

Minutes of Whaddon Parish Council meeting held on 12th July 2010 at 7.30p.m. in the Village Hall, Whaddon, nr Royston, Hertfordshire.

Present:	Chairman	Dr N Strudwick
	Councillors	Mr L Ginger, Mrs J Lewis (from 7.35pm), Mr P Neale, Mr C Rose
	District Councillors	Mr N Cathcart, Mr D McCraith
	County Councillor	Mrs L Oliver (from 9.00pm)
	Parish Clerk	Mrs G van Poortvliet
	Parishioners	1 present

- 1.0 Apologies for Absence** – received from Vice-Chair Peyton and Cllr W Burchett. County Cllr Oliver had sent advance notice of late arrival.
- 2.0 Declarations of Interest** – none declared.
- 3.0 Approval and Signing of minutes from last Parish Council (PC) Meeting (14th June 2010) - Resolved:** that the minutes of the last PC meeting 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:
- Horse-chestnut stumps/new elm tree, recreation ground – the stumps from the horse-chestnuts were sprouting and the re-growth was quite significant. The new elm tree was being watered but looked as if it might not survive. Cllr Peyton had been unable to contact the SCDC tree officer for advice. Action: District Cllr Cathcart to follow up with the tree officer.
 - Housing for sale in Cardiff Place - a number of houses had come onto the open market in Cardiff Place. When the Council Tax had been calculated, the MoD had estimated that 12 of these houses would be unoccupied and they had been excluded from the council tax base. Action: the District Cllrs to make some informal enquiries re the number of houses used for Whaddon's Council Tax base.
 - Litter-bin on Meldreth Road bus-stop – the Clerk had requested that this litter-bin be emptied but had received no response. Action: District Cllr Cathcart to follow-up with SCDC Refuse department.
 - Broadband – the Clerk had written to the Cambridge and Peterborough Association of Local Councils (CPALC) to request that Whaddon be considered for inclusion in any broadband pilot scheme. A group of Whaddon residents had privately commissioned and funded a feasibility study to see if it might be possible to bring faster broadband to Whaddon.
- 5.0 District and County Councillor Reports:**
- County Councillor Report: this was postponed until the arrival of County Cllr Oliver.
- District Councillors' Report: A verbal report was given:
- SCDC had put its Traveller and Gypsy programme on hold whilst it sought clarification about the new Government's policy in this area.
 - Some fundamental changes in planning were being considered by the new Government.
- 6.0 Public Participation:**
- A member of the public asked when the boundary in Dyers Green had been changed. Action: Cllr Peyton to be asked to clarify the situation.
- 7.0 Playground - update re ROSPA report** – the ROSPA report had been received and a number of actions were required. The report had been passed to Whaddon Playground Project (WPP) for

action. WPP had already started some remedial work. Action: update to be obtained from WPP re status of ROSPA actions.

8.0 Planning:

8.1 **Noting of Planning Committee recommendation re S/1047/10/F, 8 affordable dwellings, land to North-West of Rose Cottage, Church Street, Whaddon** – approval recommended.

8.2 **Noting of SCDC decisions re:**

- (i) **S/0608/10/LB for retention of conservatory (regularisation of unauthorised work) and S/0607/10/F for conservatory, retrospective, 8 Church Street, Whaddon** – these applications had been rejected.
- (ii) **S/0665/10/F for erection of a temporary meteorological mast, land to the west of A1198, Arrington** - this application had been rejected.

9.0 Village Hall (VH)

9.1 **General update from Management and Fundraising Committee (VHMFC) meeting of 5th July 2010** - an update was provided by Cllr Lewis (Chair of the VHMFC).

- An action plan had been put together to address the medium and low priority items in the AIMS report. Two of the high priority items had been actioned and some further evidence was being gathered regarding the third (the condition of the floor).
- The open gardens event had made a profit of £1,288. Thanks were given to Mrs Wendy Evans and all the helpers.
- A preliminary review of the contents of the VH garage had been undertaken. It would be necessary to make some decisions about what should be done with some of the contents. Action: review of garage contents to be a future agenda item.

9.2 **Review of membership of VHMFC** – Cllr M Peyton had resigned from the VHMFC but could still attend ex-officio (as Vice-Chair of the PC). Resolved: that Mr A Buchanan be appointed to the VHMFC

9.3 **Update on VH Trust and Agreement of next steps:**

- CPALC were now satisfied with the proposed lease agreement to be used for the Trust. Limbach Banham (LB) had been asked to move forward with setting up the Trust.
- Recent changes in circumstances meant it would be necessary to advertise for some new management trustees. Action: the Chair to check with LB re the total number of trustees required.
- It was noted that building costs would go up when the VAT rate is increased.
- It would be necessary to place a public notice in a local newspaper for two weeks relating to the PC's intentions to transfer the VH and recreation ground to a charitable trust. It would also be necessary to pass a resolution prior to setting up the trust. Resolved: that an advertisement be placed for two weeks in the Royston Crow up to a maximum cost of £500. Actions: the Clerk to place the necessary advert. The Clerk to table a resolution relating to the transfer of the assets to the trust.

