

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF WHADDON PARISH COUNCIL

Held: Thursday, 10th November 2022, at 7.00pm
at The Chapel School Room, Stock Lane, Whaddon, MK17 0LS

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

Members of the Public: Four

Clerk: Suzanne Lindsey

34/22. PUBLIC FORUM

A member of the public attended to discuss costs and maintenance issues with the defibrillator located outside the Village Hall; funding and the need for additional new helpers to undertake maintenance was highlighted. The running costs included electricity, replacement pads and batteries and averaged approximately £100 p.a., depending on how often the unit was used. In addition, training courses were needed for new helpers at £175 per session. Regular monitoring of the unit is done weekly with monthly reporting, including the checking internal temperature, light, door seal, and a self-test of the equipment. It was agreed to assist with funding and recruiting helpers.

Two members of the public attended from Whaddon School to seek information about the impending Shenley Park housing development and the potential impacts on the school in coming years. Cllr Stewart advised that plans were being developed and it was expected that these would go out to public consultation in the New Year 2023, and while it was not clear what the plans entailed currently, a meeting on 1st December would make things clearer. It was agreed that it was very important for the school to be involved, understand the potential impact of the expansion, and to identify areas where facilities might be put under pressure and what should be improved to cope with the expansion with a view to securing Sec.106 funding.

35/22. APOLOGIES

Cllr John Chilver.

36/22. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Stewart declared an interest in connection with the planning application no. 22/01293/APP.

37/22. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Cllrs approved the minutes which were signed.

38/22. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Cllr Stewart reported that as agreed he had contacted L&Q the Developers in connection with recent adverse possession of land in the area of the travellers' site on Calverton Lane, necessitating revising plans for roads and infrastructure for new housing development. It had been agreed that they would not seek to change the original junction layout for routing traffic to/from Whaddon, but it would be MKC Highways who would make any final decisions, so we should monitor any revised planning applications carefully.

39/22. REPORTS FROM BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCILLORS

Cllr Stanier (Chairman) reported that the financial situation at BC looked very bleak with sharply rising costs and no option to raise Council Tax due to current economic and financial restraints. It

was inevitable that service levels will suffer. At this time, there were no plans to cap parish precepts.

40/22. PLANNING

- a. Salden Chase (SWMK) – 15/00314/AOP Cllr Stewart referred to his planning report. He stated Sec.106 monies remained committed for traffic mitigation.
- b. Shenley Park SPD. Cllr Stewart advised that two on-line meetings were scheduled for 1st December to review progress on development plans, and BC had committed to sharing information one week in advance of the 1st December meeting on what progress had been made. Cllr Stewart reported that he had raised serious concerns with BC asking for clarification on a number of points around what decisions had already been made since the meeting on 1st August. Cllr Stewart recommended that Cllrs review the advance information provided for 1st December very carefully and agree what points needed to be raised ahead of time.

Cllr Stewart reported he had encouraged Village Hall, School and Churches to become actively involved in the public consultation, in order to identify and secure S106 funding if/when it could be demonstrated that an influx of new residents will impact on village infrastructure.

Cllr Stewart noted the differing handling of Scoping Opinions for Environmental Impact Assessments between MKC and BC, and it was agreed that this was a point in need of clarification at the 1st December meeting.

- c. Current Planning Applications.

Cllrs reviewed 22/02698/APP – new dwelling adjacent to 8 Stock Lane. It was reported that this application had been withdrawn as BC were planning to refuse it, following a number of concerns and objections.

Cllrs reviewed 22/02818/APP Thrift Farm. A final decision is still awaited.

22/01293/APP Land R/O Lowndes Arms. The Clerk updated Cllrs that no further information had been made available on either the planning or the enforcement issues. Further information may become available after 21st November.

22/03410/APP – Car Port 33a Stock Lane. Cllrs discussed the policy regarding construction protruding in front of the building line. Cllrs reviewed their previous decision not to object to the second application and agreed not to object to this third application but provide some comments.

- d. Calverton Lane Field Gate. Cllr Stewart advised that works to install the new access gate to meet planning requirements had been substantially completed with the exception of lowering the hedge line to 60cms. It was agreed to request the agent/landowner continue the hedge reduction north of the gate to improve visibility around the dangerous junction and corner where many vehicular ‘near misses’ take place due to poor visibility.

- e. Update on VALP. Cllr Stewart referred Cllrs to his planning report. Cllr Stewart expressed concern that no green field site list has been made available, so it remained unknown how additional development might impact the village between 2033-40.
- f. Yellow Line Project. Cllr Stewart advised that the project had received approval and go ahead from Winslow and Villages Community Board, and funding contribution by WPC was agreed at £1000. Works are expected to proceed in early 2023. Due to the lines being covered by the highway code, it was deemed unnecessary to undertake any public consultation.
- g. A421 Traffic Study. Cllr Stewart reported that nothing further had been heard on this report despite chasing BC Highways for an update. Cllr Stewart expressed concern about the timing, in order to be included in the study or Shenley Park SPD. It was agreed to chase again before the 1st December SPD Teams meetings/discussions.

41/22. CLERK'S UPDATE

- a. Administration and Whaddon Quarterly
 - i. The Clerk referred cllrs to the update provided. The Clerk reported that the external audit had been completed satisfactorily, and notices posted in accordance with requirements. The Clerk advised that Cllr Hedges had submitted her resignation due to retirement, and the vacancy had been notified to the Electoral Officer; notice had been posted to invite nominations and should none be received by 14th November 2022 Cllrs could proceed to a co-option. The Clerk reported that progress on email upgrades was proceeding well, and Cllr Lemagen agreed to undertake the upgrade of the website to the new domain name. The Clerk advised that NALC had issued new salary scales for clerks which was agreed.
 - ii. The Clerk reported that things were going well with WQ. It was agreed that more colour content would be desirable and advertising prices would be reviewed and more advertisers sought to increase income to cover this, with a view to breaking even on costs.
- b. Highways
 - i. Minor highway issues. The Clerk reported that an RTA had demolished the traffic calming build out on Stratford Rd, and temporary 'make-safe' measures and signage had been put in place. Renewal of the bollards and lighting was not expected for some months.
 - ii. Cllrs reviewed MVAS traffic data.
- c. Property
 - i. Recreation Ground. A no parking sign for emergency access had been provided for the field gate.
 - ii. Allotments. The Clerk advised that new leases and invoices had been issued, including provision for new tenants to pay a deposit and charges for invoice late payments. All the plots had been let, and only three invoices remained unpaid. Concern was expressed that a plot holder continued to neglect their plot, had not paid their invoice, was refusing to pay the water charges, and was threatening to breach dawn-dusk curfew requirements by strimming their plot in the dark. It was agreed that it may become necessary to withdraw the offer of a lease for this tenant if problems continued.

d. Finance

- i. Cllrs reviewed the current cash position and expected expenditure for the remainder of 2022/23.
- ii. Cllrs reviewed budgeted income and expenditure for FY 2023/24, and agreed a new provision of £200 p.a. for defibrillator maintenance and training, and price increases for hedging and mowing contractors. Cllrs discussed provision of additional dog waste bins. Cllrs expressed concern about rising costs and uncertainty of future demands on parish expenditure. It was agreed that the precept should be kept at last year's level and be set at £33,000 for the coming year.

Income

The following payments have been received:

13/9/22	Interest	£30.84
20/9/22	Bucks Council precept	£16,500.00
29/9/22	D Taylor Rent Constable's Plot	£150.00
30/9/22	Interest	£44.24
Various	Allotment Rents 28/9/22 - 9/11/22	£445.07
	Total	£17,170.15

Expenditure

The following payments have been made since the last meeting:

