**Draft Minutes of the Meeting**

**Of the Whepstead Parish Council on**

**Wednesday February 12th 2020 at 7pm**

Attendees Councillors N Aitkens - NA

L Smith – LS

T Smith – TS

G Merrett – GM

G Corcoran – GC

District Councillor M Evans – ME

County Councillor K Soons - KS

Members of the public: S Bonney – SB

E Stephens – ES

J Pyne – JP

Clerk D Rix – DR

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| 1/22  2/23  3/24  5/25  12/26  4/27  6/28  7/29  8/30  9/31  10/32  11/33  13/34  14/35  15/36  16/37  17/38  18/39  19/40  20/41  21/42  22/43 | **Apologies for Absence** Cllrs S Durrant and A Walsh  **Declarations of Interest**  None  **District Councillor Report**  Cllr ME said the Parish Forum was in Newmarket on March 17th. Regarding the Shelaa update, she said PCs would have another opportunity to have a proper say about any sites identified for development in the village in June/July. Cllr GM questioned the proposed rise in Bury’s car parking fees when shops were struggling.  Cllr ME agreed. She said there was grant money available to house the 9 remaining homeless people identified in BSE, but they were resisting help. She was happy to fund the £400 required for the footpath leaflets and would send DR an application form.  **Public Forum** *(Cllr NA brought forward agenda item 5 and 12)*  ES was critical of the play area and car park especially for wheelchair users. Cllr GM said that the WCA was working on installing a swing for disabled children and repair of the car park was in hand. He gave ES the date of the next WCA meeting.  **Community Speed Watch**  Steve Bonney gave Cllr GM some 30mph bin stickers and said he had compared all of the SID options sent to him and they all came out at just under £3,000. With the £1,500 from Cllr KS we would need to find another £1,500. ES said she was very happy to fund raise for it. Cllr NA suggested that the PC fund half - £750 - of the money. The need for body cams was raised. JP said CSW organisers say they shouldn’t use them while the police say they are good at deescalating situations. SB had forwarded information from Jon Gerrish saying that in future speed guns would be funded by them not PCs. DR had passed 2 speed enforcement signs and a new mannequin to ES. ES asked that the hedge owned by Havebury Housing next to her property be cut back as it currently forces her and her children to walk in the road. Cllr NA thanked the volunteers for all they do.  **County Councillors Report**  Cllr KS urged the PC to forward details of potholes they felt were not being dealt with quickly enough. DR to send Pages Hill Road one. Bevans Farm’s pothole was not deemed deep enough to warrant urgent action. She said that utility companies were trying to coordinate works to improve efficiency and reduce disruption. There had been a review of children’s centres with a move to more family hubs. Cllr LS thanked Cllr KS for her help with Neighbourhood Watch signs. There was a clampdown on fly tipping  **Planning Applications**  None  **Minutes of the Meetings held on January 15th**  Cllr TS proposed and it was seconded by Cllr GC that the minutes were a true record.  **Matters Arising from the January meeting**  Cllr GC had looked again at the planning application for Stonecross Farm and noted that it had been two separate dwellings in 2005.  **Clerk’s Report**  DR mentioned the council’s request for a grit bin volunteer. There are currently no bins in the village. Cllr NA to speak to Andrew Maddever about the need for one on Church Hill. DR had confirmed everything with the Green Access Team re: the footpath leaflets but Anna was away this week. Vertas had quoted £1,626.64 + VAT for next year’s grass cutting, up £77.43 on last year. She was expecting another quote from RH Landscaping. DR to get a schedule of cuts from Vertas before the March meeting as the December cut had been considered unnecessary. Together the PC completed a Suffolk Police survey. DR to submit.  **Finance**  There were 2 invoices for payment.  Vertas grass cutting £464.58  PPC churchyard maintenance £360  Cllr TS proposed and it was seconded by Cllr GM that the bank reconciliation for the end of January was correct and the cheques be paid.  After further discussion it was proposed by Cllr TS and seconded by Cllr GM that the CSW team should buy the Westcotec SID now and fundraise for it and a body cam later.  **Bank balance to end January 2019**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Balance in Treasurers Account | £8,371.45 | | Savings account | £10,453.26 | | Total | £18,824.71 | | Less cheques not presented | Nil | | Total | £18,824.71 |   **Footpaths, Byways and Highways**  Cllr TS had read that if local authorities did not register footpaths properly before 2026 they could be lost forever. DR to check if we need to do anything with the Green Access Team. DR to report broken footpath posts at the end of Tuffields Road and on the Brockley bend and a byway post at the Old School Road end of the Byway.  **Neighbourhood Watch Scheme**  With Cllr KS’s help Cllr LS could now look to replace/clean some of the NW signs in the village. The recent theft of computer equipment from agricultural machinery had been at the Maddever’s Farm  **Village Neighbourhood Plan/Shelaa Report**  The only land identified for potential residential development had already been approved for stabling.  **VE Day Commemoration**  The WCA was planning a street party style event on May 8th. Cllr NA was asking those with memories of the event and memories of prisoners of war who had worked on the land to write them down. He would organise a world map to show how far Suffolk men had travelled.  **Suffolk Housing**  Cllr NA to write to the new chair of Suffolk Housing, which is being run separately but now within the Flagship Housing Association, that has taken it over.  **Suffolk Association of Local Councils Report**  Cllr TS had noted the date of the next meeting on March 10th in Bardwell.  **Whepstead Community Association Report**  Cllr GM said the effectiveness of the new heaters was being monitored. The sound system’s ability to transmit outside was being looked at and there are more regular bookings. The bank balance – thanks to volunteers carrying out much of the work – was now very healthy. The Pirates of Penzance production had not been well attended but was excellent.  **Correspondence**  None  **Chairman’s Comments**  Cllr NA happily reported that our broadband champion Jim Melrose appeared to have found a solution to Tuffields Road’s lack of broadband.  **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 TS and seconded by Cllr GC 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 9pm  Signed………………………………..Dated……………… |