**Draft Minutes of the Meeting**

**Of the Whepstead Parish Council on**

**Wednesday February 13th 2019 at 7pm**

Attendees Councillors M Morris – MM

N Aitkens - NA

L Smith – LS

T Smith – TS

G Merrett - GM

Clerk D Rix – DR

Borough Councillor M Chester – MC

County Councillor K Soons - KS

Members of the Public E Stephens - ES

D Stratford - DS

S Bonney - SB

J Richmond - JR

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 23/1  24/2  25/3  26/4  26/5  27/6  28/14  29/7  30/8  31/9  32/10  33/11  34/12  35/13  36/15  37/16  38/17  39/18  40/19  41/20 | **Apologies for Absence** Cllrs Till and Durrant  **Declarations of Interest**  None  **Borough Councillor Report**  Cllr MC said that the overriding priority of the soon to be new West Suffolk Council was the imminent merger of St Edmundsbury and Forest Heath followed by local elections in May. The new council would take effect from April 1st. He said Chedburgh was fighting a planning application for change of use of its pub which has been closed since 2016. The village would like to start a community hub.  Barley Homes, a joint development company owned by Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury, had received planning permission for a 37 home development in Haverhill.  **County Councillor Report**  Cllr KS said that Suffolk will need between 300 to 400 places for children with additional needs between now and 2020 and that recommendations included three new special needs schools and 36 specialist units attached to mainstream schools. She said Suffolk Highways had spent £300,000 on three thermal road repair machines which have repaired approximately 1,700 potholes  Cllr NA complained that the tarmac on Brands Lane in Whepstead had been raised so high that if your vehicle was forced off the edge of the road it was likely your car would be damaged. Cllr TS also complained of verge deterioration. Cllr KS urged him to take a picture with a ruler and submit it to Highways. To qualify the road would need to be 10m long and the depth 100mm. Cllr KS urged DR to contact Matthew Hicks regarding the disharmony Cllr NA said the lack of broadband in Whepstead was causing after discovering FTTP had been provided to a derelict house in Brockley.  **Public Forum**  Chairman Cllr MM closed the meeting and invited members of the public to speak.  Cllr KS had visited ES to walk with her to the school bus stop. Cllrs NA and MM and DR had done the same a week ago. As a result a community engineer had promised to “review the location and get back to us”. ES said that she had a child in a wheelchair and one with mobility issues, there is no pavement and sometimes she has to push her children into the ditch for safety. All were agreed that something needed to be done about the speeding traffic on Brockley Road. SB said that he had been complaining about speeding on that stretch of road since 2015 and nothing had been done. He, DS and ES were the only three Community Speed Watch Volunteers in the village.  Cllr KS said it was highly unlikely the Council would create a pavement or paint white lines on the road to give the impression the road was narrowing, but suggested that the CSW submit speed data to her. Cllr MC said that number plate recognition technology had been proven and tested and needed to come on stream. He thought the cost was in the region of £3,000 but spread across 3 villages (as the VAS currently is) it could be affordable.  DR to investigate moving the VAS pole nearer to the houses and the possibility of another one on the other side of the road and as an interim measure looking into dressing a mannequin in hi-viz clothing as a deterrent. ES suggested putting up an adult and child sign near the bus stop. Cllr KS said that the Council was unlikely to approve that but there was no reason not to buy one and erect it on private land. DR to investigate the costs and to chase the community engineer’s report.  JR said he feared loss of life before anything is done as he has seen cars overtaking to race one another in front of his house. He also said collecting accurate speed watch data was difficult as drivers immediately slow when they see the warning sign that CSW was in operation. The use of dash cameras was also discussed.  DS asked why there was no policy to reinstate grass verges that had been worn away by traffic driving on them. Cllr KS urged her to provide evidence when contacting the Council.  **Planning Applications**  **DC/19/0157/LB** – White Horse, Whepstead  Councillors agreed that the proposal to demolish a partition and 2 new timber stud partitions to subdivide the existing living room and to remove a fireplace upstairs should be approved. It was proposed by Cllr TS and seconded by Cllr NA that the PC support the application.  **APM Speaker April 12th** *(Cllr MM brought forward agenda item 14)*  It was confirmed to Cllr MC that Simon Parker – Compliance & Performance Officer – at West Suffolk Council has agreed to speak on recycling and waste management at our APM. Cllr MC said he would be happy to introduce him at the meeting.  **Minutes of the meetings held in January 2019**  It was proposed by Cllr GM and seconded by Cllr TS that the January Minutes were a true record.  **Matters arising from the January meeting**  Regarding the Litter Pick, Cllr MM said he had asked Andrew Maddever about borrowing his pick-up truck. Cllr GM confirmed that the footpath next to Plovers had been cut by the Doughnut Gang and Cllr NA said he had spoken to the owners about it being their responsibility.  **Clerk’s Report**  DR had added the GDPR words that Cllr DT had provided asking for residents’ email addresses to the Welcome Pack.  She had spoken to Lee Saunders at the pub about a defibrillator, but he said he needed to refurbish it and apply for listed building permission first. She had passed on Cllr NA’s broadband complaint and put Jeff Pyne in touch with the CSW volunteers and the Doughnut gang regarding the pavement from Rectory Road to Brockley Road. Cllr MM to speak to Sue Lawrence about the hedge at the Old Rectory. DR said she would be away from Feb 24 to Mar 7. Cllr MM would be away for a week until Mar 8.  **Finance**  The Parochial Parish Council had requested that the PC help with 2018 graveyard maintenance costs of £492. It was proposed by Cllr NA and seconded by Cllr TS that the invoice be paid and that the reconciliations ending Jan 2019 were correct.  Vertas had sent a renewal quote for grass cutting from April 1st of £1,548.64 + VAT – over £300 lower than last year. It was proposed by Cllr NA and seconded by Cllr GM that the quote be accepted.  **Bank balance to end January 2019**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Balance in Treasurers Account | £7,030.01 | | Savings account | £10,448.04 | | Total | £17,478.05 | | Less cheques not presented | Nil | | Total | £17,478.05 |   **Footpaths, Byways and Highways**  Cllr MM had contacted Lizzie Nutt who has agreed to write some words to accompany the second village footpath walk to submit to the Green Access Team.  **Neighbourhood Watch Scheme**  Cllr LS said there was little to report. She said it seemed to be a time of scams and she was concerned that the more vulnerable people in the village could fall foul of them. It was agreed that the best place to warn people was via the newsletter. She would mention it in her report at the APM.  **Litter Pick February 17th**  DR had a list of about 30 volunteers offering to help. She would organise refreshments and had already received pickers, bin liners, hi-viz jackets etc. from the Council.  **Bus Shelter**  Cllr NA had seen Nick Hayward, the roofer, who was going to do work on East Barn at the same time as working on the bus shelter.  **Suffolk Association of Local Councils Report**  None  **Whepstead Community Association Report**  Cllr TS said the new kitchen was still ongoing. He was concerned that people had complained of the hall being colder since the double radiator had been removed when the hatch was lowered. Race Night had to be cancelled due to a lack of interest and one of the organisers being unable to attend.  **Correspondence**  DR had forwarded some grant funding information and details of a Christmas play for village halls to the WCA.  **Chairman’s Comments**  Cllr MM mentioned being prepared with nomination papers for the May elections. DR to look into what needs to be done.  **Any Other Business**  Cllr GM was concerned about speeding on Old School Road and Chedburgh Road which is now on the bus route.  The meeting closed at 8.48pm  Signed………………………………..Dated……………… |