

WHADDON PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Whaddon Parish Council Meeting

at Whaddon Village Hall, Church Street, Whaddon, SG8 5RY.

on 13th March 2023 at 8pm

Present:	Chairman	L Ginger
	Councillors	D Townsend, W Elbourn, A Birch, N Strudwick, J Hart and C Hales.
	Parish Clerk	A Bridges
	District Councillor	SA Hart and J Hales
	County Councillor	S V de Ven
	Members of the Public	3

- 1. Apologies for Absence** – County Councillor S Van de Ven gave her apologies for the start of the meeting due to attendance at another meeting.
- 2. Approval of Minutes** – approval and signing of the minutes from the Parish Council Meeting of 30th January 2022. These were approved by all and signed by the Chairman.
- 3. Receiving Declarations of Interest from Councillors on items on the agenda** – None.
- 4. Reports from Clerk and Councillors – verbal updates about progress on resolutions and actions from previous Parish Council meetings.**

The Chairman confirmed that there had been a further session from the Speedwatch volunteers during the last month, which had recorded some vehicles in excess of 45MPH.

The Chairman discussed the newly installed bus shelter, and informed the meeting that all the costs had been recouped from the insurance money, except the excess of £250 and the replacement rubbish bin.

A new tree, donated by the Woodland Trust, had been planted on the grass verge opposite the bus shelter.

The meeting discussed possible children's commemorative gifts for the Coronation and it was agreed that the Clerk should re-send the information about bookmarks to the Parish Councillors.

- 5. Reports from District and County Councillors** – moved to item 7 as not yet present in the meeting.
- 6. Public Participation** – A member of the public informed the meeting that the salt bin in Dyers Green had not been refilled despite four separate requests.

Cllr Van de Ven entered the meeting at 8.14pm.

The three members of the public stated they were attending the meeting to discuss the consideration of width restriction bollards and signage at the top and bottom of Byway 22. The Chairman spoke about the legality of the implied work, as the Clerk had confirmed that as the Byway was out of the parish, there was no power to spend

money. The Chairman and councillors stated that they felt that this would be a justified spend as the boundary border with the Byway was so close to Whaddon Parish.

A member of the public requested that the recently completed Parish Plan summary could be published and distributed to residents before the findings are discussed in the Annual Parish Meeting. This would allow residents to prepare any questions before the meeting. It was agreed by the Chairman that this could be sent via the village email before the Annual Parish Meeting and it would be discussed at the next Whaddon Parish Council meeting.

The members of the public left the meeting at 8.30pm.

Reports from District and County Councillors

Cllr Van de Ven spoke about the recent temporary repairs to pot holes and that many are needing repair once again.

Cllr Hart spoke of the cost-of-living support, which is highlighted on the SCDC website, showing local warm hubs and food banks.

Online public meeting with the Police.

Cllr Strudwick asked County Councillor Van de Ven about the Cambridge re-signalling Project – crossing at the beginning of Shepreth is proposed to be a full barrier which means an increase wait time. No convincing case that the existing barrier is unsafe and an inquiry is occurring on 12th April.

7. **Planning update** - 23/00388/FUL Removal of existing conservatory and erection of a two storey extension.134 Bridge Street, Whaddon – this was approved.
8. **Correspondence:** noting receipt of significant items of correspondence
 - CAPALC monthly bulletin (18/1/23)
 - Message from Cllr Bridget Smith - Letter to Rail Minister (23/1/23)
 - CAPALC Coronation preparations (25/1/23)
 - January 2023 parish e-bulletin from South Cambridgeshire District Council (31/1/23)
 - Cambridgeshire County Council 20mph Application Process. Cambridgeshire Highways (23/2/23)
9. **LHI Bid** – Cllr van de Ven confirmed that she was investigating the delay in the work commencing.
10. **By way 22** – It was agreed that the last affected resident in Dyers Green would be consulted prior to any further action.
11. **Finance to approve:**
 - 11.1 Staff wages and expenses – £995.22
 - 11.2 Chairmans allowance (October 2022-March 2023) - £100
 - 11.3 Handyman wages – £370.73
 - 11.4 Donation to Whaddon Village Hall & Recreation Ground Trust - £1549.43
 - 11.5 Bank reconciliation – this was noted and agreed.

Payments authorised before the meeting:

 - 11.6 NJS Surfacing – installation of bus shelter - £1,980.00.
 - 11.7 Littlethorpe – bus shelter - £11,864.40

11.8 Glasdon – new rubbish bin - £256.36

12. Agreement of location of renovated bench – This was agreed to be replaced back by the bus shelter in its original place.

13. Discussion of an electric vehicle charging point at the Village Hall -Cllr Birch spoke of her recent meeting with SCDC about electric charge points, which highlighted possible funding up to £5,000 for a point by the Village Hall. Cllr Birch spoke of the need for clarification for a trained volunteer to operate the charge point once it is up and running.

The Chairman asked if SCDC had any proposals to add vehicle charging points to their own properties without driveways and Cllr van de Ven felt this was not the responsibility of Local Authorities.

Cllr Hales, Hart and Van de Ven Jose left the meeting at 9.09pm

14. Playground equipment repairs following RoSPA report

Cllr Birch spoke of the recent RoSPA annual safety check, which had highlighted large amounts of required maintenance. Cllr Birch requested that the Parish Council should contribute to the quote, which was over £ 6,000. The Chairman felt that the Parish Council should donate fifty per cent of the invoice and explained that the Parish Council would have to source three quotes, as per their Financial Regulations, if they paid the whole bill.

Cllr Strudwick felt that two further quotes should be sought, to ensure that the Village Hall Trust and the Parish Council a competitive price. The Clerk informed the meeting that repairs should ideally be done soon after the report was published. It was agreed by all that the Clerk would source two further quotes and the Parish Council would contribute fifty per cent to the end total and claim back the VAT.

15. Consideration of wildflower areas in Ridgeway Close and the verge by recreation ground.

The Parish Council discussed the recommendation from the grounds maintenance contractor that the recreation ground bank should be kept as grass and the verges opposite Ridgeway Close and Bumpkins Pre-School would be seeded with wildflower. The Chairman confirmed that there had been an underspend on grass cutting last year, due to the hot weather last year. It was agreed by all to allocate these verges to wildflower, leaving a two-meter mowed border to allow for clear visibility for motorists. It was also agreed to investigate whether wildflower could also be sown in the corner of the verge in Bridge Street, again with a two-meter mowed boundary.

16. Great British Spring Clean 2023

The Parish Council agreed that the ditch between the farmers field and the road could be cleared between Bridge Street and Dyers Green on 16th April.

17. Whaddon Village Hall and Recreation Ground Trust update

Cllr Birch spoke of the February WVH&RG Trust extraordinary meeting, which confirmed the new number of Trustees and the AGM, which will be held on July 3rd.

Cllr Birch spoke of the settled dispute with County Broadband, who have now acknowledged that there is no contract to provide broadband with the Village Hall.

Lastly, Cllr Birch updated the Parish Council on the village fete on July 8th. The profits made from the day will split equally between the VHT and the Church. The Coronation will be celebrated on Sunday 7th May, with children's games on green, afternoon tea and a disco in the evening.

18. Village Upkeep and Maintenance - Reporting of upkeep or maintenance issues and agreement of actions.

Cllr Hart requested that a new dog waste bin should be installed at the beginning of the public footpath on the verge by Bumpkins Pre School. The Clerk agreed to confirm if there was a weekly charges for this with SCDC.

Cllr Hart spoke about the five free trees from the Woodland Trust, that were delivered last year and possible planting locations would be discussed in the April meeting.

Lastly, Cllr Hart asked about vehicles parked on the pavements and grass by Ridgeway Close and she was advised to report those parked on the pavement to the Police.

19. Confidential item: Staff matters

The handyman's salary was discussed.

20. End of meeting. The meeting ended at 9.59pm