**Draft Minutes of the Meeting**

**Of the Whepstead Parish Council on**

**Wednesday January 3rd 2017 at 7pm**

Attendees: Councillors N Aitkens - NA

M Morris – MM

N Mann - NM

A Robertson – AR

S Durrant - SD

L Smith – LS

D Till - DT

Clerk D Rix – DR

Borough Councillor M Chester – MC

Members of the Public Bill Hill

Owen Brown

Anthony Deane

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| 1/1  2/2  3/3  4/4  5/5  6/6  7/7  8/8  9/9  10/10  11/11  12/12  13/13  14/14  15/15  16/16  17/17  18/18  19/19  20/20  21/21 | **Apologies for Absence** Cllr K Soons  **Declarations of Interest**  None  **Borough Councillor Report**  Cllr MC said that fly tipping in Rede Road was still an issue but a suspect had been identified and notices erected. Cllr NA asked about homelessness. Cllr MC confirmed 16 more beds had been provided over Christmas, but that with a lack of affordable housing, homelessness was on the increase in Bury.  **County Councillor Report**  None  **Public Forum**  Mr Deane asked about Broadband which where he lives on Rede Road is very poor. Cllr NA explained that he has recently written complaining to the portfolio holder responsible for broadband and was waiting to hear back. But to date we have only received platitudes. Cllr MM said he was surprised that Mr Deane’s speed was so slow as the pub, which is further from the green box, is getting around 15 mbps. DR to send his postcode to Matt Hancock’s office and find out what can be done.  **Planning Applications**  DC/17/2606/VAR Nunwick Farm – change of wording of condition 9 of planning application DC/15/0426/FUL to now read change of use (from agricultural to domestic use) shall not be implemented unless and until the development approved under DC/15/0029/PMBPA2 has been implemented and the dwelling shown as proposed house number one on drawing 3A dated February 2015, occupied to enable implementation.  Both Mr Owen Brown and Mr Bill Hill were invited to speak. Cllr MC said that a new date of February 1st had been set by the Development Control Committee to discuss Nunwick.  After hearing representations, Cllr MM proposed and Cllr DT seconded support of the application. He said the land in question was no more than an acre and would be useless for agriculture. One other councillor voted in favour, there were four abstentions.  DC/17/2626/FUL – Land Off Rectory Road. Cllr NA pointed out that now the land had been sold, he no longer had to declare an interest.  Cllr MM proposed and Cllr AR seconded support of the application for two three bedroomed bungalows. All agreed.  It was noted that both Willow and Lavender Cottages’ applications were approved in mid-December, while the appeals for Finches Meadow and the land next to the White Horse were ongoing.  **Minutes of the meeting held in November**  It was proposed by Cllr MM and seconded by Cllr LS that the minutes were a true record.  **Matters arising from the November meeting**  None  **Clerk’s Report**  DR said that Chris Mortimer had quoted the same as last year - £100 + VAT per visit – for grass cutting at the community centre. Agreed we should await the renewal quote from Vertas and any others that come in before April 1.  DR had written to Highways asking that Pages Hill Road is not used as a diversion route. The response was that no assurances could be given and that it was up to the individual traffic management companies to decide. Cllr NA said this wasn’t good enough as the junction at Harram Bottom was extremely dangerous. He would follow it up. The collapsed BT manhole cover on Tuffields Road has been made safe and potholes outside Pera and Martin’s reported.  DR said that the village website was being upgraded by OneSuffolk and that changes made between Jan 15 to 23rd would not be taken to the new site. DR to go on a refresher session in February. She had emailed Colonel Silk at Wattisham Air Base about speaking at our APM.  **Finance**  There were 3 invoices for payment:  Clerk’s fees Oct-Dec £706.39 (inc a tax rebate of £32.80)  Clerk’s expenses Oct-Dec £102.24  David Till – Data Protection Course £40  Cllr NA and DR signed the precept form which had to be submitted before January 26th. There was no bank reconciliation for the end of December.  **Footpaths, Highways and Byways**  Cllr NA felt there was a need for more lighting on Brockley Road, where he had seen someone almost mowed down by a speeding car.  DR to get a Speed Watch update from Jane Alfred, as volunteers haven’t been seen on the roads very much recently.  DR to report pothole in the middle of Church Hill and the road signs that have been lying on the ground opposite Sharpe’s Lane for many months now, despite being reported by Cllr Soons.  **Neighbourhood Watch Scheme**  More people have come forward to be on Cllr LS’s Neighbourhood Watch Register. DR to help her set up a What’s App group to make contacting everyone easier. The Tuffields Road burglar – has skipped bail. Everyone bemoaned not having a police contact to have a dialogue with. Where is PC Darren Marshall?  **Welcome Pack**  DR had emailed the current Welcome Pack to a few “significant” villagers and had updated the pack where necessary. She had looked at other villages’ packs online and felt what we provided was in line with others, but could probably do with a few photographs.  **Litter Pick**  DR has ordered the litter pick equipment, booked the hall, put a flyer in the newsletter and would email villagers nearer the time for help. Di Howe has kindly offered to provide refreshments again. Four villagers have so far offered to help. DR to put another flyer in February’s newsletter. Cllr MM said he was happy to coordinate the event. Cllr NA to ask Andrew Maddever for the use of his pick-up. Cllrs DT, LS and AR to help.  **Bus Shelter - windows**  Cllr NA said that in line with good practice, the PC needed to seek at least one, preferably two other quotes for the work fitting windows to the bus shelter.  **Broadband Update**  DR had forwarded a letter of complaint for Jane Storey, cabinet member for Broadband and Rural Issues, to Cllr NA for amendment.  She would report the poor speeds Mr Deane and Cllr LS are experiencing to Matt Hancock’s office. Mr Deane raised the issue of poor mobile reception. Everyone agreed that vodafone provides the best coverage in the village.  **Suffolk Association of Local Councils Report**  None  **Whepstead Community Association Report**  Cllr AR said there was no meeting in December, but reported that the presentation of “A Christmas Carol” was well attended and raised £173.00.  The next fundraiser is on Saturday 17th February at 7pm when Charlie Haylock will entertain followed by a supper of Sausages and Mash. Tickets £10 from Sara Feakes 735652. There are other events in the pipeline but no definite dates as yet. The next meeting will be on Tuesday 9th January.  **Correspondence**  None  **Chairman’s Comments**  Cllr NA wished everyone a Happy New Year and suggested that if nothing much happens before our next meeting in February, then perhaps we need not have a meeting.  **Any Other Business**  None  Signed………………………………..Dated……………… |