

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF WHADDON PARISH COUNCIL

Held: Thursday, 8th September 2022, at 7.00pm
at The Chapel School Room, Stock Lane, Whaddon, MK17 0LS

Present: Cllrs Sir Beville Stanier Bt (Chairman), Helen Hickman (Vice Chairman) Georgina Geddes, Jane Herriman, Graham Stewart. Ward Cllr John Chilver.

Members of the Public: One

Clerk: Suzanne Lindsey

Prior to the opening of the meeting attendees stood for a minute's silence to respect, give thanks and reflect on the life of HM Queen Elizabeth II who had passed away peacefully earlier in the day.

23/22. PUBLIC FORUM

One member of the public attended the meeting.

24/22. APOLOGIES

Cllrs Hazel Hedges, Peter Lemagnen.

25/22. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Stewart declared an interest in connection with the planning application no. 22/01293/APP.

26/22. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Cllrs approved the minutes which were signed.

27/22. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Cllr Stewart reported that as agreed he had contacted a village resident in connection with Shenley Park SPD, and the meeting had been productive and useful.

28/22. REPORTS FROM BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCILLORS

Cllr Chilver reported that the focus was on managing the financial pressures across all areas but particularly price increases on energy. BC was looking to accelerate the reduction in offices and employees were working two days a week in the office on average. The property portfolio was being rationalised, sold off and repurposed.

Cllr Chilver advised that East/West Rail would be implementing 2-way traffic lights on the A413 in Winslow and closing the Great Horwood Rd for a period of two-weeks for bridge works. He advised that all £150 council tax rebates had been paid to residents, and that the revenues and benefits system would be suspended for upgrade/integration.

Cllr Chilver advised that consultation had taken place on changes to electoral boundaries, and initial suggestions were to revert to old boundaries with ten parishes separated from Winslow. It was agreed that the ten parishes looked to Winslow as the focus, and it was very important to retain that connection.

Cllr Stewart requested an update on the A421 traffic study. He expressed concern that this study would not be finished in time for consideration and the results included in important decisions on Shenley Park and Salden Chase developments. Cllr Chilver agreed to report back on any progress at the next meeting.

29/22. PLANNING

- a. Salden Chase (SWMK) – 15/00314/AOP Cllr Stewart referred to his planning report. He stated that approval of Sec.106 monies had taken place and that Whaddon would receive £22k in respect of a highway safety improvement scheme on or before occupation of the 100th dwelling. Cllr Stewart expected outline planning approval to be granted shortly. He hoped these monies would be combined with Shenley Park contributions for highway safety projects.
- b. Shenley Park SPD Meeting. Cllr Stewart referred to the minutes of this 1st August meeting already provided. He emphasised that WPC's 7-point wish list had been well received, and the meeting had been positive, with representatives from BC, David Lock, ITP keen to listen and to share initial research and findings on the area. It was expected that the SPD would be available for review by the end of the year and go to public consultation early 2023. It was agreed that Cllr Stewart would provide background information to ITP concerning BC's assumption that 35% of traffic travelling east on the A421 would route through Shenley Park at the new roundabout. Cllr Stewart also expressed concern about the redesign of roads in the Western Expansion Area where land was no longer available to meet the original design, and it was agreed that Cllr Stewart should liaise with L&Q Estates to ensure new road designs continued to include mitigation of heavy vehicles and commuter traffic rat-running through Whaddon.
- c. Current Planning Applications. 22/02818/APP Old Vicarage, Conservatory. Cllr agreed no objection to this application.

Cllrs reviewed 22/02698/APP – new dwelling adjacent to 8 Stock Lane. Concern was expressed about the safety of school children in the light of proximity of the school gate to the driveway, and the likelihood of many additional vehicles accessing the property, and about the extensive wall on the boundary and incongruity of the design features of the property in the village context. It was agreed that Cllr Stewart would draft a response highlighting concerns and the clerk would liaise with the school in connection with the safety aspects of this application.

Cllrs reviewed 22/02818/APP Thrift Farm. It was noted that confirmation had been given by BC planners that permitted development rights do not apply to this site, and that highways have amended their response to an objection. Additional information has been requested by the planners from the acting agents and a final decision is still awaited.

22/01293/APP Land R/O Lowndes Arms. The Clerk updated cllrs that planning officers were still considering this application. Regarding two enforcement actions, BC Officers advised that a listed building enforcement notice was in hand on the main building and it did appear that the stable block is residentially occupied and decisions on further actions were in hand on the second enforcement case.

- d. Calverton Lane Field Gate. Cllr Stewart noted that there had been no update from the owner's land agents regarding compliance of the field gate. However, jetting of the calvert under Stock Lane had been done and the landowner of the spinney and northern drainage ditch contacted to undertake clearance in order to mitigate anticipated winter flooding.
- e. Update on VALP. Cllr Stewart referred cllrs to his planning report.

- f. Yellow Line Project. Cllr Stewart advised that this project was in abeyance pending the appointment of new contractors, and that Elmers Charity had declined to offer funding for the project as it fell outside their remit. It was agreed that information would be included in WQ to keep residents informed.
- g. A421 Traffic Study. See 28/22.

