

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHADDON PARISH COUNCIL

Held: Thursday, 14th November 2019, at 7.30pm at School Room, Whaddon Chapel, Stock Lane, Whaddon.

Present: Cllrs Sir Beville Stanier Bt (Chairman), Graham Hain, Hazel Hedges, Peter Lemagnen, Graham Stewart, Derek White. Cllr John Chilver.

Members of the Public: Approximately 20 attendees.

Clerk: Suzanne Lindsey

1. PUBLIC SESSION

- a. Some 20 members of the public attended to request information and updates on Shenley Park Housing Development and the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP). Cllr Stewart advised that the Public Consultation period had commenced on 5th November and would close at 5pm on 17th December. Documents relating to the consultation were available on the AVDC website and in libraries, and an AVDC FAQ document had been obtained and would be distributed by email to those requesting it. Cllr Stewart advised that MKC highways department had recently refused highway access to the A421 for the proposed Salden Chase housing development, and MKC were concerned about the fair distribution of Sec. 106 monies, and it would appear that ‘cross boundary’ discussions between AVDC and MKC were not taking place as required by the planning process. Cllr Stewart advised that after the 17th December deadline for comments, the Planning Inspector will consider whether there is sufficient evidence have AVDC chosen the best sustainable site, from the three that they appraised – i.e., are extensions to Eaton Leys and Salden Chase better than Shenley Park. WPC are not against the housing in principle, as they must go somewhere. The important issue is that the most sustainable and least damaging site is selected in the first place. Cllr Stewart advised members of the public wishing to exercise their right to submit comments to do so on line, or to use the forms provided, as no other comments will be accepted. Comments will only be considered on the soundness and legal compliance of the process of selecting areas for development, no other issue will be considered at this stage. Guidance on how to make the submission would be made available to those wanting it. A member of the public commented that the process adopted by VALP so far, had designated Shenley Park as an ‘Omission Site’ which had meant that public comments and objections were not permitted under the process. He felt that this was a situation worthy of Judicial Review and sited precedence for disallowing treatment of a site as an ‘Omission Site’. He suggested retaining a QC to write an opinion as to whether the process was lawful and if the Inspector had acted fairly thus far. Cllr Hedges commented that plans had recently changed from describing potential housing numbers as ‘up to’ 1150 homes, to ‘at least’ homes; a member of the public advised that this is likely to be related to the provision of a secondary school to accommodate the shortfall of secondary places in the area. Further discussion took place on the definition of a ‘defensible boundary’ and issues of sustainability and biodiversity.

2. APOLOGIES

Cllr Helen Hickman

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. The Clerk provided a draft budget for 2020/21. Cllrs discussed expected expenditure and agreed a precept of £21,000. Provision was made for covering costs of an expected election in 2020, and for provision of further upgraded street lighting, contingency for recreation ground repairs and for possible further devolution of services by the new Unitary Authority. The Clerk advised Cllrs that there was not currently a policy document available to guide Cllrs on the use of Crowd Funding for Parish Council projects. Whilst there were examples of Councils successfully raising money for projects such as a recreation ground upgrade, and no issues had arisen, there were no known examples of a Council giving money to a crowd funded project and caution was appropriate at this point.
 - ii. Cllrs who had not yet implemented their new email address requested the clerk ask the IT technician to contact them to arrange installation.
- b. Highways
- i. It was agreed to go ahead with the upgrade of streetlights at the junctions of Briary View and the Village Green, as these would enhance safety.
 - ii. The Clerk reported that the cost of the maintenance agreement for the SWARCO MVAS had increased by 45%. Cllrs agreed to the increase. Traffic data from early 2015 and the current November 2019 reading was reviewed, and showed a 58% increase in traffic.
- c. Property
- i. Recreation Ground. The Clerk reported that the list of repairs and remedial works need for the equipment had been completed and grounds-work undertaken to tidy up the area. The cost of the repairs to the adult static bike had been £120. A pay adjustment in line with minimum wage was agreed for weekly litter picking. A date for the Play Around the Parishes play session in summer 2020 was agreed.
- d. Finance
- i. The Clerk presented income and payments for approval, as follows:

Income

The following payments have been received:

26/9/19	2 nd Half Precept	£8,000.00
1/10/19	D Taylor – rent Constable’s Plot	£150.00
30/10/19	J Robinson – rent allotment	£25.00
	Misc Interest	£2.34
	Total	£8,177.34

Expenditure

The following invoices have been received for approval:

203	Harlequin Press inv. 5739 printing WQ	£355.00
204	T Jenkins – email upgrades	£220.00
205	Kompan Ltd - spare parts Recreation Ground repairs	£38.40
206	Swarco Traffic Ltd – 2019/20 Maintenance Contract	£381.00
207	PFK Littlejohn LLP – Audit fees	£240.00
208	E.On Street Light – new unit	£816.00
209	CPRE Annual Donation	£36.00
210	E.On Lighting Maintenance	£125.10
211	E.On Electric for Street Lighting	£327.94
212	F Hayward Recreation Ground litter picking	£53.37
213	Dave Taylor – repairs and maintenance Recreation Ground	£576.00
214	Suzanne Lindsey – salary clerk	£624.63

215	Suzanne Lindsey – expenses clerk	£120.38
	Total	£3,913.82

Bank Balances as at 14/11/19

Metro Bank Account – current	£6,309.21
Metro Bank Account – deposit	£21,182.46
	£27,491.67

6. PLANNING

- a. Cllrs discussed planning application 19/03536/APP and 19/03537/ALB relating to 4 Whaddon Hall High St. Cllrs agreed no objection to this application.
- b. Application ref. 19/03666/AOP rear of Freshfields; Cllr Stewart recused himself from this discussion. Cllrs reviewed this application for changes of boundaries to the building plot and for renewal for a single dwelling house for a further period of three years, and agreed no objection to this application.
- c. Cllr Stewart reported on amendments to 19/03339/APP for 1 Shenley Rd, and it was agreed this was an improved design, and no objection made.
- d. Cllr Stewart stated that there had been no progress on 18/01333/APP Stratford Road and 18/02929/APP The Oaks main house, reporting that the applications were still undetermined.

7. OTHER PARISH MATTERS

- a. Unitary Authority and budget. Cllr Stanier (Chairman) reviewed progress and plans for the forthcoming Unitary Authority. He stated that it was likely there would be support for further devolution to local councils of services under the new arrangements. Cllrs also discussed the forthcoming election.
- b. Cllrs reviewed recent press coverage of possible financial difficulties at Metro Bank, the WPC bank services provider, and a letter/press release provided by Metro Bank was reviewed. Cllrs were reassured that WPC deposits were covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme up to a maximum of £85,000 which was adequate to cover likely balances for the foreseeable future.
- c. Cllr Stewart reviewed Calverton Lane road closure, and advised that Anglian Water was running late on installing their new water main so nothing is likely to happen this year. Concern was expressed about the accuracy and timing of TTP notices.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING(S)

The next meeting(s) of Whaddon Parish Council will be 9/1/20, and 12/3/20.