

Minutes of Whaddon Parish Council Meeting held on 11th June 2018 at 8p.m. in the Village Hall, Church Street, Whaddon, Nr Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 5RY.

Present:	Chair	Mr L Ginger
	Councillors	Dr N Strudwick, Professor A Milton, Mr W Elbourn
	Parish Clerk	A Bridges
	District Councillor	Ms P Hart, Mr J Hales
	County Councillor	Mrs Susan van de Ven
	Members of the Public	3 present
Absent:	Councillors	Mr R Scott

1.0 Apologies for Absence – Cllr Scott.

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 (PC) meeting of 14th May 2018 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:

- The village sign – the Chair reported that the existing post had been inspected and it was agreed that a longer post was required to support the new sign.
- The Mobile Vehicle Activated System has been in operation for approximately three weeks and appears to be working well in the two locations trialled. Further use will establish the amount of data it is able to record before it has to be uploaded.
- Permissive paths – Mr Huffer has not yet met with Country Farm Estates to discuss the future of permissive paths Action: The Chair to follow this up.
- Dog waste bins – Waiting for a further dog waste bin to be placed on the green by Ridgeway Close. Action: Clerk to follow up.
- Two quotes have been obtained for a base for the picnic bench and a third is imminent.

5.0 Reports from District and County Councillors:

District Councillors:

- Cllr Hart reported that as a Cabinet Member of South Cambridgeshire District Council, she will be attending Parish Council meetings to inform residents of future SCDC plans. Cllr Hart spoke of the need to encourage public participation and attendance at all Parish meetings, which gives local residents a voice in their community.

- Cllr Hart also spoke about the Marley Eternit hearing on June 26th and explained that the Chair will invite participants to discuss concerns - these include the isolation of the proposed site, the lack of transport links, heavier use on local roads and existing high levels of asbestos. The Housing Strategy which is currently in progress, aims to help reduce the number of off-plan new houses which would help protect local land from further development.

County Councillor:

- Cllr van de Ven spoke of the Commercial Development Company which was set up to develop county land. This has been granted planning permission for several new houses in Bassingbourn. Cllr van de Ven described this process as a significantly different change in the way the council is raising revenue.
- CCC has agreed to build its new headquarters in Alconbury, meaning Shire Hall will be sold, affecting both existing staff and visitors in terms of accessibility.
- The Mayor of Cambridge has suspended transport plans, which raises concerns for the much-needed improvements to Meldreth railway station car park. It is unfortunate that this has occurred when there is a large amount of disruption on the trains.
- The local Highways Team were experiencing a shortage in staff, which has meant that a grant given by a local company to cut the grass on the A10 cycle path has not been utilised, as there is not enough staff to manage the contract.
- The Melbourn Children's Centre Manager has recently resigned affecting local families who use the centre.
- Rail users have been severely affected by the timetable changes and although eight car trains are in use, many are cancelled or fail to stop at designated stations to make up time – without prior warning. The timetable is still limited and Cllr van de Ven spoke of the damage that this has caused for local users. There have also been reports that Trumpington Park and Ride is now often full by 10am, affecting Addenbrookes staff and visitors. This is likely due to the current unreliability of trains that more commuters are driving into Cambridge.

Cllr Hart gave her apologies at this point and left the meeting.

6.0 Public Participation:

- A member of the public asked why the Mobile Vehicle Activated System had been moved from Meldreth Road to the other side of the village. The residents were reassured that it would be placed in different positions around the village frequently and that it would return to Meldreth Road in the future. The MVAS was still being tested by the Speedwatch team. The residents noted that it had a dramatic affect in slowing cars past their house.
- Another member of the public described the terrible state of the footpaths around Whaddon. The grass is often now above waist height meaning walkers struggle to follow the paths. Cllr van de Ven was asked to investigate this and she offered to look at the footpaths to gain evidence to report back. Whilst attempts have been made to contact the County Council to establish their grass cutting budget and approximate schedule, they have yet to respond.

7.0 Correspondence and complaints:

- Letter from Barclays Bank stating they required a new form to be completed for the new signatories from the Parish Council. Action: Chair to visit the local branch.
- Email from local resident concerning the long grass on local footpaths.

8.0 Finance:

8.1 Noting of Internal Auditors report on Annual Return 2017/18

8.2 Consideration and approval of the Annual Governance statement – Resolved: all agreed and correct.

8.3 Consideration and approval of the Accounting Statements 2017/18 – Resolved: all agreed and correct.

8.4 Cheques to be approved for signing today (11th June 2018)

- Cheque number 101035 – Staff wages - £348.13
- Cheque number 101036 – Hales Printers (Newsletter) - £103.00
- Cheque number 101037 – SCDC – administration fee for Parish Council election - £105.00. This invoice was questioned by the Parish Council and was later validated by Cllr Hales as correct. Action: Clerk to investigate with SCDC/previous records.

9.0 Whaddon Village Hall & Recreation Ground Trust

9.1 Cllr Strudwick, WVH&RGT Chairman, gave a verbal update:

The Village Hall heating system – although the heating has been fixed and is working correctly, the fallout from the apparent design or installation issues continues to be investigated. The Trust has gained a new trustee and is awaiting a further appointment from the Parish Council once it has further Counsellors.

9.2 The funding of the playground infrastructure meeting will take place after money is raised at the Party in the Barn in July 2018.

10.0 Proposed Safety Improvements to Whaddon Gap – it was widely agreed that the figures that had been given as an estimate by Cambridge County Council were grossly inflated and that similar schemes in Flint Cross and Frog End cost a fraction of this. Cllr van de Ven and Cllr Hales agreed that the County Council needed to enquire how these figures were derived. It was also noted that previous attempts at increasing safety in the area and making the A1198 (from the roundabout at Arrington towards Bassingbourn) a 50MPH speed limit were previously dismissed by the County Council.

11.0 Village Upkeep and Maintenance: to report upkeep and maintenance issues and agree actions: It was noted that three residents had complained about a drone flying over the gardens in the village. It was agreed that a village email should be sent informing residents to telephone 101 if they see a drone being used unlawfully.

12.0 Items for next meeting – noting of requests for agenda items: None requested

13.0 Dates of next meetings –

Planning Committee Meeting - Planning Application S/1656/18/FL on June 18th at 8pm.

Parish Council Meeting Monday July 9th at 8pm

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.24pm.