

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHADDON PARISH COUNCIL**

Held: Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021, at 7.00pm  
at The Chapel School Room, Stock Lane, Whaddon, MK17 0LS

In addition access via zoom will be available:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88573380504?pwd=cUk4NzFBOGIUSWZTU2I2MS9aOHdiZz09Me>

eting ID: 885 7338 0504

Passcode: 056770

Present: Cllrs Sir Beville Stanier Bt (Chairman), Georgina Geddes, Hazel Hedges, Jane Herriman, Peter Lemagnen, Graham Stewart.

Members of the Public: Nine

Clerk: Suzanne Lindsey

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE MINUTES REMAIN IN DRAFT FORM UNTIL  
RATIFIED AND SIGNED BY THE COUNCIL AT THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING**

### **25/21. PUBLIC FORUM**

Cllr Stanier (Chairman) advised Members of the Public of their rights regarding the conduct of the Public Forum; including the right to make a statement and ask a question and a follow up question for response at the discretion of the Chairman.

Seven members of the public attended the meeting in connection with planning application 21/03014/APP, 7 Vicarage Rd, Whaddon. Cllr Stewart reviewed the current status and advised that while changes to the building had been approved under delegated powers, BC Planners had advised that a formal complaint regarding the car parking in the front garden and highways safety aspects of the development could be submitted, by either a member of the public or WPC. Cllr Stewart recommended that WPC should make the complaint and subject to agreement of fellow Councillors this would be done shortly.

Two members of the public attended stating they wished to hear what was said about the New Lowndes Arms Pub which they owned and operated. Various statements were made by them alleging Cllrs had signed a petition agreeing to boycott the pub and were lying if they stated they had no knowledge of it. Also, that unnamed residents of the village had made numerous complaints about the operations of the business to police and BC enforcement officers, that were incorrect and malicious. The owners also stated that and that they had no knowledge of any planning breaches or planning enforcement issues and were not able to communicate with Planning Officers in that regard, and that although the pub was listed the outbuildings were not listed for heritage purposes. They stated that they had provided a wheelchair ramp for a local customer and had been required to remove it by planning officers. In addition, that fire escape staircases had been positioned for the safety of homeless people being accommodated temporarily in their premises. They stated that racist comments about a staff member had been made to the police by a local resident. They complained that they had been deliberately and maliciously excluded from participating in village events and that unless village residents supported the pub they would be forced to shut the business and sell the land and buildings for development.

Cllrs responded that several offers of both informal discussions and meetings had been proposed but declined by the pub owners, but expressed optimism regarding the current discussions leading to agreement on a way forward to resolve disputes and assist the business to succeed. Cllrs stated categorically that it was the intention and wish of WPC the pub should be preserved and should succeed for the benefit of the village. However, Cllrs asked for a statement of fact to be included in the minutes refuting a number of malicious allegations, and that they knew nothing of a petition and were not lying.

Cllr Herriman offered to chair a mediation meeting between the pub owners and the village organisations and residents sited by the pub owners to resolve differences; it was agreed that the pub owners would contact Cllr Herriman to arrange a suitable time for the meeting should they wish to proceed.

#### 26/21. APOLOGIES

Cllrs John Chilver, Helen Hickman

#### 27/21. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Stewart declared an interest in planning matters connected to a building plot at the rear of 2 High St.

#### 28/21. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Cllrs approved the minutes which were signed.

#### 29/21. UPDATES ON RESOLUTIONS FROM MINUTES

Cllr Stewart asked for clarification on whether action had been taken in connection with contacting Whaddon School about suggestions on traffic and parking. The Clerk confirmed this communication had been sent. It was agreed that as no reply had been received from Whaddon School, another communication would be sent to follow up. It was suggested that at an appropriate time Whaddon School should be involved in any Sec.106 matters affecting the public highway in close proximity to the school.

#### 30/21. REPORTS FROM BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCILLORS

Cllr Stanier (Chairman) reported on behalf of Cllr Chilver on various topics;

- the online Council budget consultation is open until November 14<sup>th</sup>
- there are substantial funds still to be allocated this year by the Community Board so town and parish councils are encouraged to put in applications
- A recent Cabinet Member Decision confirmed that the Council will retain and operate the new Winslow Station car park
- We are holding EWR and HS2 to account on highways and planning issues and have appointed two locally based Marshals to help residents impacted
- We have recently approved our Climate Change Strategy which includes the planting of over 500,000 trees on Council land, the roll out of EV charging points and energy efficiency measures for council properties
- We will be launching an online public consultation on the new Winslow Sports Hub later this month with a dedicated page on the Council's website
- Our latest finance update indicates we are on target to break even this financial year and fully deliver our £13m target savings.

