

# WHADDON PARISH COUNCIL

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Draft minutes of the Whaddon Parish Council Meeting

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

on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 7.30pm

Present:	Chairman	L Ginger
	Councillors	W Elbourn, N Strudwick, A Birch & J Hart.
	Members of the Public	Two
	County/District Councillor	SA Hart
	Parish Clerk	A Bridges

- 1. Apologies for absence** – County and District Councillor S van de Ven and J Hales. Cllr Townsend gave her apologies for a later start to the meeting.
- 2. Approval of minutes** – approval and signing of the minutes from the Parish Council meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024. These minutes were agreed by all.
- 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 the MVAS had not yet been ordered as clarification was needed over the ability for the solar powered unit that it can manage to record the high number of vehicles along the A1198.

Cllr Hart confirmed that the overhanging branch had been cut on the beech tree on the verge. The PC asked for thanks to be passed to Shire for carrying out the job.
- 5. Reports from District and County Councillors** – a written report was given.
- 6. Public participation** - none
- 7. Planning update** – none.
- 8. Correspondence:** noting receipt of significant items of correspondence – none.
- 9. Finance to approve:**
  - Staff wages and expenses – £492.61
  - Herts & Cambs Ground maintenance – Rec cut - £102
  - CAPALC – membership and DPO fee - £300.06
  - E&E Plumridge - £135
  - SCambs bin collection (until March 2025) - £259.20
  - Added to the agenda Catalyst2 - £95.88
- 10. Annual Parish Meeting** – The Chairman spoke of inviting a representative from Bassingbourn Barracks, a speed watch volunteer and the Village Hall Trust. Cllr Townsend entered the meeting at 7.43pm
- 11. Sustainable Whaddon update** - the Parish Council all agreed to declare a climate emergency. It was noted that this means that decisions made by the Parish Council should consider how they impact the environment. The Chairman discussed that the Parish Council of a small village itself has a very small impact, but spoke of

small measures that can be done, such as the seven trees which have just been planted. Cllr Birch asked if there would be a delegated person in the Parish Council, which was suggested in the literature from SCambs. The Chairman spoke of the recently formed Substantiable Whaddon group who could lead on this.

- 12. Sustainable Whaddon group update** – D Grech spoke of the three main aims of the group which were clarified in their March meeting. Firstly, to support the Parish Council to declare an emergency. Secondly, to look at opportunities to increase biodiversity and lastly to advise the village as to how they can reduce the carbon footprint of the village, for example solar panels. Their next meeting will be on 15<sup>th</sup> May.

District Cllr SA Hart entered the meeting at 8pm.

Cllr Townsend asked about the weedkiller around Ridgeway Close and the bus stop and it was agreed that the Parish Council should request that this is stopped by SCambs. District Cllr SA Hart asked the Clerk to confirm this to her in an email. District Cllr SA Hart spoke of the recent meeting with Anglia Water and spoke of changes in the local area that have resulted in much more water in the system. She suggested that they were looking at ways for all local agencies to manage this in a multidisciplinary approach. It was agreed that this affects Whaddon less than neighbouring villages as there are fewer water courses.

Cllr SA Hart left the meeting at 8.15pm.

Cllr Strudwick asked D Grech if the church would install solar panels. Mr Grech confirmed that this would be a good idea, but too costly to install.

- 13. Parish Council vacancy** – The Chairman confirmed that Cllr Hales had resigned from the Parish Council and as a representative for the VHT. The Clerk confirmed that SCambs has been notified of this and the Parish Council can now advertise for the vacancy.
- 14. PC endorsement of Alfred Palmer Trust Trustee** – The Chairman spoke that Mrs Helen Strudwick had agreed to continue to be a trustee for the next four years.
- 15. Whaddon Village Hall and Recreation Ground Trust update** – The Chair of the VH Trust, Jonathan Birch attended to discuss updates from the Trust and confirmed that C Hales may continue as a Village Hall co-opted Trustee. He confirmed that the policies had been updated, which will help the Trust apply for grants. The RoSPA playground inspection had also taken place, with no major work needed and that there had been discussions about low-cost options to renovate the garage. Mr Birch confirmed that £170 raised by the last movie night, with more social events planned later in the year. Cllr Hart left the meeting at 8.32pm
- 16. Village upkeep and maintenance** – Cllr Elbourn told the meeting that the commemorative bench for Robert Jaggs had arrived and a location has been confirmed, Clerk to send details of the location to the Jaggs family, who purchased the bench.

Cllr Strudwick asked about the Coningsby Terrace sign in Bridge Street which had fallen apart. It was agreed that this was not an official sign and it could be removed by the handyman.

Cllr Townsend asked if the two residents who are tending the garden by the pump could have a small budget to buy plants. It was agreed that £25 could be allocated.

Cllr Ginger confirmed that he will not be seeking re-election as the Chairman of the Parish Council from May. A new chairman will therefore be needed. Cllr Townsend thanked Cllr Ginger for all his hard work over the last ten years and the Parish Council all expressed their gratitude. Cllr Strudwick confirmed he would not be stepping forward again for this role.

**17. Items for next meeting** – noting of requests for agenda items.

The meeting ended at 8.53pm