12/9/22	BACS	Bucks Council PATP Play Session	£552.00
12/9/22	BACS	Harlequin Press WQ Magazine	£445.00
12/9/22	BACS	D Taylor Gate Repairs	£130.00
12/9/22	BACS	T Jenkins IT Support	£35.00
12/9/22	BACS	S J Lindsey Salary and expenses (2 invoices totalling..)	£1,334.48
12/9/22	BACS	Kompan Ltd playground inspection	£241.02
12/9/22	BACS	F Hayward litter picking	£19.00
12/9/22	BACS	D Taylor Repairs to recreation ground	£335.00
20/9/22	DD	Nest pension	£8.57
23/9/22	DD	Npower electric for street lighting	£47.24
30/9/22	DD	Bank service charge	£18.00
7/10/22	SO	Freethought Email	£9.50
17/10/22	DD	Npower electric for street lighting	49.15
19/10/22	DD	Nest pension	14.07
27/10/22	DD	Unity Bank correction of error	£500.00
7/11/22	SO	Freethought Email	£9.50
		Total	£3,712.53

The following future payments require approval:

BACS	S J Lindsey – Salary and Expenses Sep-Oct 2022	£1,426.45
DD	Npower electric for streetlights	£54.31
BACS	D Taylor – Mowing & weedkilling	£245.00
BACS	TJS Technology IT Services	£370.00
BACS	Eon Street Light Maintenance	£54.00
BACS	Wave Water	£1.27
BACS	CPRE Membership	£36.00
BACS	F Hayward – Litter Picking August	£19.00

BACS	PKF Littlejohn LLP – audit fees	£240.00
BACS	Ross Lawry – Verges and Hedges	£1,590.00
	Total	£4,036.03

Bank Balances as at 9/11/22

Unity Bank – deposit	£27,559.24
Unity Bank – current	£18,043.94

42/22. OTHER PARISH MATTERS

- a. Cllrs accepted the resignation of Cllr Hedges and expressed their thanks and appreciation for her twenty-three years' service. A card and gift were provided.
- b. Cllrs considered the information provided on the costs, maintenance and training requirements for the defibrillator and agreed an annual payment of £200 towards this. It was suggested that the Village Hall should continue to fund the electricity. Assistance with finding new helpers would be provided if needed.
- c. Cllrs reviewed the email update received from Central Bedfordshire Council on the situation regarding the vulnerable adult occasional resident of 7 Vicarage Rd, advising that his situation was being urgently reviewed. It was agreed to continue to monitor the situation.
- d. The New Lowndes Arms. Dealt with 40/22 c. No further items.
- e. Cllrs reviewed the request from a resident to use the recreation ground for parking for the school. It was agreed that as a designated play area it was not permissible to allow vehicles in the same space, an open field gate would give children easy access to the road and breached health and safety requirements, and in the light of the raft of legislation preventing it, it was not possible to agree to this request. The Clerk was instructed to write to the resident accordingly.
- f. Cllrs considered the complaint from a resident of High St about the parlous condition of the pavements, especially for wheelchair and push chair users. Cllr Stewart and the Clerk advised that details had been reported to the Local Area Technician who was scheduling a visit to inspect the problems. Cllrs agreed that the state and condition was totally unacceptable. Cllr Stewart raised the suggestion of some new road crossing points, and it was agreed that this should be considered further perhaps under Sec.106 arrangements.
- g. Cllrs reviewed requirements and costs for the provision of a flagpole for the village. Cllr Herriman reported that she had discussed this with the Village Hall Committee who were unwilling to locate the flagpole within Village Hall grounds. The Clerk advised that the flagpole would require planning permission, and if owned and operated by WPC and located on the village green there were many compliance issues. It was agreed not to proceed with the proposal, and that the flag on the church tower served the purpose adequately.
- h. Grant Application for Parking Mitigation for Village Green. Cllrs agreed that this item should be reconsidered at the next meeting.
- i. Provision of improved broadband service. Cllrs agree that this item should be reconsidered at the next meeting.

43/22. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING A DECISION BEFORE THE NEXT MEETING

None

44/22. DATE OF NEXT MEETING(S)

The next meeting(s) of Whaddon Parish Council will be at 7pm; 12th January 2023, 9th March 2023, 11th May 2023 (AGM), 13th July 2023, 14th September 2023, 9th November 2023, 11th January 2024, 14th March 2024

Signed:

Chairman

Date: