

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF WHADDON PARISH COUNCIL

Held: Thursday, 12th May 2016, at 7.30pm at School Room, Whaddon Chapel, Stock Lane, Whaddon.

Present: Cllrs Sir B Stanier Bt (Chairman), Graham Hain, Helen Hickman, Hazel Hedges, Peter Lemagnen, Graham Stewart, Derek White. John Chilver.

Members of the Public: Mr John Mortimer.

Clerk: Suzanne Lindsey

PUBLIC SESSION

1. Mr Mortimer, Editor WQ, presented the May edition of WQ. Cllrs congratulated Mr Mortimer, and expressed their pleasure at the very high standard of the magazine. The invoice for the printing of the magazine was presented and various logistical and financial issues were discussed. It was agreed that these matters would be raised again at the next meeting if needed.

ELECTION OF A CHAIRMAN

Cllr Stanier was proposed by Cllr White and seconded by Cllr Stewart as Chairman. The appointment was confirmed unanimously.

APOLOGIES

None

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Graham Stewart made a declaration of interest in connection with planning matters for 2a/2b High Street.

MINUTES

The minutes for the previous meeting were adopted and signed.

PROJECT UPDATES AND CORRESPONDENCE

Roads and Footpaths

1. The recent fly tipping incident at Whaddon Roundabout was discussed, and clear-up in hand.

Recreation Ground

1. The Clerk reported that the order for the road crossing for the Recreation Ground had been placed. A scheduled installation date was being chased.

Communications

1. The Clerk reported that numerous new email addresses had been added to the WPC Community Email list following the various planning meetings and questionnaires. Cllr Stewart expressed concern that Parishioners in outlying areas were not as involved with Parish matters as they might be.
2. Cllr Lemagnen reported that the website training class he attended had been very poorly executed and abandoned due to technical problems. The Clerk was requested to seek a refund, and find out what provision would be made to remedy the problem. Cllrs emphasised the website was becoming increasingly important both procedurally and for involving and informing the community about Parish matters and events. Cllr Lemagnen reported that the website proposed on the course was well worth further investigation and much simpler to use and manage than the WordPress website previously considered.

Finance and Administration

1. The Clerk presented the annual accounts for approval and signature by the Chairman. The Clerk confirmed that the internal auditor, Mrs Jenny Groom, had reviewed the accounts and signed them off as correct. Cllrs were satisfied that robust accounting procedures were in place. Cllrs reviewed a summary of the annual income and expenditure for the Council. The Clerk expressed concern that there were some unpaid bills for advertising in WQ, and along with a four-fold increase in printing costs, the donation to the Village Hall would need to be carefully considered. It was agreed that this should be discussed further.
2. The Clerk confirmed that the appointment of Cllr Hain as a new co-opted Cllr had been finalised. Cllrs welcomed Cllr Hain to the Council.

Allotments

1. Cllr White expressed concern that three allotments had not so far been cultivated. He would keep an eye on this situation.

Other

1. Cllr Stanier (Chairman) agreed to assist with the provision of a template Farm Business Tenancy agreement for Constable's Plot.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

The following payments have been received:

| | | |
|---------|---|------------|
| 26/4/16 | C Hickman – donation to recreation ground ref Birthday Beacon | £642.00 |
| 3/5/16 | HMRC Vat Refund | £10,073.18 |
| Various | Misc. Interest | £3.26 |

The following invoices have been received for approval:

| | | |
|-----|---|------------|
| 046 | NBPPC Membership | £20.00 |
| 047 | E.on Electricity – street lighting. | £179.99 |
| 048 | Savills – professional advice Constables Plot | £1,577.54 |
| 049 | Kompan Vat Payment | £9,999.96 |
| 050 | Expenses - clerk | £77.69 |
| 051 | Aon Insurance – Council Insurance | £589.47 |
| 052 | B&MKAL Membership | £82.11 |
| 053 | NBR Printing - WQ | £378.50 |
| | Total | £12,905.26 |

Bank Balances as at 12/5/16

| | |
|------------------------------|------------|
| Metro Bank Account – current | £12,952.65 |
| Metro Bank Account – deposit | £10,719.62 |
| Metro Bank Account - charity | £1,665.09 |

REPORTS

1. Cllr Stewart reported that an outline planning application for a large five-bed house had been received in connection with land behind 2a/2b High St., and suggested this application had the same issues as the previous plans and recommended the Council oppose the plan. Cllr Stewart reviewed previous applications for this land, which had been successfully objected to, and the application turned down on appeal. However, BCC Highways department had allowed that the vision splay for highway access was marginally acceptable, and there was currently no conclusive evidence of danger caused by traffic in this area. Cllr Stewart felt that a Neighbourhood Plan for Whaddon may well be helpful in encouraging the right kinds of development in the village in the future. Cllrs gave full support to Cllr Stewart's objections for 2a/2b, and asked him to provide information to the Clerk for submission to AVDC planning department.
2. Cllr Stewart reviewed other planning matters in the Parish, including PlanMK. Concern was expressed that a great deal of development work was proposed for areas all around Whaddon.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT ALREADY DEALT WITH

1. Cllr Hickman expressed concern that it was not clear that the event that took place on 8th May 2016 in Whaddon Jubilee Hall celebrating the anniversary of WWII radio transmissions from Whaddon was a separate and unrelated event to the recent discussions that had taken place with Mr Coneelly about a Whaddon WWII tribute. Mr Coneelly had now taken a back seat in this project, and had handed over to Alex Markwick of Vicarage Rd. It was agreed that Cllr Hedges should write to Roger Weatherby, as the owner of the land on Windy Ridge where part of the event had taken place and where Mr Coneelly had considered locating his tribute, explaining the situation and confirming that the initiatives were separate.

AOB

1. Cllrs congratulated Cllr and Mr Hickman for the successful Queen's Birthday Beacon Event. Attendance had been very good. Sales of refreshments had raised £642, which would be donated to the Recreation Ground. It was agreed this money should be spent on the Recreation Ground, and Cllr Hain agreed to look into the repainting of the posts and provision of new football nets for the existing goal posts.
2. Cllrs discussed options on a further initiative aimed at registering the Lowndes Arms as a Community Asset. It was agreed that this should be held in abeyance for now. Concern was expressed that a planning

‘Change of Use’ application might be submitted. It was agreed that high turnout for the bi-weekly “pop-up pub” event in the Jubilee Hall evidenced strong demand for a pub facility for the village, and attendance figures could be useful in the future to establish good local demand.

3. Cllr Stewart reported that VAHT was considering next steps on the renovation of Briary View Garages now the tree in the adjacent garden had been removed. An insurance claim by VAHT for tree root damage had been submitted. Cllr Stewart had been assured that the garages would be renovated and re-let in the future.
4. Cllr White reported that the hedge on the corner of 14 Stock Lane and Vicarage Rd was obstructing clear vision for vehicles turning on to Stock Lane. The Clerk was requested to ask Mr Cheema to cut back the hedge again.
5. Cllrs considered options for next year’s Annual Parish Meeting, and the possibility of inviting village organisations and providing refreshments.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING(S)

The next meeting(s) of Whaddon Parish Council for 2016 will take place on 21st July, 8th September and 10th November 2016.