

Minutes of the Whaddon Parish Council virtual meeting held via Zoom on 15th March 2021 at 8pm.

Present:	Chairman	L Ginger
	Councillors	A Birch, N Strudwick, W Elbourn, A Milton, J Hart & D Townsend
	Parish Clerk	A Bridges
	Members of the Public	None
	County Councillor	Cllr S van de Ven
	District Councillor	Cllr J Hales

1.0 Apologies for Absence – none.

2.0 Approval of Minutes – approval and signing of the minutes from the Parish Council Meeting of 8th February 2021. Resolved: the minutes were approved and will be signed at a later date.

3.0 Receiving Declarations of Interest from Councillors on items on the agenda – Cllr Hart and Cllr Elbourn stated they will not participate in item 9 due to being landowners in the area.

4.0 Reports from Clerk and Councillors – verbal updates about progress on resolutions and actions from previous Parish Council meetings.

The Chair confirmed that the recreation ground railings installation may start before the end of March, with a pause in the Easter holidays to allow children to use the recreation ground area.

There were no further updates on Ridgeway Close parking from SCDC. It was noted that SCDC had installed a no parking sign at the top of the green by Ridgeway Close.

The Chair confirmed that he and Peter Haselden would meet with the new grass contractor this week, to discuss when the first cut of the season would take place and explore the possibility of collecting grass cuttings.

The Chair confirmed that the Parish Council were still awaiting the test results from the large beech tree opposite St Marys Close. These were carried out by the Highways Department, due to concern that the tree was diseased.

The Parish Council noted the large number of potholes still on local roads, although some had been recently repaired. All residents were encouraged to report these to the Highways Department online.

There had been no response from residents regarding the local warden scheme, run from Melbourn.

The Parish Council discussed the annual charitable donation and it was agreed by all to donate £100 to Magpas Air Ambulance, as it covers our area.

The asset register has been updated by the Chair and Clerk.

5.0 Reports from District and County Councillors – verbal updates

County Councillor van de Ven firstly spoke of the reduced financial support to Highways Department, from the County Council. Cllr van de Ven confirmed that the 127 bus

would now be running as a commercial service, which would affect the previous plan of amalgamating the 127 and 91 bus to run across county borders. The new bus timetable is proposed to start after Easter.

Cambridgeshire County Council has begun a campaign to recruit foster carers and attract possible adoptive families in the county, due to shortage of both.

Cllr van de Ven confirmed that the Deputy Leader of Cambridgeshire County Council has resigned.

District Councillor Hales began by informing the meeting that the District Council had agreed a tax increase of £5 per annum in a band D property.

Cllr Hales spoke of the success of the financial scheme offering support for businesses affected by Covid. The department are still receiving large numbers of requests.

Cllr Hales informed the meeting that SCDC had reported no significant increase in fly tipping in the area, despite recent episodes in local villages. Cllr Hales highlighted the need to report all fly tipping to the District Council, including rubbish dumped on private land, so prosecutions can take place.

Cllr Hales informed the meeting that Bourn Airfield has had planning permission for 3,500 new homes granted.

Cllr van de Ven spoke of the proposal to install a full barrier at the level crossing in Meldreth Road, Shepreth. Cllr van de Ven confirmed that Network Rail are looking to update all their crossings for safety reasons, although this was felt to be a low-risk crossing, with no known trespassing. This could increase waiting times for traffic in the village.

6.0 Public Participation – none.

7.0 COVID-19 Update – The Chair attended the recent SCDC webinar update and expressed his thanks for the informative sessions. It reported that the region had a very high uptake of the Covid vaccine and a low infection rate, but communities were reminded that it continues to be important to remain vigilant and obey the restrictions. Cllr Hales spoke of the Community Chest Covid funding from SCDC, which is a new scheme enabling local projects to improve quality of life of residents in the region.

The Chair spoke of the Parish Councils achievement with being recognised by the ‘Chairman’s commendation for services to the County during Covid-19’ certificate from Cambridgeshire County Council. This was for the Parish Council’s support to residents during the last year.

8.0 South West Cambridge planning proposal update – A public meeting is being held this week with Antony Browne MP, to discuss the proposals. There are no further updates or applications submitted. Cllr Birch spoke of the difficulty in responding to residents’ concerns, due to the lack of information. It was highlighted that the local group, South West Cambridgeshire Action Group, will have all updates, and all details can be found on social media.

9.0 LHI Bid Update – no further updates.

10. To confirm details of the Annual Parish Meeting – agreed for 19th April 2021 via Zoom.

11. To confirm details of the Annual Parish Council Meeting – agreed for 10th May 2021. The Parish Council await updates to the current legislation permitting virtual meetings.

12. Correspondence –

- SCDC - Consultation on new housing policies relating to Build to Rent, Clustering and Distribution of Affordable Housing and Affordable Rent Setting. (9/2/21).
- Local Plan Greater Cambridge Local Plan - Survey Reminder (10/2/21).
- Cambridgeshire County Council - Cambridgeshire Local - Engagement Events (19/2/21)
- CAPALC Ltd - Affiliation Pack 2021-22 (25/2/21)
- Cambridgeshire County Council - Chairman's commendation for services to the County during Covid-19 (2/3/21)
- March News from Anthony Browne MP (5/3/21)

13. Finance:

- Staff wages and expenses - £399.71
- Charity donation for £100 – agreed.
- Risk assessment –Cllr Strudwick confirmed that he had converted the previous pdf documents to a format that can be easily amended, and this will be updated by the Clerk by the next meeting.

14. Planning updates – 20/05346. Single storey front, side and rear extensions and dormers to front. Rear dormer roof extension. 144 Meldreth Road, Whaddon. This was approved by the Parish Council.

15. Whaddon Village Hall Representation and Recreation Ground Trust update – Cllr Birch reported that the Trust met on March 1st and it was agreed the hall would re-open on 12th April for exempt groups only and also on May 6th for local elections. The AGM was confirmed to take place on May 17th. Cllr Birch spoke of the discussions on fencing around the play area, and it was agreed to gauge opinions from the community, either via the next Village Plan or earlier. Cllr Birch confirmed plans for a post lockdown celebratory village event on Sat 7th August.

16. Village Upkeep and Maintenance. Reporting of upkeep or maintenance issues and agreement of actions – Cllr Townsend spoke of the large amount of fly tipping in the car park by Whaddon Gap. Highways were confirmed to be responsible for the car park. Cllr Birch asked about the ditch at bottom of Bridge Street and Dyers Green which was agreed to be the responsibility of County Farms.

17. Items for next meeting – none. There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.24pm.

Date of next meeting 12th April 2021 at 8pm.