

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF WHADDON PARISH COUNCIL

Held: Thursday, 10th May 2018, at 7.30pm at School Room, Whaddon Chapel, Stock Lane, Whaddon.

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

Members of the Public: Cllr John Chilver - BCC. John Mortimer – WQ Editor. Seven members of the public.

Clerk: Suzanne Lindsey

1. ELECTION OF A CHAIRMAN

Following a request for nominations, Cllr White proposed and Cllr Hedges seconded the nomination of Sir Beville Stanier Bt as Chairman. Sir Stanier agreeing to stand and the vote being unanimous, Sir Stanier was elected.

2. PUBLIC SESSION

- a. A group of village residents of Whaddon Hall expressed concern regarding the erection of signs at Whaddon Hall asserting “No Right of Way” and dog walkers had been challenged in an unpleasant way, threatened with prosecution for trespass, and photographs of them taken without their permission by a recently-returned home owner. Separately, fencing had been erected in the wood at the top of the Hall by the owners of the wood, cutting off a walking route that had been used for many years. In both cases, villagers and a resident stated that walkers had used the route without hindrance for many years – well in excess of twenty. Residents stated that walkers had used the route without hindrance for many years – well in excess of twenty. Sir Stanier (Chairman) advised that there was no public footpath or right of way across the land at Whaddon Hall, and it was within the land owner’s rights to post notices and refuse access to his private land; however due to the lengthy period of time during which walkers had been permitted access there was a good possibility that a right of way had been legally established, and this could be applied for using due process. It was agreed that evidence would be collected and residents would work with the Parish Council and Local Councillor John Chilver to initiate proceedings to ascertain if a right of way could be established.
- b. In addition, Whaddon Hall Residents advised that trees subject to TPOs had been cut back and damaged by the above resident. They were advised to notify the AVDC tree preservation officer and ask for an inspection to take place to establish if any breaches of the TPO had taken place.
- c. Cllr John Chilver advised that repairs had taken place to the road surface at Coddimoor Lane using a jet-patcher. This had been delayed due to bad weather, but was now complete. The repairs are expected to last 12 to 18-months, after which the road was scheduled to be resurfaced.

3. APOLOGIES

None.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

5. MINUTES

The minutes for the previous meeting were adopted and signed. Cllr Stewart confirmed receipt of the new A3 printer and advised it was installed and working.

6. UPDATE ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS AND WQ

a. Administration

- i. The Clerk advised Cllrs that various Legal Topic Notes had been issued regarding procedures for operating PC meetings. These had been circulated to Cllrs for review. Cllrs advised they were content with the current procedures. Cllr Hedges requested that a formal vote be taken on contentious issues, which was agreed.
- ii. The Clerk advised that the administrator for Elmer’s Charity had requested confirmation of the appointment of Cllr White to the administration of the Charity. Cllr White agreed to continue and Cllrs confirmed the appointment.

- iii. The Clerk reported that a visit had taken place with Metro's Bank Manager, and a compromise had been agreed that WPC would receive an account upgrade to provide the level of service initially promised at the inception of the account. This to be at an advantageous monthly rate. Confirmation of the rate had not yet arrived and was being chased. Cllr Hickman agreed to assist.
- iv. The Clerk advised that the training session on GDPR had not provided the information and assistance needed, and arrangements had been made to cooperate with adjoining Councils to put necessary policies and procedures in place.
- b. Highways
 - i. The Clerk presented details of the quotation for weed spraying. Cllrs agreed to one year's trial.
- c. Property
 - i. Constable's Plot. The Clerk advised that further amendments had been requested by the tenant in connection with fees. Cllrs reviewed the requests and agreed that these could not be agreed to. It was agreed that the Clerk should instruct the Solicitor to advise the tenant accordingly and proceed as quickly as possible to get the lease signed.
- d. Finance
 - i. The Clerk presented Audited Accounts for the Financial year 2017-18. Cllrs reviewed accounting procedures, and approved and signed the accounts.
 - ii. The Clerk presented income and payments for approval, as follows:

Income

The following payments have been received:

27/3/18	D Taylor – rent Constable's Plot	£145.00
23/4/18	BALC – Transparency Grant	£362.82
24/4/18	AVDC – Half Year Precept	£7,750.00
Various	Allotment Rents FY 2017/18	£180.00
Various	Misc Interest	£3.05

Expenditure

The following invoices have been received for approval:

127	NBR Printing – WQ May 2018	£333.00
128	J Jaworski – hedge cutting allotments	£40.00
129	AVDC – Play in the Parishes	£440.00
130	BALC – annual subscription to March 2019	£89.86
131	NBPPC – annual subscription to March 2019	£20.00
132	Whaddon Jubilee Hall – annual grant	£250.00
133	BHIB Ltd – annual insurance premium	£529.07
134	E.On Energy Solutions Ltd – street light maintenance	£125.10
135	E.On Electricity – street light electric	£225.82
136	Suzanne Lindsey – clerk's salary Mar/Apr 2018	£552.82
137	Suzanne Lindsey – expenses Mar/Apr 2018	£383.90
	Total	£2,989.57

Bank Balances as at 10/5/18

Metro Bank Account – current	£9,041.96
Metro Bank Account – deposit	£9,144.02
Metro Bank Account - charity	£0.17
	£18,186.15

7. PLANNING

- a. Cllr Stewart reviewed the situation in connection with land at Stratford Rd, and clarified that the land was half owned by two separate owners. Commercial dog training activities had taken place on a more than 'infrequent' basis, a building erected alongside the stable block and sewerage treatment facilities installed, all in breach of planning permissions. No application had been submitted by the deadline for retrospective permission. Much concern around the village had been voiced. Cllrs agreed that Cllr Stewart should pursue this matter with Planning Enforcement.

- b. Morris Homes. Infrastructure works have now started and an internal temporary access road will be constructed to enable the five homes taking direct access off Whaddon/Shenley Rd to be built. This should ensure that Shenley Rd is not used for construction traffic.
- c. VALP. Inspection stage in progress.
- d. Salden Chase. In progress. £30k of kerbing for Stock Lane and traffic calming signs outside the school would be included as sec. 106 monies.

8. OTHER PARISH MATTERS

- a. Unitary Authority. Cllrs discussed this issue; the Minister had issued a 'minded to' statement to accept a single authority. However, following changes in personnel this decision is not now expected until end of July.
- b. Recreation Ground Repairs. Cllr Hickman presented information regarding the repairs needed for the recreation ground, including provision of a top up of bark chippings for the play area. It was agreed Cllr Hickman would obtain three quotes. She commented that Kompan were exceedingly difficult to obtain information from. It was agreed that the annual safety inspection should await the repairs.
- c. Street Lighting. It was agreed that The Clerk should approach Eon to investigate if a phased approach for the lighting upgrade might be possible.
- d. Funding for the Church. Cllr Stewart advised he had been approached by a resident expressing concern about lack of financial assistance from the Parish Council for the Church Burial Ground. The Clerk reviewed the current legal position and advice from NALC, who advise that in the circumstance of WPC there was no solid legal basis to allow this. It was agreed that no changes be made in the current contribution, which was a minimal amount.
- e. Allotments. Cllr White advised that reparations to the two neglected plots were underway. It was agreed that The Clerk should issue invoices to the three former tenants for the cost.
- f. Whaddon Hall/Stratford Rd, surface water. Cllr White highlighted the problem of surface water, and it was agreed that Bucks Highways would be informed and asked to review the problem.
- g. Verge Repairs Corner of Vicarage Rd. The Clerk was asked to chase Bucks Highways for a repair date.
- h. Funding for Village Hall. Cllr Hedges advised that money was needed for floor repairs, disabled toilets, disabled access to both rooms and removal of the storage area in the smaller room. It was agreed this should be discussed at precept time if a higher amount was requested. Cllr Stewart advised that Elmer's Charity was in the process of widening its remit, and that funding for disabled toilets may well be within the scope.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING(S)

1. The next meeting(s) of Whaddon Parish Council will be 12/7/18, 13/9/18, 8/11/18.