

**Minutes of Whaddon Parish Council meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2011 at 7.45p.m. in the Village Hall, Church Street, Whaddon, nr Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 5RY.**

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|----------|----------------------|---|
| Present: | Chairman             | Dr N Strudwick                                      |
|          | Councillors          | Mr W Burchett, Mr L Ginger, Mrs M Peyton, Mr C Rose |
|          | District Councillors | Mr N Cathcart, Mr D McCraith                        |
|          | County Councillor    | Mrs L Oliver (from 8.30pm)                          |
|          | Parish Clerk         | Mrs G van Poortvliet                                |
|          | Parishioners         | 5 present   |

The Parish Council (PC) meeting started fifteen minutes late due to the late arrival of the Clerk. Apologies had been received from PCSO James Lynch (Agenda item 4.0) who would not be able to attend due to sickness.

- 1.0 Apologies for Absence** – received from Cllr P Neale and Cllr J Lewis.
- 2.0 Declarations of Interest** – Cllr Burchett declared a personal interest in agenda item 8.0 (as a member of Whaddon Playground Project). Cllr Peyton declared a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda item 10.3 (as a resident of Dyers Green and personal friend of residents affected by the proposed change).
- 3.0 Approval and Signing of minutes from Parish Council (PC) meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> November - Resolved:** that the minutes of that PC meeting be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.
- 4.0 Guest Speaker from local Police Community Support Officer** – this item was postponed due to sickness of 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:
- Recycling bins (playground) – these had now been installed. Thanks to Cllr Burchett.
  - A1198 Speed Limit – the PC had submitted comments to CCC Highways regarding the proposed 50mph speed-limit between Whaddon Gap and Kneesworth. A 40mph speed-limit had been requested by the PC.
  - Bus service 127 - details of the new bus timetable had been published in the newsletter and the bus-stop timetable changed. Leaflets had only been received from CCC the day before the new timetable came into operation. These would be delivered soon (by a volunteer).
  - Affordable Homes – the Chairman had received revised plans for the Affordable Homes. The residents of Rose Cottage (the property next door to the Affordable Homes site) had also seen copies of the plans. Copies of revised plans were circulated to Cllrs in PC mail.
- 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 two additional pitches for the Whaddon site had been approved. The proposal for a site at Spring Lane, Bassingbourn, had been dropped. A new site had been proposed for the site of the Sunday Market, A1198, Kneesworth. These proposals may be affected by the new Localism Bill.
  - Finances – the SCDC financial settlement had been worse than had been anticipated. SCDC hoped to be able to maintain its core services and was taking another look at its expenditure to try to identify additional savings.
- County Cllr Report: postponed until the arrival of County Cllr Linda Oliver.
- 7.0 Public Participation** – no comments received.

- 8.0 Whaddon Playground Project (WPP)** – Authorisation of Expenditure: the playground needs a toolkit but is awaiting a member of WPP, who is currently away with work, to source this. Item postponed until March 2011.
- 9.0 Village Hall (VH) – update on lease and Charitable Trust (CT):** the Village Hall Management and Fundraising Committee (VHMFC) held its final meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2010. On the same evening the first meeting of Whaddon Village Hall Trust had been held. The VHMFC would be disbanded at the PC Annual Meeting in May 2011. The Trust had been set up and the lease signed but papers were still awaited from the solicitors before the Trust could be registered with the Charities Commission. Actions: the Chairman to speak to the solicitors and arrange for the documents to be collected.
- 10.0 Planning:**
- 10.1 Noting of appeal re S/0665/10/F, site at land to West of A1198, Arrington (proposed wind-speed mast) - appeal noted.**
- 10.2 Noting of PC letter to Camping and Caravanning Club (C&CC) re proposed site No 154/095, Whaddon Golf Centre** – letter noted. The Golf Centre had applied to the C&CC requesting to move their certificated campsite to a new area to the left of the golf range. The Golf Centre had been unable to provide the Chairman with a commitment about exactly where the pitches would be located. Certain options would be visible from the Church and Old Vicarage. The PC had requested that 1) the C&CC make no decision until clarification could be obtained to the exact location of the new site and 2) the application be treated as a new site rather than an amendment to an existing site. Applications for certificated sites do not have to follow usual planning regulations and the PC is not a statutory consultee. Advice had been sought by a local resident from SCDC Planners and the response from Paul Sexton was read out.
- 10.3 Proposed diversion of part of Public Footpath No 9, Whaddon – discussion and agreement of PC response** – an anomaly had been found with Public Footpath No 9. Fountains Farmhouse had been built over the legal route of the footpath and the public had long been using a route through the farmyard instead (for over twenty years). CCC proposed to divert this part of the footpath around the side and back of the Grange, Bridge Street in order to take it out of the farmyard. Comments and a letter received from local Dyers Green residents were read out. The Ramblers Association comments were also read out. The issue was discussed. Actions: the Clerk to formally respond to CCC requesting that CCC simply adopt the line of the footpath already in use by the public rather than divert it around the Grange.

Following the arrival of County Cllr Oliver, it was agreed to go back to agenda item 5.

**6.0 Reports from District and County Cllrs :**

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

- A speed analysis for Bridge Street had been requested
- County Cllr Oliver was aware of the comments submitted by the PC requesting a 40mph speed-limit on the A1198 (between Whaddon Gap and Kneesworth) but advised that a reduction below 50mph was unlikely to be achieved.
- Bus turning point (top of Bridge Street) – County Cllr Oliver had chased up re a date for the work to be done.
- CCC would be debating their budget in February 2011. Papers would be out before then to assist PC's in setting their precepts. The only likely area where some expenditure might have to be taken on by PC's was Highways.

- There is a possibility that the electoral boundaries might change which could reduce the number of elected members for the region.
- Regional fire control centre – Cambridgeshire would now be taking over fire control activities for both Suffolk and Cambridgeshire. This would provide a financial benefit.

**11.0 Finance:** it was agreed to change the order of items in this section

**11.2 Approval of expenditure for repairs to railings on recreation ground:** cost information was not yet available. Item postponed until February PC meeting.

**11.3 Financial update for nine months to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010:** the Clerk presented the financial update. Grass cutting (recreation ground) - it was noted that 26 cuts had been billed compared with 22 budgeted and 20 contracted. The contractor had not requested permission from the PC for the additional work. The cost of street lighting outside Ridgeway Close was almost £150 over budget due to large increases in the tariffs for unmetered electricity supplies. Actions: the Clerk to write to the grass-cutting contractor re the additional unauthorised cuts. The Clerk to query the large increase in the street lighting cost with CCC.

**11.1 Approval of payments:**

Noted: that the following payments had been made under the Clerk's delegated authority: (13<sup>th</sup> November 2010):

Cheque No.100701, for £1905.00, Cambridgeshire County Council, provision of bus-service trial.

(14<sup>th</sup> December 2010):

Cheque No. 100702, for £350.00, CPALC, Cllr professional development training session, October 30, Whaddon Village Hall.

Cheque No.100703, for £90.00, D.M. Charles, newsletter printing.

Resolved: that the following payments be authorised today:

Cheque No. 100704, for £327.83, Cambridgeshire County Council, provision of three salt bins.

Cheque No. 100705, for £50.00, N C Strudwick, Chairman's expense allowance for qtr to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011.

Cheque No. 100706, for £938.68, Mrs G van Poortvliet, Clerk's salary and expenses for qtr to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011.

Not approved for payment (see 11.3 above) Cheque No. 100707, for £193.88, M D Landscapes, recreation ground grass-cutting, October 2010.

**11.4 Setting of date for precept meeting** – provisionally set for 24<sup>th</sup> January 2011, 8pm. This is not a public meeting.

**11.5 Consideration of payment re grass cutting in churchyard** – historically the PC has paid around £75 per year towards cutting the grass in the churchyard. The reasons behind this longstanding payment are not known to the current PC. The issue was discussed. The Clerk/Chairman had established that such payments were permissible under s214 (6) Local Government Act 1972 (Power to contribute towards expenses of cemeteries). However, the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils (CPALC) now wished to check the current legal situation with regard to equality legislation. Actions: the Chairman to follow-up current legal situation with CPALC. The PC to formalise the arrangements for the payment as soon as the position has been clarified.

**12.0 Correspondence:**

- MAGPAS Helimedix – request for donation. Action: to be considered at precept meeting
- CCC – notification of changes to bus service 127
- CCC – notification of initial budget/plans for five years ended 2015/16
- SCDC – precept letter and details of tax base (precept deadline 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb)
- CCC – invitation to localism events.

- CCC – P3 scheme. Request for feedback on use of P3 funds and whether we wish to be in the P3 scheme next year (deadline 31<sup>st</sup> Jan). Action: the Clerk to respond.
- Request from Mr R Huffer that an article be put in the village newsletter regarding shooting on permissive paths. The PC had checked the facts and advised Mr Huffer that he was welcome to draft an article for the newsletter.
- Invitation from Litlington PC to stage 2 of Cllr Professional Development Training (to be held in Litlington on 15<sup>th</sup> Feb, pm). Actions: Cllrs Lewis, Neale and Rose to advise the Clerk if they can attend. The Clerk to book training.
- Letter from Lady Whaddon bringing to the attention of the PC the proposed camp site at Whaddon Golf Centre and expressing concerns about the impact on the church and the Old Vicarage. Action: the Clerk to write to Lady Whaddon.
- CCC – details of Winter Gritting Arrangements and invitation to PC to extend the service by treating footways/cycle ways vital to the parish but that do not form part of CCC plans (PC to pay or arrange volunteers and CCC to provide training, equip, insurance). Action: Cllrs to advise the Clerk if they feel the PC should take on some gritting responsibilities.
- CCC – details of changes to street lighting maintenance from April 2011. CCC will provide a quotation for maintenance costs. PCs will have option to accept quote or go to other organisations

**13.0 Parish Plan – agreement of next steps** – some preliminary work had been done. Actions: Cllrs Ginger and Rose to meet with ACRE for advice. An article to be put in the newsletter asking for volunteers to head the Parish Plan steering group.

**14.0 Village Upkeep and Maintenance – reporting of issues:**

- Two potholes on Whaddon Gap. Action: the Clerk to report this to CCC Highways.
- The Christmas green bin collection at Cardiff Place had been too quick and the contractors had not picked up much. Noted by SCDC District Cllrs.
- Feedback given to District and County Cllrs re blue bins – these were very successful and could be collected more frequently with fewer black bin collections now needed.
- ‘For sale’ signs re properties at Cardiff Place, placed along the A1198 were obstructing visibility for motorists. Action: County Cllr Oliver to speak with CCC Highways.
- The entrance to Cardiff Place was not on the gritting route but had been very icy - danger of vehicles skidding onto the A1198. Action: the Clerk to report to CCC Highways.

**15.0 Items for next meeting:**

- Adoption of model Standing Orders
- Approval of 2011/12 precept
- Guest speaker from Bassingbourn Barracks
- Talk from local PCSO
- Affordable Homes update
- Recreation Ground railings – approval of expenditure on repairs
- Discussion of appropriate signage re children playing on Bridge Street and agreement of expenditure.

**16.0 Date of next meeting (14<sup>th</sup> February 2011)** – the possibility of rearranging the meeting so that it would not take place on Valentine’s Day was discussed. Action: the Clerk to liaise with the Cllrs.

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.35 pm**