

# MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF WHADDON PARISH COUNCIL

Held: Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023, at 7.00pm  
at The Chapel School Room, Stock Lane, Whaddon, MK17 0LS

Present: Cllrs Sir Beville Stanier Bt (Chairman), Georgina Geddes, Jane Herriman, Peter Lemagnen, Graham Stewart, Derek White.

Members of the Public: None  
Clerk: Suzanne Lindsey

56/22. PUBLIC FORUM  
No Items

57/22. APOLOGIES  
Cllrs Helen Hickman (Vice Chairman), John Chilver.

58/22. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST  
None

59/22. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING  
Cllrs approved the minutes which were signed.

60/22. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES  
None.

61/22. REPORTS FROM BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCILLORS  
Cllr Stanier (Chairman) reported that the financial situation at BC continued to look bleak, and Council Tax increases for 2023/24 were 4.99%, which is below inflation and necessitated cut backs, but the merger into a larger Unitary Authority had generated savings that were helping mitigate the cuts. Of the 4.99%, 2.99% was the general element while 2% was needed for increases in Social Care, and Health and Wellbeing.

Cllr Stewart requested clarification on whether Ward Cllrs were intending to participate in a meeting with Crest Nicholson on the Shenley Park Development. It was agreed that the Archaeological investigation should be completed and the SPD much nearer its consultation stage before attending any meeting but to advise Crest Nicholson that otherwise WPC and Ward Councillors were keen to meet.

62/22. PLANNING

- a. Infrastructure Baseline Consultation. GS clarified that this consultation overlaps the Settlement Review submission submitted earlier, with very similar questions, but is required for the new Replacement Local Plan to 2040. Cllrs agreed his proposed response was very well drafted and to proceed with submission.
- b. Salden Chase (SWMK) – 15/00314/AOP. Cllr Stewart referred to his planning report confirming £22k s106 financial contribution on completion of the 100<sup>th</sup> house.

- c. Shenley Park SPD and Archaeological Investigation. Cllr Stewart reviewed the lack of progress on the archaeological investigation for the Roman Settlement, which had not yet commenced and delays to the SPD work were expected. GS advised he was pushing BC for a public meeting and Village Exhibition immediately the SPD was ready for the public consultation but was awaiting a response. Cllr Stewart advised that he had never received the requested copies of the documents relating to BC's response to the Scoping Opinion request for an Environmental Impact Assessment for up to 1650 homes, but they had now been posted online. They were very complex and lengthy; but he was in the process of reviewing them. Cllr Stewart advised that he felt completion of the target 50 homes by the 2025 deadline was looking increasingly unlikely. Cllr Stewart surmised that had the Roman Settlement been thoroughly and fully investigated at the 2019 Sustainability Assessment state of the VALP it may have tipped the balance against the Shenley Park as the preferred site, when considered against Eaton Leys.

Cllr Stewart updated Cllrs on the 'Spine Rd' and road layouts for Shenley Park, and the earlier BC assumption that 35% of traffic may be routed on this road; this was looking increasingly less credible. He explained that the traffic and highways aspect of the planning was becoming extremely complex and would be costly, requiring highly specialist knowledge and skills, that WPC neither had nor could afford – especially when looking at the NLPC experience when 'fighting' similar Salden Chase highway issues.

- d. Current Planning Applications. Cllrs reviewed 23/00597/SO – Screening Option for a proposed development of 37MW solar farm, substation and supporting infrastructure at Oaks Farm, Whaddon MK17 0NF. Cllr Stewart reviewed other recent Solar Farms in the area, similar to this proposal. He advised that pressure from government in connection with the need to tackle climate change appears to have relaxed the criteria for granting permission for these installations, and it would need strong cumulative site, landscape character and visibility, transport, land quality and biodiversity and heritage impact arguments, if WPC were to consider opposing any future planning application, remembering that the current application was only for a 'Screening Opinion'. It was agreed that Ward Cllrs would place a call-in on this application immediately an application was submitted to ensure it was fully discussed in committee. Clearly, the similar undecided and 'called in' application at Manor Farm, Beachampton (22/03492/APP) would be a very important consideration when further considering any solar farm application impacting the Whaddon Valley. Cllrs agreed that in the meantime comments should be submitted to BC planners about WPC concerns in connection with the Scoping Opinion. It was agreed that the Clerk would respond to the applicant Novus that further information would be awaited before agreeing to any public meeting with them. There had been no change to other pending applications.
- e. Approach from Novus – see Sec. d. above.
- f. Update on VALP. Cllr Stewart referred Cllrs to his planning report. Nothing further to report other than the Infrastructure Baseline Consultation. No response has been received on the request for details of the latest 'promoted' green field sites, now expected at the end of March.
- g. Update on A421 Study. WPC had received a 'holding response' advising that the study had been delayed while new highways contractors were put in place. Cllr Stewart reported that numerous traffic counter cables had been installed on local and Milton Keynes roads. Those in BC's jurisdiction had not been given permission, which was being sought retrospectively. Requests for clarification on whether the data collected was permissible and for a copy of the results had not been answered.

- h. NBPPC and S106/CIL. Cllr Stewart referred to his planning report advising that all members of NBPPC were experiencing similar concerns about every aspect of dealing with BC, and attempts were being made to try to improve relationships, in line with BCs published Charter. Reassurances had been received on S106/CIL contributions relating to Shenley Park, although S106 negotiations could extend beyond the Whaddon Parish, so any necessary funding raised understandably, would not all be allocated to Whaddon.
- i. Milton Keynes New City Plan. Recently published; comments are being invited. This builds on Plan: MK – the strategy for 2050 including a Mass Rapid Transport Scheme which focusses on planning for driverless cars. It was agreed to submit the drafted response provided by Cllr Stewart and establish ‘consultee’ status for the future on this project.

Cllr Stewart added that the road scheme planned for Fairfield and Whitehouse is highly likely to be sent back to the drawing board as a result of some 35 acres land being acquired by adverse possession. The plans for diverting through traffic away from Whaddon may be in jeopardy as a result. This matter would need careful ‘monitoring’ during the coming months.

#### 63/22. CLERK’S UPDATE

- a. Administration and Whaddon Quarterly
  - i. The Clerk referred cllrs to the update provided. The Clerk confirmed that the appointment of Cllr White following co-option was complete, and Cllrs agreed and signed a bank mandate to add Cllr White for access and as a signatory for the bank.
  - ii. The Clerk advised that a new policy on procedures and cost management had been agree with the WQ Editor, and considerable savings in print costs made. Advertisers had been invoiced and a price increase implemented for the next edition. Distribution of paper copies was being reduced to save money. Additional advertisers would be sought to increase income.
- b. Highways
  - i. Minor highway issues. The Clerk reported flytipping had seen a huge increase with 10 cases reported, with many new incidents still to be reported. Saltbin replenishment had been chased due to adverse weather. The missing sign at the destroyed traffic buildout had been replaced, and repairs expected in the new financial year.
  - ii. Cllrs reviewed MVAS traffic data. Cllrs reviewed a complaint from a member of the public that the MVAS sign was not working and traffic in Whaddon causing concern. Information and data had been provided to prove the MVAS was working. It was agreed it was disappointing this person did not read minutes on the Parish Website or reports in WQ and declined to attend the Public Forum to appraise themselves of accurate information.
- c. Property
  - i. Recreation Ground. The Clerk confirmed a play session had been booked for summer 2023. A repair had been quickly undertaken to the cargo net, and a dumped car wheel removed.
  - ii. Allotments. The Clerk advised that queries on plot sizes were being dealt with and a concern about lights at night in the lunch hut resolved.

d. Finance

- i. Cllrs reviewed the current cash position.
- ii. Cllrs reviewed income and approved payments.

