

**Minutes of Whaddon Parish Council meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2010 at 8.00p.m. in the Village Hall, Whaddon, nr Royston, Hertfordshire.**

Present:	Chairman	Dr N Strudwick
	Councillors	Mr L Ginger, Mrs J Lewis, Mr C Rose
	District Councillors	Mr N Cathcart, Mr D McCraith
	Parish Clerk	Mrs G van Poortvliet
	Parishioners	1 present

The Parish Council (PC) meeting started 10 minutes later than advertised due to over-running of the earlier Annual Parish Council meeting.

- 1.0 Apologies for Absence** – received from Cllr Burchett, Cllr Neale, Cllr Peyton and County Cllr Oliver.
- 2.0 Declarations of Interest** – the Chairman declared a personal interest in agenda item 9.2 due to his involvement with the Village Hall Management Committee and agenda item 14.0 as a resident of Town Farm Close.
- 3.0 Signing of minutes of last meeting (12<sup>th</sup> April 2010)** – Resolved: that the minutes of the PC meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2010 be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.
- 4.0 Reports from Clerk and Cllrs on matters arising from previous meetings:** the Clerk and Cllrs provided verbal reports on the status of matters arising from previous PC meetings:
- Annual Parish Meeting – this had been held on 28<sup>th</sup> April and over 40 people had attended.
  - Bus turning-circle – the work had been scheduled to take place during the school summer holidays.
  - Bridge Street Telephone kiosk – a new contract had been signed, handing the responsibility for the power supply back to BT.
- 5.0 District and County Councillor Reports:**
- County Councillor Report: none given. County Cllr Oliver had sent her apologies.
- District Councillors' Report: the Chairman congratulated District Cllr McCraith on his re-election. A verbal report was given:
- There would be a Portfolio Holders meeting re the Gypsy and Travellers Sites on 25<sup>th</sup> May.
  - District Cllr Cathcart advised that an outline s106 agreement would be put before the Planning Committee that considered the Affordable Homes planning application. Whilst the PC had no statutory right to be involved in the negotiation of this agreement, it was advisable to try to influence the wording to stress priority for local people. District Cllr Cathcart also suggested that a clause be added, if possible, to prevent the s106 agreement being amended at a later date without PC consent.

Resolved: to move to agenda item 10.0

**10.0 Affordable Homes Update:**

- The Chairman had spoken to SCDC Housing Department about the s106 agreement.
  - The potential use of empty houses in Cardiff Place for Affordable Homes was discussed. SCDC did not currently have the funds to buy these properties. Although a Housing Association might buy them they were likely to cost more than new-build properties.
- Action: Cllr Rose to follow up.
- Bedford Pilgrims Housing Association (BPHA) was still waiting for the notes from their meeting with SCDC planners. Action: the Chairman to follow up

At this point District Cllr Cathcart left the meeting (8.25pm).

