

Minutes of the Whaddon Parish Council virtual meeting held via Zoom on 12th April 2021 at 8pm.

Present:	Chairman	L Ginger
	Councillors	A Birch, N Strudwick, W Elbourn, D Townsend, A Milton & J Hart.
	Parish Clerk	A Bridges
	Members of the Public	One
	County Councillor	None
	District Councillor	None

1.0 Apologies for Absence – The District and County Councillor gave their apologies as they were attending another meeting.

2.0 Approval of Minutes – approval and signing of the minutes from the Parish Council Meeting of 15th March 2021. Resolved: the minutes were approved and will be signed at a later date.

3.0 Receiving Declarations of Interest from Councillors on items on the agenda – Cllr Hart and Cllr Elbourn item 8 due to being landowners in the area.

4.0 Reports from Clerk and Councillors – verbal updates about progress on resolutions and actions from previous Parish Council meetings.

The Chair reported that the new railing installation was progressing well in the recreation ground and these have now reached the end of the car park.

There have been further reports of vehicles parked on the grass at Ridgeway Close which may be reported to SCDC.

The new grass contractor has started and has completed two cuts, which have been completed to a high standard. The verges will be cut towards the end of April.

There remains a large number of potholes on the road towards Whaddon Gap. These have been reported to Highways and have been highlighted for repair for some time.

Magpas sent a thank you acknowledgement for the donation from the Parish Council.

The level crossing on Meldreth Road in Shepreth, was then discussed. Network Rail has proposed to change the barriers, which is part of a nationwide upgrade to increase safety at level crossings. These changes would increase waiting times to 3 or 4 minutes, affecting drivers passing through from Whaddon to and from Cambridge. Cllr Strudwick spoke of the lack of data available from Network Rail. It was agreed that the consultation had not been widely publicised.

Cllr Birch advised the meeting that the village hall had re-opened today and bookings were now available for groups that met the current criteria. Cllr Birch confirmed that she recently attended training from ACRE to ensure that village halls meet Covid compliant regulations. All hire documents and risk assessments were correct and

ready in place. The dog training is resuming this week and a bootcamp is also starting on the recreation ground. Two volunteers have offered to take over organising coffee mornings when they are able to resume.

Lastly, Cllr Strudwick spoke of setting up a recycling point for medicine blister packs, that cannot be recycled by SCDC. This was agreed to be discussed in full at another meeting.

5.0 Reports from District and County Councillors – not present.

6.0 Public Participation – none.

7.0 COVID-19 Update – updates from SCDC are still sent round the village providing local information.

8.0 South West Cambridge planning proposal update – there are no formal updates. Cllr Strudwick and the Chair continue to attend meetings held by the South West Cambridgeshire Action Group and will report any changes back to the meeting.

9.0 LHI Bid Update – this has now been successful, subject to ratification by County Council Highways Committee at the end of May. Whaddon came joint third in the bidding process, which was agreed to be an incredibly positive outcome for the village. Cllr Strudwick spoke about the planning application opposite Whaddon Gap, at the site of the old public house, which could affect the LHI scheme. The Parish Council were not consulted on this and four semi-detached houses were approved in 2018. Cllr Strudwick spoke to the Highways department, who felt that this could in fact, have a positive benefit for the road changes. Cllr Strudwick also confirmed that the road improvement plans will be shared for consultation after they have been drawn up.
Action: Clerk to write to the Local Planning Department to register a complaint regarding lack of consultation in the planning process.

10. East West Railway consultation- The Chair confirmed that he has requested the full consultation paperwork, to examine the possible effects on the village. It was felt that motorists may have increased journey times on the A10 during construction process south of Harston.

11.0 Confirmation of details of the Annual Parish Meeting – the meeting was confirmed to be held on 19th April via Zoom. The Palmers Trust, Whaddon Village Hall and Recreation Trust and the District and County Councillors were all invited to join. There will also be a Neighbourhood Watch update. The Parish Plan will be discussed.

12.0 Change of date for the Annual Parish Council Meeting – this meeting was confirmed to be held on May 24th and has had to be delayed due to a change of legislation stopping virtual Parish Council Meetings after May 6th. The June meeting will be cancelled due to the close time frame after the May APM.

13.0 Correspondence –

- Covid-19 email update – 11 March 2021 SCDC
- Email Invitation: Thakeham Public Meeting on Thursday 18th March 2021 (12/3/21)
- Greater Cambridge Housing Trajectory briefing – Greater Cambridge Local Plan Team (19/3/21)
- Can you help me oppose the Thakeham Development? Email from MP Antony Brown (19/3/21).
- March 2021 parish e-bulletin – SCDC (25/3/21).
- Cambridgeshire ACRE Membership renewal (30/3/21)
- Pre-Briefing Invitation - East West Rail Consultation (30/3/21).
- Consultation opens today email - East West Rail (31/3/21)
- Government consultation on Remote Meetings – Jose Hales (1/4/21)
- CAPALC bulletin (6/4/21)
- COVID-19 update – SCDC (8/4/21)

14.0 Finance:

- 14.1** Staff wages and expenses - £399.71
- 14.2** Grass cutting and roll of recreation ground - £252 (this includes another cut added to this after agenda published).
- 14.3** Village Website provider - £59.99
- 14.4** Handyman wages and expenses - £330.46

15.0 Village Upkeep and Maintenance – Cllr Townsend stated that the SCDC grass contractor had used weedkiller instead of strimming the grass around Ridgeway Close. It was agreed by all that it looked awful and is environmentally unfriendly. The Chair reminded the meeting that the Parish Council had previously complained about this, and this will be raised again with the District Councillor.

It was also noted that political posters had been displayed around the village, and the remaining posters in Parish noticeboards would be removed by Clerk.

16.0 Items for next meeting – none

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.17pm

Date of next meeting - Annual Parish Meeting 17th May at 8pm.

Annual Parish Council Meeting 24th May at 8pm