

**Minutes of Whaddon Parish Council Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2017 at 8.00p.m. in the Village Hall, Church Street, Whaddon, Nr Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 5RY.**

Present:	Chair	Mr L Ginger
	Councillors	Mrs K French, Mr W Elbourn, Mr R Scott, Dr N Strudwick (until 9.41p.m.)
	Parish Clerk	Mrs G van Poortvliet
	District Councillors	Mr N Cathcart
	Members of the Public	3 present
Absent:	Councillors	Professor A Milton, Ms A Walker

**1.0 Apologies for Absence** – received from Cllr A Walker (sickness), District Cllr D McCraith and County Cllr S van de Ven.

**2.0 Receiving Declarations of Interest from Councillors on items on the agenda** – none declared.

**3.0 Approval of minutes – to resolve that the minutes from the Parish Council meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> June 2017 are a correct record** – Resolved that the minutes be approved and signed by the Chair.

**4.0 Reports from Clerk and Councillors – to receive updates about progress on resolutions and actions from previous Parish Council meetings:**

- Highways issues – County Cllr van de Ven had arranged a tour of the village with CCC Highways Officers for 26th July. The Chair would attend on behalf of the PC.
- Phone box library repair – it would be necessary to purchase a frame to hold the replacement glass in place. The PC approved expenditure (which was less than £10). Action: Cllr Scott to order the frame.
- Dog-waste bin review – the Officer at SCDC had emailed to inform the PC that more staff had been trained to install bins. A subsequent enquiry as to whether Whaddon would be getting additional bins had not been answered. Action: the position and adequacy of dog bins to be considered alongside the footpath and permissive path review (agenda item 12.0).
- Notice board, Meldreth Road – Mr S Coningsby would be able to repair the notice board.
- Replacement safety signs, Bridge Street – these had been put up. Thanks were expressed to Mr G Elbourn for doing this.
- S106 monies re development at 132 Meldreth Road – nothing further had been heard from MJL Developments following the PC's request to consider making a financial contribution towards fencing the toddler's play area in lieu of the S106 contribution which should have been paid. Action: the Chair to send a follow-up email.
- Dead tree removal, Ridgeway Close – SCDC had advised that the dead cherry tree was due to be removed on 27<sup>th</sup> July.
- Complaints about verges grass cutting - Mr M Monks and the Clerk had met with the verges contractor to discuss various complaints. An additional cut of the verges had been requested this season as the grass had been growing quickly.

**5.0 Reports from District and County Councillors:**

**5.1 District Cllrs Report – receipt of oral report:** District Cllr Cathcart gave an update:

- Local Plan – the inspection of the City and joint City/SCDC elements had been completed. It was hoped that there would now be more protection against speculative planning applications. There were now only a few outstanding issues still to be considered including provision for Travellers and Gypsies. The response from the Inspector was expected August/September time and the plan should then be adopted next year.
- Shared Services – SCDC were considering sharing planning services with Cambridge City Council. This would create one of the largest planning services in the country. It was hoped

to obtain benefits from the best that each service had to offer. District Cllr Cathcart expressed some concerns about the loss of a rural perspective when merging with city areas.

- 5.2 County Cllr Report – receipt of oral report (if present) or noting of written monthly report:** no County Cllr was present. A written report for July 2017 had been circulated to the Cllrs and was accessible via a link on the village website. A lot of interest had been shown in the prospect of a new bus transport link connecting Bassingbourn and Whaddon with Meldreth Station.

## **6.0 Public Participation:**

- Mr M Monks, Speedwatch Co-ordinator, gave an update from a meeting with a CCC Highways Officer which had taken place that morning, to discuss the PC's successful Local Highways Initiative bid for a Mobile Vehicle Activated System (MVAS). The meeting had also been attended by the Chair and Clerk. Locations had been considered for the ground screw sockets. As it was also possible for the MVAS display unit to be mounted on the speed-limit repeater posts only two additional sockets would be needed compared to the four included in the PC's bid. CCC Highways wanted to bundle together all the MVAS display units in the successful LHI bids to get a better purchase price. However, the display unit being proposed was not the same model as that requested by the PC in their bid. Whaddon had asked to have the unit that they had originally bid for. The Highways Officer had undertaken to look into this and consider the impact on costs. It was not expected that the MVAS would be installed until around November 2017 due to the number of villages involved.

## **7.0 Correspondence and Complaints – noting of receipt of significant items of correspondence and complaints from residents:**

- County Cllrs Report – from PC meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2017
- SCDC Local Plan Progress Report – re Local Green Spaces. It was anticipated that only around 15% of the LGS in the submitted Local Plan would not meet the requirements for LGS, Protected Village Amenity Areas or Important Countryside Frontage. The view was that recreation grounds would continue to warrant LGS status.
- CAPALC – invitation to Clerks and Chair annual catch up day 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2017. Neither the Chair or Vice-Chair were available but the Clerk could attend.
- Alfred John Palmers Trust – accounts to 31 Dec 2016.

## **8.0 Planning:**

- 8.1 S/0746/16/FL, 123 Meldreth Road, SG8 5RS, demolition of bungalow and erection of two storey replacement dwelling: noting of appeal decision against removal of permitted development rights** - the appeal had been allowed and costs awarded to the applicant. The decision was noted by the PC.
- 8.2 S/1901/16/OL, Eternit UK, Whaddon Road, Meldreth, outline planning permission for mixed use development (up to 150 dwellings, public open space and new technology plant), new car park and access for Sports and Social Club and associated infrastructure – update and reporting of SCDCs Planning Committee hearing decision (meeting 5<sup>th</sup> July 2017)** – the application had been considered by SCDC's Planning Committee which had deferred the decision pending further information on highways issues. Whaddon's perspective had been included in the submissions by Meldreth PC and District Cllrs Cathcart and McCraith. It was expected that the application would be considered again in September or October. District Cllr Cathcart reported that the debate had been lively and that many concerns had been raised including the level of contamination, impact on other nearby villages, and sustainability. The Planning Committee had specifically thought that more work was needed on the potential impact of the development on local roads. It was likely that the applicant would be asked to commission an independent report. Thanks were expressed to the District Cllrs for supporting Whaddon PC's position.

## **9.0 Finance:**

- 9.1 Approval of payments:** the PC resolved that the following payments be approved:  
Cheques to be approved for signing today (10<sup>th</sup> July 2017):  
 Cheque No. 100990, £40.00 (Net £40.00), Mr B Huett, internal audit services 2016/2017.  
 Cheque No. 100991, £ 300.00 (Net £250.00), Acacia Tree Surgery Ltd, removal of dead trees in verge in Bridge Street.  
 Cheque No. 100992, £125.00 (Net £125.00), J Newberry, handyman services May and June 2017 (including painting of bus shelter)  
 Cheque No. 100993, £88.00 (Net £88.00), Hales Printers, newsletter printing  
 Cheque No. 100994, £50.00 (Net £50.00), Mr L Ginger, Chair's expense allowance, qtr to 30/06/17  
 Cheque No. 100995, £1,130.92 (Net £1,120.25), Mrs G van Poortvliet, Clerk's wages and expense allowance qtr to 30/06/17 plus reimbursement for website hosting package and refreshments for Annual Parish meeting.  
 Cheque No. 100996, £104.00 (Net £104.00), Huntingdonshire District Council, Tree Safety Management Training for Clerk and Tree Officer  
 Cheque No. 100997, £1,170.00 (Net £975.00), M D Landscapes, 2 x verges and 13 x recreation ground grass cuts

Receipts: the PC noted the following receipt:

03/07/17, £510.22, Cambridgeshire County Council, verges grass cutting payment 2017/18

- 9.2 Consideration of quotes for installation of defibrillator cabinet and approval of expenditure:** two quotes had been received, one for £250 and one for £365. However, they were for different locations for the cabinet. The location used in the higher quote was considered preferable by the Cllrs. Actions: Cllr Strudwick to ask Rose Fire and Security to update their quote for the preferred location. If the revised quote was still cheaper than the alternative one, then the PC to accept it.
- 9.3 Review of Progress against budget for qtr to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017** – the Clerk presented the draft accounts for the first quarter of the financial year, explained significant variations from budget and invited questions.
- 9.4 Picnic bench for recreation ground – discussion and agreement of expenditure:** the PC agreed to purchase a picnic table with a slab base for donation to WVH&RGT. The budget was £1,000. Location and type of bench were discussed. Actions: the Clerk to obtain prices and details for a recycled plastic bench (no maintenance) and for a hardwood bench. The Clerk to liaise with the PC and WVH&RGT and to order the preferred bench. The Clerk to obtain quotes for a slab base. WVH&RGT to confirm where the bench should be located.

- 10.0 Risk Assessment for 2017/18 – review and signing off by PC:** the draft risk assessment was reviewed by the PC. It was noted that this might require updating later in the year for any risks relating to tree maintenance and operating the MVAS. Resolved: that the risk assessment be approved by the PC and signed by the Chair.

**11.0 Whaddon Village Hall & Recreation Ground Trust (WVH&RGT):**

- 11.1 Receipt of oral report from member of WVH&RGT:** Cllr Strudwick, WVH&RGT Chairman, gave an update:
- The architect who had project managed the Village Hall refurbishment had been contacted regarding the faulty heating system. He had, in turn, asked the installers of the heating system to respond. It would be necessary to allow a little more time to see if this could be resolved. However, the heating would need to be working before winter.
  - The Fundraising Committee would be reinstated. It was hoped to raise funds for a fence around the toddler play equipment and for some outdoor gym equipment.
  - A dado-rail at chair-height would be installed in the Village Hall to prevent damage by chairs placed against the wall.
- 11.2 Noting receipt of approved minutes from WVH&RGT meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017** – the PC noted the minutes.

**12.0 Potential Footpath to Cardiff Place/Permissive Paths – update and agreement of next steps:** Cllr French and the Clerk had met with Mr R Huffer on 13<sup>th</sup> June to discuss a potential footpath to Cardiff Place and also the permissive paths on his farm (Leyhill Farm). Mr Huffer did not want a footpath to Cardiff Place going across his field but had suggested a potential route along the edge of the field. However, this route would join onto an existing permissive path. Mr Huffer advised that the current agreement for permissive paths on Leyhill farm would end in Spring 2018. The funding had been provided by the European Union and the paths had been in place for around 20 years. As things stood, the permissive paths would be taken back into farm land in 2018. Mr Huffer had suggested to his landlord, County Farm Estates (part of CCC), that they make some of these paths into formal footpaths e.g. a path to Pickering Woods and Wimpole. He had not yet received a reply. The Cllrs discussed this. Many of the permissive paths were regularly used by villagers and walkers. The PC would need to see if they could influence CCC to adopt some of the permissive paths as footpaths and then look into extending one to Cardiff Place. The PC resolved to set up a Working Group to progress this. The remit would cover all the permissive paths and footpaths in Whaddon. Cllr French was appointed to the WG from the PC. Actions: Cllr French to ask Mr C Coningsby and Mr R Huffer to join the Working Group. The Clerk to seek advice from County Cllr van de Ven on process for getting CCC to formally adopt some of the permissive paths. (Cllr Strudwick left the meeting, 9.41p.m.)

**13.0 Village Upkeep and Maintenance – reporting of upkeep and maintenance issues and agreement of actions:**

- Litter- there was a lot of litter on the footway opposite Bumpkins pre-school along towards the entrance to Whaddon Green, Meldreth Road. Action: the Chair to ask the handyman to litter-pick this footway.
- Highways sign – the speed sign leaving the village at Whaddon Gap is obscured. Action: the Clerk to report this to CCC.
- Cardiff Place sign – the ‘C’ was missing from the sign on the A1198. Action: the Clerk to investigate this.
- Potholes on Whaddon Gap – these were opening up again. Action: the Chair to discuss potholes and resurfacing of Whaddon Gap at the CCC Highways site visit on 26<sup>th</sup> July.

**14.0 Items for next meeting – noting of requests for agenda items:**

- Grass cutting specification – recreation ground and verges
- Community Defibrillator – fridge magnets, publicity, training
- MVAS Memorandum of Understanding
- Quotes for slab base for picnic table

**15.0 Date of next meeting – Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2017.** The Chair would not be able to attend this meeting (holiday). The Vice Chair would be available on that date.

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.47p.m.**