

Minutes of Whaddon Parish Council meeting held on 11th August 2014 at 8.00p.m. in the Village Hall, Church Street, Whaddon, Nr Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 5RY.

Present:	Chair	Mr L Ginger
	Councillors	Mr W Elbourn, Professor A Milton, Ms A Walker
	Parish Clerk	Mrs G van Poortvliet
	District Councillor	Mr N Cathcart
	County Councillor	Mr A Dent
	Parishioners	6 present

- 1.0 Apologies for Absence** – received from Cllrs K French and J Lewis and District Cllr D McCraith.
- 2.0 Minutes – approval and signing of minutes from previous Parish Council (PC) meeting of 9th June 2014** – Resolved: that the minutes be signed by the Chair as a true and correct record.
- 3.0 Co-option of Cllr and signing of declaration of acceptance of office** – Resolved: that Mr W Elbourn be co-opted to the PC. A declaration of acceptance of office form was duly signed. Actions: the Clerk to inform SCDC of the co-option. Cllr Elbourn to complete a register of members interests form within 28 days.
- 4.0 Declarations of Interest** – Cllr Milton declared that he is a resident of Meldreth Road (agenda item 16). This was noted by the PC.

It was agreed to alter the order of the agenda and move to item 16.0.

- 16.0 Meldreth Road Traffic Calming Scheme – update on public consultation and agreement of next steps**: The Chair presented a summary of the outcome from the residents’ consultation. 29 replies had been received from 42 questionnaires (69% response rate). Of the replies 65% (19) were in favour of the proposed scheme, 31% (9) objected and 4% (1) held no strong view. Of those who objected, 7 believed there should be some traffic calming measures. Overall 93% of responders favoured some form of speed reducing measures. Alternative schemes suggested by residents included flashing speed signs, speed cameras, obstacles both sides of the road and a bike lane beside the build-out. Some objectors to a build-out opposite 116 Meldreth Road queried the safety of the positioning. The public were invited to comment.

Comments from the public:

- A member of the public was concerned that drivers might speed up to get past the build-out rather than have to stop and give way. This could be dangerous.
- A member of the public wanted something in place to slow down cars and lorries which were still speeding along Meldreth Road.
- A member of the public (Whaddon’s Speedwatch Co-ordinator) commented that all the Speedwatch activity in Whaddon centres on Meldreth Road but that no volunteers come from there. The scheme may have to stop later in the year due to lack of volunteers. Speedwatch observations from another village which had purchased sophisticated flashing speed signs was that these had not significantly reduced speed in that village.
- A member of the public stated that since the speed limit in Whaddon had been reduced to 30mph there had been some slowing of traffic speeds and that it would probably not be possible to stop all motorists from speeding.
- A member of the public commented that some motorists treat flashing speed signs like targets and even speed up as they approach them.

Actions: the Clerk to advise CCC Highways of the consultation results and comments from the PC meeting and agree what to do next. A further meeting to be arranged if necessary.

It was agreed to alter the order of the agenda and move to item 11.0.

11.0 Broadband – update on recent developments: Dr N Strudwick (Broadband Champion) gave a verbal report. At a recent meeting with BT Openreach (BTO) and Connecting Cambridgeshire (CC) it had been confirmed that BTO had now decided to run a fibre-optic cable from the exchange at Arrington to a cabinet in Whaddon. Copper wires from the cabinet would then deliver broadband to individual households. Internet speed would vary depending on distance of houses from the cabinet but most of the village would have super-fast broadband and everyone would have much faster internet speed than currently. BTO still had to work out the technical details of how to deliver this. Whaddon had been given an estimated delivery date of September 2015 on the CC website but technical infrastructure issues might mean delays. There were also likely to be traffic issues when the fibre-optic cable was laid alongside the A1198. Dr Strudwick thanked Mr and Mrs Peyton, the PC and County Cllr Dent for their support. The Cllrs thanked Dr Strudwick and resolved to support the ongoing work by enabling issues to be overcome as necessary.

5.0 Report from Clerk and Councillors on business remaining from previous meetings: a verbal report was given.

- Village Handyperson – this had been offered to Mr N Morley. A formal acceptance was awaited. Action: the Clerk to follow up.
- Bank mandate – this had now been successfully changed.
- Town Farm Close Salt Bin – CCC had agreed that they would add a salt bin to their roster once it was in situ. Actions: Cllr French to arrange for shrubs to be cut back and for a salt bin to be sited on the adopted section of TFC. The Clerk to notify CCC Highways when the salt bin is in position.

6.0 Reports from District and County Cllrs:

District Cllrs' Report: a verbal report was given:

- Adoption of Local Plan – SCDC did not have a 5 year supply of land for housing which could potentially leave them vulnerable to applications from speculative developers. However the Local Plan would be considered by the Inspector in October so SCDC should be fairly well protected from such approaches.
- Solar and Wind Farms – the proposed solar farm at Wendy had been approved by SCDC but had since been called in by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for review. The appeal regarding a proposed wind farm in Litlington would probably be considered in October/November.

County Cllr's Report: a verbal report was given.

- Bad weather – a report had been prepared regarding how CCC had dealt with recent heavy rain and flooding. Action: the Clerk to circulate the report.
- Basingbourn Barracks – the Libyan Troops had arrived and training had commenced. Some soldiers would be allowed off-site as part of a rewards programme but would always be escorted. One Scots Guard is allocated to every 10 Libyan soldiers (plus interpreters). Britain would continue to train troops unless there was a regime change in Libya.
- Potholes and resurfacing works – repair sites had been marked up but works were running three to four weeks behind schedule.
- A1198 new streetlights – the old lampposts had now been removed.

7.0 Correspondence

- SCDC – details of amendments to the proposed Community Infrastructure Levy to adjust certain maps/zones and increase the residential levy from £100psm to £125psm to align with CCC's draft charging schedule.
- SCDC – details of Local Plan inspection process and timeframe.
- County Cllr reports – July and August 2014.

- CCC – invitation to Cambridgeshire Future Transport meeting, Mon 22nd September, Melbourn re future of subsidised bus route 127 (via Whaddon). Cllr Ginger to attend.
- SCDC – notes from Parish Planning Forum on 22nd July 2014 and information about proposed contents of Planning Training Sessions for Parish Cllrs.

8.0 Finance:

7.1 Approval of Payments: Resolved: that the following payments be approved:

Cheques already signed (8th July 2014)

Cheque No. 100877, £80.00, Mr P E Coningsby, grass cutting church yard (note that this replaces lost cheque no 100859 – now cancelled).

Cheque No. 100878, £92.00, Hales Printers, newsletter printing

Cheque No. 100879, M D Landscapes, £264.00, grass cutting recreation ground April 2014.

Cheques to be approved for signing today (11th August 2014)

Cheque No. 100880, £1,326.00, M D Landscapes, grass cutting of verges and recreation ground in May, June and July 2014.

Cheque No.100881, £1,017.21, Mrs G van Poortvliet, Clerks wages and expense allowance qtr to 30th June 2014 plus reimbursed expenses for Annual Parish Meeting refreshments and website domain registration.

Cheque No. 100882, £16.67, Mrs M Peyton, Chairs Expense Allowance April 2014 (one month).

Cheque No. 100883, Mr L Ginger, £33.33, Chairs Expense Allowance May and June 2014 (two months)

8.2 Presentation of draft accounts to 30th June 2014 – the Clerk presented the draft accounts and took questions from the Cllrs.

8.3 Main noticeboard – approval of expenditure to move and repair noticeboard – it was resolved to accept a quote of £50 from Mr S Coningsby to move and repair the main notice board. Alternative arrangements would need to be made to temporarily display notices elsewhere.

Actions: the Chair and Clerk to liaise with Mr S Coningsby to accept the quote and request that the work be completed quickly. The Clerk to remove items from the notice board prior to repair.

8.4 Application for grant for Community Clubs – consideration of applications – no applications had yet been received.

9.0 Planning – noting of Parish Council recommendations and SCDC decisions (where known) re (i) S/0154/14/FL – 132 Meldreth Road, SG8 5RP for change of use of land for keeping horses and erection of a stable block (ii) S/1361/14/FL – 36 Bridge Street, SG8 5SQ for alteration to roof line to match existing (part retrospective) (iii) S/1403/14/FL – 122 Bridge Street, SG8 5SN for extension and alterations to garage and (iv) S/1693/14/FL – New Farm, Old North Road, SG8 5SR for demolition of existing amenity blocks and site wardens house, change of use of undeveloped land to allow redevelopment of the travellers site, provision of an additional pitch and construction of 16 new amenity blocks – the PC had recommended approval of all the above applications. SCDC had not yet informed the PC of their decisions.

10.0 Public Participation:

- A member of the public advised that a horse box had parked overnight in Whaddon Gap car park for several nights and that it appeared that someone was living in it. The occupant was not causing any trouble but it could set a precedent. There were no signs advising that overnight parking was not allowed or who the car park belonged to. The Cllrs thought that the car park belonged to CCC. Actions: County Cllr Dent to clarify ownership of Whaddon Gap car park.
- Several members of the public commented that the acoustics in the village hall made it very difficult to hear – the Cllrs responded that WVH&RGT planned to address this as soon as funds were available. Future PC meetings could be held in the rear hall as the acoustics were better there.

- 12.0 Whaddon Village Hall & Recreation Ground Trust (WVH&RGT) – update:** the Chair gave a verbal report:
- VH bookings – lettings were pleasing and a small surplus was now being generated.
 - Future improvements – these included raising funds to address the acoustic issues in the main hall, refurbish the veranda and fencing off the toddler play area.
 - Playground parking – usage of the playground continued to be very high but parking was now much better controlled.
- 13.0 British Legion Commemorative Planting Project – consideration and agreement of action:** the details of this project would not be available until mid-August. This item was postponed until the next meeting.
- 14.0 Bridge Street Drainage Ditch – update and nomination of PC representative to liaise with the Environment Agency:** Mr M Monks provided a verbal update. Mr M Monks and Mr D Glen, had attended two meetings with the Environment Agency (EA) last year regarding the possibility of maintaining some water in the Bridge Street drainage channel at all times to prevent it from occasionally drying up completely. This would involve diverting water from Whaddon Brook. The EA had confirmed that environmentally there was no issue in doing this as long as sufficient water remained in Whaddon Brook. There was currently plenty of water in Whaddon Brook and it could be boosted by a pump if levels got low. The EA had requested a site visit to outline what the key interests were along this stretch of Whaddon Brook. They had asked for a representative from the PC (and also potentially from SCDC) to attend. The Chair volunteered to attend the meeting. Action: Mr Monks to arrange a meeting with the EA and the Chair and to invite SCDC's Ecology Officer to attend.
- 15.0 Housing Needs Survey – nomination of PC representative to meet with SCDC Housing Officer:** a SCDC Officer had offered to meet with members of the PC to advise on how to conduct a housing needs survey. Cllr Scott was prepared to attend a meeting if it could be arranged at a convenient time. Alternatively the Chair could attend. Actions: the Clerk to contact SCDC to clarify when a meeting could be held and to arrange a meeting as necessary.
- 17.0 Village Upkeep and Maintenance – reporting of issues:**
- Overgrown hedges from Meldreth Road to the bottom corner of Church Street – these needed cutting back as it was difficult to pass on the footway. It was noted that some of the farmers had recently been cutting back their hedges. Any hedges which were the responsibility of CCC Highways would be cut in line with their cutting schedule.
 - Overgrown hedges on Church Street behind Town Farm Close – these were obstructing the footway. It was proving difficult to establish ownership of the hedges. Action: some Cllrs, along with local residents, to prune the hedges right back.
- 18.0 Items for next meeting:**
- Approval of risk assessment for 2014/15
 - British Legion Commemorative Planting Project
 - Committee Membership
 - Update on Meldreth Road traffic calming
- 19.0 Date of next meeting - Monday 8th September 2014 (8.00p.m.)**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.40p.m.