

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHADDON PARISH COUNCIL

Held: Thursday, 24th September, at 7.30pm at Whaddon Chapel, Stock Lane, Whaddon.

Present: Cllrs Sir B Stanier Bt (Chairman), Pat Haig, Helen Hickman, Peter Lemagnen, Derek White.

Members of the Public: 0

Clerk: Suzanne Lindsey

PUBLIC SESSION

No attendees

APOLOGIES

Cllr Hazel Hedges. Cllr Graham Stewart.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

MINUTES

The minutes for the previous meeting were adopted and signed.

PROJECT UPDATES AND CORRESPONDENCE

Roads and Footpaths

1. The clerk reported that Mr D Smith of Transport for Bucks had requested a village 'Walk Around' to inspect highways issues, and a list of issues had been prepared by Cllr Stewart. Cllrs briefly reviewed the list and asked for copies to be distributed. Cllr Haig emphasised that the new recreation ground needed wheelchair access from the road, and a new paved area around the two-bar metal safety barrier was needed. Also, 'No Motorbike' and 'No Dogs' signs needed reinstatement at the entrance. Following Cllr White's concern about unsightly weeds, the Clerk advised this issue would be taken up on the 'Walk Around'.
2. The clerk advised that two applications had been sent in for LAF funding – provision of parking in Vicarage Rd, and kerb works/drainage for Stock Lane between Ladymead and Coddimoor Lane.

Police and PCSO

No items.

Communications

1. Cllr Lemagnen reported that funding was available for small parish councils to set up a website to publish materials for public information, which was becoming a statutory requirement. Cllr Lemagnen and the Clerk to discuss requirements and the application for funding.

Finance and Administration

1. The Clerk advised that annual accounts had been approved by the external auditors. The asset register would need to be amended to include valuations for insurance purposes of donated items such as the MVAS sign.
2. Cllrs agreed that TSB bank accounts no longer in use should be closed. Clerk to write to TSB accordingly.
3. The Clerk requested Cllrs to advise if they had any budget requests for budget preparation for the next meeting in November.

Allotments

1. Cllr White reported that P Bailey would be vacating his allotment and a replacement sought.
2. Cllr White suggested that the tenancy year should be moved to Michaelmas, to enable new tenants to take over plots and dig them over before the bad weather set in. Cllrs agreed to this suggestion. The Clerk was instructed to make the necessary changes this coming year to move the renewal date.

Planning

1. Cllrs discussed the report prepared by Cllr Stewart concerning a planning application for 33a Stock Lane, regarding design issues and requesting checking of the trees covered by TPO on the property, but no objection in principle would be made to the application. Cllrs agreed this report should be submitted to AVDC planners.

Other

1. The Clerk reported that the applications had been sent to Land Registry to register three areas of land following the last meeting. Rachael Brockwell, solicitor, reported a confirmation of receipt had been received but no further information received.
2. The Clerk confirmed the telephone box was still not working and the fault reported.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

The following payments have been received:

| | | |
|---------|-----------------------|--------|
| Various | WQ advertising income | 794.00 |
| | Interest | 3.90 |

The following invoices have been received for approval:

| | | |
|-----|----------------------------------------------------|---------|
| 642 | TSB Chq – Transfer to Metro Bank – WQ income | £40.00 |
| 015 | Wilder Engineers and Consultants Ltd – WQ Printing | 63.44 |
| 016 | AVDC – Election charges | £125.00 |
| 017 | S J Lindsey – salary Jul-Sep 69hrs @ £12.26/hr | £845.95 |
| 018 | S J Lindsey – expense Jul-Sep | £37.03 |

Bank Balances as at 24th September 2015

| | |
|------------------------------|------------|
| Metro Bank Account – current | £1,114.89 |
| Metro Bank Account – deposit | £10,803.90 |
| TSB – current | £40.00 |

REPORTS

1. Cllrs Haig and Hickman advised that two recreation ground clearance sessions had cleared the old equipment and approximately twelve-tons of concrete and rubble and been removed. Special thanks were due to Chris Hickman and Stuart Grace for their assistance with tractors, and to village work parties helping with clearing the area. Reg Porter had done an excellent job of hedge reduction to facilitate fencing. The contractor had inspected the site and advised it met requirements and work was scheduled to start on Tuesday, 29th September. Cllrs agreed an expenses payment for Mr Grace of £100; Cllr Hickman stated that Chris Hickman would not wish to receive any payment. The clerk was asked to check the situation regarding payments of the grant money to the contractor, and the vat reclaim. The official opening was discussed, and the Clerk was requested to contact local dignitaries and invite them to attend. Exact date to be confirmed, but sometime in late November.
2. Cllr Stewart asked for Cllrs to be updated on WEA and construction traffic through the village and advised that Gallagher Estates were progressing with required signage under the CEMP agreement to prevent heavy vehicles cutting through the village.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT ALREADY DEALT WITH

There were no additional matters.

AOB

1. Cllrs considered a request from villagers to nominate the village pub, the Lowndes Arms, as Community Asset and give any village group the right to bid should the current owners wish to sell. Cllrs agreed that the pub was an important asset to the village and instructed the clerk to go ahead with the application.
2. Cllr Haig advised that a potential volunteer had stepped forward to take over the publication of Whaddon Quarterly and she would get in touch with this person shortly.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING(S)

The next meeting(s) of Whaddon Parish Council will take place on 26th November, 2015.