- 6.0 Public Participation** – no members of the public spoke.
- 7.0 Playground Issues – General Update from Whaddon Playground Project**  
Cllr Burchett sent his apologies - no report was given. A volunteer date had been held and the mound had been turfed.
- 8.0 Planning – Noting of receipt of approved Planning Committee minutes from meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> January 2010** – receipt noted.
- 9.0 Village Hall (VH)**
- 9.1 Update on lease and Charitable Trust (CT)** – a verbal update was given. NALC had confirmed that it would be possible to dispose of the VH to a charitable trust as long as the market value was below £2million and the transaction was of demonstrable benefit to the Community. Bidwells had been instructed to carry out the market valuation and had visited the site earlier that evening. A report was expected early the following week. It would be necessary to announce the disposal in a local newspaper. Action: the Chairman to re-contact potential trustees to check their willingness to act as trustees.
- 9.2 Consideration of inclusion of recreation ground in lease: review of land registration documents re site of proposed VH car-park** – the land registration documents for the VH and Recreation Ground (RG) were reviewed. The VH land registration document showed insufficient curtilage to incorporate the proposed car-park. It would be necessary to use a small part of the RG for the car-park. This would probably render it necessary to transfer both the VH and RG into the charitable trust in order to redevelop the VH as required.
- 10.0 Affordable Homes Update** – see above (after item5.0).
- 11.0 Finance**
- 11.1 Approval of Payments** – Resolved: that the following payments be authorised:  
Cheque No 100673 for £226.19, Unlimited Logos, safety signs for Playground  
Cheque No 100674 for £125.73, Shelford Turf Farm Ltd, turf for Playground mound.  
Cheque No 100675 for £70.50, Norburys, topsoil for Playground mound.  
Cheque No 100676 for £130.71, CPALC, 2010/11 subscription.  
Cheque No 100677 for £2,320.89, Aon Ltd, Parish Council insurance yr to 31 May 2011.  
Actions: - the Clerk to arrange a second signature for all approved payments (insufficient signatories present at meeting). The Clerk to follow-up queries brought up at AGM re insurance cover and seek re-authorisation of Aon Ltd payment should premium change.
- 11.2 Agreement of expenditure on no-smoking signage for bus-shelters** – no expenditure agreed. Actions: the Clerk to send no-smoking sign template to the Chairman to be printed out and put inside the bus timetable frame. Cllr Ginger to speak with Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) to try to secure a timetable frame for the Meldreth Road bus-shelter.
- 11.3 Approval of 2009/10 Accounts and Annual Return** – Resolved: that the 2009/10 Accounts and Annual Return be approved and signed by the Chairman. Action: the Clerk to submit the Annual Return to the external auditors in accordance with audit timetable.
- 12.0 Correspondence**
- SCDC – strategic Flood Risk Assessment Flooding Questionnaire – this had been completed.

- 13.0 Speed-limit review A1198 – update and agreement of action** – CCC Highways had completed their review. Recommendations are to reduce the speed-limit between Kneesworth and Bassingbourn Barracks to 50mph. The speed-limit from the Barracks to the Arrington roundabout (including the Whaddon Gap Junction) is to remain unchanged. The recommendations were discussed. Action: the Chairman to ask County Cllr Oliver if CCC Highways would accept a representation from Whaddon PC asking for the 50mph speed-limit zone to be extended just north of Whaddon Gap. The Chairman also to ascertain from County Cllr Oliver the viewpoint of the Barracks on the matter.
- 14.0 Parking at the top of Town Farm Close – discussion and agreement of action** – complaints had been received from local residents about parking at the top of Town Farm Close, near the entrance to the Golf Centre. The PCSO had advised that it was not illegal to park on the pavement as long as there was sufficient room left for a push-chair. Action: the Chairman to ask Mike Monks (Neighbourhood Watch) to raise this with the police. If necessary advice could be put in the newsletter.
- 15.0 Business Operating from Whaddon Gap Junction – discussion and agreement of action** – this item was postponed due to the absence of Cllr Burchett who had tabled it.
- 16.0 Broadband Feasibility Study – discussion and decision re funding** – the Chairman explained that a village in Rutland had privately financed a high-speed broadband service. A feasibility study to see if a similar scheme would be possible for Whaddon would cost around £500. It was proposed that the PC fund a feasibility study. Action: the Clerk to check with CPALC if the PC has the power to spend money on this.
- 17.0 Village Upkeep and Maintenance:**
- 17.1 Reporting of issues:** the top of the outside tap had been removed. Action: the Clerk to ask the Handyman to look at this.
- 17.2 Decision re cutting of recreation ground verges:** a resident had requested that the grass verges on the bank at the front of the recreation ground be left uncut. Resolved: that the verges be cut to prevent them becoming completely overgrown and full of nettles. A suggestion was made that the PC consider replanting the bank with wild-flowers in the future. Action: the Clerk to ask the contractor to cut the verges on the recreation ground.
- 18.0 Items for Next Meeting:**
- Business Operating from Whaddon Gap Junction (see 15 above).
- 19.0 Date of next meeting (14<sup>th</sup> June 2010)**

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.38pm**