30/22. CLERK'S UPDATE

- a. Administration and Whaddon Quarterly
 - i. The Clerk referred cllrs to the update provided. It was reported that the upgrade to .gov.uk email was in progress and Cllrs would be contacted regarding IT support for the switch over shortly. Cllrs reviewed and signed the instruction to Unity Trust Bank for direct debit payments in favour of HMRC for PAYE/NICS. Cllrs approved PKF Littlejohn to continue as External Auditor. The Clerk advised that there was still no response on the external audit results.
 - ii. The Clerk reported and cllrs agreed that the new editor had produced an excellent first edition, and everything had gone smoothly. Cllrs asked the Clerk to pass on their thanks and appreciation to the new editor.
- b. Highways
 - i. Minor highway issues. No items
 - ii. Cllrs reviewed MVAS traffic data.
- c. Property
 - i. Recreation Ground. The Clerk advised that the annual inspection had been done and some minor items identified for repair. These repairs had been completed. Also the field gate had been repaired and strengthened to a good standard. The Play Around the Parishes session had been well attended with +/- 20 children present. Litter problems had greatly improved over previous years and this continued to be monitored.
 - ii. Allotments. The Clerk advised that new leases and bills would be issued shortly for the coming year. It was agreed that rent would remain at current levels, and in the absence of a water bill an estimated amount would be billed to each tenant for water. It was agreed that new tenants would be required to pay a deposit to cover costs of renovating their plot should the vacate leaving it in bad condition. Clerk to investigate requirements to implement and operate this.
- d. Finance

Income

The following payments have been received:

14/7/22	Metro Bank interest (account closed)	£0.23
18/7/22	B Merry WQ ad payment	£12.00
18/7/22	D Taylor – Rent Constable's Plot	£150.00
26/7/22	BC – grant for allotment water supply	£2,199.40
1/8/22	B Merry WQ Ad Payment	£12.00
	Total	£174.23

Expenditure

The following payments have been made since the last meeting:

18/7/22	DD	Npower – electric streetlights	£46.96
21/7/22	BACS	S J Lindsey - Salary and Expenses May-Jun 2022	£1,604.14

21/7/22	BACS	Harlequin Press – WQ Printing	£445.00
21/7/22	BACS	D Taylor – mowing, strimming/water supply allotments	£1,300.00
21/7/22	BACS	R Lawry – mowing, strimming and hedging	£1,200.00
21/7/22	BACS	F Hayward – litter picking	£152.00
21/7/22	BACS	Eon- Energy – Street lights maintenance	£54.00
21/7/22	BACS	Cllr J Herriman – expenses ref School	£50.00
8/8/22	SO	Freethought – monthly email hosting	£9.50
11/8/22	DD	Nest Pension	£6.51
15/8/22	DD	Npower – electric streetlights	£47.60
7/9/22	SO	Freethought – monthly email hosting	£9.50

The following future payments require approval:

BACS	S J Lindsey – Salary and Expenses Jul-Aug 2022	£1,334.48
BACS	D Taylor – Repairs to Recreation Ground ref Safety Inspection	£355.00
BACS	D Taylor – Repairs to five-bar gate Recreation Ground	£130.00
BACS	Kompan – Annual safety inspection Recreation Ground	£241.02
BACS	Harlequin Press – Autumn Whaddon Quarterly	£445.00
BACS	TJS Technology – Assistance email set up	£35.00
BACS	BC – PATP session August 2022	£552.00
BACS	F Hayward – Litter Picking July	£19.00
	Total	£3,111.50

Bank Balances as at 8/9/22

Unity Bank – deposit	£28,515.00
Unity Bank – current	£3,685.56

31/22. OTHER PARISH MATTERS

- a. Issues with 7 Vicarage Rd. Cllrs reviewed the recent events and the meeting on 25th August with the owners and operators of the care facility for a vulnerable adult resident at 7 Vicarage Rd. Residents had expressed deep concern to WPC that the resident was frequently lying in the road asking to be run over, could be aggressive and abusive, and appeared not to be adequately supervised and cared for to allow this to happen. The police had attended numerous times, and local residents were upset and distressed. Cllr Stanier (Chairman) advised that he had made extensive efforts to contact social services to obtain information and support and to alert them of the problems but to no avail. At the meeting the owners and operators of the care facilities had strongly advised residents not to interfere and to call them for help, as the behaviour was “attention seeking” and made worse by residents intervening. They provided contact telephone numbers to be shared with residents who needed it. The vulnerable adult was currently serving a prison sentence for obstructing the highway and due out on 16th September. Cllrs expressed concern that this person could not be left in the road as instructed by the carers, especially in the light of 3000 traffic movements per day many of them heavy agricultural vehicles and many speeding, especially as the operators appeared ignorant of the danger. Cllr Stewart expressed concern about whether this type of facility was properly licenced and managed and suitable for purpose, being described by the owner as an “ordinary family home”. It was agreed that further advise would be sought on how best to

proceed, and Cllr Stanier (Chairman) would write formally to senior social workers to advise them of the problems and seek further help.

- b. The New Lowndes Arms. Dealt with 29/22 c.
- c. Grant Application for Parking Mitigation for Village Green. Cllrs agreed that this item should be reconsidered at the next meeting.
- d. Provision of improved broadband service. Cllrs agree that this item should be reconsidered at the next meeting.

32/22. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING A DECISION BEFORE THE NEXT MEETING

- a. Cllr Herriman suggested in the light of recent events in the Royal Family, WPC should again consider a flagpole for the village. It was agreed that the best location would be in the village hall grounds. It was agreed that Cllr Herriman should discuss this further with the village hall committee.

33/22. DATE OF NEXT MEETING(S)

The next meeting(s) of Whaddon Parish Council will be at 7pm; 10th November 2022, 12th January 2023, 9th March 2023

Signed:

Chairman

Date: