

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHADDON PARISH COUNCIL

Held: Thursday, 10th November 2016, at 7.30pm at School Room, Whaddon Chapel, Stock Lane, Whaddon.

Present: Cllrs Graham Hain, Helen Hickman, Peter Lemagnen, Derek White (Acting Chairman).

Members of the Public: Jill Quinton and Bill Chapple of Bucks County Council, David and Patricia Richards of 2 Stock Lane Whaddon, John Mortimer, Editor WQ.

Clerk: Suzanne Lindsey

PUBLIC SESSION

Ms Quinton and Mr Chapple presented the business case for a unitary model council. They emphasised that a massive increase in demand for council services is expected in the coming years, but government funding to assist with providing the services will decline to nothing by 2019. While £145 million in savings had been achieved so far, much more will be needed. Ms Quinton advised that by adopting a single unitary authority, leading to greater efficiencies, £45 million of savings could be achieved in five years. She felt that a single authority would have a clear focus and clear accountability. The proposal included provision of nineteen community hubs providing services in their local areas, and five planning committees making local decisions. Plus more services would be devolved to Town and Parish Councils. She felt that a large organisation would enable more national influence to achieve better infrastructure and add value. In addition assets and equipment could be shared and £48 million on cash released over five years. Councillors would be reduced from 236 currently down to 98. The cost of implementing the change had been assessed at £20 million. Cllr White (Acting Chairman) thanked Ms Quinton and Mr Chapple for their presentation.

Mr and Mrs Richards stated their concern about planning application 16/03270/APP Whitegates House, Stock Lane, Whaddon: addition of a third storey to an existing two storey building. They felt the extension was inappropriate for the village, especially as there were no other three-storey properties in the vicinity. They were concerned that the view of the church would be blocked, and if permission were granted it would constitute an unwelcome precedent. They asked WPC to support their objection to the application.

APOLOGIES

Cllrs Hazel Hedges, Sir Beville Stanier Bt (Chairman), Graham Stewart.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

MINUTES

The minutes for the previous meetings were adopted and signed.

PROJECT UPDATES AND CORRESPONDENCE

Roads and Footpaths

1. The clerk reported various incidents of fly tipping, and problems with signs and streetlights had been reported in the period. New 'no parking' lines had been requested for the new recreation ground crossing.

Recreation Ground

1. Cllr Hain reported that the goal posts had been successfully sanded down and re-painted with the help of village volunteers, and were much improved. It was agreed that he should go ahead and arrange the purchase of the new nets as soon as possible. A standard size net being better value than a bespoke net, it was agreed to go with a standard size.
2. The Clerk was requested to look at the possibility of renting out the football pitch to local clubs.
3. The Clerk reported that a meeting had taken place to identify what corrections were need to the layout of the new recreation ground gate, which currently did not meet the required safety specification or highways requirements. C Dowdy has undertaken to organise the remedial work free of charge. In the mean time the invoice would be held pending completion of the work.

Communications

1. The Clerk reported that WPC email alerts, Whaddon Quarterly, and the village facebook page continued over the period. Various items of information had been loaded on the new website.

Finance and Administration

1. The Clerk reported a letter had been prepared and sent to Right Hon. John Bercow MP expressing concern about the Local Government Finance Consultation.

Allotments

1. The Clerk reported that all the allotments had been let, the last going to Dr J Robinson. One payment was outstanding and would be chased, Cllr White expressed concern about the poor condition of that allotment.
2. The adjacent landowner, Mr P Hobbs, had requested permission to remove some saplings that had self-seeded from the vicinity of the allotment boundary, which was agreed by the Cllrs.

Constable's Plot

1. The Clerk reported that a meeting had taken place with a solicitor concerning the format for the new lease for Constable's Plot. The recommendation was for a Business Lease for the provision of buildings for storage. Covenants would include the requirement to comply with asbestos regulations, to maintain the boundaries and ditches, give permission to take a hay crop, and formalise the requirement to maintain the road/track to access the buildings.
2. The Clerk reported that a request for quote had been submitted to the Parish's insurers for insurance for the buildings, who had come back with detailed requests for further information. Cllrs suggested that NFU insurance may be more suitable and instructed the clerk to approach them for a quote.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

The following payments have been received:

13/9/16	Allotment Rents D White, P Logan, R Boateng	£45.00
25/9/16	Allotment Rent A Markwick	£15.00
27/9/16	AVDC Precept	£7,500.00
1/10/16	Rent Constable's Plot	£145.00
24/10/16	Allotment Rents Jawoski, Jaworska (2), Dobson	£60.00
25/10/16	Allotment Rent Robinson	£15.00
Various	Misc. Interest	£3.09
		£7,783.09

The following invoices have been received for approval:

065	Eon Electric – Street lighting	£211.06
066	CPRE Membership	£36.00
067	Fredrick Hayward – litter picking Sep-Oct 2016	£32.40
068	S J Lindsey – clerk's salary Jul-Sep 2016	£912.47
069	S J Lindsey – clerk's expenses	£33.48
070	R Porter – mowing and hedging	£3,129.00
		£4,354.41

Bank Balances as at 10/11/16

Metro Bank Account – current	£1,672.52
Metro Bank Account – deposit	£13,230.09
Metro Bank Account - charity	£1,957.05

REPORTS

1. Planning.
 - a. Cllr Lemagnen reported that Cllrs had attended the planning consultation meeting regarding planning permission for a house in the rear gardens of 2a/2b High St., ref ., 16/01298/AOP to state their objections. Despite their objections, outline approval had been given. The recommendation was that, “the bulk of the new dwelling should be conditioned to a 1 ½ storey building with the maximum ridge height restricted to 7.0 metres. Whilst any dwelling on this site is likely to be visible from the public right of way, with the appropriate scale and location it could avoid being cramped and could ensure that the open aspects referred to by the Inspector preserved.” However discussions were continuing about protecting the Walnut Tree which is subject to TPO, how drainage would be provided, and how the dustbin lorry would be able to turn around, avoiding the need to back onto the main road on a blind corner. Also, the proposal left 2b High St with no off-street parking. It was noted that the upgrading of the track may not now go ahead, and the new house would be served by the existing unmade track. Technically, the application is approved.

- b. Cllrs reviewed Cllr Stewart's comments about the minor amendments to the application for a new field access for the field adjoining 1 Stratford Rd. It was agreed that no objection would be made.
 - c. Cllrs reviewed Cllr Stewart's comments regarding Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan, stating WPC remains strongly opposed to the allocation of WHA001. Cllrs approved their communication to VALP.
2. Highways
- a. Cllrs discussed the issue of poor street lighting at the top end of the High Street. Cllrs agreed that the Clerk should investigate upgrading the existing streetlight on the village green. It was agreed that the offer of BCC's Simon Dando to provide lighting maintenance services should be considered further, and Mr Dando invited to the next meeting.
 - b. Cllrs reviewed the proposal for a 20 mph speed limit outside Whaddon School at a cost of £10k. Cllr Hedges advised previously that the school did not have any funds available to contribute. Cllrs agreed it might be possible that WPC could apply to the LAF for a grant. The Clerk was asked to find out more about the proposed signs and installation.
 - c. Cllrs reviewed the closure of Shenley Rd, and the resultant diversion. No signage had been provided stating that local businesses were open as usual. It was obvious that there was back-tracking on the provision of chicanes to slow down the traffic on Coddimoor Lane due to concerns about where to locate them. It was proving impossible to identify who was responsible for the provision of the chicanes.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT ALREADY DEALT WITH

None

AOB

- 1. The Clerk was requested to propose meeting dates for WPC meetings in 2017.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING(S)

The next meeting(s) of Whaddon Parish Council for 2017 to be advised.