

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHADDON PARISH COUNCIL

Held: Thursday, 12th March 2020, at 7.30pm at School Room, Whaddon Chapel, Stock Lane, Whaddon.

Present: Cllrs Sir Beville Stanier Bt (Chairman), Graham Hain, Graham Stewart, Derek White.

Members of the Public: Three.

Clerk: Suzanne Lindsey

1. PUBLIC SESSION

- a. The Chair of PTA Whaddon School presented an idea of asking adjacent home owners to permit use of their drives for parking by parents dropping and collecting children at the school, in order to mitigate parking problems and traffic congestion. She stated the idea was at the consideration stage, and volunteers offering their drives would be provided with support and someone to call in the event of problems. Cllr Stewart expressed concern about the safety of vehicles backing out of drives onto the main road at busy times, and Cllr Stanier (Chairman) asked about the legal and insurance position. It was suggested that the Lowndes Arms pub might be willing to allow parking, and it was explained this had already been tried. It was agreed to approach the pub owners a second time. Cllr Stanier pointed out that WPC did not have responsibility for parking and highways, and could only make suggestions. It was suggested that the PTA should investigate if suitable home owners might be willing to consider the idea, and agreed that a further visit in the future from the PTA would be welcomed to discuss progress.
- b. A member of the public requested information on MK2050. Cllr Stewart advised that the recent publication by MK of a discussion document was based on and expanded on previous development and design work by the original MK Futures 2050 Commission, David Lock Associates (2019) Strategic Growth Study and their extensive team of sub-consultants. It included a proposal to double the size of MK, and discussed planning and infrastructure for a 'Metropolitan MK' by 2050. The discussion document had received a luke-warm reception in many areas, and while there were many good points, and the document claimed to be 'boundary blind' there were concerns about communication with adjoining local authorities, the ability to fund and provide infrastructure, and how to capture a higher percentage of the uplift in value of the land for this purpose. Cllr Stewart commented and Cllr Stanier agreed that central government should take a lead on the expansion and infrastructure. Cllr Stanier stated that the proposed Expressway was 'paused' but local residents were fed up with the congestion on the A421 and an upgrade was needed to carry existing traffic, let alone traffic associated with current expansion plans in Salden and Shenley Park and beyond into 2050. Cllr Stewart proposed a six point response to MK2050 covering 'over the ridge' landscape issues, A421 congestion and infrastructure, lack of confidence in efficacy of proposed Mass Rapid Transit solutions, lack of track record of cross boundary engagement, concerns about joined up thinking, and the need for central government to take a lead on land value capture to ensure infrastructure is adequately funded and put in place.
- c. WQ Editor provided a summary of future design and implementation of WQ involving changes to the way the design and publishing is done. Cllrs welcomed the proposal.

2. APOLOGIES

Cllrs Helen Hickman, Hazel Hedges, Peter Lemagnen

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Stewart declared an interest in Planning Application 19/03666/AOP

4. MINUTES

The minutes for the previous meeting were adopted and signed.

5. UPDATE ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS AND WQ

a. Administration

- i. Election. The Clerk reviewed procedures and issued nomination papers for the election on 7th May 2020.
- ii. The Clerk reminded Cllrs to ensure WPC email addresses were used for all WPC communications.

b. Highways

- i. The Clerk advised that good progress had been made on the installation of five new LED street lights. Three new lanterns had been installed, and two additional new lamps were awaiting wiring, which would be completed shortly. It was agreed more replacement lights would be arranged as old lamps failed. Cllr Hain welcomed the improved visibility at the Coddimoor Lane junction; he suggested and it was agreed that new rumble strips should be investigated for the approach to the junction as a further enhancement to safety.
- ii. The Clerk advised that requests for repairs to highways signs had been resubmitted to BCC, and advice received that in the near term repairs were unlikely. It was agreed that Dave Taylor should be asked to undertake the repairs of the signs, along with additional jobs to remove old signage, cut back overgrown vegetation, and undertake general maintenance work around the village at a day rate of £220 for two workers. It was also agreed to obtain a quote from him for repairs and repainting of the bus shelter.

