

Minutes of Whaddon Parish Council meeting held on 8th November 2010 at 7.40p.m. in the Village Hall, Church Street, Whaddon, nr Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 5RY.

Present:	Chairman	Dr N Strudwick
	Councillors	Mr W Burchett, Mr L Ginger, Mrs J Lewis (from 8.35pm), Mrs M Peyton
	District Councillors	Mr N Cathcart, Mr D McCraith
	County Councillor	Mrs L Oliver (from 8.40pm)
	Parish Clerk	Mrs G van Poortvliet
	Parishioners	3 present

The Parish Council (PC) meeting started ten minutes late in order to allow sufficient councillors to arrive for quorum.

- 1.0 **Apologies for Absence** – received from Cllr P Neale and Cllr C Rose. Advance notice of late arrival received from Cllr J Lewis and County Cllr L Oliver.
- 2.0 **Declarations of Interest** – Cllr Burchett declared a personal interest in agenda items 9.2 (as a member of Whaddon Playground Project) and agenda item 15.0 (as a Bridge Street resident with young children).
- 3.0 **Approval and Signing of minutes from Parish Council meeting of 11th October - Resolved:** that the minutes of that PC meeting be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.
- 4.0 **Guest Speaker from ATR Bassingbourn Barracks** – this item was postponed until 2011. Apologies received from the guest speaker.
- 5.0 **Reports from Clerk and Cllrs on matters arising:** the Clerk and Cllrs provided verbal reports on the status of matters arising from previous PC meetings:
 - Scaffolding Business Operating Opposite Whaddon Gap junction – District Cllr McCraith had contacted Paul Sexton (SCDC Planning). Mr Sexton had confirmed that no planning application for a change of use had been submitted and he was now following this up.
 - Maintenance schedule – the handyman had identified that some of the railings around the recreation ground needed repair. Action: a quote to be obtained for the repair work.
 - Salt Bins for Bridge Street – two bins had been delivered and filled with salt. A third spare bin was being stored in the Village Hall (VH) garage. The lid of an existing salt bin at the top of Bridge Street was damaged. Action: Cllr Burchett to investigate feasibility of swapping over the damaged salt bin with the spare one from the VH garage.
 - Affordable Homes – the Chairman had contacted Bedford Pilgrim Housing Association and their architects to ensure that they liaised with the residents of Rose Cottage (the property next door to the Affordable Homes site).
- 6.0 **District and County Councillor Reports:**

District Councillor report: the Chairman invited the District Cllrs to give a verbal update:

 - Traveller and Gypsy Plan – the next stage of the discussions is scheduled for December. SCDC are awaiting guidance from Central Government on this issue.
 - Standards Board – this would be disbanded. If a Cllr was found to have misled the public, it would be considered a criminal offence.
 - Finances – another significant cut to budgets was expected.
 - Chief Executive – a new Chief Executive, Jean Hunter, had been appointed. She was making some visits to the villages in South Cambridgeshire.

County Cllr Report: postponed until the arrival of County Cllr Linda Oliver.

- 7.0 Public Participation** – no comments received.
- 8.0 Bus Service – update re future of bus service:** Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) will start the revised bus-service on 4th January 2011. From this date the buses will turn around at Church Street/Bridge Street and no longer serve Meldreth Road or Mettle Hill. Actions: the revised bus-schedule to be advertised in the newsletter and the over-60s reminded to ensure that their journeys are being recorded by the bus-operator. A notice to be put in the Meldreth Road bus-shelter advising that the service will stop from 4th January 2011.
- 9.0 Whaddon Playground Project:**
- 9.1 Update re maintenance issues** – the concrete pad had now been installed for the recycling bins.
- 9.2 Authorisation of expenditure** – postponed until the next PC meeting.
- 10.0 Village Hall (VH):** postponed until the arrival of Cllr Lewis.
- 11.0 Planning:**
- 11.1 Noting of receipt of approved minutes from the Planning Committee meeting of 12th July 2010** - receipt noted.
- 11.2 Noting of Planning Committee recommendation re S/1274/10, 55 Meldreth Road, extension and alteration to garage** – approval recommended.
- 11.3 Update from the Chair of the Planning Committee** – Cllr Peyton provided a verbal update. Cllr Neale had been elected as Vice-Chair of the Planning Committee. A Policy for dealing with Planning Infringements had been formally adopted. Cllr Peyton had attended the SCDC Exception Site Meeting, earlier that evening – the main points were outlined. The work on Whaddon’s Affordable Homes had to begin by 31st March 2011. CCC had asked for extra information from CEMEX before making a decision about the proposed landfill site at Barrington.
- 12.0 Finance – approval of payments:** no payments for approval.
- 13.0 Correspondence:**
- SCDC – notification of award of Community Facility Grant and terms of award
 - Cambridgeshire ACRE – request for volunteers re digital switchover
 - SCDC – invitation to Exception Sites Parish Review Group meeting 8th November (Cllr Peyton had attended)
 - CCC – invitation to meeting to discuss future of PPP3, 2nd December (either Cllr Neale or Cllr Peyton to attend)
 - Little Gransden Consultative Committee Meeting on 10th November – request for member of Parish Council to attend in place of Mr M Monks who had given his apologies (the Chairman to attend)
- 14.0 Whaddon Gap Car Park – consideration of barrier across entrance:** the possibility of putting a height-restriction barrier across the entrance to Whaddon Gap car-park to reduce the incidences of fly-tipping and abandonment of large vehicles/caravans was discussed. The PC decided to take no action at the moment as it was not deemed to be a good use of funds.
- 15.0 Children Playing on Bridge Street – consideration of safety issues:**
(Cllr Lewis joined the meeting. Cllr Lewis declared an interest in this item as a Bridge Street resident with young children). The Chairman invited a member of the public to speak. The member of the public commented on the large number of children playing and cycling on Bridge

Street. Some of these children were very young. Although the road is mainly single-track, the official speed limit on Bridge Street is 40mph. Many delivery vans, couriers, and some residents drive very fast down Bridge Street. It was considered dangerous for children to be playing on the road. The use of signage and a newsletter article were suggested.

The PC discussed the issues. County Cllr Oliver, who had now joined the meeting, was asked for advice. County Cllr Oliver asserted there was little chance of achieving a speed-reduction in Bridge Street. Actions: The Chairman and Mr M Monks (Neighbourhood Watch) to draft an article for the newsletter. The PC to investigate signage options. Mr M Monks to investigate if the PCSO/traffic police could talk to local children about road safety. County Cllr Oliver to ask for some speed-measurement strips to be applied in Bridge Street.

It was agreed to return to agenda item 6.0.

6.0 District and County Councillor Reports:

County Cllr Report: the Chairman invited County Cllr Oliver to give a verbal report.

- The creation of the bus turning circle at the top of Bridge Street had been delayed again due to staff absence. Apologies were given. County Cllr Oliver had asked for this work to receive urgent attention.
- CCC had been planning for a 40% reduction over five years. Services were being reshaped but, as yet, no services were to be taken away altogether.
- The Children's Centre (advisory centre) was now open in Bassingbourn Primary School.
- The situation relating to broadband had now changed - BT had indicated that they would now be upgrading the cabling network to support faster broadband. The fine detail was awaited. Action: the Chairman to send County Cllr Oliver a synopsis of the Broadband situation in Whaddon.

It was agreed to return to agenda item 10.0

10.0 Village Hall:

10.1 Noting of receipt of approved minutes from the Village Hall Management and Fund Raising Committee (VHMFC) meeting of 5th July 2010 – receipt noted.

10.2 Update from Chair of the VHMFC – a verbal report was given by Cllr Lewis. The last meeting of the VHMFC was scheduled for 15th November.

10.3 Update on lease and Charitable Trust (CT) – the first meeting of the trustees had been scheduled for 15th November. It would be necessary to register the lease with the Charities Commission – the PC had ring-fenced funds for this expenditure. It would be necessary to formalise the relationship between the PC and the CT in terms of maintenance, liability and insurance.

10.4 Parish Council representative to CT – Cllr Burchett had indicated that he might not be able to act as PC representative to the CT in the longer-term. Cllr Burchett agreed to continue to be a representative until the AGM (May 2011).

16.0 Parish Plan – agreement of next steps – Action: Cllrs Ginger and Rose to liaise directly with Sarah Johnson from Cambridgeshire ACRE to schedule a meeting to obtain advice.

17.0 Village Upkeep and Maintenance – reporting of issues:

- The 40mph sign had gone from outside Green Farm, Meldreth Road. Action: the Clerk to report this to CCC Highways.
- The No Parking sign at Ridgeway Close was loose. Action: District Cllr Cathcart to follow up.
- The particularly low level of water in the stream in Bridge Street was brought up again. There had been very little rain recently and it was believed that a dam might have been

removed at the Dyers Green end of Bridge Street, causing the water to flow into the main stream rather than the drainage ditch.

- The handyman was asked to repair the seats outside the VH.

18.0 Items for next meeting:

- Adoption of model Standing Orders
- Guest visitor from Basingbourn Barracks
- Talk from local PCSO
- Playground Project – agreement of expenditure
- Recreation Ground railings – approval of expenditure on repairs
- Parish Plan
- Cutting of grass in Churchyard

19.0 Date of next meeting (10th January 2011)

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20 pm