

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHADDON PARISH COUNCIL**

Held: Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> September 2019, at 7.30pm at School Room, Whaddon Chapel, Stock Lane, Whaddon.

Present: Cllrs Sir Beville Stanier Bt (Chairman), Hazel Hedges, Helen Hickman, Graham Stewart, Derek White.

Members of the Public: Approximately 60-70 attendees.

Clerk: Suzanne Lindsey

### **1. PUBLIC SESSION**

- a. Some 60-70 members of the public attended to receive information and express concern about the proposed Shenley Park housing development which is expected to be included in the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP). Cllr Billy Stanier (Chairman) welcomed attendees and explained the background to current situation. Cllr Stewart presented details of the proposal, explaining the total number of houses may be as high as 1800, despite the plan only allocating 1,150 homes. The proposal was currently being examined by the appointed Planning Inspector who should make his views known soon so that a six-week public consultation period can commence during early October. The final outcome would not be known until the spring, when the VALP is expected to be adopted, but it was clear that AVDC was under a great deal of pressure to provide additional housing. Alternative sites had been and were being considered including one at Eaton Leys, but it was clear Shenley Park was the current favoured location. Members of the public expressed a great deal of concern about the lack of information, the increase in traffic on already inadequate road systems, the loss of green space and recreation areas, and their concerns that local infrastructure will be inadequate to cope with the increase in population. Members of the public objected strongly to the proposal, and the process of how to object was discussed at length, with WPC suggesting that it might help with suggested topics of objection at the appropriate time.
- b. Two members of the public representing the staff and governors of Whaddon School attended to request support from the Parish Council for the expansion of the school to include Year-6. They stated that the school had an excellent business plan in place, which showed that resources were available to provide the extra years. They emphasised this would be a great benefit to the local community, and there was a potential decrease in traffic due to more village children attending.
- c. A member of the public asked about the progress on planning applications for The Oaks, (19/02291/APP, 19/02309/APP, 19/02345/APP) and Cllr Stewart responded to the questions and provided information on the current status.
- d. Cllr Stewart updated members of the public on expected closures of Calverton Lane for works on a water main starting 26<sup>th</sup> October for one week and phase 1 re-routing works starting early 2020 for approximately three months.

### **2. APOLOGIES**

Cllrs Graham Hain and Peter Lemagnen

### **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest

### **4. MINUTES**

The minutes for the previous meeting were adopted and signed.

### **5. UPDATE ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS AND WQ**

- a. Administration

- i. The Clerk provided details of the new email addresses for Cllrs and WQ editor. It was agreed to invite an IT expert to attend the next meeting to assist with setting up the emails on Cllrs laptops.
- b. Highways
  - i. The Clerk presented a quotation for replacing another street light in Stock Lane which was in a poor state. It was agreed to go ahead.
  - ii. The Clerk reported that weed spraying of footpaths had taken place.
- c. Property
  - i. Constable's Plot. No items.
  - ii. Recreation Ground. The Clerk reported that one of the bench swings was in need of repair and parts had been ordered. The annual safety inspection of the play equipment had taken place and problems highlighted were all in the low and very low risk category. Cllr Hickman, Oliver Leviathan (periodic safety inspector) and The Clerk had checked the report, and agreed a list of remedial work needed. However, parts for the repair of the static bike were considered too expensive, and it was agreed that an attempt would be made to repair the bike using existing parts, or alternatively, consider having it removed due to low utilisation making the high cost of repair unjustifiable. Cllrs agreed with the proposed list of remedial works. The Clerk reported that the Play Around the Parishes play session had been a success and well attended.
  - iii. Allotments – see below.
- d. Finance
  - i. The Clerk presented income and payments for approval, as follows:

#### Income

The following payments have been received:

	Misc Interest	£4.68
	Total	£4.68

#### Expenditure

The following invoices have been received for approval:

199	Kompan – Recreation Ground Inspection	£225.00
200	R&S Landscapes Ltd – Weed spraying	£408.00
201	Harlequin Press – printing Whaddon Quarterly	£340.00
202	S J Lindsey – Salary Clerk	£243.28
	Total	£1,216.20

#### Bank Balances as at 12/9/19

Metro Bank Account – current	£12,380.49
Metro Bank Account – deposit	£9,177.86
	£21,558.35

## 6. PLANNING

- a. Cllrs discussed planning application 19/02591/APP, 33a Stock Lane, Whaddon for an open carport in the front garden of the property. Concern was expressed about building in front of the recognised building line with regard to fairness and consistency in line with previous refusals for building in front gardens in front of the building line should this application be approved. Cllrs agreed to object to this application.

- b. Cllr Stewart reviewed an applications for Chase Lodge 19/02984/APP front and rear porches, and 1 Stratford Rd 19/02987/APP field access and Cllrs agreed no objection should be made. Cllr Stewart advised that roof lanterns for The Gate House, Whaddon Hall, had been agreed with the historic buildings officer.
- c. Cllr Stewart reviewed progress on 18/01333/APP Stratford Road and 18/02929/APP, reporting that the application was still undetermined. Delays were due to yet another change of planning officer, and concerns by senior officer signing off the decision notice.
- d. Cllr Stewart reviewed the three planning applications for The Oaks, advising that renovation of the existing house was likely to be approved, and the conversion of the traditional brick farm building likewise. However, the building of four terraced houses in the agricultural building had been rejected.

#### 7. OTHER PARISH MATTERS

- a. Allotments. Cllrs discussed the poor state of take up and maintenance of the allotments, and the difficulties of finding tenants. It was agreed to renew efforts to find tenants by contacting the Allotment Association. In the longer term Cllrs considered the possibility of de-listing the allotments and finding alternative uses for the resources; it being likely that Shenley Park development would provide alternative land for allotments in the future.
- b. Cllrs reviewed comments from School Governors about the expansion of Whaddon School, and it was agreed to fully support the initiative.
- c. Cllr Stewart advised that he had attended the meeting in Winslow about the Oxford/Cambridge Expressway, and reported that attendees opposed the road. Information was available on [www.noexpressway.org](http://www.noexpressway.org) where it was possible to sign up for newsletters.
- d. Cllr White requested the residents of 1a Stock Lane be asked to cut back their hedge which was overhanging the footpath.
- e. Cllr Stewart proposed and Cllrs agreed wording and location of signage advising motorists of road closures in Calverton Lane.
- f. Cllrs reviewed the draft letter prepared by Cllr Stewart to be sent to The Planning Inspector regarding Shenley Park and VALP, and agreed for it to be sent.

#### 8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING(S)

The next meeting(s) of Whaddon Parish Council will be 14/11/19, 9/1/20, and 12/3/20.