

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHADDON PARISH COUNCIL

Held: Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> January 2017, at 7.30pm at School Room, Whaddon Chapel, Stock Lane, Whaddon.

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

Members of the Public: Mr and Mrs Aitken of Lace Makers, Vicarage Rd., Mr and Mrs Brown of 38 Vicarage Rd., Mr D Macintyre of 2A Vicarage Rd., John Mortimer – Editor WQ.

Clerk: Suzanne Lindsey

### 1. PUBLIC SESSION

Members of the Public discussed Planning Issues with Cllrs under sec. 6b. The following are the points raised at that time.

Mr D Macintyre referred to 16/04423/APP – one storey dwelling adjacent to 2a Vicarage Rd. Mr Macintyre stated that the support from the parish objecting to the application was very strong, and covered numerous aspects. He reiterated his objections to the application and supported the points made by the Parish Council.

Mr and Mrs Aitken referred to 16/0456/APP – detached three-bedroomed dwelling. Mr and Mrs Aitken stated that they had no objection to the application in principle but felt that their property would be overlooked, by a bedroom window and dining room doors. They asked for these aspects of the application to be refused and/or reconsidered.

Mr and Mrs Brown as proposers of the above application stated that they had discussed all aspects of their new home with planners and neighbours and were seeking to find workable compromises. They were very willing to take into consideration any suggestions and recommendations.

### 2. APOLOGIES

Cllr Hazel Hedges, Cllr John Chilver

### 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

### 4. MINUTES

The minutes for the previous meetings were adopted and signed.

### 5. UPDATE ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS AND WQ

#### a. Administration

- i. Street Lights; the presentation from Jasbir Sanghera was postponed. Cllrs agreed an alternative date of 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017.
- ii. 20 MPH speed advisory outside School. The clerk presented the response from Sian Thomas of BCC Highways regarding the expected efficacy of the 20 mph speed advisory, which was non-committal. It was agreed that funding £10k for the works was a problem and Cllr Stewart would include the project under the Parish Local Infrastructure Priority List. The issue will be kept under review, in case funding became available to support the application to the LAF fund.
- iii. Allotments: The clerk advised that an enquiry for an allotment had been received from a resident of Briary View. Plot 10 was currently in a poor state of maintenance and the rent had not been paid. Cllrs agreed that the current tenant should be advised that unless the rent was paid and the plot brought up to standard it would be offered to the Briary View resident, and any costs of clearing the plot would be payable by the outgoing tenant.
- iv. Whaddon Quarterly. The Clerk reviewed the key points concerning a dispute with an advertiser in Whaddon Quarterly (WQ) and the Editor that had taken place in November 2016. It was agreed that Cllrs were in full support of the Editor, and as an officer of the Parish Council any future complaints that were not readily solvable should be referred to the Parish Council. It was confirmed that as an Officer of the Parish Council, the Editor came under the aegis of the Council's insurance coverage.

- v. The Clerk reviewed the current costs relating to the printing and distribution of WQ, and explained that due to the recent increase in printing costs the Council would need to fund each edition by £100 or more. It was agreed that an increase in advertising rates should be implemented immediately. Also, lapsed advertisers will be asked to re-advertise, and parishioners asked to agree to receive WQ by email to reduce costs.
  - vi. The Clerk presented a list of overdue payments for advertising in WQ. Cllrs agreed to assist with collecting these amounts.
- b. Property
- i. Constable's Plot. The Clerk reported that a draft lease had been received from the solicitors, which met requirements. The final rent to include in the agreement was awaited. Cllrs reviewed the insurance quote received from NFU, which totalled almost as much as the annual rent, and felt another solution should be considered. It was agreed the Clerk should investigate a cheaper form of insurance, e.g., insuring for liability but not all the buildings, and look again at obtaining a quote from the existing insurer. It was agreed that the work of serving the notice should be done by the solicitor not the council.
  - ii. Recreation Ground. The Clerk reported that the remedial work for the recreation ground gate had been done by C Dowdy (Contractor) and the work approved and signed off by BCC. The arrangement was that the liability for the first year would remain with WPC, and transfer to BCC in January 2018. Cllrs agreed that insurance coverage should be arranged for these items. The Clerk reported that there was some interest from a local football club in using the recreation ground football pitch and a visit from the organiser was awaited.
- c. Finance
- i. The Clerk presented a draft budget for 2017/18. Cllrs agreed the figures including a donation of £100 to the burial ground, £250 for Village Hall cleaning and £100 for Winslow community bus. The precept was fixed at £15,500. Concern was expressed about losses on WQ and on-going increase of jobs and costs being transferred from BCC onto WPC.
  - ii. Councillors reviewed and approved the following:

#### Income

The following payments have been received:

28/12/16	Rent Constable's Plot	£145.00
Various	Misc. Interest	£1.96
		£146.96

#### Expenditure

The following invoices have been received for approval:

070	Reg Porter – mowing and hedging 2016 (approved and paid November 2016)	£3,129.00
071	Reg Porter – correct underpayment on above	£63.00
072	Fredrick Hayward – litter picking/WQ deliveries	£21.60
073	Eon – electric for street lights Oct-Dec 2016	£211.06
074	Swarco MVAS Maintenance Contract	£163.49
075	C Dowdy (Contractor) Ltd – Recreation Ground Entrance	£6,549.89
076	Salary Parish Clerk Oct-Dec 2016	£882.62
	Total this period	£7,891.64

#### Bank Balances as at 11/1/17

Metro Bank Account – current	£671.66
Less unrepresented Chq	(£32.40)
	<u>£639.26</u>
Metro Bank Account – deposit	£10,031.73
Metro Bank Account - charity	£1,957.37