c. Property

- i. Allotments. The Clerk presented a suggestion to approach a local charity with an offer of use of the allotments at a peppercorn rent to grow food for local charities. Cllr agreed for this to be investigated further.

d. Finance

- i. The Clerk presented income and payments for approval, as follows:

Income

The following payments have been received:

4/2/20	Kompan Ltd – refund playground parts	£30.00
Various	WQ advertising income	£1,131.25
Various	Allotment income	£25.00
	Misc Interest	£8.81
	Total	£1,195.06

Expenditure

The following invoices have been received for approval:

DD	ICO annual subscription – data handling licence (correction; £35 charged not £40.00)	£35.00
225	Harlequin Press – printing WQ	£355.00
226	D Taylor – relocation of ground screw for MVAS	£120.00
227	T Evans – IT support for GDPR email set up	£80.00
228	S Lindsey – Salary Jan/Feb 2020	£805.44
229	S Lindsey – Expenses Jan/Feb 2020	£78.40
	Total	£1,438.84

Bank Balances as at 11/3/20

Metro Bank Account – current	£3,021.73
Metro Bank Account – deposit	£17,201.00
	£24,736.98

6. PLANNING

- a. Cllrs reviewed the proposed WPC response to MK2050, agreed the content and approved despatch.
- b. Cllr Stewart presented an update on village traffic. MKC highways had provided an update on the progress on Calverton Lane closure, advising works were on schedule to be complete on time at the end of May. It remained unclear who had undertaken recent traffic counts and what the purpose was; it seemed likely it was developer led. Cllr Stewart reported that preliminary analysis of traffic data through the village from the MVAS since the Calverton Lane closure showed that traffic had reduced by around one third.
- c. Cllr Stewart advised that information had been received from AVDC that VALP would be delayed by at least a month as BCC would be undertaking a complete review of the traffic impact in the south of the county. This apparently did not affect the A421 or any matters in relation to MK issues. Cllr Stewart advised a response had been received from AVDC legal department on the pre-action protocol submitted by Mr R Winward of Whaddon Hall, for a judicial review of VALP, stating that they had made a full response and had no further comments to add. Mr R Winward, who had prepared the pre-action letter felt his questions had not been fully responded to.
- d. Application ref. 19/20/00728/APP 25 Stock Lane proposed additional residential unit, extension and associated works; Cllr Stewart expressed concern that this application did not provide adequate parking, and while the village is in need of smaller houses this proposal amounted to over-development of the site, being built right up to the common boundary and constituting major impact on adjacent property. It was agreed that this proposal would be objected to on these and other material planning point issues discussed within the meeting.
- e. Cllr Stewart stated that there had been no progress on 18/01333/APP Stratford Road, (change of use from agricultural to animal training, dogs) nor the pending appeal 18/02929/APP (retention of re-constructed barns and installed bio-treatment works – retrospectively) nor 19/03666/AOP. Cllr Stewart having declared an interest in this application and updated Cllrs that it had been referred on to a planning inspector located in Ireland, so a brief site visit to do a review of relevant matters and reach a timely decision was impossible. Cllrs expressed frustration at the ineffectiveness of this situation.

7. OTHER PARISH MATTERS

- a. Unitary Authority. Cllr Stanier (Chairman) reviewed progress and plans for the forthcoming Unitary Authority.
- b. Cllrs agreed to the suggestions proposed by WQ Editor to update collating the magazine and change the format to A4.
- c. Cllrs agreed to meeting dates for FY 2020/21 with meetings remaining on second Thursday, bi-monthly.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING(S)

The next meeting(s) of Whaddon Parish Council will be; 14th May 2020, 9th July 2020, 10th September 2020, 12th November 2020, 14th January 2021, 11th March 2021.