

WHADDON PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Whaddon Parish Council Meeting

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

on 8th January 2024 at 7.30pm

Present:	Chairman	L Ginger
	Councillors	A Birch, C Hales, N Strudwick, D Townsend, J Hart.
	Members of the Public	One
	County/District Councillor	S van de Ven & J Hales
	Parish Clerk	A Bridges

- 1. Apologies for Absence** – Cllr Elbourn and District Cllr S A Hart gave their apologies.
- 2. Approval of Minutes** – approval and signing of the minutes from the Parish Council Meeting of November 13th 2023. These were agreed and signed.
- 3. Receiving Declarations of Interest from Councillors on items on the agenda** – none.
- 4. Reports from Clerk and Councillors** – Cllr Birch stated she had spoken to Ben Truett, the lead at SCDC for physical activity to discuss setting up an activity group in the village. This could involve support for a walking group for example. Cllr Birch agreed to discuss this at the weekly coffee morning to ascertain any interest.
- 5. Reports from District and County Councillors** – a written report was given. County Councillor S van de Ven spoke of the need to report flooding in the area and the Parish Council spoke of concerns in the village of overflowing foul and rainwater, both on the road and near homes. Cllr van de Ven confirmed that she had a meeting with Anglia Water in the next two weeks to discuss issues and felt that any evidence from Whaddon residents would be beneficial to put pressure on them to upgrade the drainage network. Cllr Birch suggested that residents could be asked to send in evidence to the Parish Council, who would pass this to Cllr van de Ven and Cllr Hales. This was agreed.
- 6. Public Participation** – The member of the public also spoke of the problem of blocked drains due to problems in Meldreth and Whaddon, due to excess water and lack of maintenance of the drainage system. The member of the public also asked that the hedge, owned by SCDC, along Ridgeway Close should be cut down as it is hanging over the road.
The member of the public spoke of their disappointment of the planning application concerning the properties owned by the housing association in St Mary's Close. The member of the public felt that this was a potential misuse of S106 funds, as the land was bought as brown belt land at a cheaper rate, and that they are being potentially sold at residential prices. District Councillor Hales asked the member of the public to contact them so these points could be raised.
The member of the public left the meeting at 8.15pm

Cllr Strudwick asked Cllr van de Ven and Cllr Hales why there was now a permit scheme at Royston Recycling Centre. Cllr van de Ven explained that most local authorities limit the use of recycling facilities for local residents only, and it was beneficial that access was now available for Whaddon residents.

Cllr Strudwick asked if there was any update on the policy from CCC to stop using weedkiller on public highways. Cllr van de Ven stated that as this was in next year's budget, she assumed it would resume.

7. **Planning:** 23/04798/PRIOR. Change of use from Commercial, Business and Service (Use Class E) to 4 No. Dwellinghouses (Use Class C3). Land At College Farm Church Street, Whaddon. This was rejected by the committee under concerns that the proposal was in the curtilage of a listed building. The committee felt that a full application was required to be able to be considered appropriately.
8. **Correspondence: noting receipt of significant items of correspondence** – none.
9. **Handyman insurance** – it was noted that the handyman now has liability insurance.
10. **Biodiversity Policy** – the Clerk was requested to source a policy. The trees were agreed to be planted in the recreation ground and the verge opposite Bumpkins nursery.
11. **Meldreth Road telephone box** – It was agreed that the Parish Council would add shelves and use this as book and magazine swap. Cllr Hart suggested that a volunteer telephone box monitor could be recruited by the village email, as the kiosk at the top of Bridge Street was untidy and full of books which had been there for some time.
12. **Christmas tree recycling** – The Chairman confirmed that there were twenty Christmas trees for recycling behind the village hall.
13. **Consideration of quotes for a new speed sign** – Cllr Strudwick asked for more time to consider the quotes and it was suggested that this would be on the February agenda.
14. **Finance to approve:**
 - 14.1 Staff wages and expenses – £492.61
 - 14.2 Grass cutting in church yard - £110
 - 14.3 To agree grass contractor renewed quote for 2024 – the verge cut had increase from £180 to £240 and the recreation grass cuts had increased from £65 to £85 for the next two years. This was agreed by all.
 - 14.4 Consideration of recommendations from Precept Meeting.
 - 14.5 Agreement and approval of 2024/25 precept. The proposal to increase the precept request by 10%, meaning there will be an increase in council tax for residents from £79.88 to £87.87 for Band D properties. It was also suggested that the Parish Council should add a reserves policy at the Annual Parish Council meeting. This was agreed by all.

Cllr Hales and Cllr S van de Ven left the meeting at 8.58pm.

 - 14.6 The additional invoice was added to pay the Handyman man wages- £56.49 and reimburse the Handyman insurance - £176.16.
15. **Whaddon Village Hall and Recreation Ground Trust update** – Cllr Hales spoke about the lack of interest of installing an EV charge point at the hall, due to the size of the village and low levels of traffic flowing through. Cllr Hales also stated that this would be harder to get grant funding for as there were limited facilities in the village. Cllr Ginger spoke of forthcoming film nights in the village hall and future social events.

16. Village Upkeep and Maintenance – Cllr Hart spoke of the need to plant the six trees, which had been donated by SCDC last year, which she had been keeping in pots to increase their size. The Chairman stated that these will be planted by Cllr Elbourn.

17. Items for next meeting on Monday 12th February – noting of requests for agenda items
– new speed sign quotes.

The meeting ended at 9.11pm