It was agreed to return to agenda item 5.0.

5.0 **Report from County Cllr** – a verbal report was given by County Cllr Oliver.

- A1198 speed-limit review: no official response had yet been issued by Bassingbourn Barracks. County Cllr Oliver stated that the Barracks had felt very strongly that a 40mph speed-limit was appropriate. However, there had recently been a change in command at the Barracks. Actions: the Clerk to email the new Second in Command at Bassingbourn Barracks to establish their response to the A1198 speed-limit review. The Clerk to invite the Second in Command to attend a PC meeting.
- Noise from evening events at the Barracks: an apology had been received from the Barracks. They had undertaken to point their speakers away from Whaddon to try to eliminate the noise disturbance.

- Barrington Cement Works: - a major planning application was currently with Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) re turning the old cement works into a landfill site.
- Guided bus-way: - weekly meetings were taking place, at a top-level, between CCC and the contractor. CCC is insisting that the defects are remedied prior to handover.

10.0 Affordable Homes Update – a verbal update was provided by the Chairman.

A planning application had now been submitted for 8 Affordable Homes at Church Corner, Whaddon. It was likely to go before a Planning Committee in September.

Action: the Clerk to write to SCDC Planning stating that the PC's support of the proposed scheme was conditional upon advance sight and agreement of the wording of the s106 agreement.

11.0 Finance

11.1 Approval of Payments – Resolved: that the following payments be authorised:

Cheque No.100683, for £74.03, Playsafety Ltd, annual ROSPA inspection.

Cheque No.100684, for £90.00, D M Charles, printing costs re Whaddon News.

Cheque No. 100685, for £258.50, M D Landscapes, grass-cutting recreation ground, May 2010.

Cheque No. 100686, for £470.00, Moore Stephens, audit fee - year to 31 March 2010.

Cheque No. 100687, for £621.73, LINPAC Environmental Ltd, recycling bin for recreation ground.

Cheque No. 100688, for £938.68, Mrs G van Poortvliet, Clerk's wages and expenses for 13 weeks ended 29 June 2010.

Cheque No. 100689, for £50.00, Dr N Strudwick, Chairman's expense allowance three months to 30 June 2010.

11.2 Noting of receipt of external audit report – the external auditors had approved the 2010 Annual Report. The closure of the audit was being advertised.

11.3 Financial update for quarter to 30 June 2010 – update provided by the Clerk.

12.0 Correspondence

- SCDC – notification that the appeals by the owners of Minstrel Court against the decisions of the planners in connection with S/0291/10/LB and S/0292/10/F had now been withdrawn. Action: the Chairman to make further enquiries into the situation.
- Cambridge Water company – notification of proposed water main renewal at Church End, Whaddon to begin in September and last approx 10 weeks.
- Standards Committee – details of Parish Council candidates for Committee membership. Whaddon PC did not wish to vote for a candidate in this election.

13.0 Whaddon Bus Service – discussion of usage and decision on whether to extend funding beyond October 2010 – the bus-service trial had begun on April 12th and was due to run for six months. CCC had requested a decision by July 23rd about continuation of PC funding beyond the six months. Usage figures had been circulated and were discussed. Actions: County Cllr Oliver to speak with the relevant contact at CCC to try to get more information and to ask for more time so that the PC could monitor usage trends. County Cllr Oliver to inform the Clerk of the outcome so that the Clerk could make a formal response to CCC.

14.0 Parish Plan – discussion and agreement of next steps – Action: the Clerk to research some information about scope and extent of Parish Plans and forward it to Cllrs Ginger and Rose.

15.0 Village Upkeep and Maintenance – reporting of issues:

- An ash tree was over-hanging the land at no 104 Bridge Street (on the other side of the drain to no 104), and required pruning. Previously the PC had paid for this work. Action: Cllr Peyton to be asked to advise who owned the tree and who was responsible for pruning it.

- The potholes at the top of Bridge Street and on Whaddon Gap had still not been filled. The Clerk had reported these to CCC Highways on several occasions. Action: County Cllr Oliver to follow this up.
- New bus turning-circle at top of Bridge Street – Action: County Cllr Oliver to investigate and advise re dates for work.

16.0 Items for next meeting:

- Adoption of model standing orders and financial regulations (Action: Clerk/Chairman to tailor these to suit Whaddon PC)
- Review of contents of VH Garage
- Maintenance Schedule Adoption
- Resolution re transfer of VH and recreation ground to a Charitable Trust

17.0 Date of next meeting (13th September 2010)

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.37 pm