

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF WHADDON PARISH COUNCIL

Held: Thursday, 13th May, 2021, at 7.00pm
at The Chapel School Room, Stock Lane, Whaddon, MK17 0LS

Supplementary Remote Access via Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/93291025704> Meeting ID: 932 9102 5704

Present: Cllrs Sir Beville Stanier Bt (Chairman), Helen Hickman (Vice Chairman) Georgina Geddes, Hazel Hedges, Jane Herriman, Peter Lemagnen, Graham Stewart.

Members of the Public: 10

Clerk: Suzanne Lindsey

IMPORTANT NOTE: THESE MINUTES REMAIN IN DRAFT UNTIL FORMALLY ADOPTED AND SIGNED AT THE NEXT MEETING OF WHADDON PARISH COUNCIL

1/21. CONFIRMATION OF COUNCILLORS' ELECTION TO OFFICE

Following an uncontested election on 6th May 2021, Councillors provided Declarations of Acceptance of Office and were duly appointed.

2/21. ELECTION OF A CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

Nominations were requested for Chairman. Cllr Sir B. Stanier was proposed by Cllr Stewart and Seconded by Cllr Hedges. There being no other nominations this was carried. Cllr Stanier accepted the nomination and Declaration of Acceptance was signed.

Nominations were requested for Vice Chairman. Cllr Helen Hickman was proposed by Cllr Stanier and seconded by Cllr Stewart. There being no other nominations this was carried. Cllr Hickman accepted the nomination and a Declaration of Acceptance was signed.

3/21. PUBLIC FORUM

Ten members of the public attended the meeting and expressed serious concerns over excessive disruption and nuisance arising from the recent reopening and resumption of operations of The New Lowndes Arms. This comprised large outdoor weekend events with estimated customers attending over 300 on occasions, and with excessively loud music. With the carpark currently closed and being used for tables and chairs under covid measures, parking, traffic congestion and excessive noise caused unacceptable disruption to local residents.

Concerns included: Playing of loud music which could be clearly heard a mile or more away, causing windows of adjacent properties to vibrate, and rendering it impossible for residents to sit outside in nearby gardens. Traffic congestion and inconsiderate parking by pub customers causing extensive delays to residents and local users trying to access or leave their homes (a 35- minute delay was quoted). Farm traffic unable to get through the High St., and having to divert due to 'doubled sided' parking leaving inadequate clearance. Damage to vehicles due to inadequate road width and clearance including a ripped-off car bumper. Illegal pavement parking and driving on the pavement leading to danger to pedestrians and damage to kerbs. Illegal parking proximate to a road bend/blind corner and within 10m of junctions. Public urination on garden walls and on public footpaths. Littering, discarding of drinks bottles and cans in the street and in gardens by pub customers. Serious breaches of covid-19 compliance. Nuisance of smoke from bonfires and the burning of food waste in a fire pit at the rear of the property. Overt drug dealing. Trespass onto adjoining farmland by customers eating picnics in adjoining fields and chasing lambs and sheep and discarding their litter endangering the animals. Residents also expressed concern about possible planning breaches and requested further investigation.

In addition, serious concern was expressed about probable blocking of access to the village by emergency vehicles via Stratford Rd due to excessive congestion and 'double sided' parking.

Members of the public noted the lack of cooperation from the business owner in assisting with the issues caused by his operations and customers, amounting in some cases to use of bad language and bullying/intimidation, including on social media. Some had experienced reprisals and many more feared reprisals if they complained. It was reported that many residents felt the business was attracting the wrong type of people. Requests to turn down the music had been rudely and aggressively refused on more than one occasion. Requests for the owner to take effective responsibility for mitigating the disruption caused by his customers and managing the consequential problems caused by his operations had both been inadequately responded to and/or rebuffed. It was stated that while the landlord had tried placing some traffic bollards to control parking in one or two areas, this was considered insufficient and in the main ineffectual. The owner refused to take any responsibility for the actions of his customers, as he stated they were not his problem. It was strongly stated by members of the public that the owner did have responsibilities for surrounding neighbours under his licence to operate, and should not be allowed to duck out of his obligations. Many felt the stress and anxiety caused by the crowds, noise, congestion and parking problems were having an adverse effect on mental wellbeing and infringing their right to the quiet enjoyment of their home and property.