- a. Cllrs Stewart advised that efforts to obtain dates for works on traffic calming gates, weed and debris clearance and repairs of granite setts continued. These works were promised for the current financial year. Despite what BC said it was considered that the dislodged granite setts were dangerous, and perhaps the affected residents should contact BC and support WPC for the 'proper' repair and resetting.
- b. Cllr Stewart reviewed the request for response on 20mph speed limit submitted by Cllr Peter Cooper. A statement from Cllr Chilver on BC policy on 20mph limits was presented by Cllr Stanier (Chairman). Cllrs agreed to support the provision of a 20mph speed limits and would pursue the option if available. However, Cllrs felt the widespread adoption of 20mph zones in residential areas across the county should be a matter for local decisions. It was agreed Cllr Cooper would be advised accordingly
- c. Coddimoor Lane field gate. Cllr Stewart advised that this had been discussed with a new land agent for Weatherby's Estates, Strutt and Parker, and information was being sought by the agent from BC on the requirements for the gate, which would be acted upon immediately it was received. The agent had expressed concern about flooding caused by the blocked culvert and was asked to pursue BC for the clearance of this, to support WPC's repeated attempts to have this work done before the winter sets in.
- d. Salden Chase (SWMK) 20/0165/CONS. Cllr Stewart reported that the outline planning application and the Sec.106 funding towards improved Whaddon Traffic Calming was going to the Strategic Sites Committee on 18<sup>th</sup> November with a recommendation to delegate and approve including the £22k contribution for variable 20mph signs for the school. A 4-5 year delay was expected, and this would coincide with the 1200 new homes to be built at Shenley Park in the parish. Cllr Stewart commented that raised tables (humps) had been used by MKC on recent road upgrading on Shenley Rd, and perhaps if Sec.106 contributions were pooled these might be combined with the school's 20mph signs.
- e. Shenley Park and VALP. Cllr Stewart noted that the requested copy of the VALP report had still not been received. Cllr Stewart expressed concern about the timing of 50 new homes to be built by Crest before the end of 2050 and the expected timetable for the promised consultation and production of the Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) on Shenley Park. Because of the complexity of timing and potential highways problems Cllrs discussed and agreed the provision of a budget (initially for £1000 – to be reviewed as necessary) for the retention of a traffic/highway consultant to advise on traffic issues, which will undoubtedly assist with the negotiations with BC.
- f. Local Planning, updates and appeals. Cllr Stewart reviewed 25 Stock Lane and 2a Vicarage Rd, and Cllrs agreed to support no objections for these applications. Cllr Stewart reported that The Grove Farm House was, due to its unauthorised demolition, now subject to an enforcement issue and the applications withdrawn. Newton Longville Gas Storage Facility would likely be approved but with conditions. The previously refused application and appeal at The Oaks to develop open storage barn into four dwellings had been resubmitted in an attempt to

overcome The Inspectors' concerns on 'conversion'. This was discussed, and it was agreed that Cllr Stewart would prepare an objection on the basis of the nature of the conversion and on sustainability issues.

### 32/21. CLERK'S UPDATE

- a. Administration and Whaddon Quarterly
  - i. The Clerk referred to her Update provided, and Cllrs reviewed recent activities and events for the period.
  - ii. Cllrs reviewed Standing Orders and Financial Regulations and agreed the formal adoption.
  - iii. Cllrs reviewed information on Unity Trust Bank and agreed to proceed with transferring to this provider.
  - iv. The Clerk reviewed distribution difficulties with WQ, and it was agreed that this should be undertaken by Marianna Beckwith.
  - v. Cllrs reviewed arrangements for the provision of a Christmas Tree in the front area of the Village Hall.
- b. Highways
  - i. The Clerk reviewed minor highway issues and reporting.
  - ii. The Clerk reviewed progress on the grant application for double yellow lines at the corner of High St/Stock Lane. Costs were expected to be £12k.
  - iii. Cllrs agreed that MVAS should remain at the eastern end of the village to monitor traffic for in connection with future housing development.
- c. Property
  - i. Recreation Ground. The Clerk advised that repairs on the recreation ground equipment had been completed. It was agreed that WPC would fund a Play around the Parishes day in 2022.
  - ii. Allotments. The Clerk reported that the new allotment layouts had been measured and allotments tenancies renewed and billed. The application for water supply was progressing.
- d. Finance
  - i. Cllrs reviewed current and expected future expenditure levels for the Parish and approved the budget.
  - ii. Cllrs set the precept request for FY 2022/23 at £33,000.

### Income

The following payments have been received:

10/9/21	Precept	£15,000.00
10/9/21	Community Board Grant (Allotment Path)	£1,962.50
29/9/21	Rent D Taylor – Constable's Plot	£150.00
Various	Allotment Income	£114.50
Various	WQ Advertising Income	£855.00
Various	Interest	£0.11
	Total	£18,082.11

## Expenditure

The following invoices have been received for approval:

DD	On 13/10/21 E.on – electricity street lighting	£120.36
320	Ross Lawry – mowing and hedging	£2,300.00
321	S J Lindsey – salary Sep/Oct 2021	£1,128.08
322	S J Lindsey – expenses Sep/Oct 2021 (incl. Christmas Tree Lights)	£609.90
323	D Taylor – recreation ground repairs	£420.00
324	Bruce Macrae – IT costs oil syndicate	£60.72
325	CPRE Membership Fees	£36.00
326	E.On – Street lighting maintenance	£54.00
327	Harlequin Press – Printing WQ (summer)	£320.00
	Total	£5,049.06

## Bank Balances as at 10/11/21

Metro Bank Account – current	£19,146.41
Metro Bank Account – deposit	£12,742.77
	£31,889.18

## 33/21. OTHER PARISH MATTERS

- a. The New Lowndes Arms. Item already covered above.
- b. Cllrs instructed The Clerk to investigate ‘The Big Tidy Up’ funding and proceed if appropriate
- c. Cllrs agreed for a grant application to be submitted for funding for Christmas Tree. It was agreed to hold plans for a bench and rocks on the Village Green in abeyance.
- d. It was agreed to hold requests for additional streetlights in abeyance.
- e. It was agreed that further discussions should take place on proposals to celebrate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee.

## 34/21. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING A DECISION BEFORE THE NEXT MEETING

None

## 35/21. DATE OF NEXT MEETING(S)

The next meeting(s) of Whaddon Parish Council will be at 7pm; 13<sup>th</sup> January 2022, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

Signed:

Chairman

Date: