

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHADDON PARISH COUNCIL

Held: Thursday, 7th January 2016, at 7.30pm at School Room, 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: Mr John Conneely.
Clerk: Suzanne Lindsey

PUBLIC SESSION

Mr Conneely reviewed Whaddon's role in WWII in connection with the work done at Bletchley Park on code breaking, with particular reference to Geoffrey Pidgeon and his research and book on the subject. Mr Conneely proposed that a memorial/information board should be erected in Whaddon. Councillors welcomed and supported the project, but agreed it was not within the remit of the Parish Council to organise or fund such a project. Concern was expressed about obtaining funding, finding a suitable location, gaining permission for erection on public footpaths etc., and responsibility and funding for on-going maintenance of any memorials and displays. It was suggested that an approach should be made to the Weatherby family, the the Chairman, to explore the possibility of using their land on Windy Ridge to locate a possible information board. Cllr Haig to provide contact information for Mark Juniper of Strutt and Parker.

APOLOGIES

None

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 discussions had taken place with Paul Hodson regarding applications for LAF funding. Cllr Stewart had negotiated the withdrawal of the two existing projects, which stood no chance of success due to high cost, in return for consideration of the provision of a safe road crossing for access to the recreation ground at a more modest price. It was understood that the project had a good chance of success. The Clerk was asked to confirm with Paul Hodson that the application was progressing smoothly.

Recreation Ground

1. Cllr Haig and Cllr Hickman confirmed that the official opening of the recreation ground had been a success despite very grim weather. Cllr Haig advised that a noticeboard and bin had been purchased, and would be installed by Stuart Grace shortly, and the redundant post removed. A further spring celebration was planned where more festivities could be enjoyed.
2. The Clerk confirmed that the annual return for the recreation ground had been submitted to the Charities Commission.
3. Cllrs agreed that a quotation for the repair of the leaning gatepost to the main field gate should be obtained.

Communications

1. Cllr Haig advised that a new editor had been found for Whaddon Quarterly, and John Mortimer would be taking up the reigns starting with the February 2016 edition.

Finance and Administration

1. The Clerk confirmed that the precept request for £15,000 had been submitted to AVDC.
2. Cllrs reviewed correspondence regarding the rejection of the application to list the Lowndes Arms as a community asset. It was agreed that Cllr Stanier (Chairman) would take this up with the appropriate AVDC departments to ascertain the reasons for the rejection, which appeared contrary to current policy on localism.

Allotments

1. Cllr White advised that three allotment holders had decided not to renew, but two new tenants had been found via WPC Community Email.

Other

1. The Clerk reported that Land Registry had now confirmed the titles to both Constable's Plot and the Allotments. Following last meeting's agreement that the lease arrangements for Constable's Plot should be reviewed it was agreed that the Clerk should approach H St John of Savills, I Peck of Bidwells, W Abbott of WJC and A Wright of Kirkby Diamond for proposals and quotations. Cllrs agreed the draft summary sheet prepared by the Clerk on the current status of Constable's Plot and the brief as to what was required.

- The Clerk advised that Land Registry had requested further documentation in support of the registration to title of the Recreation Ground, and this had been obtained from AVDC archives and forwarded for consideration.
- The Clerk reported that Bradley Ford had been in touch to discuss Transport Devolution – T2, and suggested that Whaddon might consider joining in a cluster of parishes to consolidate the work. It was agreed that the Parish was not in a position to take on this work, which included mowing of vision splays, cleaning road signs, tending public footpaths etc., and not in favour of the cluster. Cllr Stewart expressed concern about liability for accidents should these tasks be neglected, and Cllrs agreed that the on-going responsibility and liability would remain with the present authorities.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

The following payments have been received:

19/11/15	HMRC Vat Refund	£736.97
23/11/15	Waste Recycling	£46,999.00
2/12/15	Pat Haig – Recreation Ground income from teas	£153.50
18/12/15	Allotment rent P Dobson	£22.50
21/12/15	Allotment rent V Peters	£11.25
21/12/15	WI Whaddon – grant for notice board	£299.41
24/12/15	D Taylor – rent Constable’s Plot	£145.00
	Misc. Interest	£5.60

The following invoices have been received for approval:

029	Komplan Play Equipment (paid 2/12/15)	£49,999.81
030	Great Horwood Silver Band	£160.00
031	Cllr Pat Haig – Expenses ref Recreation Ground Opening	£150.52
032	Cllr Pat Haig – reimbursement for Recreation Gound sign	£359.29
033	Reg Porter – Mowing and Hedging 2015	£3,396.00
034	Dog Waste Bin contract to March 2016	£203.40
035	Cllr Helen Hickman – Expenses ref Recreation Ground Opening	£171.67
036	S J Lindsey – salary Oct-Dec 2016	£1,147.57
037	S J Lindsey – expenses Oct-Dec 2016	£109.95
038	Winslow Bus	£100.00
		£55,798.21

Bank Balances as at 7/1/16

Metro Bank Account – current	£6,318.37
Metro Bank Account – deposit	£7,813.59
Metro Bank Account - charity	£1,373.90

REPORTS

- Cllr Stewart presented his planning report and advised that the VALP report had been submitted as agreed before the 4th December deadline.
- Cllrs reviewed the draft response to Shenley Dens Farm expansion. Cllrs agreed the content of the response and that Cllr Stewart should go ahead.
- Cllr Stewart reported that he had arranged a Drop-In Meeting in the Village Hall for village residents concerning Plan MK, on 23rd March 2016, at which representatives of MK Council would present display boards and give presentations. The Jubilee Hall had been booked from 6.00-9.00pm. Cllr Haig emphasised that it was important to do data-capture of attendees for future planning communications. Cllr Stewart advised that he had asked AVDC to attend but they were reluctant to do so, as they would still be compiling their own response. Our Local Member (i.e. Billy Stanier) should report the findings of the meeting back to AVDC. It was agreed that Cllr Stanier would take this up with Andy Kirkham, as The Chairman would not be able to attend due to Council Cabinet commitments. It was agreed that Cllr Stewart would prepare materials for inclusion in the next Whaddon Quarterly to promote the Meeting, and would respond to MKC to finalise the event details.
- Cllr Stewart reviewed the planning application for expansion of the Village Hall and recommended no objection should be made. Cllrs agreed. Cllr Stewart expressed concern about the door at the back of the stage, and advised that the three air-source heat pumps were not advisable for the intended location. Cllr

Hedges added that now plans were in place applications for funding would go ahead. It was expected that the expansion would be staged and prioritised, probably starting with the small meeting room.

5. Cllr Stewart advised that the decision of the Planning Inspector regarding 2a/2b High St was expected shortly. A visit from the Inspector had taken place on 15th December 2015, where no doubt the Inspector had considered the objections of AVDC. Cllr Stewart confirmed that he had explained that traffic volumes were considerably lower than normal due to the closure of Stratford Rd, but this was unlikely to influence the decision.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT ALREADY DEALT WITH

There were no additional matters.

AOB

1. Cllr Haig announced her resignation as a Councillor, which was accepted sadly. Cllr Stanier (Chairman) proposed a vote of thanks for Cllr Haig for all her hard work and dedication. Cllrs added their personal thanks and good wishes. It was agreed that in accordance with procedures, the vacancy would be posted on the Parish Noticeboard. In the absence of ten or more requests within the statutory 14-day period, Cllrs would move to co-opt a new Cllr. The vacancy to be advertised in Whaddon Quarterly, and applicants invited to submit applications for consideration at the next meeting. The co-option of a new councillor to be discussed and agreed at the next meeting on 31st March 2016.
2. Cllr Hedges advised that the funeral of Doug Lowe of Barnhill Farm was planned for 20th January 2016 at 11am.
3. It was agreed that Cllr Stewart would draft a response to the BCC Vision for Transport for the deadline on 29th January 2016.
4. Cllr Stewart queried ownership of the land adjacent to 2 Vicarage Rd, which showed on Highway's maps as being owned by the Council, but this was disputed by the previous property owner and had been fenced for many years. This would need to be checked with Land Registry, and any clarification needed to the maps undertaken by BCC.
5. Cllr White reported that the closure of Stratford Rd had been badly handled, as information arrived late and no explanation for the closure was given. This was especially bad given the duration of the closure which is expected to be three months or more. Cllr Stewart blamed lack of communication between MK and BCC which was typically poor. Cllr Stewart expressed concern about damage to the recently re-laid road surface, which should be inspected by WPC upon completion, with any resultant concerns being passed immediately to BCC for rectification by the electric company contractors.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING(S)

The next meeting(s) of Whaddon Parish Council for 2016 will take place on 31st March, 12th May, 21st July, 8th September and 10th November.