**Draft Minutes of the Meeting**

**Of the Whepstead Parish Council on**

**Wednesday August 14th 2019 at 7pm**

Attendees Councillors N Aitkens - NA

L Smith – LS

T Smith – TS

G Merrett – GM

G Corcoran – GC

A Walsh - AW

Clerk D Rix – DR

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| 116/1  117/2  118/3  119/4  120/5  121/6  122/7  123/8  124/9  125/10  126/11  127/12  128/13  129/14  130/15  131/16  132/17  133/18  134/19  135/20  136/21  137/22 | **Apologies for Absence** Cllrs Mary Evans and Stanley Durrant  **Declarations of Interest**  Cllrs TS and LS planning  **District Councillor’s Report**  Report sent ahead of the meeting  **County Councillor’s Report**  None  **Public Forum**  None  **Planning Applications**  **DC/19/1324/FUL** – The Willows, Rectory Road  Councillors voted to support the application for the installation of 32 ground mounted solar panels as they would not be seen.  **DC/19/1557/HH and DC/19/1558/FUL** – Plumton Hall, Rede Road  The part retrospective application for a stable block and retrospective application for one open sided agricultural barn were discussed. In light of a complaint received by the PC, DR to request a site visit.  **Minutes of the Meeting held on July 24th**  Cllr TS proposed and it was seconded by Cllr GM that the minutes were a true record. Cllr NA requested that the confidential minutes pertaining to agenda item 22 be circulated separately.  **Matters Arising from the July 24th meeting**  None  **Clerk’s Report**  DR had let Democratic Services know of Cllr AW and Cllr GC’s co-option and had sent them Register of Interest Forms. Cllr AW to complete hers asap.  She would send Cllr LS an updated Welcome Pack for the new residents at Nunwick Farm. Cllr NA to drop one off at 4 Mickley Green.  She had sent councillors letters regarding a dangerous dog, copies of the footpath map with numbers, and sent the link to the Community Self Help scheme. She had forwarded Jeff Pyne’s speed data to Cllrs KS and ME and emailed insurance confirmation to Cllr TS for the Doughnut Boys. She had forwarded her most recent contacts regarding Broadband to Jim Melrose and had bought wine as a thank you present for our internal auditor Robin Drayton. A copy of Whepstead’s old Neighbourhood Plan had also been circulated.  **Finance**  There were no invoices for payment. DR to circulate a renewal risk presentation from insurers Came & Co which would need dealing with before our next meeting as the insurance renewal date is October 1st.  DR said that a recommended clerk’s pay rise – at her SCP 15 payscale – of an extra 43p an hour from April - had been mentioned in December’s minutes. She asked that when she next submits her fees for payment in October that the rise be applied retrospectively from April 1st. Cllr TS proposed and it was seconded by Cllr GM that this be done. DR had submitted a VAT reclaim form for £330.15. Cllr TS proposed and it was seconded by Cllr AW that the bank reconciliation for the end of July was correct.  **Bank balance to end July 2019**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Balance in Treasurers Account | £12,286.31 | | Savings account | £10,450.64 | | Total | £22,736.95 | | Less cheques not presented | Nil | | Total | £22,736.95 |   **Footpaths, Byways and Highways**  David Falk said the footpath map was being dealt with by Anna McGowan. DR to arrange a meeting with her on Friday, 2.30pm at the Community Centre. Cllr TS and possibly others to join her. DR to let Plovers know that a tree has fallen across the public footpath next to their property. The difficulty in navigating the public footpath through the Plumton estate was discussed. DR to ask Patrick Scrivens for some more waymarkers to make it clearer.  DR to ask Cllr KS about the community trees that were planted (gifted from the borough) too close to the road and overhead electricity cables on Straight Road. DR to let Cllr KS know that neither Folly Lane nor Tuffields Road’s verges were cut by contractors this year and to ask that the junction at B1066 and Pages Hill Road be cut back as visibility is again very poor there.  Regarding the Community Self Help Scheme, it was suggested that if any jobs around the village need doing to send the request to DR and she would pass it on to the Doughnut Boys. Growth near the Rectory Road sign needs cutting back.  **Community Speed Watch**  DR had emailed Mark Wedgewood about the VAS repair with Westcotec but hadn’t heard back. Highways had apologised about the delay in installing new VAS posts on Brockley Road. There was a backlog with health and safety checks. They would “try and push it through”. DR had let Chevington PC know that our CSW team didn’t want to join forces and that we were happy to buy our own second VAS. She had chased Emma Stephens about the mannequin.  Cllr NA urged Cllr LS to pester the police about bringing radar speed traps to the village and to ask Tim Passmore about the abuse the CSW team were receiving.  **Neighbourhood Watch Scheme**  Cllr LS said she was liaising with the safety and speed management team at Highways about installing new NW signs. She said there didn’t seem to be a procedure in place for putting new ones in. In her role on the executive committee of Suffolk NW she was having a meeting with Peter Ingram next week and hoped for an update. NW gazebos were now available for village events when required. The police 101 phone number for non-emergency calls was proving useless, timely and expensive. So she advised everyone to use 999 instead as they wouldn’t be charged for the call. She urged everyone to continue to be vigilant and to look out for their neighbours and praised Bob at Rural South Watch for the unpaid work he does in keeping rural crime at bay with no support from the police.  **Neighbourhood Plan**  Cllr NA had spoken to Kala Nobbs who had been involved in our last plan. Hopefully she’ll be able to come to our next meeting. Felt we need to decide whether a new plan is going to be more of a village guide or a defence document against development. Cllr NA suggested it would need to fit with the Borough’s local plan. He feels it is unlikely Whepstead would ever become a development village as we have so few facilities like a shop, post office, school, doctor’s surgery, bus service etc. It was noted that West Suffolk is consulting on Affordable Housing developments until September 30th.  **Village Recorder**  DR read out a letter she had received from Kala Nobbs regarding the death of John Hooper who had, for many years, been the village recorder. She had taken over his collection but felt it should be stored more securely. DR to ask her to take what she considers worthy to the Record Office, scan anything of interest for the Village history page on the website and to give the rest to DR to store at the Community Centre. DR to ask if anyone in the village would like to take on the Recorder role.  **Dangerous Dog**  Cllr NA had spoken to a housing officer at Suffolk Housing who felt their hands were tied until the outcome of a CPS enquiry. In future, he suggested that we must be careful in offering the SH homes to people without a connection to the village. The bungalow in question was designed for the elderly with wider doors and a wet room.  **Suffolk Association of Local Councils Report**  Cllr TS to attend a West Suffolk Area Forum on September 10th. It was proposed by Cllr TS and seconded by Cllr GM that the latest Model Financial Regulations 2019 produced by NALC and circulated by SALC be adopted.  **Whepstead Community Association Report**  GM said that Sue Perkins was the new chair and that Di Howe remained Treasurer. The WCA needed a secretary.  **Correspondence**  The Family and Communities portfolio holder for West Suffolk, Robert Everitt was seeking views from PCs on how they could work together for the good of everyone.  **Chairman’s Comments**  None. It was agreed that the next PC meeting be held on Thursday October 10th at 7pm.  **Resolution to exclude the Public from the Meeting**  Due to the confidential nature of the agenda item to be discussed it was proposed by Cllr GM and seconded by Cllr TS that under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 that the meeting move into private session.  **Land in Whepstead**  Cllr NA declared an interest and left the room.  The meeting closed at 8.42pm  Signed………………………………..Dated……………… |