

Minutes of Whaddon Parish Council meeting held on 9th March 2009 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present:- Chair Mrs C Byatt
 Councillors Mr W Burchett, Mr L Ginger, Mrs M Peyton, Mr C Rose,
 Dr N Strudwick
 District Councillor Mr N Cathcart
 Parish Clerk Mrs G van Poortvliet
 Parishioners 2 present

- 1.0 **Apologies for absence:** Cllr P Neale, District Cllr D McCraith and County Cllr L Oliver.
- 2.0 **Disclosure of Interests:** Cllr Burchett is a member of the Playground Project (agenda item 5.0).
- 3.0 **Approval of previous minutes** - councillors agreed that the minutes of the previous meeting were a true record and Chair Byatt signed them accordingly.
- 4.0 **Matters arising from previous meetings:**
 - 4.1 **Whaddon Roads and Transport:**

Roads – County Cllr Oliver is investigating another funding-source for a turning point for school buses/coaches at the top of Bridge Street. It was agreed to request a new salt-bin to replace the damaged one on Church Street. **Bus-shelter** – the need for a cigarette-bin was discussed. The bus-shelter is a public place and it was agreed that a ‘no smoking’ sign was required. **Bus-service** – preferences were still awaited from Meldreth. **Car-park** – the ‘no littering’ warning signs had been replaced in Whaddon Gap car-park.
 - 4.2 **Design Statement (DS)** – Chair Byatt had informed David Grech of the budget for this project (£200) based on assumptions that an abridged DS could be widely circulated with a full version available on request. However, at this stage it was unclear what format the final document would take. Additionally there was the need to consult with Whaddon residents. The next DS meeting is scheduled for April.
 - 4.3 **Diseased Trees on Recreation Ground** – the replacement trees had now been planted along the front of the recreation ground. The contractors had not correctly dug-in the watering system - the SCDC tree officer was on sick-leave but one of her colleagues had agreed to look into the problem. During the first year the trees will need to be watered every two weeks in winter and weekly thereafter. Cllr Burchett volunteered to help Cllr Peyton with the watering. A Princeton Elm, to go at the far-end of the new trees, will be ordered for the next planting season.
 - 4.4 **Clerk’s Training** – the Clerk explained the training available from Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils (CPALC). This will cost around £500. The councillors agreed that the clerk could register for the training and qualification.
 - 4.5 **Phonebox Adoption Scheme** – the Clerk had received the final paperwork from BT who had also removed the phone-equipment and replaced the light-bulb. The Councillors agreed that a ‘no smoking’ sign should be put in the phone-box.
 - 4.6 **Affordable Housing update** – Bedford Pilgrims Housing Association had now appointed a planning consultant (SCDC planners were aware of this). The consultant’s report was expected to take around six weeks to produce.
 - 4.7 **Speedwatch** – Cllr Strudwick provided an update. Mike Monks (Neighbourhood Watch), David Evans (NW) and Cllr Strudwick had now been trained on the equipment. A meeting will be held on 10th March to agree when to take the equipment out. Cllr Neale, Cllr Peyton and Tony Gardner will also be involved.
- 5.0 **Whaddon Playground Project (WPP)** – Mr Neil Gallery, co-ordinator WPP, gave an update. The play-equipment was in the process of being installed and, depending on the weather, could be fully installed by w/c 23rd March. The safety-fencing would then remain in place for a further two-week extension period to allow the grass to take. Pathfinder had sent notification that the £40,000

grant had been paid into the PC bank account. Proof of insurance was needed prior to SCDC releasing their grant (£15,000). The PC agreed to insure the play-equipment with effect from 16th March and to write a cheque to Fenland Leisure Products for £34,883.53 for the second-stage payment for the play-equipment (this cheque would only be released on the advice of Mr Neil Gallery). The PC agreed to temporarily put the funding-source sign on the side of the garage. Cllr Peyton offered to investigate the removal of the graffiti from the garage. WPP had received the following donations: £500 from Royston Round Table, £265 from Whaddon Youth Neighbourhood Watch, £200 private donations and £5000 from Pathfinder. The additional Pathfinder funding was available for spending on landscaping or equipment for eight to 13 year olds. The PC asked that the landscaping option be pursued first before purchasing additional equipment. A complaint had been received from a resident living close to the playground. A discussion was held about the location of the youth shelter. Chair Byatt would talk to the Coningsby's about relocating the bench (in memory of George Coningsby) and adjacent bin. It might also be necessary to relocate the picnic table. WPP had also been offered funding for a launch event - this was likely to be held in late April. Thanks were given to Mr Neil Gallery.

6.0 New Correspondence

- SCDC – letter from Waste & Recycling Department in response to letter from PC complaining about green bin and recycling collections.
- SCDC – details of Community Facilities audit in South Cambridgeshire Villages (Cllr Strudwick had met with the auditors)
- CCC – Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2008-2022.
- Neighbourhood Watch Bassingbourn and Melbourn Panel Meeting – change of date to Monday 20th April (to be attended by Cllr Peyton and Mike Monks).
- SCDC/East of England Development Agency – Proof of Concept fund for new products/businesses.
- SCDC Parish Council update Mar 2009 – details of public planning consultations.
- SCDC Supplementary Planning Documents – consultation on two draft SPDs covering Biodiversity and Listed Buildings. Deadline 14th April 2009.
- Copy of letter from Bridge Street resident to Highways Agency regarding pot-holes, churned-up verge and displaced stop-cock cover at top of Bridge Street (believed to have been caused as a consequence of school buses). The Clerk would respond and also liaise with Highways.
- SCDC – Housing Futures Formal Offer Document.
- CCC/SCDC – additional consultation on Inspectors Larger Site Option for NW Cambridge Area Action Plan. Deadline for comment 20th April 2009.

7.0 Planning

S/2150/08/F 36 Bridge Street, Whaddon, Mr A Townsend, for an extension. Planning permission granted.

S/0062/09/F 55 Meldreth Road, Whaddon, Dr D Vickers, for erection of outbuilding for garage/storage. This application had been referred to the Chairman's Delegation Meeting (ChDM). District Cllr Cathcart advised that the planners had now revised their recommendation to refusal on grounds of design. He would attend the ChDM to try to get the grounds for refusal widened to encompass other objections made by the PC.

At the previous PC meeting it had been decided to convene separate Planning Committee meetings. Cllr Strudwick had since discovered that this committee could not consist of all councillors as it becomes a full P.C. meeting – five councillors had been recommended. Holding the meetings in the daytime might preclude some members of the public from attending. It was suggested that the Planning Committee be voted in at the Annual Parish Meeting in May.

Cllr Strudwick had also ascertained that the statutory quorum for a seven-person PC must be three councillors. It would not be possible for Whaddon PC to change this.

8.0 Finance

Cheques approved today (9th March 2009)

Cheque No. 100622, for £13.78 to N. Strudwick for website expenses.

Cheque No. 100624, for £30.65 to Mrs C Byatt for Chair's expenses.

Cheque No. 100625, for £472.64 to Mrs G van Poortvliet for Clerks wages and expenses.

Cheque No. 100626, for £75.00 to P.E. Coningsby, for church-yard grass cutting.

Cheque No. 100627, for £34,883.53 to Fenland Leisure Products, for second instalment on playground equipment.

Cheque no. 100623 is void due to an error.

Receipt

13th February 2009 £2,103.25 H.M.R.C for VAT refund to 31st December 2008

8.1 2008/9 Budget Update – the Clerk provided an update on performance against budget and the financial forecast to 31st March 2009.

- 9.0 Village Hall Matters** - Cllr Strudwick provided an update. There had been no VH Management Committee meeting since the last PC meeting. The VH were advertising for a cleaner - Carol Ginger was cleaning in the meantime. The SCDC audit of facilities had been done. The full report from the Mechanical and Electrical Engineers was still awaited. A draft copy of the heating section had been seen - a number of heating options were explored. A meeting with the architect was due to take place on Monday 16th March. Chair Byatt, Cllrs Strudwick and Ginger and the Clerk had met with Limbach Banham solicitors in Royston to investigate the possibility of establishing the VH as a charitable trust. It seemed advantageous, from a fund-raising perspective, to put the hall into a charitable trust. The PC could retain the title deeds and then lease the hall to the VH management and fundraising committee, with certain provisos, for a peppercorn rent. The lease period is likely to be in excess of 60 years. The trust must be a separate entity to the PC. There are VAT implications if the VH building works are carried out by the charitable body rather than the PC - it would be necessary to seek a VAT ruling. A summary of the meeting was awaited from Limbach Banham. The VH and recreation ground were under three separate title deeds, only one of which was registered. The cost of registering the remaining two pieces of land, including legal fees, was estimated at around £525. The PC resolved to register the land.
- 10.0 Comments from the Public** – a member of the public commented on cars on the land/field by byway 22. Chair Byatt explained that a footpaths officer had previously come to look at the byway but would take no further action. Cllr Peyton will email the landowner. A member of the public commented that the level of water in the ditch in Bridge Street was unusually high.
- 11.0 Any Other Business**
Cllr Burchett reported that Royston Round Table had offered to cut the recreation ground grass before the playground opening. The Clerk was also asked to contact MD landscapes to schedule the first cut of the season for early April.
Cllr Peyton commented on the water-level in Bridge Street. The water-table was high and it was not possible to find a blockage. Cllr Burchett would look at the top end of Bridge Street. There had been a road accident on Meldreth Road on Saturday 7th March.
District Cllr Cathcart advised that a meeting would be held on 10th March to decide how the shortfall of housing in South Cambridgeshire would be resolved. It was likely that any major housing development would be concentrated in certain key areas (not Whaddon).
Chair Byatt advised that Mrs Jean Webb would like a dedication ceremony for the bench (to go by the bus-shelter) in memory of Ted Webb.
The Clerk – reported that CC Oliver had advised that an enforcement officer was following up the issue of access to the footpath from the Barn Shop.
- 12.0 Date of the Next Meeting - Monday 6th April 2009 at 7.30 p.m.**

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

