**Approved Minutes of the Meeting**

**Of the Whepstead Parish Council on**

**Wednesday August 15th 2018 at 7pm**

Attendees: Councillors N Aitkens - NA

M Morris – MM

L Smith – LS

T Smith – TS

D Till – DT

G Merrett - GM

Clerk D Rix – DR

Borough Councillor M Chester – MC

County Councillor K Soons - KS

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| 1/113  2/114  3/115  4/116  11/117  5/118  6/119  7/120  8/121  9/122  10/123  11/124  12/125  13/126  14/127  15/128  16/129  17/130  18/131  19/132  20/133 | **Apologies for Absence** Cllr SD recovering from hip surgery.  **Declarations of Interest**  Cllr NA – planning  **Borough Councillor Report**  Cllr MC asked councillors for their views on a visible police presence in Whepstead. Cllr NA said that much had changed over the years with police no longer attending meetings. He regretted that they now seemed reluctant to speak or share information with villagers to the point where three recent burglaries (that were connected) were being handled by four different police officers.  Cllr LS said that despite speaking personally to Tim Passmore, the Police Commissioner, no one had attended our APM this year nor returned our email requests. Cllr LS to email Cllr MC with more details. DR had submitted for inclusion in September’s newsletter details of our new Community Engagement Officer, Jon Gerrish. Cllr MC talked of the rise in cybercrime. Cllr TS said that when he was a victim a few years ago the police showed absolutely no interest.  **County Councillor Report (***circulated ahead of meeting***)**  Cllr KS said that on August 21st she has a meeting with Gordon Jones, Portfolio Holder for Education and Children’s Services to find out what the school transport changes will mean for villages and urged everyone to send her queries via email.  The next ‘We are Listening’ event, where residents can meet the Leader of the Council and voice concerns and share ideas, is in Bury St Edmunds on September 26th  **Footpaths, Byways and Highways** *(Cllr NA brought forward agenda item 11)*  Cllr NA said it was virtually impossible to see from the County Council’s verge cutting schedule when and where roads were to be cut and said that a number of junctions were particularly dangerous including the B1066 junction with the Haverhill Road. Cllr KS urged him to use the online reporting tools and mention when a situation is dangerous. Cllr NA said that often diversion signs were put up there which obscured the view of the road and if there was only to be one verge cut carried out, surely it would be best done earlier in the year. Cllr KS said that there had been two accidents at the Westley Junction before the verges were cut there.  **Public Forum**  None  **Planning Applications**  **DC/18/1394/TCA – St Petronilla Church**  A planning application to remove 4 yew trees and a conifer has been withdrawn  **DC/18/1373/HH – Hall Cottage, Brockley Road**  Single storey rear extension (following demolition of existing conservatory to rear elevation) Although in a conservation area, councillors supported the application as it was redevelopment of an existing site.  **DC/18/0774/FUL – The Willows, Chedburgh Road (amendment)**  Cllr NA declared an interest. The original application had not included details of access. Cllr TS proposed and it was seconded by Cllr GM that the circumstances of the development have not changed. Councillors voted not to support the application.  **Minutes of the meeting held in July**  Subject to the following amendment to agenda item 3/95 “Cllr MM thanked Cllr Chester for funding 31% of the costs of a new mower for the cricket ground and Cllr Soons for a further 50%” it was proposed by Cllr MM and seconded by Cllr DT that the minutes were a true record.  **Matters arising from the May meeting**  None  **Clerk’s Report**  DR said that she was still chasing Royal Mail about the stolen Post Box in Tuffields Road as it is now nearly a year since it was reported missing. She has submitted the PC’s response to the Local Government Boundary Commission’s Consultation on ward changes. She had received a VAS repair bill from Chedburgh PC’s clerk who had been dealing with Westcotec. WPC’s share of the bill is £213.33 Councillors voted to pay it.  It was proposed by Cllr TS and supported by Cllr LS to adopt the updated Standing Orders from SALC which now reflect changes to the Data Protection legislation.  DR had delivered a Welcome Pack to the new residents of Pera and will mention the consultation on civic leadership in the next newsletter. She is going to be away from November 15th to December 8th and therefore asked for the December meeting to be moved to the 12th. All agreed.  **Finance**  There was one invoice for payment:  Chedburgh PC - £213.33  **Bank balance to end May 2018**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Balance in Treasurers Account | £13,406 | | Savings account | £10,444.54 | | Total | £23,850.54 | | Less cheques not presented | Nil | | Total | £23,850.54 |   **Bank balance to end June 2018**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Balance in Treasurers Account | £12,553.25 | | Savings account | £10,445.01 | | Total | £22,998.26 | | Less cheques not presented | Nil | | Total | £22,998.26 |   **Bank balance to end July 2018**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Balance in Treasurers Account | £10,483.79 | | Savings account | £10,445.41 | | Total | £20,929.20 | | Less cheques not presented | Nil | | Total | £20,929.20 |     It was proposed by Cllr GM and seconded by Cllr DT that the reconciliations were correct and the cheque be paid.  **Footpaths, Highways and Byways**  DR had circulated a SCC footpath cutting schedule ahead of the meeting and asked if we wished to switch cutting from one path to another.  Cllr NA suggested that next year we keep a log of when and where the verges and footpaths are cut.  Cllr GM said that the Pattles Grove to Haverhill Road path was poorly signposted but it was rarely used. Cllr TS said that the path which crosses the road to Plumton is very dangerous. DR to report. A sign is missing near Plovers and the hedge - which the previous owners used to cut - is very overgrown.  Cllr GM mentioned that the verge outside the Community Centre was cut just before wild flowers were about to emerge and because the County Council cutters didn’t mulch or rake the grass it became very matted.  Cllr TS and MM had met with the Green Access Team about a footpath leaflet. The Team was happy to act as our guide if we gave them an idea of a few walks that we would like to highlight. DR to organise a date and time before the end of the month for councillors to meet and walk a few paths – perhaps a 2 mile and 5 mile one - together.  The projected cost would be £350-£400 for 2,000 leaflets. DR to invite Whepstead Walkers and the Nature Group to join us.  Cllr GM said he struggled to see the cost/benefit. It was suggested that we could encourage sponsorship of the leaflet and include an ad for the Community Centre. Cllr MM urged everyone intending on walking the paths to print off a map of Whepstead for free on Bing Maps  **Neighbourhood Watch Scheme**  Cllr LS said she was encouraged that Cllr Chester was on the committee of the Police Commissioner and also for the plan for another 100 new Police Officers to the Safer Neighbourhood Team. She had joined the Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association and would be responsible for street signage. She said it was all very frustrating because the police encourage NW but do little to support it.  **Broadband**  Cllr TS said because of the high costs, very little seemed to be happening at Plumton. Cllr NA said that County Broadband had done a test. From a Tuffields Road barn they had sight of a mast at Cowlinge but had discovered that they can’t use BT poles to string a wire.  **Tuffields Road Post Box** *(see Clerk’s Report)*  **Bus Shelter**  Cllr NA has found someone to quote for the work.  **Suffolk Association of Local Councils Report**  None  **Whepstead Community Association Report**  Cllr TS said the kitchen refit was into its 3rd week and on schedule. The Doughnut Gang had been patching up the roof with new tiles near the store room where the main roof meets the extension and had done some work on the flashings. He said some timbers were in poor condition. Despite competing with the World Cup, thanks to Di Howe and Mike Morris’s hard work the fete managed to raise £1,000.  **Correspondence**  None  **Chairman’s Comments**  Cllr NA said that he had made contact with Suffolk Housing regarding a property ‘void’ and an ‘exchange’ in Whepstead.  **Any Other Business**  Cllr TS wondered whether it would be a good idea for councillors to have designated Parish Council email accounts.  Signed………………………………..Dated……………… |