

# MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF WHADDON PARISH COUNCIL

Held: Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023, at 7.00pm  
at The Chapel School Room, Stock Lane, Whaddon, MK17 0LS

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

Members of the Public: None

Clerk: Suzanne Lindsey

## 45/22. PUBLIC FORUM

No Items

## 46/22. APOLOGIES

Cllr John Chilver.

## 47/22. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

## 37/22. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Cllrs approved the minutes which were signed.

## 38/22. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Cllr Stewart noted signage from the damaged traffic calming buildout on Stratford Rd had gone missing and requested it be reported and replaced.

## 39/22. 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 expected to be within 4-4.99%, which is below inflation. Social Care and Health and Wellbeing costs were increasing dramatically. The Community Boards had had their budgets cut but were being allowed to carry forward unspent money from the current year.

On Electoral reform boundaries Cllr Stanier (Chairman) reported that they will be moved to create a new constituency encompassing Buckingham, Bletchley, Winslow and villages, Stony Stratford and Wolverton. This would mean it would no longer be a rural constituency. Greg Smith MP would retain the southern part of the area, and probably Ian Stewart MP would stand for the new area.

Cllr Stanier noted a new online initiative called Buckinghamshire Local Heritage List which listed a number of properties in Whaddon. The Clerk was asked to find out more about this.

## 40/22. PLANNING

- a. Salden Chase (SWMK) – 15/00314/AOP Cllr Stewart referred to his planning report confirming £22k s106 financial contribution. He referred to possible changes in the s106 vs CIL arrangements for the distribution of community funding, and stated it was crucial to ensure, if possible, that the s106 method be kept in place for Shenley Park. Cllr Stanier

(Chairman) explained he had asked for details of any expected policy changes on s106 and CIL and had been reassured no changes would be made without full public consultation. It was agreed that a question would be submitted to the Planning Liaison Forum on 30<sup>th</sup> January, to get confirmation in writing. Accordingly, it was agreed that it was not appropriate to attend the proffered training course on s106 and CIL at this time.

- b. Shenley Park SPD. Cllr Stewart reviewed the recent letter received from BC Senior Planner, Stephen Miles, which contained responses to points raised following the 1<sup>st</sup> December zoom meetings, where it was stated that the SPD did not need environmental impact assessment. However, recent evaluation of an archaeological site of a Roman Settlement in the east of the area had resulted in the requirement for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), which will delay progress on the SPD at least until May while this is undertaken, and it is very unlikely the first tranche of 50 houses will meet the required deadline. The view was expressed that had the SP site been properly evaluated at the Local Plan stage, and the Roman Settlement properly and fully investigated at the SEA stage of the evaluation, it might have resulted in an alternative site having been selected rather than SP. Time will tell how serious the impact of the Roman Settlement is and what impact – if any it will have. Cllrs commented on the lamentable waste of time and resources the omission of proper consideration of the archaeological site at the outset of the planning process had caused.

Cllr Stewart expressed concern about how planning matters were evolving, particularly about ensuring compliance with the requirement not to overstep the current VALP policies and requirements, by introducing designs like a strategic link road that aligned with future as yet unratified requirements, e.g., Plan MK 2050. It was agreed that a letter pointing out concerns and anomalies should be sent to the planners, together with a request for a further meeting with BC and their consultants immediately the archaeological investigations were complete and before the 'paused' SPD work recommenced.

Cllr Stewart stated that it was clear the A421 study would be of no help in traffic management in SP, as it had not yet commenced, but that the impact of traffic arising from SP should be mitigated.

Cllrs agreed that it should be made very clear to all parties that WPC must be kept completely informed of progress and outcomes at every stage.

- c. Current Planning Applications.

Cllrs reviewed 22/04272/ALB – 18 High St – listed building application for demolition of an existing extension and replacement with new extension and swimming pool. Cllrs expressed some concern about the location of the swimming pool very close to the boundary. It was agreed that this was a matter for the planners and WPC would file 'no objection' for this application, unless issues were raised by neighbours.

Cllrs reviewed 22/00221/APP and 21/04926/APP Thrift Farm. A final decision is still awaited.

22/01293/APP Land R/O Lowndes Arms. Cllr Stewart advised that this application had been withdrawn on 7<sup>th</sup> December. Concern was expressed that those who had submitted comments on the application would not now be kept informed about the reasons for the proposed refusal and subsequent withdrawal.

22/03410/APP – Car Port 33a Stock Lane. Cllrs noted this application had been refused for the third time on 30<sup>th</sup> November due to unacceptable design and location, that projects in front of the existing building line.

- d. Update on VALP. Cllr Stewart referred Cllrs to his planning report. Cllr Stewart advised that BC planners were likely to publicise a list of promoted green-field sites by the end of February, some of which would no doubt impact on land predominantly to the south and west of Shenley Park, Salden Chase and Whaddon Village itself. These sites would then be carefully considered by BC as to whether or not they would be suitable for inclusion in the replacement Local Plan to 2040/50.
- e. Yellow Line Project. Cllr Stewart advised that WPC had been notified that the project was going ahead and a public consultation would be necessary. This was anticipated to be minimal. It was confirmed that details of the proposed project had been published informally by WPC Clerk in WQ to keep residents informed.
- f. A421 Traffic Study. Cllr Stewart reported that again nothing further had been heard on this report despite chasing BC Highways for an update again, and despite a planned timetable being published showing progress was in hand. It was agreed to chase again.
- g. Buckinghamshire Evidence Base – Settlement Review. It was agreed that Cllr Stewart would draft and circulate a letter for Cllrs review reiterating the contents of the ‘Wish List’ prepared for the SP application for submission to BC, and adding other possible benefits that might be possible from ‘development’ contributions.

#### 41/22. CLERK’S UPDATE

- a. Administration and Whaddon Quarterly
  - i. The Clerk referred cllrs to the update provided. The Clerk reported that the precept request of £33k had been submitted to BC who confirmed receipt. The success of the Christmas Tree and light-up event was noted.
  - ii. Cllrs reviewed a summary of costs and income of the last five editions of WQ, and a shortfall of income to cover costs of £740 identified. It was agreed that it was necessary to cut costs and increase income to achieve breakeven. It was agreed The Clerk should draft a proposal for review and approval by Cllrs. Cllrs expressed concern that advertisers had been bumped from their agreed slots in recent editions, but that the quality and vibrancy of the publication was exceptional. Thanks were extended to the editor for her hard work and excellent results.
- b. Highways
  - i. Minor highway issues. The Clerk reported requests for salt bin replenishment had been done. Cllr Hickman advised the Coddimoor Lane bin needed attention.
  - ii. Cllrs reviewed MVAS traffic data.
- c. Property
  - i. Recreation Ground. The Clerk advised that litter picking was being monitored as the picker was unwell awaiting surgery. The Charities Commission return had been filed. It was agreed that a play session would be booked for the summer for parishioners in line with the agreed budget of £500.
  - ii. Allotments. The Clerk advised that all invoices has been paid and repairs to sheds undertaken by plot holders. The weather was being monitored in case of cold weather requiring the water supply to be drained down to prevent freezing.

d. Finance

- i. Cllrs reviewed the current cash position.
- ii. Cllrs reviewed income and approved payments. An interest receipt of £104.49 was noted.

Income

The following payments have been received:

|          |                                  |                |
|----------|----------------------------------|----------------|
| 11/11/22 | L Bourns WQ AD                   | £12.00         |
| 28/12/22 | D Taylor Rent Constable's Plot   | £150.00        |
| 31/12/22 | Interest                         | £104.49        |
| Various  | Allotment Rents 10/11/22-11/1/23 | £118.96        |
|          | <b>Total</b>                     | <b>£385.45</b> |

Expenditure

The following payments have been made since the last meeting:

|          |      |  |                  |
|----------|------|--|------------------|
| 11/11/22 | BACS | R Lawry – mowing   | £1,590.00        |
| 11/11/22 | BACS | PKF Littlejohn – audit                                   | £240.00          |
| 11/11/22 | BACS | F Hayward – recreation ground                            | £19.00           |
| 11/11/22 | BACS | CPRE – membership  | £36.00           |
| 11/11/22 | BACS | Anglian Water – supplies                                 | £1.27            |
| 11/11/22 | BACS | Eon Energy Supplies – lighting maintenance               | £54.00           |
| 11/11/22 | BACS | TJS Services – IT assistance                             | £370.00          |
| 11/11/22 | BACS | D Taylor – mowing  | £245.00          |
| 11/11/22 | BACS | S J Lindsey Salary and expenses (2 invoices totalling..) | £1,426.45        |
| 14/11/22 | DD   | Npower – electric  | £54.31           |
| 17/11/22 | DD   | Nest pension   | £3.96            |
| 7/11/22  | SO   | Freethought Email  | £9.50            |
| 13/12/22 | DD   | Npower electric for street lighting                      | £17.62           |
| 20/12/22 | DD   | Nest pension   | £46.34           |
| 31/12/22 | DD   | Unity Bank service charge                                | £18.00           |
| 9/1/23   | DD   | ICO annual registration fee                              | £35.00           |
| 9/1/23   | SO   | Freethought Email  | £9.50            |
|          |      | <b>Total</b>   | <b>£4,175.95</b> |

The following future payments require approval:

|      |   |                  |
|------|---|------------------|
| BACS | S J Lindsey – Salary and Expenses Nov-Dec 2022    | £1,715.55        |
| BACS | Winslow Bus Donation                              | £100.00          |
| BACS | Oil Syndicate Expenses Nov21 – Nov22              | £61.20           |
| BACS | Harlequin Press – Winter Whaddon Quarterly        | £388.00          |
| DD   | Npower Electric                                   | £43.51           |
| BACS | D Taylor – erection and removal of Christmas Tree | £230.00          |
| BACS | TJS Technology – IT assistance                    | £70.00           |
| BACS | Thrift Wood Christmas Trees                       | £95.00           |
|      | <b>Total</b>                                      | <b>£2,703.26</b> |

#### Bank Balances as at 11/1/23

|                      |            |
|----------------------|------------|
| Unity Bank – deposit | £38,163.73 |
| Unity Bank – current | £3,648.95  |

#### 42/22. OTHER PARISH MATTERS

- a. Cllrs agreed the co-option of Derek White. Proposed by Cllr Stanier (Chairman) seconded by Cllr Lemagnen. Votes in favour four, one abstention. Cllrs commented on the need to recruit younger people on to the Council, and it was agreed that Cllrs would seek for and encourage younger candidates to step forward to fill any future vacancies.
- b. Cllr Herriman reviewed progress on planning events for the forthcoming Coronation on 6<sup>th</sup> May, including a church coffee and cake event with live streaming of the coronation, and forest church. A Village Hall event was being planned for 7<sup>th</sup> June. Cllr Herriman proposed to contact the school to discuss the timing of the May Fayre to fit in with these arrangements. No response had been received from the Lowndes Arms regarding any Coronation plans on their part.

Cllr Hickman (Vice Chairman) proposed a beacon on Church Hill for 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024 commemorating 80yrs anniversary of D-Day. Cllrs welcomed this proposal. Cllr Stanier agreed to contact the landowner for permission to use the land.

- c. The Clerk noted that nothing further had been heard regarding arrangements for the defibrillator. It was agreed that the budgeted contribution of £200 would be paid on receipt of paperwork and the bank account holding funds will remain with the Village Hall.
- d. Cllr Lemagnen undertook to update the domain name on the website before the next meeting.
- e. The Clerk reported that the police had been in touch regarding the last event with the vulnerable adult at 7 Vicarage Rd, and associated problems, to advise that a prison sentence was in place until mid-February. The last communication from social services indicated that efforts were being made to make more suitable arrangements for the safe and appropriate care of this vulnerable adult.
- f. The New Lowndes Arms. Planning enforcement had reported the case was being worked on.
- g. Grant Application for Parking Mitigation for Village Green. Cllrs agreed that this item should be reconsidered at the next meeting.

#### 43/22. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING A DECISION BEFORE THE NEXT MEETING

None

#### 44/22. DATE OF NEXT MEETING(S)

The next meeting(s) of Whaddon Parish Council will be at 7pm; 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023, 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: