

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHADDON PARISH COUNCIL

Held: Thursday, 10th September 2020, at 7.00pm via Zoom meeting reference:
Zoom Meeting Reference: <https://zoom.us/j/95828980874>

Present: WPC Cllrs Sir Beville Stanier Bt (Chairman), Graham Hain, Helen Hickman, Peter Lemagnen, Graham Stewart. Other Cllrs: J Chilver, L Monger.

Members of the Public: Two

Clerk: Suzanne Lindsey

1. PUBLIC SESSION

Leone Dale (LD) of Community Board attended to introduce herself and her organisation. She explained the purpose of the board was to encourage new projects and initiatives, promote creative solutions to problems and make improvements by bringing together the right people and creating working groups. Areas of focus included Youth, Health, Transport and Highways. Cllr Stewart asked for clarification on the infrastructure funding and how/when this will be available and distributed. It was agreed LD will come back with an answer later in the month.

A member of the public attended to request an update on mowing of the land forming the vision splay and grass bank at the entrance to Old Manor Close. Cllr Stewart and The Clerk clarified that the relevant areas of land had recently been recorded correctly as being in the ownership of BC as a permanent visibility splay, and would be mowed by WPC contractors going forward.

2. APOLOGIES

Cllrs Hazel Hedges, Sue Renshall, Derek White

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Stewart declared an interest in planning application 19/03666/AOP Rear of Freshfields, Stock Lane

4. MINUTES

The minutes for the previous meeting were adopted and signed.

5. UPDATE ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS AND WQ

a. Administration

- i. The Clerk requested any guidance on budget strategy and amounts needed for discussion and approval at the next meeting.
- ii. The Clerk reported that residents had expressed concern about excessive noise from outdoor music events at the Lowndes Arms. One complainant had been referred to BC environmental website to register a complaint. Cllrs discussed the need to support this important local business.
- iii. The Clerk advised that Clerk's pay rates had been agreed by NALC with a 36p/hr increase. Cllrs agreed the increase and agreed a use of office allowance of £6 per week.
- iv. The Clerk advised that no progress had been made on the securing of a new Editor for WQ. Further advertising/search to take place.

b. Highways

- i. The Clerk advised that the land ownership issue at the entrance to Old Manor Close had been resolved and official records updated to show BC ownership. This area would be included in WPC mowing contract going forward, as it is a permanent vision splay.

- ii. Cllrs reviewed the recent email from PCSO Alex Ridley in connection with advice on pavement parking and dangerous parking on the Stock Lane/High St bend. The option of reporting illegal and dangerous parking was discussed, to provide the police with a record in order to assess the level of the problem. LD suggested some help may be obtained via the Community Board. Although problems occurred at Village Hall and Church events the pub especially during Covid-19 times was the current problem, but concern was expressed about the need to support this important local business.
 - iii. Cllrs reviewed a proposal and quotation for five replacement street lights located on Stock Lane and High St. While these lights were working and adequate, they comprised the oldest lamps and spares for repairs were no longer available. It was agreed to go ahead with replacement, at a cost of £2,390 plus VAT.
 - iv. The Clerk advised that a second company had been approached but was unable to offer an electric supply contract to reduce costs and it was agreed to try to obtain an electricity price reduction directly via Eon.
 - v. The Clerk reported a great deal of activity with highways issues; 9 x flytips, 3 x signage issues, 2 x drainage issues and 1 x signage location query. Plus one complaint on overfilled refuse bins.
 - vi. Cllrs reviewed MVAS data and noted traffic levels were still much lower than last year, despite Calverton Lane being fully open. Around half of vehicles recorded were speeding, but the average speed was 30.1 mph.
- c. Property
- i. Constable's Plot. No items.
 - ii. Recreation Ground. The Clerk reported that Cllr Stewart had secured a grant of £750 towards the costs of reopening of the recreation ground from Elmer's Charity, this had gone towards repairs and safety compliance. Maintenance work had been completed and Covid-19 compliance posters obtained and placed. It was now fully open. Litter picking continued to be done by F Hayward, and a letter with full safety instructions sent, and new safety equipment had been provided. Recent problems with fireworks being let off and a motorbike being ridden on the football pitch were noted.
 - iii. Allotments. The Clerk reported a meeting and review of progress with Lee Ann Steven, the Gardening Club organiser had taken place. There was still plenty to be done, but since March around half the allotments had been let, there were now 12 tenants and expected income from leases for the coming 2020-21 year would be £150. The Clerk suggested that going forward the allotments might be considered a community facility worthy of funding and support, in the light of current social trends and increasing importance of ecological concerns and natural diversity to which the allotments contributed. Cllrs agreed that the existence and development of a gardening club community via WhatsApp was a good way forward.
 - iv. Bus Shelter. The Clerk reported that the Bus Stop Swap Shop continued to be well used and no issues noted.
- d. Finance
- i. The Clerk advised that Lloyds bank was still not accepting new accounts, but some news might be expected in mid-October. It was intended to transfer to an account offering BACS payment facilities at that point.
 - ii. The Clerk presented income and payments for approval, as follows:

