

WHADDON PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Whaddon Parish Council Meeting

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

on 9th September 2024 at 7.30pm

Present:	Chairman	N Strudwick
	Councillors	J Hart, D Townsend & B Fairclough
	Members of the Public	Two
	Parish Clerk	A Culver

- 1. Apologies for absence** – County and District Councillors - S van de Ven, J Hales and SA Hart all gave their apologies. Parish Councillors W Elbourn, A Birch and L Ginger also gave their apologies.
- 2. Approval of minutes** – approval and signing of the minutes from the Parish Council meeting of 8th July 2024. The minutes were 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** – The Parish Council discussed the recent verge grass cut, which was undertaken last week after a meeting with the grass contractor. It was agreed that a compromise would be reached between letting wildflowers grow and maintaining visibility for motorists. It was also agreed that some of the verges had become unkept and looked untidy due to the large number of weeds. The clerk informed the meeting that the verge by the village hall would be cut again before winter and the area would be used for small patches of wildflower in the future, when the stinging nettles could be reduced. The clerk explained that the contractor did not want to use chemicals so near to the recreation ground.
Cllr Strudwick confirmed that there had been no offers for Whaddon News editor yet.
- 5. Reports from District and County Councillors** - a written report was sent.
- 6. Public participation** – A member of the public asked about the progress with the A1198 MVAS and told the Parish Council that they had recent correspondence from Bassingbourn's speed watch team and offered to put them in contact with councillors. Cllr Strudwick confirmed that the MVAS had not been purchased because a solar powered unit can not process the level of vehicles passing through the road, but there appeared to be limited alternatives due to lack of electrical hook ups on the road.
A resident asked about the high trees along Dyers Green and Bridge Street which need to be cut as they are interfering with overhanging wires. **Action:** Clerk to write to Highways to request that they are cut.

7. **Planning update** - 24/03254/FUL - Demolition of existing 5-bedroom single storey dwelling and erection of a replacement self/custom build 3-bedroom single storey dwelling. 154 Bridge Street, Whaddon. Approved.
8. **MVAS** – This was discussed in item 6.
9. **Correspondence: noting receipt of significant items of correspondence** – A member of the public asked about the cars which parked on the turning bay at the top of Bridge Street, making it hard for residents to get on and off buses safely. The meeting also discussed the possibility of having signage to the road which cars should not be parked on. **Action:** Clerk to write to school bus company to request the drivers to use the turning bay to pick up school children.
10. **Finance to approve:**
 - Staff wages and expenses - confidential
 - Herts & Cambs Ground maintenance rec grass cutting – £102 (x4 cuts)
 - Handyman labour and expenses - £96.25
 - Added in addition to the agenda – Whaddon News Printing - £188 x2
 - To note the completed annual audit from PKF.
11. **Sustainable Whaddon update** – The seed exchange is now up and running in the telephone kiosk on Meldreth Road. The group are now exploring ideas for next year, including making your own bird boxes and encouraging the installation of swift boxes around the village.
12. **Whaddon Village Hall and Recreation Ground Trust update** – Cllr Strudwick reviewed the minutes sent. The Trust have applied for a grant for solar panels and are awaiting the outcome of this. The Trust have also updated and reviewed their policies, after new recommendations from Cambridgeshire Acre. Remedial work has been made on the playground by the handyman, and lastly the first social gathering in the autumn is the race night fundraiser on 23rd September.
13. **Village upkeep and maintenance** – A large dead branch is hanging over a resident's garden, onto the pavement between Ridgeway Close and the village hall. Cllr Strudwick stated that he would contact the homeowner.
The drain has collapsed at the top of Bridge Street, which has been highlighted for repair after a resident reported this on Highways, but it was agreed that the whole area needs to be repaired, not just the pothole.
14. **Items for next meeting** – noting of requests for agenda items – a review of bank signatories and the parish plan to be included in the October meeting.

The meeting ended at 8.29pm