**Draft Minutes of the Meeting**

**Of the Parish Council on**

**Wednesday December 7th 2016 at 7pm**

Attendees: Councillors N Aitkens - NA

 M Morris - MM

 L Smith - LS

Clerk D Rix – DR

Borough Councillor Angela Rushen - AR

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| 1/1712/1724/1735/1746/1753/1767/1778/17811/1799/18010/18112/18213/18314/18415/18516/18617/18718/18819/189 | **Apologies for Absence**Cllrs Stanley Durrant, David Till, Nicola Mann and Terry Clements**Declarations of Interest**Cllr NA – planning, Hall Farm**County Councillor’s Report** *(Cllr NA brought forward agenda item 4)*None**Public Forum** None**Planning Applications****DC/16/2408/HH – Hall Farm, Bury Road**Single storey side extension (following removal of existing side extension)Councillors fully supported the application**DC/16/2498/TCA – 2 Rectory Grove, Rectory Road**Fell a cypressCouncillors fully supported the application.**Borough Councillor’s Report** (circulated in advance of the meeting) *Cllr NA returned to agenda item 3)*Parish Council meeting frequency was discussed as many neighbouring villages only meet every two months.Regarding Harram Bottom flooding, Cllr NA said the pipes are blocked again, so as soon as it rains, the road will flood. There are problems with accessibility in trying to resolve the problem as there is a high bank and trees on one side and a meadow on the other. And from the road there is no verge. He said the bank would need lowering to the level of the road in order to gain access to clear the pipes. DR to write to the Environment Agency and say that we are having a problem with the culvert and ask if they could advise on a design and ask about adding a grate that would keep debris away from the pipes. It needs maintenance despite Guy Smith saying it is not a priority.Cllr AR said that Matthew Hancock MP would be attending a meeting in Hawstead on January 24th to talk about Broadband if anyone from Whepstead wanted to attend. She said that Cllr Clements would not be standing for re-election next year. DR explained that on November 16th Jonathan Chown at Suffolk Better Broadband said that after some tree cutting work, Openreach hoped to be able to deliver superfast broadband by December 9th. If that doesn’t happen – which seems likely - we will be nearly four months behind schedule. DR to write to Matthew Hancock if there are further delays. *Cllr AR left the meeting at 7.25pm*. **Minutes of the Meeting held on November 2nd 2016**Cllr MM proposed and it was seconded by Cllr LS that the minutes were a true record. **Matters Arising from the Meeting on November 2nd.**  Regarding a Neighbourhood Plan, Cllr NA asked DR to look through old files as he felt the village had drawn up a plan before a village survey on the need for Affordable Housing. If found, DR to circulate to councillors.Regarding Nunwick Farm, Cllr NA said that all objections had been dismissed and that the building work was underway again. Regarding the Parish Conference Report, DR to make councillors aware of relevant facts and figures for future reference. **Footpaths, Highways and Byways** *(Cllr NA brought forward agenda item 11)*DR to thank Highways for removing all the redundant roadworks signs that had been left around the village. Regarding the new footpath, Cllr NA said that the Cuttings were happy for the PC to work with Suffolk Wildlife Trust to try and bring life back to the meadow next to the path. Cllr NA will seek a meeting with the SWT and at the APM in April seek the support of the youth of the village in getting involved in planting the meadow.**Clerk’s Report**DR had emailed Mark Warnes regarding work on the bus shelter but hadn’t heard back. Cllr NA said he was working on a quote. DR had reported potholes and a new public footpath sign next to Whepstead Manor had been ordered. It was agreed that February 19th should be the date for the next Litter Pick. DR to organise equipment, mention it in the newsletter and alert the Police. It was agreed more thought needs to go in to which roads to target. DR would ask via the newsletter for anyone to come forward if they would like to quote for village grasscutting. She had forwarded details of a possible grant for the WCA’s kitchen refit to Jeff Pyne. Cllr NA said they were working on a quote and were aware the deadline for applications was December 21st.**Finance** There were three invoices for payment: £60 – CAS annual website hosting£53.60 – Anne Robertson CPR related costs£187 – PPC contribution to churchyard maintenanceCllr MM proposed and Cllr NA seconded that the bank reconciliations for the end of October and November be approved and the cheques signed. **Bank balance at end October 2016**

