

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF WHADDON PARISH COUNCIL

www.whaddonbucks-pc.gov.uk

Held: Thursday, 9th May 2024, at 8.00pm
at The Chapel School Room, Stock Lane, Whaddon, MK17 0LS

Chair: Cllr Sir Beville Stanier Bt

Present: Cllrs Jonathan Allard, Jane Herriman, Neeraj Nagpal, Graham Stewart, Derek White.

Members of the Public: 18

Clerk: Suzanne Lindsey

1/24 Minutes of the last meeting were signed.

2/24 There were no matters arising.

3/24 Cllr Stanier (Chairman) welcomed attendees to the meeting, noting that Whaddon was a small rural village facing major changes and challenges, especially in terms of housing developments and traffic. He noted that WPC undertook important roles in many aspects of the village. He thanked recently retired Cllrs Lemagnen and Geddes for their service, the existing Cllrs and Clerk for their hard work and support, and welcomed new Cllrs Allard and Nagpal to the Council.

4/24 Reports from Local Organisations

- a. Whaddon School. The Head Teacher reviewed the important history of the school as the first Church School in England, and stated that staff were very proud of the education they offer. They were aware of the many threats facing the school in the near future, and plans were in place to address them. Of particular concern was the increase in traffic, noting that staff worked hard to mitigate the problems and it was hard to get support from the police. Residents were welcome to join the school's collective worship. Cllr Stewart provided information on the traffic plans for both Shenley Park and Whitehouse, and he noted the importance of a School Travel Plan. Some research was underway for provision of signage and a road crossing attendant.
- b. A member of the public noted that it seemed Buckingham Council ignored the views of residents regarding housing development, increasing traffic and the inevitable erosion of the rural environment.
- c. Cllr Stanier (Chairman) reviewed the lack of progress on the A421 study and advised any upgrade would likely be a very long-term project.
- d. Cllr Stewart reviewed the progress on Shenley Park development plans and noted the difficulty of being heard by the planners and having any say in the process. It was impossible to answer what the future would bring. Population expansion was estimated at 90 houses/225 people per year but would probably be more and faster. Many expressed a preference for Whaddon to remain separate from the new development.
- e. A member of the public stated his objection to the planned solar farm north of the village, noting it would take productive farmland out of production. It was noted that government policy and priorities made it unlikely that objections would succeed. But the quality of the landscape might have an important role to play, when and if an application were received.
- f. A member of the public reported on their editorship of Whaddon Quarterly and requested ideas, inputs and articles from residents. It was noted that she would like events arranged by the Lowndes Arms to be included in the magazine. It was also

noted that the Village Hall were working on a plan to renew the floor in the main hall.

- g. Cllr Herriman advised that the D-Day +80 event was scheduled for 6th June, and the Beacon would be lit at 9.15pm. All were welcome.
- h. Cllrs Stewart and White presented information on Elmer's Charity and invited applications for funds from residents.

The public were thanked for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 10pm

Signed:

Chairman

Date: