

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF WHADDON PARISH COUNCIL

Held: Thursday, 13th July 2023, at 7.00pm
at The Chapel School Room, Stock Lane, Whaddon, MK17 0LS

Present: Cllrs Sir Beville Stanier Bt (Chairman), Georgina Geddes, Peter Lemagnen, Derek White.
Cllr John Chilver.

Members of the Public: One
Clerk: Suzanne Lindsey

13/23 Public Forum

A member of the public expressed concern about an application to undertake tree works and clearance on an area of land at Whaddon Hall, 23/01660/ATC. The go ahead for these works was given on 7th July 2023 on the basis that no tree preservation orders existed. A map showing 49 tree preservation orders issued by AVDC was provided by the member of the public. Concern was expressed that much dilapidated building equipment and materials were located on the site, and open pits dug for its burial in past years, raising serious concerns about safety. Also, a live badgers' sett existed on the land.

14/23 Apologies

Cllrs Jane Herriman, Helen Hickman, Graham Stewart.

15/23 Declarations of Interest

None

16/23 Approval of the Minutes of the Last Meeting

Cllrs approved the minutes which were signed.

17/23 Matters Arising from the Minutes

None.

18/23 Reports from Buckinghamshire Councillors

Cllr Chilver advised that following various meetings the Whaddon/Nash Rd would be subject to repairs shortly. Cllrs Chilver and Stanier (Chairman) advised that they had attended BC meetings to emphasize the problems that additional traffic loads from Shenley Park and Salden Park new housing developments would cause. Also, concern was expressed on the future wellbeing of Whaddon's facilities like the Village Hall and Church in the light of Shenley Park development. Cllr Chilver confirmed that current policy on s106 and CIL contributions would continue to co-exist, and he advised that a Neighbourhood Plan may be helpful in securing funding.

19/23 Planning

- a. Solar Energy Project at Oaks Farm off Stratford Rd. Cllrs reviewed the proposal and the recent 'drop-in' consultation in the Village Hall provided by Novus which had been attended by approximately 35 residents. Concern was expressed about the visual impact and the loss of good agricultural land and cereal production. It was agreed to await the submission of the planning application for the works and then submit a formal response.

- b. Shenley Park update. Cllr Stewart provided a planning report stating that WPC's concerns had been again expressed to BC along with calls to consider alternatives, and correspondence had been copied to the Chair of the Strategic Sites Committee. BC had advised that currently their focus is on completing the SPD, delaying responses to WPC questions. A hostile planning application is expected to be filed by Crest Nicholson the developer ahead of the SPD. It was agreed to monitor and chase responses from BC and await the filing of the application.
- c. Updates on the A421 Study. See 18/23 above.
- d. Review of Local Planning Applications. Cllrs reviewed 23/01969/APP Saddlers Lodge, Whaddon Hall. It was agreed to submit no objection to the application but highlight the location in the conservation area and request comments from the Historic Buildings Officer. It was noted that 23/02005/APP had been refused, despite no objection from WPC, due to height, mass and proximity of the garage. It was noted that 23/01978/APP and 23/01975/AGN had been submitted with no objection by WPC. Also, no further progress had been made on Thrift Farm.
- e. Review of 23/01660/ATC woodland at Whaddon Hall. Cllrs reviewed the information provided by a member of the public and instructed the Clerk to write to BC to request urgent reconsideration of the permission to go ahead with tree clearance in the light of the evidence of 49 TPOs.

20/23 Clerk's Update

- a. Administration and Whaddon Quarterly
 - i. The Clerk referred to the Update provided. The clerk confirmed the annual audit had been submitted, the availability of royal portraits following the coronation was being monitored. Cllrs agreed to look into potential savings from a supply contract for the provision of electricity for street lighting.
 - ii. Whaddon Quarterly. The Clerk reported that a £300 grant had been secured from Elmer's Charity to support the provision of paper copies of the magazine to ensure everyone had full access to this important community document.
- b. Highways
 - i. Minor highway issues. The Clerk reported fly tipping continued to be a problem. Repairs to the traffic calming buildout in Stratford Rd had been chased. The large number of road closures for repairs in the area was noted.
 - ii. Cllrs reviewed MVAS traffic data. The Clerk reported that a three-year maintenance contract had been put in place. Also, that following theft of a unit the insurance coverage had been checked and confirmed adequate.
- c. Property
 - i. Recreation Ground. The Clerk advised that agreement on arrangements to undertake regular inspections of the recreation ground had not worked out, and the Clerk would undertake the inspections for the time being.

