**Draft Minutes of the Meeting**

**Of the Whepstead Parish Council on**

**Wednesday March 28th 2017 at 7pm**

Attendees: Councillors N Aitkens - NA

M Morris – MM

N Mann - NM

 A Robertson – AR

 S Durrant - SD

 L Smith – LS

Clerk D Rix – DR

Borough Councillor M Chester – MC

County Councillor K Soons – KS

Members of the Public O and D Brown

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| 1/452/463/474/485/496/507/518/529/5310/5411/5512/5613/5714/5815/5916/6017/6118/6219/6320/64 | **Apologies for Absence**Cllr D Till **Declarations of Interest**None**Borough Councillor Report**Cllr MC outlined plans to create a new West Suffolk Council out of Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury. As part of those proposals, Whepstead may become part of the Cavendish ward (currently part of Thingoe 100)The order to create the new council will go before parliament later this month. KS said she was happy to sign any submission that the PC wanted to make against the plans. Suffolk County Council’s bid for funding from the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) has got through to the next stage. It is asking for £12m for improvements to A14 junctions 43 and 44 near BSE. The East of England Home Truths report says that ten times average earnings are now required to afford a home in and around BSE. Cllr MC said that £500 of his locality budget would go towards equipment for the Cricket Club.**County Councillor Report** Cllr KS thanked the farming community of Whepstead for helping clear the roads during the snowy weather. She said there was a GM field trial at Broom Barn in Barrow and that Lowestoft’s Record Office was being moved to Ipswich, which could have repercussions for Bury’s Record Office. She said that drones were now being used by emergency services and that 97% of children in West Suffolk were going to their preferred secondary school. She urged Whepstead’s cricket club to submit an application for funding if it needed money, as she had £1,000 of her locality budget left.Regarding potholes, Cllr NA said that while he accepted potholes wouldn’t be fixed overnight, SCC Highways needed to provide signage to warn motorists about the more dangerous ones. Cllr KS said that as part of Highways Operational Plan, the rule was the more minor the road, the bigger the pothole had to be before it was fixed. Cllr KS to send the criteria for fixing potholes. DR to mention them in the newsletter. **Public Forum**None **Planning Applications**DC/18/0423/FUL Nunwick Farm – change of use of land from agricultural to residential use. Cllr NA said the land in question had never been used to grow crops. D Brown said that the application was a renewal of permission already granted but it was about to run out. Cllr AR proposed and Cllr MM seconded that the application be approved. All voted in favour. It was noted that the Beehive Cottage application for a 10 pen cattery has been withdrawn, while Kilmorie’s application had been approved. DR to recirculate the details of the amended plans for Land off Rectory Road and check the bungalow’s distance from the neighbour’s boundary. **Minutes of the meeting held in February** It was proposed by Cllr LS and seconded by Cllr SD that the minutes were a true record.**Matters arising from the February meeting**None **Clerk’s Report**After comparing three quotes for the grass cutting contract at the community centre it was agreed to continue with Vertas Group who had quoted £1,503.53 + VAT. Martin Staples had promised to quote for a longer contract, but said he was unable to get one by this evening. DR to let interested parties know of the decision.DR had given Richard Gleed a Welcome Pack as requested and Cllr MM had delivered two more to the new residents in Rede Road. She had forwarded the Highways survey to Terry Smith, reported the missing reflector post at the end of Straight Road and had added details of SCC’s pothole reporting tool to the newsletter copy. DR had been on a website training course and urged everyone to take a look and report back. We had a record turnout for our Litter Pick on Feb 18th with 41 attending on the day and three other villagers cleaning their patch at other times. DR to formally thank Di Howe for all her delicious cakes and sausage rolls.DR and Cllr NA need to do a risk assessment and a review of the effectiveness of internal controls is required. Regarding GDPR, Cllrs Till, Aitkens and Morris had met with the clerk on March 15th to discuss the way forward. Cllr Till ‘happy’ to be DPO and is chasing SALC for a simple ‘how to’ guide to implement the new regulations before May 25th.Cllr NA said that the new residents in West Barn would like a Welcome Pack and we could drop one into the new residents in Sally Tollhurst’s old house.**Finance** There were 4 invoices for payment:Clerk’s fees Jan-Mar £975.78Clerk’s tax Jan-Mar £1.80Clerk’s expenses Jan-Mar £56.06SALC payroll six months to end Mar £21.60Cllr MM proposed and Cllr LS seconded that the bank reconciliation for the end of February was correct and the signing of the cheques approved.Sadly, Came & Co, the PC’s insurer, said that the WCA and PC’s insurance policies could not be merged as the WCA was a registered charity. It did however provide a quote which was £132.68 less than the WCA’s renewal quote which DR had passed to Di Howe. **Bank balance to end February 2018**

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| Balance in Treasurers Account | £8,539.14 |
| Savings account | £10,443.27 |
| Total | £18,982.41 |
| Less cheques not presented | 487.90 |
| Total | £18,494.51 |

**Footpaths, Highways and Byways**DR had tried to contact the Green Access Team about a village map, but the person she last spoke to appears to have left. DR to ask Cllr KS for help. Cllr SD had reported the pothole on Martin’s Bend.Jane Alfred stood down as coordinator for Speed Watch on March 1st, Deborah Stratford and Steve Bonney have agreed to take over. There are currently six members which include herself, Steve Bonney, Deborah Stratford, Emma Stevens, John Grigg and Jeremy Allen. **Neighbourhood Watch Scheme**Cllr LS said that quite an aggressive teak furniture salesman had been doing the rounds and to report him if seen. She had still had no contact with PC Darren Marshall, but had been told that there had been 93 burglaries in the area in 2017, five of them in Whepstead. Cllr LS apologised but she would be away for the APM.**Broadband** Despite asking weeks ago, Steve at Suffolk Better Broadband still has no answers about the state of broadband for Nigel and the Melroses. DR to chase. Cllr NA said Jim Melrose was investigating a service similar to County Broadband’s which used satellite dishes on church spires. Cllr MM said a new box had gone in at Three Ways.**Tuffields Road Post Box**DR was happy to report that the stolen post box would be replaced in Tuffields Road.**Annual Parish Meeting April 20th**DR to design a flyer to put through doors and email to residents.She confirmed that Lt Col Silk from Wattisham Airbase (or his sidekick) was going to be our guest speaker. She would organise glasses, wine and nibbles etc and would print off Welcome Packs for people to take.She would draw up an agenda to include: Cllr KS, Cllr MC, Christopher Griffiths, Gordon Durrant, Richard Gleed, Steve Bonney, Graham O’Dell and David Till**Suffolk Association of Local Councils Report**None**Whepstead Community Association**The Sausage & Mash event raised £837. The Caravan Club have booked the playing field for Easter Weekend which should bring in over £600. The Quiz Night is on April 21st at 7pm. Tickets £12 to include Fish & Chips. The WCA AGM will be on May 17th and a car boot sale on May 19th. It was noted that this is FA cup final day and the day of the Royal Wedding. The Fete is on July 7th. Help is needed to run it on the day. New heaters for the committee room are on order. The RIGS grant has finally been approved. An action plan will be drawn up at an interim meeting on April 9th. It is hoped the work will be done August to mid-September and no bookings will be taken for that period. The next meeting is on April 17th at 7pm.**Correspondence** None**Chairman’s Comments**Cllr NA said he was unhappy about the proposed boundary changes and asked DR to circulate a letter for all to contribute to, for the PC to then make a submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE).**Any Other Business**  NoneThe meeting closed at 8.30pm.Signed………………………………..Dated……………… |