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| --- | --- |
| Balance in Treasurers Account | 10,151.82 |
| Savings account | 10,436.33 |
| Total | 20,588.15 |
| Less cheques not presented |  Nil |
| Total | 20,588.15 |

**Bank balance at end November 2016**

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| --- | --- |
| Balance in Treasurers Account | 10,133.82 |
| Savings account | 10,436.76 |
| Total | 20,570.58 |
| Less cheques not presented |  17 |
| Total | 20,553.58 |

Councillors agreed the draft precept that was circulated at the November meeting. Cllr MM proposed and Cllr LS seconded the signing of the application for Grant & Precept by Cllr NA and DR. If agreed, in 2017/18, on average, villagers will pay £38.93 towards the Parish Council’s costs a rise of 0.83% or 32p. **Neighbourhood Watch Scheme**Cllr LS said that Mark Wray had reported a suspicious white van to her on Rede Road. So she reported it on 101 – the police non-emergency number. She was dismayed to be left on hold for twenty minutes on two separate occasions and wonders how much the phone calls will have cost. She told the Crime Commissioner, Tim Passmore, it was a disgrace. She also forwarded to him emails that the village relies on for crime news from Bob at Rural South Watch and said the Police never email or have a presence in the village. PC Marshall responded saying it was difficult with 32 parishes to look after. As a result, Cllr LS said she did see a police patrol car in Rede Road. She has put in a request for PC Marshall to attend our APM again.Cllr NA said that the need to be more neighbourly and self-reliant is something that we must discuss at the APM. **Broadband***(See agenda item 3)***Trees**Councillors were asked to look at the trees in Straight Road that will soon be hitting the telephone wires.**Suffolk Association of Local Councils**None**Whepstead Community Association Report** Cllr ARR’s report was circulated. Following the resignation of Jeff Pyne, Richard Gleed has agreed to stand in as chairman until the next AGM. Fun, Food and Fireworks raised £779. The wine tasting event on January 28th will cost £10 per head to include light refreshments. Tickets available from Lesley. There is to be a Christmas raffle, tickets 50p or £2.50 a book. The draw will take place on December 20th. Proceeds will go towards the kitchen refit. The painting of the hall was completed with the invaluable help of the ‘Doughnut Gang’ The new curtains are now up. Councillors were thanked for their help. It is likely that Magnet will be asked to supply and fit the required units as Mark Warnes is a fitter for them and could do it at a more favourable price. The uptake of CPR sessions has been disappointing. One session had to be cancelled and only one person attended each of the other two. Cllr ARR will set up another 2 sessions in the Spring.**Correspondence** None**Chairman’s Comments**Cllr NA said that dog fouling had become a big problem on Rectory Road and Bury Road and on the playing field which was unacceptable and anti-social. DR to mention in the newsletter and to ask SALC about the legality of putting up CCTV cameras to monitor roads. Cllr NA to investigate costs. DR to ask the WCA if they would be happy for the PC to put something in the newsletter suggesting people using the bottle banks/community centre report the number plates of vehicles - they believe - are using the playing field to exercise their dogs and not picking up after them. Cllr NA said there had been complaints about the building site workers on Brockley Road parking on the roads and footpaths. Cllr NA had arranged with the PPC that they could use the church car park.DR asked to check the white lines at the junction of the B1066 and A143 and report if needs be. **Any Other Business**  The next meeting on January 4th may be cancelled if there is little to discuss. The meeting closed at 8.25pm Signed………………………………..Dated……………… |