- ii. Allotments. The Clerk advised that three plots had been relinquished by tenants. It was agreed that unless there were mitigating circumstances due to the breach of contract by the tenant deposits would not be refunded, as WPC would need to undertake maintenance work to keep the plots in good condition until a new tenant could be found.

d. Finance

- i. Cllrs reviewed the current cash position.
- ii. Cllrs reviewed income and approved payments. It was noted that the water bill for the allotments had been received with an excessively high estimated reading. A revised bill had been requested Cllrs agreed to this being approved by email once received if necessary.

Income

The following payments have been received:

19/6/23	Lisa Whiles inv. 1320	£20.00
27/6/23	D Taylor – rent Constables Plot	£150.00
	Total	£170.00

Expenditure

The following payments have been made since the last meeting:

15/5/23	BACS	BMKALC Annual Subscription	£76.95
15/5/23	BACS	North Bucks Parishes Planning Consortium – membership	£20.00
15/5/23	BACS	St Mary's Church – burial ground maintenance	£100.00
15/5/23	BACS	D Taylor – Mowing & Strimming Rec/Old Manor Close	£370.00
15/5/23	BACS	F Hayward – litter picking Feb-Mar	£41.68
15/5/23	BACS	BHIB – general insurance	£638.08
15/5/23	BACS	E.On Street Lighting Maintenance	£57.60
15/5/23	BACS	S J Lindsey – Salary and Expenses Mar-Apr 2023	£1,308.94
15/5/23	BACS	J Groom – internal audit fee	£75.00
15/5/23	BACS	Jubilee Hall – cleaning grant	£250.00
18/5/23	DD	Nest Pension	£1.40
22/5/23	DD	nPower – electric for street lighting	56.04
24/5/23	BACS	Swarco UK – MVAS maintenance contract*	£927.00
7/6/23	DD	Freethought – Internet/email services	£9.50
13/6/23	DD	nPower – electric for street lighting	£51.82
19/6/23	DD	Nest Pension	£15.60
30/6/23	DD	Service Charge	£18.00
7/6/23	DD	Freethought -internet/email services	£9.50
		*Urgent payment agreed/approved via email.	
			£4,027.11

The following future payments require approval:

BACS	S J Lindsey – Salary and Expenses	£1,219.36
BACS	E.On - Street Lighting Maintenance	£54.00
BACS	D Taylor – Mowing and maintenance	£940.00
BACS	Harlequin Press – printing WQ	£230.00
BACS	R & S Landscapes Ltd – weed spraying	£246.00
BACS	Oxfordshire Play Assoc – play session	£450.00
	Total	£3,139.36

Bank Balances as at 12/7/23

Unity Bank – deposit	£3,847.87
Unity Bank – current	£47,981.23

21/23 Other Parish Matters

- a. Councillors' Cllrs reviewed plans to close the A421 for a month over August for water main replacement. Cllrs instructed the Clerk to liaise with Highways regarding their plans to minimise rat running through the village.
- b. Yellow Line Project. Cllrs reviewed progress on approval and implementation of the yellow lines at the High St/Stock Lane junction, which is expected to go ahead in the Autumn.
- c. New Lowndes Arms – no items.
- d. Benches and Planters for Village Green. It was agreed to await the completion of the yellow lines and to proceed with this project.
- e. Salden Chase sec. 106 contribution. Dealt with above.

22/23 Other Correspondence Requiring a Decision before the Next Meeting

- a. Cllr White reported a pothole in need of repair on Stock Lane.

23/23 Date of Next Meetings

The next meeting(s) of Whaddon Parish Council will be at 7pm; 14th September 2023, 9th November 2023, 11th January 2024, 14th March 2024.

Signed:

Chairman

Date: