**Draft Minutes of the Meeting**

**Of the Parish Council on**

**Wednesday January 4th 2017 at 7pm**

Attendees: Councillors N Aitkens - NA

M Morris - MM

L Smith – LS

A Robertson – ARR

S Durrant –SD

N Mann – NM

D Till - DT

Clerk D Rix – DR

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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 | **Apologies for Absence** None  **Declarations of Interest**  None  **Borough Councillor’s Report**  None  **County Councillor’s Report**  Cllr TC’s report was circulated in advance of the meeting  **Public Forum**  None  **Planning Applications**  **DC/16/2824/HH** – Ark House, Chedburgh Road  (i) First floor storey extension to west end projection (ii) demolition of single storey east end extension (iii) two storey extension incorporating basement.  Councillors voted to support the application. DR to report decision.  **Minutes of the meeting held in December**  Cllr LS proposed and it was seconded by Cllr MM that the minutes were a true record.  **Matters arising from the minutes of the December meeting**  Cllr NA circulated an old Whepstead Parish Plan covering 2005-2015. DR to scan and circulate in advance of the next meeting.  Cllr NA said that despite having had hardly any rain, because the drainage pipes are blocked, the level of water at Harram Bottom was very high. DR said that she had written to the Environment Agency.  Cllr NA had not had a meeting with Suffolk Wildlife Trust regarding the meadow next to the new footpath.  Regarding dog fouling in Rectory Road and on the playing field, DR said she had spoken to SALC about CCTV which urged care in following the ICO’s code of practice on data protection. Cllr NA suggested we raise it as an issue at the APM.  **Clerk’s Report**  On behalf of the WPC, DR had thanked Deborah Stratford for all her hard work editing the newsletter. She had circulated some interesting facts and figures to come out of November’s Parish and Town Conference. She had booked the litter pick equipment and hall for February 19th. Having reported the faded white lines at the junction of A143 and B1066, Highways said they would be repainted before the end of March. DR had received a grass cutting quote from Proscape for £2,610 + VAT and was yet to receive one from the current contractor Vertas.  Graham O’Dell had taken the wooden benches to his house for re-oiling and it was suggested and fully supported by councillors that he should be nominated for an invitation to a Buckingham Palace garden party. DR to make Mr O’Dell aware of the PC’s intentions.  DR to remove Cllr NM’s contact details from the website and community centre noticeboard and remove Cllr DT’s telephone number.  **Finance**  There were four invoices for payment:  £50 – WCA hall hire July-Dec  £600 – WCA newsletter printing contribution to end Dec 2016  £861.77 – Clerk fees Oct-Dec  £44.80 – HMRC Clerk’s tax Oct-Dec  An invoice for clerk’s expenses of £102.24 will have to be paid next month as there were not enough cheques in the cheque book.  There was no bank reconciliation for the end of December as the bank statement hasn’t arrived yet.  DR said that she had posted the precept ahead of the January 31st deadline.  **Footpaths, Highways and Byways**  Cllr SD said the road had fallen away on the inside bend going from Martin’s towards Hawstead and there was a pothole on the same side a little further on. Cllr NA suggested we have a village map published. Cllr NM asked for it to include dog waste bin sites. DR to ask – via the newsletter - if anyone in the village has the skills to produce a map and would like to give it a go.  **Neighbourhood Watch Scheme**  Cllr LS said she had received a letter from Tim Passmore requesting support in his quest to get Suffolk a fairer policing deal. Currently Norfolk receives £3m more than Suffolk. DR to write in support to the policing minister Brandon Lewis and MP Matthew Hancock.  **Broadband**  DR had circulated all email correspondence regarding superfast Broadband from 2013, when we were initially led to believe it would arrive in the village. DR to write a draft letter of complaint to Tim Whitley, BT’s East of England Regional Director, Jonathan Chown and Jane Storey about the misinformation we are constantly fed and to circulate it to councillors. The current forecast is for it to arrive before the end of this financial year. DR also to investigate an offer of fibre to premises to all Horringer residents that Cllr NA had heard about.  **Trees**  Cllr NA had spoken to Jim Reynolds about transplanting some holly trees in the cemetery in March, when they will also look at moving any other poorly sited trees in the village.  **Suffolk Association of Local Councils**  None  **Whepstead Community Association Report**  Cllr ARR said that the Christmas draw was very well supported and raised £325.16 There is a wine tasting event costing £10 per person to include a light supper on January 28th. There will be a coffee morning on January 21st at 10am until 12pm with a cake stall. Everyone was asked to support it. There is a quiz night on April 22nd and a car boot and jumble sale on May 20th. The fete will be on Saturday, July 8th. She said it is hoped that these events will provide vital funds towards the kitchen refurbishment. Meanwhile, StEds Borough Council will be approached for RIGs funding. The next meeting is planned for February 14th. There are two more CPR training sessions scheduled for March 14th and 22nd at 2.30pm and 7.30pm respectively.  Cllr NA spoke about the general demise of village halls and the need to support ours as it is a great asset to the village.  **Correspondence**  None  **Chairman’s Comments**  None  **Any Other Business**  None  The meeting closed at 8pm  Signed………………………………..Dated……………… |