

Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 18th February 2008 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present:-	Chairman	Mr E Webb
	Vice Chairman	Mrs C Byatt
	Councillors	Mrs M Peyton, Mr P Neale, Mr L Ginger
	District Councillors	Mr N Cathcart, Mr D McCraith
	Parish Clerk	Mrs G van Poortvliet
	Parishioners	3 present

1.0 Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor Mrs Linda Oliver and Councillor Professor Tony Milton. Councillor Dr Nigel Strudwick has an agreed leave of absence until May 2008.

2.0 Disclosure of interests – none declared.

3.0 Approval of minutes

Councillors all agreed that the minutes of the previous meeting were a true record and the Chairman (Mr E Webb) signed them accordingly including one for the Main Notice Board.

4.0 Matters arising

4.1 Parish Paths

- Councillor Neale reported that the Parish Path Partnership (PPP3) grant forms had been completed. Included for this year were repairs and maintenance of footpath signs, a rough surface over the bridge from the golf-course, a kissing-gate between the church-yard and the recreation ground and improved access to Footpath 1.
- It was proposed to use a sum carried over from last year's grant to lay the hedge around the Whaddon Gap car-park. A village resident would be pleased to do this, using traditional hedge-laying methods. This was agreed unanimously.
- Councillor Byatt and Chairman Webb undertook to speak to the owner/manager of the Barn Shop about access to Footpath 1 before submitting the PPP3 forms.

4.2 Whaddon roads and transport

Eternit landfill project: Councillor Ginger commented that this appeared to have finished and the road was being repaired at Mettle Hill junction. District Councillor McCraith reported that the meeting with Eternit scheduled for 24th January 2008 had been cancelled.

Proposed bus service: Councillor Ginger stated that an e:mail had been received from the County Council (CCC) outlining a review of rural transport initiatives. An update would be sought from District Councillor Linda Oliver at the next meeting. There was agreement that Whaddon's bus-service was inadequate for the size of the village.

Proposed bus lay-by: Councillor Ginger provided an update. A site meeting took place on Thursday 24th January regarding the position of the proposed lay-by. All parties agreed that something needed to be done. Alterations were likely to cost around £15,000 and funds were limited. An e-mail was read out from County Councillor Oliver stating that she would follow up on some potential funding sources. Councillor Ginger commented that the coach companies had been very accommodating.

Bus Shelter: It was agreed that this should be erected on temporary spigots allowing later movement to a new site if necessary. Chairman Webb reported that there had been no increase in the cost of the shelter and undertook to explore the possibility of having this erected by the bus shelter providers but using the village handyman to lay slabs underneath it.

Roads and footways:

- An e-mail from County Councillor Oliver was read out: Highways would carry out the work on the Meldreth Road footways as soon as they were able and once next year's budget had been approved.

- Councillor Peyton pointed out that a dip on the Meldreth Road just outside of the Whaddon boundary, was worsening. The clerk will contact Meldreth Parish Council and Highways about this.
- The anti-skid area on the A1198 had now been marked out for repair.

4.3 Tree Preservation Orders

District Councillor Cathcart had discussed the removal of elm trees in a field adjoining the Church with the Tree Officers and reminded them to send a letter to the landowner with reference to the existing elm trees with a copy to the PC.

5.0 New Correspondence

- Document on a new policy on Speed Limits had been received from the CCC.
- District Councillor Cathcart undertook to write to the new government minister about the Government promise to reduce speed limits to 30 m.p.h. through all villages.
- Information had been received about Trading Standards.
- Moore Stephens had been reappointed as auditors to the PC.
- Information from CALC has been received re: training for Councillors

6.0 Planning

6.1 Notice of Appeal

S/0970/07/F 105 Meldreth Road, Whaddon, for Mr C Whitehouse. The clerk, on behalf of the PC will make formal representation to the Planning Inspectorate in support of the appeal.

6.2 Objection to the Village Framework – 129 Meldreth Road

Chairman Webb reported that Councillor Strudwick had asked that his concerns be voiced about the recent decision by the PC to support an attempt by Mr and Mrs Harries to amend the Village Framework at 129 Meldreth Road. Councillor Strudwick believed the PC may have acted hastily in supporting this and stated that he would probably have voted against the motion had he been present at the meeting. He agreed that the SCDC planning system was at fault in not informing the PC of the Harries' objection but he also felt that the Harries were at fault for not bringing the matter to the PC at an earlier opportunity.

7.0 Finance

Cheques signed today (18th February):

Cheque No. 100572, for £63.28, to Cambridgeshire County Council for street lighting.

Cheque No. 100573, for £80, to Society of Local Council Clerks for annual subscription.

Receipts:

A sum of £114.62 has been transferred from the Parish Plan Bank Account on its closure.

Other matters:

- Allianz Cornhill had estimated the additional annual cost of insuring £30,000 of children's play equipment at around £400. It was agreed that the equipment must be insured but another quote should be sought.
- R.G. Oliver and Son had notified the PC that the charge for cutting the grass verges would increase to £160 per cut in 2008, an increase of £10.

8.0 Neighbourhood Watch

Councillor Peyton provided an update from the Foxton Area Neighbourhood Watch meeting.

Police spending priority is in Cambridge and Peterborough. Although anti-social behaviour (ASB) has decreased other crime has risen quite significantly. Priorities will be ASB, speeding and burglary.

A serious incident had taken place in Meldreth Road, Whaddon.

9.0 Village Hall

Councillor Ginger provided an update:

- The grant application towards replacing the floor and insulating the main hall would now be made in 2008/9. The aim is to submit the application by the end of April 2008.
- The Village Hall Committee had agreed to appoint a new architect and sought approval from the PC. This was agreed unanimously. Payment would be offered to the existing architect for expenses and materials used to date.
- Mr. Laurie Parncutt had suggested getting a report from a structural engineer.
- The quiz night on Saturday 26th January 2008 had been a success, raising nearly £500.

10.0 Mary Course Prize

In recognition of the work done by Mary in representing Whaddon on the District Council, it was agreed to donate £100 to the Mary Course Fund. An annual prize will be awarded for excellence to a student at Meldreth Primary School.

11.0 Design Statement

The merit of producing a design statement for the village, to assist with planning decisions, was discussed. Chairman Webb undertook to seek advice from David Grech.

12.0 Comments from the Public

A member of the public asked about the status of the Affordable Homes. Chairman Webb replied that the PC should know early to mid-March whether Bedford Pilgrims Housing Association had been successful in obtaining funding.

A member of the public commented that a footpath sign was missing from outside 129 Meldreth Road. Councillor Neale said that this would be replaced under the PPP3 scheme. The same person enquired about the repair of the footway on Meldreth Road. It was agreed that the clerk would keep pursuing this with Highways.

13.0 Any other Business

Councillor Byatt pointed out that lots of trees had been planted in the field adjacent to Bumpkins Pre-school/holiday club.

District Councillor Cathcart reported that SCDC had voted to move onto the next stage with regard to the sale of their housing stock to housing associations.

District Councillor McCraith reported that SCDC would be going-live with their choice-based lettings scheme in March. The aim was to encourage people to get houses that were suited to them and that they wanted. 10% of housing stock has been allocated to this web-based scheme.

Chairman Webb asked the councillors to review the Standing Orders for discussion at the next Parish Council meeting.

There being no other business the meeting was now closed at 9.15 p.m.

The date of the next meeting will be 17th March 2008 at 7.30 pm.