

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF WHADDON PARISH COUNCIL

Held: Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> June 2015, at 7.30pm at Whaddon Chapel, Stock Lane, Whaddon.

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

Members of the Public: 0

Clerk: Suzanne Lindsey

### PUBLIC SESSION

No attendees

### ELECTION OF A CHAIRMAN

Sir Beville Stanier Bt was appointed Chairman by unanimous vote. Proposed by Cllr Stewart, seconded by Cllr Hedges.

### APOLOGIES

None

### DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Stewart declared an interest in planning application 15/00716/APP and spoke in discussions only as a member of the public.

### MINUTES

Cllr Stewart requested and Cllrs agreed to a correction/clarification on the explanation of traffic data in connection with 15/00716/APP in para. 3 of the Public Session. The minutes for the previous meeting were otherwise adopted and signed.

### PROJECT UPDATES AND CORRESPONDENCE

#### Roads and Footpaths

1. The clerk advised that further complaints about rubbish left on the verge outside his house had been received from Mr R Porter of Vicarage Rd. Mr Porter was advised to report further problems via the AVDC internet fly tipping reporting service.
2. The clerk advised that the damaged bridge on Stratford Rd had been reported.
3. MVAS data had been downloaded and distributed.
4. The clerk advised two street lights had been reported for repair.

#### Recreation Ground

1. The clerk advised that the £5,052.39 match funding payment had been made to Wren towards the grant for new playground equipment.

#### Police and PCSO

No items.

#### Communications

1. As previous meeting.

#### Finance and Administration

1. The Cllrs provided pecuniary interest forms and outstanding election expenses forms.
2. The Clerk confirmed Cllr Stewart had been added to the Metro bank cheque signatory mandate.
3. The Clerk presented annual accounts. Cllrs approved the financial processes and the Chairman signed off the accounts.

#### Allotments

No items.

#### Planning

1. The Clerk presented a letter from Mr R Groundes-Peace of High St Whaddon, regarding 15/00716/APP 2a & 2b High St., and concerns about traffic. This was further discussed under Committee reports.

#### Other

1. The Clerk reported that Solicitor Rachael Brockwell had made no obvious progress on investigating Land Registry of three pieces of land owned by the Council. It was agreed that the Clerk should request a meeting to identify what further information was needed and advise Ms Brockwell that Cllrs would like to see land registry forms submitted no later than the next Parish Council Meeting at the end of July.
2. The Clerk advised that potential tenants for Briary View garages had been advised that the garages were not available for rent due to the poor state of repair. Cllr Stewart had investigated, and the garages are not scheduled for maintenance work and are not in a let-able condition. Cllrs express concern about the eyesore and the potential safety hazards for local children.

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

The following payments have been received:

26/3/15	Transfer of balance from charity account for recreation ground	£6,135.74
27/3/15	Allotment Rents	£30.00
28/4/15	Precept	£7,800.00
28/4/15	AVDC Overpayment	£20,878.50

The following invoices have been received for approval:

001	FCC Recycling (UK) Ltd – Match funding for recreation ground	£5,052.39
002	Wilder Eng. & Cons. Ltd – Printing WQ – November 2014 and May 2015	£120.88
003	St Mary's Church – Burial Ground Maintenance	£100.00
004	Eon Uk Ltd – Street Lighting	£118.15
005	BMKALC – Association membership	£81.96
006	AVDC – Refund of Overpayment	£20,878.50
007	Aon Insurance – Public Insurance	£570.63

Bank Balances as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015

TSB	-
Current Account – Metro Bank	£40,255.54

## REPORTS

1. Cllr White stated that the allotments were running well and looking the best they had looked for many years.
2. Cllr Stewart, speaking as a member of the public concerning 15/00761/App, reviewed the strong objections made by WPC to the planners and highways department about the application on the grounds of highway safety, and explained that the new speed/traffic survey data survey provided by the developer had been poorly conducted and the data was not valid. While this had been accepted by Mr T Thurley of AVDC planning department, Mr Thurley considered it a 'marginal' case, and felt a planning refusal on the basis of highway safety would not be sustained if appealed. Cllrs agreed that public safety was the overriding concern, that the Councils had a duty of care to residents and road users, and any decisions should err on the side of caution and not be influenced by whether or not an appeal could be sustained. Cllrs also agreed that the approval of this application would set an unfortunate precedent for further back-land development and the developers had not addressed the issues of not providing adequate parking space and taking parking spaces from the existing buildings in this second application. It was agreed that the Clerk should write formally to Mr Thurley expressing the Council's objections.
3. Cllr Stewart reviewed progress on other planning issues. A rat-running HGV had been reported to the owner/operator, and a letter of apology sent. Cllrs agreed that a letter should be sent to Traffic for Bucks, requesting clarification of the boundary of the vacant plot and the highway on Vicarage Rd., previously the site of a pull-in and petrol pumps. It was agreed that the Council should consider making an application to the LAF for grant money to improve the layout and parking spaces at the entrance to Vicarage Rd to ease congestion around the school. Deadline for applications is the end of August 2015.
4. Cllr Stewart advised that he was awaiting clarification on whether planning applications must be presented at a Council Meeting. This was a matter of concern as a 21 day deadline for objections could not normally be met.
5. Cllr Lemagnen advised that he had been reviewing MVAS traffic data for the MVAS sign located at Whaddon Hall, facing north, and found that despite the traffic calming measures 56% of vehicles were speeding. Further work was needed, and the data could be used to assist the police in catching persistent offenders. The Clerk was requested to forward archive data to Cllr Lemagnen.

## MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT ALREADY DEALT WITH

There were no additional matters.

## AOB

1. Cllr Haig reported that comparison quotes had been submitted for the play equipment grant from Wren. The grant contract was expected shortly.
2. Cllr Lemagen stated that he had liaised with Andy Bloomer regarding the website, and would commence work shortly. It was likely to take a while for it to be uploaded by Mr Bloomer.
3. Cllr White expressed concern about unsightly weeds along the High St. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to land owners with a request to tidy them up.
4. Cllr White expressed concern about the Stratford Tools van regularly parked on the pavement at the top of the High St, which obstructs pushchairs and wheelchair users. It was agreed that the Clerk should liaise with the police to ask for this to be moved.
5. It was reported that the repair of potholes on the road at New Bare Farm had taken place, but there was still a pool of standing water present, probably attributable to a spring, which would freeze and create a hazard. It was agreed that Cllr Stewart would contact MK Council to request a repair as it was their responsibility.
6. Cllr Stanier (Chairman) reported that tenant David Taylor had asked if he could purchase Constable's Plot. It was agreed that the Council was not in a position to sell. The Clerk was asked to communicate this to Mr Taylor.
7. Cllr Stanier (Chairman) reported that Great Horwood Parish Council undertook a review of the year's events and provided refreshments at the Parish Council Annual Meeting. It was agreed to consider this for next year.

## DATE OF NEXT MEETING(S)

The next meeting(s) of Whaddon Parish Council will take place on 30<sup>th</sup> July, 24<sup>th</sup> September, 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2015.