

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF WHADDON PARISH COUNCIL

Held: Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> July 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.

Members of the Public: John Mortimer (WQ Editor)

Clerk: Suzanne Lindsey

### 1. PUBLIC SESSION

No items

### 2. APOLOGIES

Cllr Helen Hickman

### 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 advised that the Parish email provider had been set up and email transferred, and was working for Parishclerk. It was agreed that Cllrs would prefer email name format InitialSurnameWPC@ etc., and to go ahead with setting up Cllr email addresses.

#### b. Highways

- i. The Clerk reported the street light in Stock Lane had been replaced with an LED unit and a reduction in the electric bill was expected due to reduced electric consumption. Cllrs agreed to go ahead with replacing more street lights; reduction in running and maintenance costs being an important factor.
- ii. The Clerk reported that the poor condition of the footpath adjacent to the Lowndes Arms had been reported.
- iii. The Clerk reported that weed spraying of footpaths was scheduled to take place shortly. Cllr White commented that the village looked poorly maintained at present.

#### c. Property

- i. Constable's Plot. No items.
- ii. Recreation Ground. The Clerk reported that Shenley Parish Council had agreed to undertake fortnightly safety inspections of the recreation ground for a monthly cost of £30 plus vat. Also, the annual safety inspection and a quote for the repair of the damaged flywheel on the static bicycle were awaited, and both were being chased. Football nets had successfully been replaced, fixed with cable ties, and there were no further incidents of damage or theft.
- iii. Allotments. The Clerk reported that the water tank had been repaired and was working.

#### d. Finance

- i. The Clerk presented income and payments for approval, as follows:

## Income

The following payments have been received:

16/5/19	Allotment Clearance P Bush	£54.00
25/6/19	D Taylor – rent Constable’s Plot	£150.00
	Misc Interest	£6.86
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£210.86</b>

## Expenditure

The following invoices have been received for approval:

190	BHIB Ltd – annual insurance	£547.16
191	E.On Energy Solutions – new street light	£816.00
192	S J Lindsey – Admin May/Jun ‘19	£506.28
193	S J Lindsey – Expenses May/Jun	£120.79
194	D Taylor – Fixing football nets	£75.00
195	D Taylor – Allotment water tank repairs	£40.00
196	AVDC – PATP fees	£456.00
197	Eon – Street light electricity	£320.40
198	Eon – Street light maintenance	£125.10
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,006.73</b>

## Bank Balances as at 11//7/19

Metro Bank Account – current	£15,387.22
Metro Bank Account – deposit	£9,173.18
	£24,560.40

## 6. PLANNING

- a. Cllr Stewart reported that the application to spread bury inert waste at Park Hill had been refused, and that a decision on design of skylights for 19/00074/ALB Whaddon Hall Gatehouse was still awaited from the historic buildings officer.
- b. Cllr Stewart reviewed an application from 3 Stratford Rd for a two-storey extension. Benefits included removal of a window overlooking adjacent property, we understand that the applicant has shown the plans to the adjoining neighbour. Cllr Stewart recommended ‘no objection’ to the application, subject to the use of matching building materials. There could be some concern about the property being on the edge of the village, and AVDC may raise an objection on the basis of the extension expanding into open countryside and valued landscape, but the location of the existing garage does not in WPC’s opinion make this a valid reason for objection.
- c. Cllr Stewart reviewed progress on 18/01333/APP Stratford Road and 18/02929/APP. AVDC had refused retrospective planning permission for the shed and bio-treatment plant on the basis that there was no agricultural use of the land to support the concurrent application, particularly in the light of the application for use for dog training. AVDC objected to the bio-treatment plant on the basis that the outflow was too close to the pumping system and should be connected to it. The applicants had been given twenty-eight days to appeal the decision, but the time-window had expired with no appeal being lodged. Enforcement action had not been decided, as the outcome of the application for dog training had not yet been determined. Further delays to finalise everything were expected.
- d. Cllr Stewart reviewed three planning applications for The Oaks, a derelict house and farm buildings situated off Stratford Rd. The first application called for a new

dwelling on the existing footprint but approximately 40% bigger. Cllr Stewart recommended there was no objection to the house, but the design was not visually appealing for its rural location. The other two applications were for the upgrade of derelict farm buildings to dwellings. Due to technical issues no plans were available for consideration and a time extension had been granted for submission of comments. The third application called for the conversion of open steel framed barns into four two-bed single dwelling houses. Cllr Stewart recommended objection to both these applications on the basis of intrusion onto valued landscape, sustainability, structural soundness, desirability and access. It was agreed that a response objecting would be prepared and submitted by WPC. Cllr Stewart expressed concern that the application was based on the farm buildings being redundant however they appear to be in agricultural use and an accompanying document suggests that a new farm storage building would be constructed nearby.

- e. VALP. Cllr Stewart advised that it appeared uncertain still whether 1000 new houses would be placed in this area. Cllr Stanier (Chairman) suggested that it was almost certain that Shenley Park would go ahead, particularly as 1500 houses had been recommended by the inspector for placement in the MK area. Plans showed housing coming up to Briary View and down to A421. The routing of the additional traffic was discussed. Traffic levels on the A421 is a great concern.
- f. Calverton Lane. Cllr Stewart advised that following hedge clearance and erection of security fencing plans were in place to divert Calverton Lane (phase 1). The second part of the diversion would then not take place for some five to six years.

## 7. OTHER PARISH MATTERS

- a. Footpath maintenance. Cllr Hain suggested that a work party could be organised to clean up the footpath adjacent to the Lowndes Arms, if required.
- b. Cllrs discussed the request received for the Parish Council to take on the administration of the village Facebook page. It was agreed that as two new administrators had recently been appointed to replace the administrators who had resigned, it was agreed not to progress this further.
- c. Cllrs discussed the recent arrival of a traveller family on the footpath at the rear of Beech Cottage. BCC bollards had been damaged at the Whaddon roundabout layby to gain access. Police had arrested one traveller in connection with crimes committed in Scotland.
- d. Cllr Stanier (Chairman) reported that following a meeting with the Weatherby family, resolution to the problem of access to their land to trim the rear of the allotment hedge was still awaited.
- e. Cllrs discussed the proposed closure of Thrift Farm adult day care centre. Cllr Stanier reported that financial losses were significant, and closure was likely, especially in the light of the impending Unitary Authority.
- f. Cllr Stewart reported that the North Bucks Parishes Planning Consortium (NBPPC) had issued their annual chairman's report, which stated that the arrival of the new Unitary Authority will influence VALP and therefore BCC local plans. The routing of the new East/West Expressway was expected to be parallel to the A41 and/or the A421. AVDC appeared to have been ignoring local neighbourhood plans when making planning decisions.
- g. Cllr Stewart reported that Mr R Porter, resident at Kreewood, Vicarage Rd, had applied for a white 'H Line' outside his house to facilitate ambulance access in the event of an urgent medical issue. Mr Porter had submitted the application and paid the fee, but the application had not proceeded as no one had notified the contractor, and it appeared that his payment had been mislaid. Cllr Stewart had requested advance notification of the arrival of the contractors to ensure parked cars were cleared on the day, to avoid further delays in installing the line.

## 8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING(S)

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