## 6. PLANNING

- a. Existing Applications
  - i. 16/01298/AOP - APPROVED - Land rear of 2a & 2b High Street. Detached dwelling in outline. Cllr Stewart reported that there were many conditions in need of clarification, and the future of the existing cottages and the land was uncertain.
  - ii. 16/03270/APP - REFUSED - Whitegates House, Stock lane. Additional third storey.
  - iii. 16/03796/APP - APPROVED - 1 Stratford Road. New access.
- b. New Applications
  - i. 16/04423/APP - Land Adj. to 2a Vicarage Road. One new detached, one-bedroomed dwelling. Cllr Stewart reported that due to intense objections and planning issues the two-storey/four-bedroom home had been refused and a new one-bedroom bungalow submitted. However, concerns remained about size, design, impact on the Conservation Area, amenity, highways issues and proximity to the Chapel. It was agreed to maintain a strong objection to the application.
  - ii. 16/04506/APP - Land adj. to 26 Vicarage Road. One new detached three-bedroomed dwelling. Cllr Stewart reviewed the plans, and stated that the applicants had done everything right in having a pre-ap meeting with the planners and discussions with neighbours. Issues were on the vision splay onto the highway; a bedroom window that overlooked adjacent property and others that may impact the neighbours; storage space above the garage accessed via bedroom three where WPC would request permitted development rights to be withdrawn. Cllrs agreed that WPC had no objection to the application in principle, but would point out the above concerns to AVDC planning department.
- c. Tree Applications
  - i. Four current applications pending. Cllrs agreed that these were not significant and best left to the tree officer.
- d. Any other new applications – none.
- e. Other Planning Issues.
  - i. Tattenhoe Park, MK. Cllr Stewart reviewed the meeting that had taken place with developers, and stated that he had asked for the landscaping belt and existing North Bucks way hedgerows to be thickened thereby improving the transition between the boundary of the new estate and the rural landscape beyond. It had been stressed that no construction traffic would be permitted through the village, which would be confined to MK roads. WPC would be asking MKC to ensure that the eventual 'Construction Environment Management Plan' confirmed this point, when the formal planning application was submitted.
  - ii. Local Plans – VALP. Plan MK and MK Site Allocations. Cllrs Stanier (Chairman) and Stewart reviewed the current status including a reduction in housing requirements from 33,000 houses down to 27,000. Traffic issues remained of great concern. Cllr Stewart suggested the easy way for AVDC to reduce the district's housing application by 6000 homes would be to scrap the new village planned for either Winslow (Horwood Airfield) or Haddenham, but hoped they might keep Haddenham and remove a couple of other smaller sites including WHA001 – Whaddon. Options for new routes for the A421 were unclear, but the Government were currently considering three alternative options, one which ran from Stoke Hammond by-pass roundabout (which would connect with Bottledump roundabout) and then travel roughly parallel and some 800m south of the existing A421, heading towards Bicester, via/close to the proposed new station at Winslow.

## 7. HIGHWAYS AND STREET LIGHTING

- i. Shenley Rd Closure. Cllr Stewart had believed that the agreement had been for the road to be closed for a period of three months to enable developers to do building work and for road improvements to take place. It was clear that no road works had started. But Cllr Lemagnen corrected him that the time-scale of the works required to improve Shenley Rd were unknown, but would be undertaken before the end of the closure period, at which time the possible re-opening of Shenley Rd would be considered again. Cllr Stanier (Chairman) stated that he had met with the cabinet member responsible, along with Cllr Hedges, and while a prompt response had been

promised none had been forthcoming. It was agreed to keep the pressure on to get answers.

- ii. Upgrade of light for Village Green. It was agreed to await the visit of BCC Street Lighting expert in February.

## 8. OTHER PARISH MATTERS

- a. Stratford Road Woodland – Proposed Forestry Works. Cllrs reviewed plans to extract timber, and the related logistics arrangements. It was agreed that the arrangements sounded satisfactory. Information to be included in Whaddon Quarterly to ensure Villagers were kept informed.
- b. MVAS Update. Cllr Stewart thanked Andrew Bennett and the Clerk for on-going help with collecting traffic data. It was clear that traffic was increasing. A year-on-year analysis spread sheet was discussed and it was agreed this would be useful. Clerk and Cllr Hain to assist.
- c. Website. Cllr Lemgnen stated that the website was working well. He recommended everyone should sign up for planning alerts.
- d. Parish Local Infra-Structure Priority List. Cllr Stewart circulated a proposed list of projects that the Cllrs might consider should be undertaken should funding become available from large development areas. This included 20mph speeding advisory signs outside the school. Cllr Stewart asked all Cllrs to review his proposed list confirming they agreed, or adding any other infrastructure improvements they believed should also be considered.
- e. Phone Box. Cllrs reviewed the posted intention to remove the box. Cllrs agreed there was no objection to this proposal, and felt that anyone without access to a phone would be able to get help in an emergency from neighbours.
- f. WWI Beacons. Cllr Hickman proposed to organise a celebration and 100-year remembrance for the end of WWI on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018, and raise money for a suitable cause. Cllrs agreed. It was agreed Cllr Stanier (Chairman) would light the beacon as his father was a WWI veteran.

## 9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING(S)

The next meeting(s) of Whaddon Parish Council in 2017; 9<sup>th</sup> March, 11<sup>th</sup> May, 13<sup>th</sup> July, 14<sup>th</sup> September, 9<sup>th</sup> November.