Members of the public demanded help with reporting breaches of rules to enforcement authorities.

In addition, members of the public expressed concern about high levels of traffic through the village as a whole, and speeding. A request was made to improve road markings outside the school, investigate a 20mph speed limit, and look into double yellow lines, and the provision of speed humps. A section of elevated road with a zebra crossing located outside the school was suggested.

Cllr Stewart responded to traffic concerns saying that huge amounts of work had been done by WPC over many years to try to mitigate traffic rat running and reduce speeding, and that a 20mph speed limit section outside the school was earmarked for the future via use of sec. 106 development money. Efforts would continue, but he warned that progress was unlikely to amount to very much and any measures small or large could take a very long time to implement due to complexity of issues and financial constraints.

4/21. APOLOGIES

Cllr John Chilver, Cllr David Goss

5/21. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Stewart declared his interest in a planning application on land to the rear of Fresh Fields, High St, Whaddon.

6/21. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Cllrs approved the minutes which were signed.

7/21. UPDATES ON RESOLUTIONS FROM MINUTES

None presented.

8/21. REPORTS FROM BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCILLORS

None presented.

9/21. PLANNING

- a. Drainage allotments/Ladymead. Cllr Stanier (Chairman) reported that he had received confirmation that responsibility for fixing the drainage lay with the landowners, the Weatherby Trust.
- b. Coddimoor Lane field gate. Cllrs reviewed recent information provided by Highways that the new existing temporary gate did not comply with Sec. 184 highway licence requirements. And while it was agreed by Mr Essam of Highways this was adequate for undertaking drainage work and for access to contractors to install a new compliant gate, the field could not be used commercially for grazing until the correct gate was installed. The inspector was expecting this work to be completed by the landowner within three or four months, and asked WPC to keep him informed.
- c. Salden Chase (SWMK) 20/0165/CONS. Cllr Stewart referred to his planning report, and stated that the appeal was in process. Buckinghamshire Council had carried out further sensitivity tests on projected traffic through Whaddon and concluded no traffic mitigation was required at the Coddimoor Lane junction with Stock Lane. Evaluation of the 1855 home application for Salden Chase has yet to be concluded, it was noted that a successful appeal would likely lead to approval of at least 1150 new homes in Shenley Park.
- d. VALP – Hearing Update. Cllr Stewart referred to his planning report. It is expected that the inspector will not find the allocation of Shenley Park unsound, but no decision is expected for around two months.
- e. Local Planning, updates and appeals. Cllr Stewart referred to his planning report, stating that MK2050 futures has now been adopted by MKC as an annexe to MK Local Plan. The proposal for 6600 homes in Whitehouse continues to move closer to ‘The Ridge’ and answers to questions on planning matters had not been received. Cllr Stewart speculated that a legal dispute on acquisition of land may hold up the rerouting of Calverton Lane which will delay the reduction in traffic rat-running through Whaddon. Local planning applications were reviewed; the Clerk was requested to resubmit correspondence relating to the appeal on recontouring on Park Hill Farm. It was agreed that the Clerk would submit ‘no objection’ notices on other recent applications.

10/21. CLERK’S UPDATE

- a. Administration and Whaddon Quarterly
 - i. The Clerk advised that 2019/20 accounts had passed internal audit and audit submission paperwork was signed off.
 - ii. The Clerk reviewed standing orders, policies and administrative matters. Cllrs approved current arrangements. The Clerk advised that the internal auditor recommended a BACS transfer arrangement for the Council, and with banks not accepting new customers this would be arranged as soon as possible.
 - iii. The Clerk referred to her Update provided, and Cllrs reviewed recent activities and events for the period.
 - iv. The Clerk reviewed the recent meeting with the oil syndicate administrator. It was agreed that an updated list of syndicate members should be awaited to determine next steps.
- b. Highways
 - i. Cllrs agreed to and signed direct debit instruction for street lighting electricity bills. The Clerk was instructed to obtain quotes for additional streetlights for Shenley Rd and along Stock Lane.
 - ii. Cllrs reviewed traffic data.
- c. Property
 - i. Recreation Ground. The Clerk advised that due to ill health new arrangements for litter picking were needed, Cllrs agreed to advertise for a new person, advert to be circulated for approval prior to issue.
 - ii. Allotments. The Clerk advised that the new path and gate were complete. It was agreed that billing for allotments should be done on a sq.m basis going forward. Cllr Stewart raised the topic of water supply and

improvements to the verge, and it was agreed this should be further investigated and progressed.

d. Finance

Income

The following payments have been received:

24/3/21	L Gilbert Allotment Rent – inv.1240	£5.00
24/3/21	A James Allotment Rent – inv.1238	£5.00
29/3/21	D Taylor – rent Constable’s Plot	£150.00
20/4/21	Precept	£15,000.00
28/4/21	N Bloomer Allotment Rent – inv.1241	£25.00
1/5/21	T Daniels Allotment Rent – inv. 1242	£10.00
4/5/21	Elmer’s Charity – Grant	£1,712.50
12/5/21	L Gilbert Allotment Rent – inv.1243	£5.00
12/5/21	Julier – WQ Advert	£48.00
Various	Interest	£1.09
	Total	£16,916.59

Expenditure

The following invoices were approved:

289	D Taylor Handyman – Gate/Path Installation Allotments	£3,925.00
290	D Taylor Handyman – Mowing Old Manor Close/Recreation Ground	£170.00
291	BHIB Annual Council Insurance	£550.90
292	St Catherine’s Hospice – Audit Fee	£50.00
293	Kompan – Annual Inspection Recreation Ground	£234.00
294	S J Lindsey – salary Mar/Apr 2021	£1,298.62
295	S J Lindsey – expenses (incl. new laptop)	£713.70
296	BMKALC – subscription	£93.83
297	St Mary’s Church PCC – Grant for Burial Ground Maintenance	£100.00
298	Whaddon Jubilee Hall – Cleaning Grant	£250.00
299	E-on Street light upgrades	£2,697.60
300	E-on Street light shield 11 Vicarage Rd	£54.00
301	T Jenkins – IT support/set up new laptop/email migration	£250.00
302	NBPPC – membership fee	£20.00
303	E-On – street light maintenance	£54.00
304	F Hayward – rec litter picking/check, mailing WQ Feb-Mar 2021	£124.74
	Total	£10,586.39

Bank Balances as at 13/5/21

Metro Bank Account – current	£17,757.38
Metro Bank Account – deposit	£12,740.72
	£30,498.10

11/21. OTHER PARISH MATTERS

- a. The New Lowndes Arms. Cllrs reviewed the complaints from Parishioners received both prior to the meeting and presented in sec. 3/21 Public Forum above, surrounding the operations of the pub.

Cllrs noted that an offer of a meeting between WPC and the pub owner and manager made on 6th May by Cllr Stanier (Chairman) to discuss issues and seek an amicable and informal resolution had been refused.

Cllrs noted that MVAS traffic data for Saturday, April 17th registered 50% higher than normal. The MVAS unit was located on the High St., proximate to the entrance to Whaddon Hall, facing north. Typical readings being 600 vehicles, and this date reading 902 vehicles.

Cllrs discussed concerns around planning compliance for recent building works and noted that the Council had not received copies of any planning applications to cover these works. Cllrs unanimously agreed that Buckinghamshire Council should be appraised of both public and WPC concerns and it was agreed the Clerk request details of any discussions and pending planning matters from BC planning department.

It was agreed that the Clerk should provide details and contact information for the appropriate Buckinghamshire Council licencing and enforcement departments and the Police, for residents to submit formal complaints if they wished to.

- b. Cllrs confirmed the continuance of Derek White as Elmer's Charity Trustee.
- c. Cllrs welcomed the proposal for Elmer's Charity to provide a grant for a public seat on the Village Green. Exact location to be discussed and agreed.
- d. Cllrs noted that no progress had been made on the repair and replacement of granite setts on the High St. Cllr Stanier (Chairman) agreed to take this up with Cllr Chilver.

12/21. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING A DECISION BEFORE THE NEXT MEETING

- a. Cllr Stewart reviewed recent correspondence on the offer of funding for a Neighbourhood Plan for Whaddon. He expressed concern that the work would be onerous, but the benefits would be minimal. It was agreed to consider inviting a speaker on the topic to the next meeting.

13/21. DATE OF NEXT MEETING(S)

The next meeting(s) of Whaddon Parish Council will be at 7pm; 7th July 2021, 9th September 2021, 11th November 2021, 13th January 2022, 10th March 2022.

Signed: Chairman

Date: