

Minutes of Whaddon Parish Council meeting held on 11th August 2008 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present:-	Acting Chair	Mrs C Byatt
	Councillors	Mr L Ginger, Mr P Neale, Mrs M Peyton, Mr C Rose, Dr N Strudwick
	District Councillors	Mr N Cathcart, Mr D McCraith
	Parish Clerk	Mrs G van Poortvliet
	Parishioners	3 present

Councillor Byatt opened the meeting and explained that Chairman Webb was unable to attend due to ill-health and that, as Vice-Chair, she would chair the meeting.

1.0 Apologies for absence – had been received from Chairman Ted Webb and County Councillor Linda Oliver.

2.0 Disclosure of interests – none declared.

3.0 Approval of minutes

3.1 Minutes of last meeting

Councillors all agreed that the minutes of the previous meeting were a true record and Acting Chair Byatt signed them accordingly, including one set for the Main Notice Board.

3.1 Minutes of the AGM

This item was postponed until the next Parish Council meeting.

4.0 Matters arising

4.1 Parish Paths/PPP3 – Whaddon PC had been awarded £800 PPP3 grant for 2008/09.

Councillor Neale confirmed that Whaddon could get another kissing gate to go between the recreation ground and the church yard. It was agreed that this should be painted black. Councillor Neale undertook to look into costs for the black finish. He also agreed to talk to Cambridgeshire County Council about renovation of the footpath signs.

The issue of access to the footpath behind the Barn Shop had been passed to an enforcement officer by County Councillor Oliver. It was observed that the gate was now open outside of trading hours.

4.2 Whaddon Roads and Transport

Roads and footways:

- The A1198/Whaddon Gap junction had been resurfaced with a black anti-skid surface. The footway in Meldreth Road had been repaired on one side of the road but the other side would not be done until the next financial year. Councillor Ginger had asked Highways for temporary surface repairs in the interim. Some of the pot-holes had been repaired in Bridge Street but two remained and the chevrons at the bend in the road near Bumpkins pre-school were obscured by undergrowth – the Clerk was asked to inform Highways.
- The large hole at the entrance to the Ridgeway Close car-park had been repaired but holes remained in the car-park itself. District Councillor Cathcart had received a reply to his letter to SCDC stating that it was unclear if the repairs were the responsibility of SCDC or Highways – he would follow this up.
- The footway outside Morley Manufacturing had industrial rubbish sitting on it. Acting Chair Byatt agreed to speak to someone at the site.

Proposed bus service: Councillor Ginger provided an update on the re-tendering of route 127. This was progressing but the anticipated start-date for the Whaddon service would be delayed.

Bus Shelter: the new shelter had been installed. It was agreed to get a quote for paving under the shelter and laying a footpath up to it. A discussion was held about putting a bench and litter-bin on the concrete base from the old shelter. It was agreed to investigate the costs of this.

4.3 Diseased Trees on Recreation Ground

A special meeting had been held on 10th July and Councillor Rose provided an update. All the horse-chestnuts on the recreation ground were diseased with bleeding canker and were potentially a public liability. One option was to remove all the trees in one go and replant them. An alternative was to do selective felling, ongoing maintenance and piece-meal replanting. At the Church Fete public opinion had demonstrated a very strong preference for clear felling and replanting. SCDC had confirmed that they could fund the stump-removal and replacement trees. Thanks were expressed to Councillor Rose for his work at the Church Fete. It was proposed and agreed (with one abstention) to fell all the horse-chestnuts.

A further two trees near the children's playground (a cherry and a maple) were dangerous and needed removal. These trees were not diseased and so did not require specialist disposal. A quote had been received from William Knight for £250 for their removal (a saving of around £150). It was proposed and agreed to ask William Knight, under the employment of Ken Green, to remove these two trees.

A discussion was held about choice of replacement tree for the horse-chestnuts. The replacement needed to be hardy, drought-resistant and provide year-round interest. It was proposed and agreed to replace the horse-chestnuts with a Rowan Whitebeam cross (*Sorbus X Thuringiaca "Fastigiata"*). The clerk would inform the SCDC tree officer of this choice.

Highways had agreed to carry out the work required to the sycamore tree at the corner of the recreation ground and also would take on the ongoing maintenance costs for this tree.

4.4 Proposed removal of Bridge Street phone-box – according to BT's data there had been zero calls from the phone-box in the year to September 2007. Some councillors had seen it being used and DC Cathcart had himself made calls from it. It was agreed to put a notice in the phone-box asking users to inform the PC if they wanted the phone-box to be saved. The consultation deadline was 23rd August.

5.0 New Correspondence

- Cambridgeshire Constabulary – invitation to Traffic and Speeding Summit.
- SCDC – invitation to South Cambridgeshire Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership on 10th September. District Councillor McCraith would be attending this.
- Carillion URS – notification of resurfacing works to M11 Junctions 11-12 (7th-31st July) and overnight closure (Mon to Thurs 8pm to 6am and Fri 9pm to 6am).
- SCDC – details of arrangements for public participation on consultation draft supplementary planning documents. Deadline 18th July 2008.
- South Cambs Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership – Crime and Disorder Survey 2008. Deadline 29th August 2008.
- East of England Regional Assembly – review of East of England Plan and consultation on development project plan and statement of public participation. Deadline 15th September 2008.
- Cambridgeshire ACRE – invitation to Cambs Rural Forum Conference.
- Cambridgeshire Local Access Forum – annual report 2007/08.

6.0 Finance

Cheques already signed (10th July 2008):

Cheque no 100592, for £70.50, to Playsafety Ltd, for ROSPA inspection

Cheque no 100593, for £50.00, to DM Charles, for village newsletter

Cheque no 100594, for £70.00, to SCDC, for election costs/administration

Cheques already signed (29th July 2008):

Cheque no 100595, for £293.75, to Acacia Tree Surgery Ltd, for report on trees on recreation ground.

Cheques approved today (11th August 2008):

Cheque No. 100596, for £158.63, to Moore Stephens for audit of annual return for year to 31 March 2008.

Cheque No. 100597, for £65.58, to Allianz Insurance plc for bus-shelter insurance premium.

Money Received:

£617.04 from SCDC for grass-cutting allowance 2008/09

£420 from SCDC, PPP3 grant

£40 from Henry Burgess for advertising in newsletter

£40 from Mike Radford for advertising in newsletter

£94.27 interest on Barclays bank tracker account to 1st June 2008

The Clerk was asked to look into the PPP3 grant which was expected to be £800.

The Clerk stated that the 2007/08 annual return audit had been completed and advertised as required.

7.0 Village Hall Matters

Councillors Strudwick and Ginger provided an update. The village BBQ had been a success and further events were being planned. It was agreed that a job review and staff appraisal should be carried out for the village handyman. Plans for the refurbishment of the hall had been produced and displayed at the village fete and at this PC meeting. The public response had generally been very positive. A meeting had also been held with a SCDC planning officer who had given a favourable initial response and would visit the hall to access further. Details would be made available on the website and in the newsletter. It was proposed and agreed to send the plans through for planning permission. Charitable Trust status would be investigated in parallel.

8.0 Update on Affordable Homes

The Clerk read out an email from Bedford Pilgrims Housing Association dated 4th August. It stated that SCDC would not support an application for affordable homes on the Church Corner site and that consequently the Housing Corporation had withdrawn their offer of funding for that site. BPHA had a limited time to find alternative sites within the village and asked if the PC knew of any. The Clerk had subsequently spoken with Tracey Harrison of BPHA - the planners had indicated the scheme might get a more favourable response if it was taken to a planning committee. BPHA and their architects were considering if it was worth the expense. They had also tried, unsuccessfully, to contact the owner of the Pickering Farm site as a potential alternative.

It was agreed there was a need for affordable housing within the village. The District Councillors offered to support the Church Corner scheme at a planning committee but suggested it could be difficult without the Planning Officer's recommendation. A discussion was held about alternative sites and Pickering Farm was deemed the most suitable. It was agreed to support BPHA in taking their scheme before a planning committee and also to initiate discussions with the owner of the Pickering Farm site.

9.0 Update on Progress on the Parish Plan.

A special meeting had been held on 28th July to update the parish plan to reflect progress made. Councillor Peyton and Acting-Chair Byatt provided some clarification on various outstanding points. The Clerk would amend the plan and send it to the Councillors for review. The updated plan would go to Cambridgeshire ACRE, the Chair of the Parish Plan committee and also would be posted on the Whaddon web-site.

10.0 Comments from the Public

A member of the public asked if it was possible for the public to attend the Planning Committee hearings about Affordable Housing schemes. District Councillor Cathcart confirmed that they could.

11.0 Any other Business

Councillor Peyton asked who should be contacted to arrange for speed-check strips to be installed. It was agreed that the Clerk would ask County Councillor Oliver. Councillor Peyton commented that the Government Inspectors had asked SCDC to look at amending the local development plan and that all objection sites would now be reviewed again. **District Councillor Cathcart** confirmed that this was the case and that SCDC had been asked to find sites for more housing. They were focussing on major development sites.

Councillor Neale commented that NATS were now reconsidering their plans re aircraft stacking systems. **Acting Chair Byatt** gave thanks to everyone who had been involved in the removal of the old bus-shelter. She commented that there were notices in Spring Lane, Bassingbourn about fly-tipping fines and CCTV surveillance. Similar signs would be useful in the Whaddon Gap car-park. The Clerk was investigating this.

There being no other business the meeting was now closed at 9.35 p.m.

The date of the next meeting will be Monday 8th September 2008 at 7.30 p.m.