Public participation – A member of the public asked why the item for public participation was at the top of the agenda, as they wanted to raise comments about items to be discussed later in the meeting. The Clerk stated that this was to ensure that residents could raise issues without sitting through a long meeting and was normal practice. WE confirmed that residents could speak later in the meeting at the discretion of the Chair.

The member of the public raised concerns about the condition of local roads and pothole repairs in the surrounding villages and references were made to social media posts to the matter. District County Councillor Sally Ann Hart addressed the manner of the exchange and advised the member of the public accordingly. WE brought this discussion to a close.

The member of the public also requested if the verge at the top of Bridge Street could be cut for visibility reasons and it was agreed that this should be done with the first grass cut of the year.

A member of the public left the meeting at 7.45pm.

5. County and District Councillor reports – SA Hart asked for feedback on the new food bin collection and stated that Whaddon was a trial area for the scheme. DT said that many residents seemed to be using the bins already.

JH asked about frustrations of reporting potholes online, as residents had found that identified potholes were removed before any work had been undertaken. District Councillor S A Hart confirmed that once reported potholes have been logged online, they are removed from the website.

District Councillors S A Hart and J Hales the meeting at 8.10pm

6. Affordable Housing survey discussion – The Clerk confirmed that there was a ‘walk around’ meeting with the Parish Council, Cambridgeshire ACRE and SCDC this week, to look at possible sites that may be considered in future housing plans. This will help housing associations decide if they can financially support a full housing survey to be undertaken in the village.

7. Whaddon Village Hall and Recreation Ground Trust update – no updates. DT noted that the garage repairs are much improved and all agreed

8. Biodiversity policy – David and Jenny Grech from Sustainable Whaddon spoke about the biodiversity policy which had been drafted by the group. Mr Grech noted that as Parish owned land is rather limited, this reduces the effect that the policy can have. However, the draft policy looks at ways that the Parish Council can enhance the local environment and also encourages residents to improve biodiversity in their own gardens, an example being hedgehog corridors. It was agreed that the Clerk should add summery at the end of the policy, confirming what the PC will be responsible for, so that they can be accountable for this. It was highlighted by WE that the Parish Council will be led by the knowledge from members of Substantiable Whaddon and they were thanked for their work on the policy.

Lastly, Mr Grech confirmed that £380 had been spent from the £500 Parish Council grant for swift boxes and he requested that the remaining money could be used for calling boxes for swifts. Mr Grech stated that swift boxes were more successful in attracting nesting birds with a calling box and a resident could make these for £30 each. This was agreed by the Parish Council.

9. Discussion on Parish Councillor emails – The Clerk confirmed that Mr Jonathan Birch (WVH&RGT) had kindly offered technological support to help setting up new .gov.uk email address for the Parish Council with CloudNext, who were a low cost DYI service provider. This was a cost of £60+VAT and the Parish Council would be GDPR compliant.

This was agreed by all.

10. Discussion on road safety and verge management - Mr Grech spoke about critical areas in the parish where plants on verges needed to be kept under control for road users. Mr Grech offered to look at verges and report back next month and the Parish Council thanked him for this.

The Parish Council discussed the verge at the top of Bridge Street, and it was felt to be in poor condition due to cars driving and parking on it. It was suggested that the Clerk should ask permission from Highway to allow the Parish Council to erect bollards to stop vehicles destroying the verge in future.

Members of the public left the meeting at 8.45pm

DT stated she will add a request for considerate parking to the Parish Council review in the Whaddon News.

NS discussed the advantages of implementing a 20mph speed limit through the village, and it was agreed that in some areas this would be beneficial. BF confirmed that there was not significant support for this under the parish plan but felt that this should be evaluated again in the future. DS confirmed that the new MVAS had arrived and locations for its installation were still being considered.

JH asked the Clerk to reinstate the agenda item for village maintenance and upkeep, and this was agreed. JH suggested that the Parish Council could plant snowdrops on the verge by the Village Hall, which would be before the attractive display of daffodils in the spring. It was agreed that a £100 budget for this would be suitable.

11. Staff matters - Clerk appraisal. Public will be excluded from this item in accordance with the LGA 1972 as it relates to the employment of staff.

The Clerks appraisal was discussed and signed by NS.