

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHADDON PARISH COUNCIL

Held: Thursday, 8th September 2016, at 7.30pm at School Room, Whaddon Chapel, Stock Lane, Whaddon.

Present: Cllrs Sir B Stanier Bt (Chairman), Peter Lemagnen, Graham Stewart, Derek White.

Members of the Public: None

Clerk: Suzanne Lindsey

PUBLIC SESSION

No Items

APOLOGIES

Cllrs Graham Hain, Helen Hickman, Hazel Hedges.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

MINUTES

The minutes for the previous meetings were adopted and signed.

PROJECT UPDATES AND CORRESPONDENCE

Roads and Footpaths

1. The clerk reported that Mrs B Green of Stratford Rd., continues to report issues with flooding caused by rain water off the highway. The Area Technician is trying to get priority for work to be done to improve the drainage. Mrs Green has been provided with the emergency number to obtain sandbags. Cllr Stewart emphasised that damage to kerbs, verges and ditches was often the result of heavy vehicles.

Recreation Ground

1. The Clerk reported that the order for the road crossing for the Recreation Ground had been placed. A scheduled installation date had been obtained by Cllr Stanier (Chairman) of 12th September 2016.
2. The Clerk reported that the Play Around the Parishes Session had been well attended and successful.
3. The Clerk reported that litter picking was being carried out successfully by Fredrick Hayward, and the recreation ground was in a far better state of cleanliness. The cost was currently £3.60 a week
4. Cllrs discussed the quote for fencing for the football area, and felt the cost was prohibitive. The existing goalposts have now been concreted in by Helps Builders, from Buckingham, who are working in the village. Cllr Hain had advised he would be obtaining football nets and organising repainting of the posts shortly.
5. The Clerk reported that the Fitness Bootcamp organised by Abbie Sycamore was reasonably well attended, and working well. Cllrs agreed this was a very positive use of the Recreation Ground for the benefit of the village. It was emphasised the Ms Sycamore provided her own equipment.

Communications

1. The Clerk reported that an increase in the distribution of WQ via email and a cut in the number of printed copies had led to savings of £63 in printing costs. While some had complained about the lack of a printed copy, it was felt the effort to encourage email and home printing should continue, but that those without internet should continue to get paper copies as long as needed.
2. The Clerk reported that the village Facebook Page continued to be a useful tool in keeping people informed. Plus four village emails had been sent to subscribers during the period mostly regarding planning matters.

Finance and Administration

1. The Clerk confirmed the annual accounts had been approved by the external auditor, and appropriate notices posted.

Allotments

1. The Clerk advised that an inspection of the allotments had taken place and some were in a poor state of cultivation. Invoices for 2016-17 subscriptions had been issued, enclosing a letter underlining the need to keep the allotments in good order, and that any costs would be forwarded to the allotment holder. It was agreed that any vacant allotments should be advertised on the Village Facebook Page.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

The following payments have been received:

8/9/16	D Cook – Allotment Rent ref inv. 1108	£15.00
Various	Misc. Interest	£4.61

The following invoices have been received for approval:

060	Helps Building and Landscapes – resetting goal posts	£270.00
061	Mazars LLP – audit fee	£360.00
062	AVDC – Play Around the Parishes 26/7/16	£430.00
063	Fredrick Hayward – litter picking and WQ Distribution	£50.20
064	NBR Printing Ltd	£315.00
	Total	£1,425.20

Bank Balances as at 8/9/16

Metro Bank Account – current	£1,542.52
Metro Bank Account – deposit	£7,227.57
Metro Bank Account - charity	£1,666.48

REPORTS

1. Planning.

- a. Cllr Stewart reported that the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) response had been submitted on behalf of the Parish Council. He advised he was monitoring the responses of other areas, and there were many objections to the ‘un-met needs’ for housing of southern Councils including South Bucks, Chilterns and Wycombe. Consultants had been retained to investigate further, which may include checking housing densities and the feasibility of locating housing for people working in the south of the county in the north. Cllr Stanier (Chairman) stated that AVDC were fighting against being forced to accept the entire un-met needs allocation.
- b. Cllr Stewart reported that he felt there was a good case for Salden Chase and Whaddon housing development plans being reduced, as it was unlikely that Milton Keynes would have any un-met housing needs. He advised that Milton Keynes Council did not intend to object to the Salden Chase and Whaddon developments, but did intend to seek clarification on how AVDC intended to provide infrastructure and services for the areas. Results could be expected during Christmas/New Year 2017.
- c. Cllr Stewart advised that the application for a detached dwelling at the rear of 2a/2b High Street had not progressed, and nothing further had been announced, but it was possible that the planning application would be discussed at the planning meeting on 22nd November. Cllr Stanier apologised that he would not be able to attend the meeting to speak against the application, and it was agreed that he would submit written comments. AVDC advised that they were awaiting Highway’s response before progressing the application.
- d. Cllrs commented on the two-storey extension under construction at 11 Stock Lane. It was explained that works on the roof would take about three months to complete.

2. Highways

- a. Cllr Stewart advised that Shenley Rd would likely be closed for a three-month period from about 19th October, but actual date yet to be advised, to allow upgrading of the highway and other major works. Cllr. Stewart advised that although residents could try and claim compensation for extra mileage they had to travel from MKC as the 'closure authority', there was absolutely no chance they would be successful. Various options were being considered for future road closures and diversions, including opening King Street, reopening the underpass on the old Whaddon Rd, and traffic calming build-outs on Coddimoor Lane. It was hoped these measures would discourage rat running.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT ALREADY DEALT WITH

None

AOB

1. Cllr Lemagnen emphasised the need to press on with inputting data into the newly designed website. Cllr Stewart and the Clerk advised that further progress would be made shortly.
2. It was agreed that Cllr Stanier (Chairman) and the Clerk should arrange a meeting with Savills’ solicitor to agree terms of a Farm Business Tenancy for Constable’s Plot.
3. It was agreed that the date of the next meeting should remain as 10th November, and Cllr Stanier would give his apologies, due to the attendance of representatives of BCC wishing to discuss devolution of services and the possibility of a unitary council.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING(S)

The next meeting(s) of Whaddon Parish Council for 2016 will take place on 10th November 2016.