FINANCE

Income

The following payments have been received:

24/6/20	D Taylor – rent Constables Plot	£150.00
12/7/20	D Oborn – allotment rent	£1.00
18/8/20	Elmers Charity – grant for recreation ground	£750.00
Various	Interest	£1.46

	Total	£902.46

Expenditure

The following invoices have been received for approval:

253	R&S Landscapes – weed spraying (late cheque issued after last meeting)	£408.00
254	CPA Horticulture – playgrade woodchip	£1,294.80
255	Kompan Ltd – Annual Safety Inspection	£224.40
256	Kompan Ltd – repairs to yellow recreation ground gate	£285.60
257	Harlequin Press – Printing WQ	£320.00
258	D Taylor – repairs to recreation ground, mowing and strimming	£684.00
259	Ross Lawry – Mowing and strimming, hedging	£1,690.00
260	S Lindsey – Expenses	£175.79
261	S Lindsey – Admin work July/August 2020 – 90.25hrs	£1,186.79
262	F Hayward – litter picking recreation ground, mailing WQ	£34.88
	Total	£6,304.26

Bank Balances as at 10/9/20

Metro Bank Account – current	£7,632.15
Metro Bank Account – deposit	£13,235.82
	£20,867.97

6. PLANNING

- a. Cllr Stewart reviewed the planning report he issued prior to the meeting.
 - i. Government White Paper ‘Planning for the Future’. Cllrs discussed concerns about the proposals, and noted that BC had not yet formulated a response. It was agreed that WPC should await BC’s response before deciding on next steps. Deadline for response 29th October 2020.
 - ii. Department of Transport – pavement parking. It was agreed that WPC should participate in the online survey and encourage residents to do likewise. It was agreed the Cllr Hickman and The Clerk would assist Cllr Stewart. Concern was expressed on whether implementation and enforcement of tighter regulations would be practical and achievable.
 - iii. Draft MK Planning Obligations and Health Assessment. Cllr Stewart explained that previous involvement of WPC in MKC planning matters and Plan:MK, had led to the inclusion in the request for comments from MKC on this topic. It was agreed that a response declining to comment was appropriate as WPC residents would not be involved in these services.
 - iv. Newton Leys West. Cllr Stewart reviewed the current status. It was agreed that WPC should await updates on Salden Chase/VALP and then decide if/how to react at that point.
 - v. VALP and MK Futures 2050. It was agreed to await outcomes and progress before making further decisions about possible future actions.
 - vi. New and Outstanding Planning Applications. Cllr Stewart advised that a re-consultation on 15/00314/AOP had been received. Cllrs reviewed Cllr Stewart’s draft letter on traffic flows, and agreed it should be sent. Cllr Stanier (Chairman) thanked Cllr Stewart for his hard work preparing this document. Cllrs agreed with the suggestion contained in the above letter to recommend a change in the traffic flow priority of the junction at Coddimoor Lane and Stock Lane, but noted that any future decision would

be at BC decision and subject to local consultation, probably if the Shenley Park development proceeded.

Cllr Stewart reviewed outstanding applications, advising that decisions were awaited. Cllr Hickman expressed concern about CM/0033/20 Park Hill Farm, re-contouring of land; and the possible environmental hazard associated with the current frequent bonfires. Cllr Stanier (Chairman) would advise BC's environment for possible help and advice.

7. OTHER PARISH MATTERS

- a. Cllrs discussed scheduling of meetings to avoid conflict with Little Horwood. It was agreed that WPC meeting could continue beyond the 8pm start of the other meeting if necessary in order to ensure that important matters could be fully discussed and considered by WPC. Cllr Stanier advised that the night of the other meeting would be changed to avoid conflict starting in April 2021.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING(S)

The next meeting(s) of Whaddon Parish Council will be at 7pm; 12th November 2020, 14th January 2021, 11th March 2021.