**Approved Minutes of the Meeting**

**Of the Whepstead Parish Council on**

**Wednesday July 4th 2018 at 7pm**

Attendees: Councillors N Aitkens - NA

M Morris – MM

L Smith – LS

T Smith – TS

D Till - DT

Clerk D Rix – DR

Borough Councillor M Chester – MC

Member of the Public Owen Brown - OB

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| 1/93  2/94  3/95  4/96  5/97  6/98  7/99  8/100  9/101  10/102  11/103  12/104  13/105  14/106  15/107  16/108  17/109  18/110  19/111  20/112 | **Apologies for Absence** Cllr Durrant and County Councillor Soons  **Declarations of Interest**  Cllr NA – planning  **Borough Councillor Report**  Regarding the Ward boundary changes, Cllr Chester said that the final recommendations for West Suffolk boundaries had been made and the consultation deadline was August 27th. DR to write with the PC’s concerns.  Cllr Chester has £2,500 2018/19 Locality Funding available for the five villages in his ward. BSE was being used as a backdrop this week for the filming of a major movie about the life of David Copperfield. Cllr Chester sought councillor views on having a Mayor, which costs the council £100,000 a year. Cllr MM thanked Cllr Chester for funding 31% of the costs of a new mower for the cricket ground and Karen Soons a further 50%.  **County Councillor Report (***circulated ahead of meeting***)**  **Co-Option of a Parish Councillor**  DR had recirculated the candidate’s CVs ahead of the meeting. While both candidates were considered extremely well qualified, DT proposed and LS seconded that Gordon Merrett be co-opted on to the PC. All agreed.  **Public Forum**  None  **Planning Applications**  **DC/18/1045/HH – Nunwick Farm**  Councillors discussed the proposed new access with the owner who made clear it was for the sole purpose of dividing his site from the neighbouring one and not to create an in/out driveway. On the basis of a fence being installed between points Y and Z on the plans, councillors agreed to support the application.  **DC/18/0774/FUL – The Willows, Chedburgh Road**  Cllr NA declared an interest and left the room. It was agreed that the application did not fulfil the planning requirements of the village, lying as it does outside the development envelope and therefore they could not support it.  **DC/18/0785/ADV – Beehive Cottage, Old School Road**  Cllrs voted to support the revised location of an advertising board for the Cattery at Beehive Cottage.  **Minutes of the meeting held in May**  It was proposed by Cllr MM and seconded by Cllr TS that the minutes were a true record.  **Matters arising from the May meeting**  None  **Clerk’s Report**  DR had emailed villagers a consent form for GDPR and forwarded all returned forms to Cllr DT who has carried out a Data Audit. The PC’s privacy policy is on the website. DR will hand out more consent forms at the Fete on Saturday.  She has delivered Welcome Packs to West Barn and March House and has started a list of who has received one.  She will thank Robin Drayton for internally auditing the annual accounts with a bottle of wine and send a card to Cllr Durrant who is recovering from hip surgery yesterday.  **Finance**  Five invoices for payment:  Clerk’s Fees £1,086.74 (new hourly rate £9.341 from April)  Clerk’s Tax £62.20  Clerk’s expenses £213.03  Vertas Jul-Sep £601.49  WCA Hall Hire Jan-May £71  There was no bank reconciliation as DR had not received the May bank statement for the Treasurer Account only the Business Savings Account. She had sent the exemption certificate to PKF, the external auditor, and had published the accounts on line. The exercise of public rights started on July 2nd and runs to August 10th.  **Footpaths, Highways and Byways – Verge Cutting**  Cllr NA said that he was aware that two parishes (Cockfield and Hundon) were cutting their own verges. DR to ask Highways about cutting plans and potentially look to landowners to cut them. Cllr DT to cut the footpath next to his property. Cllr TS said chippings have now been laid by the River in areas prone to getting muddy. The Green Access Team can meet to discuss a footpath map week beginning July 30th. DR to find out what an initial meeting would entail. Alan Perkins reported seeing someone fixing/replacing fingers posts, way markers and a new bridge sleeper.  There will be a road closure for roadworks in Old School Road July 9-11.  **Neighbourhood Watch Scheme**  Cllr LS attended a Suffolk NWS meeting in Woolpit and was pleased to report that nine Community Engagement Officers have been appointed - PC Jon Gerrish in our area. Each will have a dedicated Facebook page and will use a variety of engagement tools like surgeries and face to face meetings to provide a named officer for local residents to contact. They will also look to see how they can support volunteer schemes like Community Speed Watch and NW.  They will be looking for volunteers – cyclists, joggers etc. - to be their ‘eyes and ears’.  Cllr MM reported an incident of doughnuting in the Community Centre car park. Unfortunately he was unable to get the number plate of the black Ford Fiesta.  **Broadband**  Cllr NA said residents in Tuffields Road had met with County Broadband and were looking to put a mast on Jeremy Rose’s barn, which would be in sight of the signal on Glemsford Church. Trenching would then need to be done from the barn to individual properties. A test is being done at the end of July. Improving broadband at Plumton has run into problems due to lack of interest.  **Bus Shelter**  Cllrs NA and TS had met to discuss the bus shelter. Cllr NA to get two more quotes for the work on the roof and for fitting glass windows.  **Suffolk Association of Local Councils Report**  None  **Whepstead Community Association Report**  The Fete on Saturday is being organised by Cllr MM with Di Howe’s help. The forecast is good, the marketing has been great, but there is a concern that the event clashes with England’s World Cup match. The recent Jumble Sale was not a success due to poor weather and a road diversion. The kitchen refurbishment gets underway in August. The replacement of the sign ‘sandwich’ board is being considered which will not require planning. All the light fittings in the hall have been changed by Derrick King and are now running on high efficiency ‘halogen’ tubes which should reduce the electricity bill considerably.  **Correspondence**  Cllr NA asked for the content of important emails to be highlighted and for DR to keep a Welcome Pack list.  **Chairman’s Comments**  None  **Any Other Business**  None  Signed………………………………..Dated……………… |
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