

WHADDON PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**Draft minutes of the Whaddon Parish Council Meeting held on
November 11th at 7.30pm at Whaddon village hall**

Present:	Chairman	N Strudwick
	Councillors	W Elbourn, D Townsend, L Ginger
	Members of the Public	Three
	County/District Councillor	J Hales
	Parish Clerk	A Culver

- 1. Apologies for absence** – County Councillor S van de Ven, A Birch, J Hart and B Fairclough gave their apologies.
- 2. Approval of minutes** – approval and signing of the minutes from the Parish Council meeting of 14th October 2024. These were signed by the Chairman and approved.
- 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.
Cllr Strudwick was pleased to confirm that there has been a volunteer who will take over the village newsletter from next year. It was agreed that the current editor, Joan Pascoe, who has had this role for many years, needed to be formally thanked for all her hard work.
- 5. Reports from District and County Councillors** – Cllr Strudwick asked District Councillor Hales about the 20mph application in Meldreth. This will stop after St Mary's Way in Meldreth, meaning Whitecroft Road and the crossroads by Burtons towards Whaddon will continue to be 30mph. This was felt to be disappointing given the number of accidents at this site. Meldreth Parish Council confirmed they will not install any more speed measures.
- 6. Public participation** – none.
- 7. Correspondence:** noting receipt of significant items of correspondence – none.
- 8. Whaddon Village Hall and Recreation Ground Trust update – solar panel application for grant funding** – The Chairman of the Trust, Jonthan Birch, stated that they had three quotes for 14 solar panels for the roof and the battery, which was felt best placed by the porch with anti-theft measures. The total for this project will be approximately £19,000 and J Birch explained that they had applied for funding for £15,000. The Trust needed the Parish Council to write and formally agree with these proposals to the hall, because they are the landlord. The Parish Council fully supported this application and felt that it would be beneficial environmentally as well as reduced costs.
J Birch gave an update to the last meeting with the Trust. He explained that there was a structural issue inside the village hall and quotes were being sought, but it was felt it would be costly.

Lastly, a quiz night would be held on November 30th along with two forthcoming movie nights next year.

- 9. Parish Plan review** – to be reviewed in January.
- 10. Sustainable Whaddon update** – A recycling talk will be held on 19th February 2025 from SCDC, and will be held at the village hall. All are welcome to attend.
- 11. MVAS update** – Cllr Strudwick confirmed that he has not yet been able to meet with Bassingbourn Parish Council to progress this further.
- 12. Ridgeway Close bus turning and school bus drop off and pick up location** – Cllr Strudwick spoke about the lay by at the top of Ridgeway Close, which was built for bus pick-ups, and the request from the Parish Council to the bus company and Cambridgeshire County Council to change the pick-up of school children. Cllr Strudwick explained that currently, the school bus stops either opposite the bus shelter or opposite the village hall and it was felt that this was not a safe or appropriate place to pick up school children as they had to wait in private gardens, as there were no pavements on the adjacent side. They also had to cross the road which was on a bend.
It was confirmed that a site meeting with the County Councillor, the Transport team, bus company and the Parish Council will be set up, as there had been no progress with this so far.
- 13. Mayor's Bus Consultation document** – Cllr Ginger spoke about the Mayoral Combined Authority, who are currently having a public consultation on the option to introduce a bus 'franchising' system locally. It was argued that this would give a higher standard of bus travel and help to promote a better service to residents. Cllr Ginger also felt that this would increase the precept as bus priority lanes needed to be established in central areas to reduce congestion. Cllr Ginger agreed to write a response to this.
It was also confirmed that the next EWR consultation starts on November 14th
- 14. Finance to approve:**
 - Staff wages and expenses – confidential
 - Handyman - £89.75
 - Requests for projects for the 2025/26 precept budget planning
- 15. Parish Councillor resignation** – Cllr Ginger confirmed he will resign on December 31st and Cllr Strudwick thanked him greatly for his hard work over the years. The vacancy will be advertised in the new year.
- 16. Village upkeep and maintenance** – the Whaddon Gap hedge needs to be cut back to reduce fly tipping. Clerk to inform grass cutting contractor.
- 17. Items for next meeting** – noting of requests for agenda items. The precept meeting was suggested to be the 16th December and will be confirmed when precept information has been sent from SCDC.

The meeting ended at 8.51pm