**Draft Minutes of the Meeting**

**Of the Whepstead Parish Council on**

**Wednesday December 11th 2019 at 7pm**

Attendees Councillors N Aitkens - NA

L Smith – LS

T Smith – TS

G Merrett – GM

G Corcoran – GC

A Walsh – AW

S Durrant - SD

Members of the public: D Stratford - DS

S Bonney – SB

J Richmond – JR

S Richmond - SR

Clerk D Rix – DR

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| 183/1  184/2  185/3  186/4  187/5  188/6  189/12  190/7  191/8  192/9  193/10  194/11  195/13  196/14  197/15  198/16  199/17  200/18  201/19  202/20  203/21  204/22 | **Apologies for Absence** Cllrs Karen Soons and Mary Evans  **Declarations of Interest**  None  **District Councillor Report** *(circulated ahead of the meeting)*  Cllr NA to contact ME regarding her site visit to Plumpton Hall  **County Councillor Report** *(circulated ahead of the meeting)*  **Public Forum**  Cllr NA invited members of the public to speak and moved to agenda item 6  **Planning Applications**  SB had forwarded his concerns about the application for a mast on the grass verge to the west of Bury Road to the PC ahead of the meeting. Cllr NA made clear that the site was owned by Highways and said that Cllr ME was aware of the PC’s objections. Cllr NA read out a letter from Martin Brown of Harlequin Group – which had submitted the application - who had refused our invitation to come and discuss alternative sites in the village, assumingly because it does not want to get involved in land acquisition.  Agreed that the only other aerial locally was in Fornham (on public land not near buildings) Cllr TS proposed and it was seconded by Cllr GM that DR submit the strongest possible objection and make clear that although the village sees it as vital infrastructure it doesn’t understand why the mast couldn’t be moved 100m onto land at the Community Centre or other sites in the village All agreed..  The proposed site is in the conservation area adjacent to listed buildings, near the war memorial and owl nesting boxes and in such a prominent position that it would be hugely detrimental to the character of the village. SB said that the submitted drawings suggesting that the mast would be masked by trees and hedges were wrong. It would have a dramatic impact and dominate the current open country views.  Cllr AW said that the masts had a reach of 5 miles to pick up smart meter information, so moving the mast just 100m should not be a problem.  **Community Speed Watch** *(Cllr NA brought forward agenda item 12)*  SB made clear his huge frustration with the lack of progress. DR to chase SCC regarding the installation of VAS posts which must have been ordered well over 14 weeks ago and Cllr ME regarding camera signs. DR has ordered another mannequin. Cllr NA said he understood how disheartened the CSW team must be. Cllr GC explained that Cllr KS had made clear that she requires data before she can order a speed monitoring cable.  **Minutes of the Meetings held on November 6th and 13th**  Cllr GC proposed and it was seconded by Cllr LS that the minutes were a true record.  **Matters Arising from the November meetings**  The November 13th minutes regarding possible sites for development had led to a misunderstanding by some Rectory Road residents. Cllr NA to contact Cllr ME about her site visit to Plumpton. Cllr LS said that Tony Spall, chairman of Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch will speak at our APM in April. DR to ask Cllr ME when we will hear back from the Shelaa report submissions.  **Clerk’s Report**  DR to mention the Litter Pick in January’s newsletter. Cllr NA to organise a map and health and safety information. DR to contact Mike Morris about a risk assessment and SCC for road signs saying ‘pickers’ are working on the road.  DR had organised a meeting with the Green Access Team for 10am December 19th at the Community Centre to discuss the Footpath Map. She urged councillors to notify her of any errors in the narrative ahead of the meeting.  Will Howe had kindly speeded up the PC laptop. DR to check he has backed it up. DR thanked Cllr GM for fixing the notice board door. She had printed off 6 Welcome Packs.  **Finance**  There were 3 invoices for payment.  £40 – WCA Oct-Dec room hire  £600 – WCA newsletter printing contribution  £76.80 – SALC Cllr training  Cllr SD proposed and it was seconded by Cllr AW that the bank reconciliation for the end of November was correct and the cheques be paid.  DR circulated some more figures regarding the precept. Agreed that a final decision will be made at January 15th meeting ahead of the January 24th deadline for submission.  **Bank balance to end November 2019**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Balance in Treasurers Account | £9,127.91 | | Savings account | £10,452.42 | | Total | £19,580.33 | | Less cheques not presented | Nil | | Total | £19,580.33 |   **Footpaths, Byways and Highways**  DR to ask Vertas why the grass at the Community Centre was cut this week and to ask SCC whether it uses ‘What 3 Words’ to report the exact location of potholes.  **Neighbourhood Watch Scheme**  Cllr LS said that she would approach potential NWS road reps directly.  **Village Neighbourhood Plan**  Felt we should await the outcome of the Shelaa report before moving forward with this.  **Suffolk Housing**  DR to write to Suffolk Housing (checked by NA first) about a number of complaints received.  **Hedge Cutting**  Cllr NA to mention landowners’ responsibility regarding their hedges and give contact details for a number of hedge cutting contractors with public liability insurance in the newsletter.  **Suffolk Association of Local Councils Report**  None  **Whepstead Community Association Report**  Cllr GM said the Christmas Fayre had not been as successful as last year  **Correspondence**  DR forwarded a flyer about VE day celebrations (May 8th 2020) to Cllr GM.  **Chairman’s Comments**  None.  **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 9.05pm  Signed………………………………..Dated……………… |