

Minutes of Whaddon Parish Council meeting held on 9th March 2015 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, Mr R Scott
	Parish Clerk	Mrs G van Poortvliet
	District Councillors	Mr N Cathcart, Mr D McCraith
	County Councillor	Mr A Dent
	ACRE Advisor	Mr M Deas
	Parishioners	2 present

- 1.0 Apologies for Absence** – received from Cllrs K French, J Lewis and A Walker.
- 2.0 Minutes – approval and signing of minutes from previous Parish Council (PC) meeting of 9th February 2015** – Resolved: that the minutes be signed by the Chair as a true and correct record.
- 3.0 Declarations of Interest** – none declared.
- 4.0 Housing Needs Survey – talk from Cambridgeshire ACRE advisor on survey process** – the Community Led Plan had highlighted the need to further investigate the adequacy of the housing supply in Whaddon. Mr M Deas was invited to address the meeting about the process of conducting a Housing Needs Survey. Cambridgeshire ACRE could organise a postal survey of all households in Whaddon Parish to establish if there was an identifiable need for affordable housing. Bedfordshire Pilgrims Housing Association (BPHA) – the developers of St. Mary’s Close – were prepared to sponsor this survey. The survey would provide data about the scale and nature of the housing need and the level of local support but would not commit the PC to building any new houses. A covering letter from the PC would go out with the survey. Resolved: that the PC support Cambridgeshire ACRE in organising a Housing Needs Survey. Action: the Clerk to liaise with Mr Deas regarding the survey and covering letter.
- 5.0 Report from Clerk and Councillors on business remaining from previous meetings:** a verbal report was given.
- Whaddon Gap (reported) accident rate statistics – these had now been received and forwarded to the Cllrs and Speedwatch co-ordinator. There had been four accidents reported since late 2012.
 - WW1 Commemorative Tree – the variety of tree chosen by the PC remained out of stock at the nursery organising the British Legion Commemorative Tree project.
 - Parish Cllr Vacancy – this had been advertised in the newsletter. Action: the Clerk to put up the official Vacancy Notices on 1st April.
 - Street lights, Ridgeway Close – Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) had confirmed that these lights were owned by the PC but maintained by CCC. They would not be included in CCC’s street light upgrade programme.
 - Bridge Street Watercourse – thanks were expressed to the farmer who had cleared the banks on a large stretch of stream in Bridge Street.
 - Meldreth Road traffic management scheme – most of the construction work and carriageway painting had been completed. However two 30mph carriageway roundels had not been painted near College Farm and the SLOW road marking by the Church been not been refreshed. This had been reported to the CCC Highways Officer.
- 6.0 Reports from District and County Cllrs:**
District Cllrs’ Report: a verbal report was given:

- Local Plan Inspection – the five year supply of land would be considered the following week. This was the most crucial part of the Plan.
- Council Tax – SCDC had increased this by 1.99% for 2015/16.

County Cllr's Report: an email report had been received from County Cllr Dent and circulated to the Cllrs. A verbal update was given by County Cllr Dent:

- Whaddon Gap Car Park – a discussion would be held later that week regarding the litter in the car park and the poor state of the litter bin.
- Bassingbourn Barracks – there had been a meeting on 10th February to review the training of Libyan Troops. This had been very useful. Bassingbourn site had been recognised as being an excellent training base. No decision had been taken about the future of the Barracks. The Ski Club would be putting in an application to open up another entrance to the dry ski-slope from Bassingbourn. If this was successful the club could re-open soon.

7.0 Correspondence

- SCDC – details of Local Plan examination hearings.
- CCC – Greater Cambridge City Deal, Transport Priority Schemes.
- County Cllr A Dent – report for March 2015.
- BT – offer to adopt final remaining phone box in village (non-targeted). The PC did not wish to act on this at this stage.
- SCDC – March Planning Policy update.
- Office of Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner – introduction from new Outreach Worker covering South Cambridgeshire

8.0 Finance: Approval of Payments: Resolved: that the following payments be approved:

Cheques to be approved for signing today (9th March 2015)

Cheque No. 100903, £100.00, Magpas, charitable donation.

Cheque No. 100904, £50.00, Mr L Ginger, Chair's expense allowance qtr to 31st March 2015.

Cheque No. 100905, £986.94, Mrs G van Poortvliet, Clerk's wages and expense allowance, qtr to 31st March 2015.

Actions: the Clerk to arrange for the cheques to be countersigned by another signatory (only one present at meeting). The Clerk to chase up outstanding invoices relating to the financial year to 31st March 2015 and to organise payment.