Income

The following payments have been received:

24/1/23	L Bourns WQ AD	£12.00
9/2/23	Harlequin Press WQ Ad Income	60.00
14/2/23	Bumpstart WQ Ad Income	£104.49
14/2/23	Country Funerals WQ Ad Income	£60.00
17/2/23	T Jenkins WQ Ad Income	£60.00
8/3/23	Tring Market Auctions WQ Ad Income	£106.25
	Total	£402.74

Expenditure

The following payments have been made since the last meeting:

16/1/23	DD	Npower - electric	£43.51
16/1/23	BACS	H K Fisk – Christmas Tree	£95.00
16/1/23	BACS	Winslow Bus Donation	£100.00
16/1/23	BACS	D Taylor – Christmas Tree	£230.00
16/1/23	BACS	T Jenkins – IT Services	£70.00
16/1/23	BACS	S J Lindsey – Salary & Expenses	£1,715.55
16/1/23	BACS	Harlequin Press – WQ Printing	£388.00
16/1/23	BACS	Bruce Macrae – Oil Syndicate costs	£61.20
7/2/23	SO	Freethought email services	£9.50
13/2/23	DD	Npower – electric	£42.05
17/2/23	DD	Nest Pensions	£6.44
7/3/23	SO	Freethought email services	£9.50
		Total	£2,770.75

The following future payments require approval:

BACS	S J Lindsey – Salary and Expenses Jan-Feb 2023	£1,227.54
BACS	Buckinghamshire Council – dog waste collections	£231.50
BACS	E.On Street Lighting Maintenance	£54.00
BACS	Harlequin Press – Spring Whaddon Quarterly	£216.00
DD	Npower Electric	£36.89
BACS	TJS Technology – IT assistance	£35.00
	Total	£1,800.93

Bank Balances as at 9/3/23

Unity Bank – deposit	£36,163.73
Unity Bank – current	£3,366.70

#### 64/22. OTHER PARISH MATTERS

- a. Cllrs warmly welcomed Cllr White back to the Council.
- b. Cllr White expressed concern about the heavy goods vehicles at Bottlehouse Farm. HGV units plus trailers transporting very large amounts of straw had been noted. It was agreed that the planning permissions for this business use would be checked.
- c. Cllr White expressed concern about the flooding in the vicinity of the Ladymead junction which in wet weather became deep and the spray from passing vehicles soaked pedestrians. Cllrs reviewed the huge amount of work done to get drainage ditches cleared and the culvert jetted, which had been stymied by the landowner of the woodland refusing to clear the ditch on the north side of the road. It was agreed that WPC had done all it could to progress this problem, which had been improved substantially, but not fully resolved.
- d. The Clerk advised that the public consultation was underway for the double yellow line project, and completion was expected by the summer. Guidance on the process of submissions to the public consultation had been provided.
- e. Cllr Herriman reviewed progress on planning events for the forthcoming Coronation on 6<sup>th</sup> May, advising that a good selection of events was being organised by Village Hall and Church. Cllr Stanier confirmed agreement had been secured from the landowner for the Beacon on Church Hill for celebrations on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024.
- f. Cllr Lemagnen advised that WPC IT Technician would be responsible for the transfer of the domain name to the new .gov via Hugo Fox the website host. He confirmed all recent WQ's were available online. It was agreed that a group photograph of Cllrs would be taken at the next meeting in May for the website and WQ.
- g. The Clerk reported no new issues with 7 Vicarage Rd.
- h. The Clerk reported that there were no new matters relating to the Lowndes Arms public house.
- i. Grant Application for Parking Mitigation for Village Green. Cllrs agreed that this item should be reconsidered at the next meeting.

#### 65/22. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING A DECISION BEFORE THE NEXT MEETING

- a. Cllr Stewart expressed a resident's concern that new housing development at The Oaks did not comply with planning requirements. Cllr agreed that a Planning Enforcement Request should be submitted.
- b. Cllrs discussed the possibility of using Facebook for disseminating Parish Council information. It was agreed that further research was needed, and this topic would be discussed further at the next meeting.

#### 66/22. DATE OF NEXT MEETING(S)

The next meeting(s) of Whaddon Parish Council will be at 7pm; 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023 (AGM), 13<sup>th</sup> July 2023, 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023, 9<sup>th</sup> November 2023, 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Signed:

Chairman

Date: