

WHADDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Whaddon Parish Council Meeting

at Whaddon Village Hall, Church Street, Whaddon, SG8 5RY.

14th February 2022 at 8pm

Present:	Chairman	L Ginger
	Councillors	N Strudwick, J Hart D Townsend & W Elbourn
	Parish Clerk	A Bridges
	Members of the Public	One
	County Councillor	Cllr van de Ven

- 1. Apologies for Absence** – Cllr A Birch and District Councillor's J Hale and SA Hart gave their apologies.
- 2. Approval of Minutes** - approval and signing of the minutes from the Parish Council Meeting of 10th January 2021.
The minutes were approved by all and signed by the Chairman.
- 3. Receiving Declarations of Interest from Councillors on items on the agenda** – none.
- 4. Reports from Clerk and Councillors – verbal updates about progress on resolutions and actions from previous Parish Council meetings.**
The Chairman confirmed that both footpath bridges in Whaddon had been made safer by adding a layer of chicken wire over the top, to increase grip in wet weather. The Handyman was thanked for his work.

The Chairman confirmed that Highways have requested that the Beech tree by St Mary's Close, should be felled, due to possible safety issues. The Chairman reminded the meeting that a large branch fell into the road in November 2020, and tests have subsequently confirmed it is infected with Phytophthora. Highways have stated that it cannot be managed by pollarding due to the risks of further branches falling off and they have requested that the work should be completed before the end of February. The meeting discussed methods of managing the tree and also the fact that many villagers would be very upset at the loss of such a well-loved landmark. It was agreed that it was an old diseased tree and needed to be cut back for the safety of vehicles and pedestrians. Councillors felt that in view of the condition of the tree, could it be cut down to about 5 metres and then a tree carver could create an artwork that could be enjoyed by villagers for years to come? Cllr Hart said that a similar carved tree had been created in Barton. It was agreed to reply to Highways to see if this was possible.

5. Reports from District and County Councillors

Cllr van de Ven spoke of the easier process to implement 20 mph schemes, which will be introduced by County Council Highways to encourage more traffic calming measures in Cambridgeshire. They could either be for specific roads or for an area.

Cllr van de Ven informed the meeting that the mobile library has free hearing aid batteries, sells stamps and glasses, along with many books to borrow. The library stops at Meldreth Road, in the lay-bye outside Home Cottages, every third Tuesday of the month from 10:00-10:30am.

Cllr van de Ven lastly spoke of the train operating company confirming their timetable from May 2022. They are still experiencing Covid-related staff shortages and are currently operating a reduced timetable, but Cllr van de Ven confirmed that from end February, they will be reinstating the 08.06 train to Cambridge and also an extra return train from Cambridge late in the afternoon for school and college travellers. These will both stop at Meldreth, Foxton and Shepreth railway stations.

6. Public Participation

A resident spoke about the high connection prices that County Broadband had quoted some Whaddon properties and felt that the roll out had been delayed and appeared disorganised. The Parish Council agreed that Cllr Strudwick should contact County Broadband to ascertain an update for Whaddon residents.

The member of the public requested that grips could be reinstated along Bridge Street, to allow surface water to run off into the ditches. There was also a request for County Farms to cut overgrowing trees which are affecting cables at Dyers Green in Bridge Street. Cllr van de Van agreed to pass the information on.

7. LHI Bid update

Cllr Strudwick spoke of the road safety audit, which was delayed until access at the new properties opposite Whaddon Gap had been closed, which was a requirement of their planning permission for the new housing development.

Cllr Strudwick confirmed that Bassingbourn Parish Council had agreed transfer their funding the project to the next financial year.

Cllr van de Ven left the meeting at 9.07pm.

8. Correspondence: noting receipt of significant items of correspondence

- Cambridgeshire County Day nominations – SCDC (14/1/22)
- Parish E Bulletin – SCDC (31/1/22)
- Youth in Communities – SCDC (4/2/22)
- CAPALC monthly bulletin (9/2/22)
- Community Chest Queen's Jubilee Grant (11/2/22)

9. Discussion on proposed recycling unit in Whaddon

Cllr Strudwick confirmed that two bins were being delivered from SCDC, which will be located by the Village Hall. Cllr Ginger had purchased the bin clamp and passed it to Cllr Strudwick.

10. Queens Jubilee celebrations: Discussion on children's commemorative gift and agreement of the Parish Council contribution for celebrations

Cllr Townsend spoke of the initial plans from the first meeting of the Queen's Jubilee Committee. These include a family cricket match, a disco, and a family event on the recreation ground and details will be confirmed.

The Chairman suggested that the Parish Council should create a budget of up to £500 to offset some of the celebration costs. This was agreed by all.

11. Finance:

11.1 Staff wages and expenses - £417.88

11.2 Handyman wages and expenses - £311.09

11.3 Consideration of charitable donation of £100

Cllr Elbourn agreed to speak to the Palmer Trust for an update and it was agreed by all to discuss this in the March meeting.

11.4 Consideration of online banking

The Clerk confirmed that Unity Trust Bank charges £72 a year for online banking. It was agreed by all that the Clerk should set up a new account with Unity Trust Bank.

11.5 Discussion and consideration of quotes of new dog waste bin for recreation ground

All agreed that the Clerk should look for cheaper quotes for the new dog waste bin.

12. Whaddon Village Hall and Recreation Ground Trust update

13. Village Upkeep and Maintenance

i) Reporting of upkeep or maintenance issues and agreement of actions

Cllr Strudwick reported that the large tree by the gate between the church and recreation ground has had large sections of bark removed. It was agreed that an email would be sent to residents regarding vandalism of the tree.

14. Items for next meeting – noting of requests for agenda items

The Annual Parish Meeting was agreed to be held on April 25th.

The Meeting ended at 9.44pm