9.0 Public Participation:

- A member of the public queried the suggested one-way system for Heavy Commercial Vehicles (HCVs) using Eternit (agenda item 12.0). The Chair explained the background and reasoning behind the suggestion. There had only been a gentleman's agreement for HCVs to leave Eternit via Mettle Hill rather than Whaddon. However, Kneesworth PC are opposed to HCVs using Mettle Hill due to safety concerns.
- A member of the public queried the possibility of a weight restriction through the village. The Chair commented that there would have to be significantly more HCVs using the route before this would be considered. County Cllr Dent confirmed that this was the case.
- A member of the public asked about the likely impact of the proposed anaerobic digester at Shepreth on HCV traffic via Whaddon. The District Cllrs explained that this scheme did not have planning permission yet but that it would be possible for SCDC to ask for planning restrictions regarding HCV routes. The public would be able to comment on the Traffic Management Plan which would need to accompany the planning application.

10.0 Planning:

10.1 Noting of approved minutes from Planning Committee Meeting of 20th October 2014: the minutes were noted by the PC.

- 10.2 Noting of Planning Committee recommendation re S/0285/15/VC 132 Meldeth Road, Whaddon, SG8 5RP for demolition of existing dwelling and outbuilding. Erection of replacement house with double garage and new bungalow with associated new access (variation of condition 2 of planning permission S/0046/13/RM to allow use of the room over the garage of the two storey house as a games room, with the introduction of a door in the west elevation and an external staircase):** the PC had recommended refusal of the application. The applicants had since withdrawn the planning application.
- 11.0 Whaddon Village Hall & Recreation Ground Trust (WVH&RGT) – update:** the Chair gave a verbal report:
- There had not been a WVH&RGT meeting since the last PC meeting.
 - WVH&RGT had not yet submitted the final stage of their grant application to the PC for 2014/15. They were waiting for an invoice from their auditors. Action: the Clerk to follow up the grant application with WVH&RGT.
 - Acoustics - someone had been found who could install acoustic panels to the village hall ceiling to help alleviate some of the noise issues. It was hoped to get this work done soon.
 - Parish Council representative – following Cllr Lewis’ resignation from the PC, another PC representative would be needed on WVH&RGT.
- 12.0 HCVs using Eternit Site – discussion of potential one-way system** – an idea to ask Eternit to request that HCVs approach their site via Mettle Hill and exit via Whaddon Gap was discussed. This suggestion had the broad backing of Bassingbourn cum Kneesworth PC and could potentially reduce HCV traffic via Whaddon by 50%. Eternit could also be asked to discuss restrictions on HCV movements during peak traffic hours on safety grounds. Action: the Clerk to liaise with Bassingbourn cum Kneesworth PC and write to Eternit requesting a meeting to discuss HCV movements and approach routes. The Chair offered to attend on behalf of Whaddon PC. The Clerk to ask Bassingbourn PC to identify a representative willing to represent them at a meeting.
- 13.0 Annual Parish Meeting (APM)/Annual Parish Council Meeting (APC) – discussion and agreement of actions:** The APC meeting (11th May) was prescriptive in format, covering mainly procedural and policy issues. Potential discussion topics for the APM had been identified at the previous PC meeting. Actions: the Chair and Clerk to ask representatives from Alfred Palmers Trust, Table Tennis Club, Cricket Club and Mostly Gardening Club to attend the APM. Publicity to be organised via the village email and noticeboards. The Clerk to organise refreshments.
- 14.0 Village Upkeep and Maintenance – reporting of issues:**
- Litter Pick – SCDC could provide litter pick sticks and collect the refuse afterwards. County Cllr Dent could provide hi-vis jackets if necessary (with a few days notice). It was agreed that a Litter Pick would be scheduled for Saturday 4th April, starting at 10.00am at the Village Hall. Actions: the Clerk to check what litter picking equipment the PC already had and to liaise with SCDC re additional equipment and arrangements for picking up the collected litter. The Clerk to arrange for hi-vis jackets from County Cllr Dent if necessary. The Clerk to arrange publicity for the Litter Pick via the village email system.
 - Handyman – Action: Cllr Elbourn to ask the handyman when he planned to do the village maintenance work.
- 15.0 Items for next meeting:**
- Draft accounts to 31st March 2015
- 16.0 Date of next meeting - Monday 13th April 2015 (8.00p.m.)**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.27p.m.