**Draft Minutes of the Meeting**

**Of the Whepstead Parish Council on**

**Wednesday January 9th 2019 at 7pm**

Attendees: Councillors N Aitkens - NA

M Morris – MM

 L Smith – LS

 T Smith – TS

 S Durrant - SD

 D Till – DT

 G Merrett - GM

Clerk D Rix – DR

Borough Councillor M Chester – MC

County Councillor K Soons - KS

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| 1/12/23/35/44/56/67/78/89/910/1011/1112/1213/1314/1415/1516/1617/1718/1819/1920/2021/2122/22 | **Election of Chairman**Following receipt of Cllr NA’s resignation letter, vice chair Cllr MM asked for nominations for a new chairman. Cllr NA proposed, and it was seconded by Cllr TS, that Cllr MM be elected. Cllr MM accepted, but only until the elections in May. On behalf of the PC he thanked Cllr NA for his expertise and invaluable experience as chair over the past three and a half years. Cllr NA plans to stay on as a councillor. **Apologies for Absence**None**Declarations of Interest**None**County Councillor’s Report** *(Cllr MM brought forward agenda item 5)*Cllr KS asked everyone to provide feedback to proposed changes to local Citizen’s Advice grant funding. Cllr NA praised the CAB as you could actually sit down and speak to someone, which in an increasingly digitalised world is hard to do. Mark Ash from Essex, who has a background in waste management and infrastructure, is taking over at Highways. DR to copy Cllr KS into Highways correspondence regarding pavement encroachment on Rectory Road and Brockley Road. **Borough Councillor Report**Cllr MC said the new West Suffolk Ward candidates will be announced shortly.The Police and Crime Commissioner has proposed a 10% increase in council tax to fund another 29 police officers across Suffolk. There are now 20 – down from 25 – people sleeping rough in BSE, which is good compared to elsewhere in the country.**Public Forum** None**Planning Applications****DC/18/2457/HH** – Single Storey garage and workshop with pitched roof, Arbons Barn, Rede RoadCouncillors agreed that the proposed application does not impinge on anyone and is in keeping with similar buildings in the village. It was proposed by Cllr TS and seconded by Cllr NA that the PC support the application.**Minutes of the meetings held in December 2018**It was proposed by Cllr TS and seconded by Cllr DT that the December Minutes were a true record. **Matters arising from the December meeting**Regarding Broadband, Cllr NA said he was dismayed to discover that even derelict farmhouses in Brockley (Hawkes Farm) seem to be being connected with fibre to premises, while it is also available to Straight Road and Rectory Road residents. DR to get on to Suffolk Better Broadband and complain that some Tuffields Road and Plumton residents are still on less than 1 mbps. **Clerk’s Report**DR had delivered four Welcome Packs. Cllr NA asked if she could add a request for new residents’ contact emails. Cllr DT to prepare wording to comply with GDPR regulations. DR said there was a defibrillator sale on with Primary Care Supplies, the cheapest down from £1,150 to £645.22. DR to let the Saunders know at the White Horse, as it is thought they have bought an old telephone box to house one. DR had received correspondence from Jeff Pyne regarding the state of the pavements, speeding and an Anglian Water rebate. DR to respond and put him in touch with Deborah Stratford regarding speeding and Cllr TS regarding the doughnut gang helping with pavement encroachment. Cllr TS to see whether the Old Rectory hedges need cutting back. **Finance** Six invoices for paymentWCA hall hire Oct-Dec £20Newsletter Contribution £600SALC Cllr training £135.60Vertas grass cutting Jan-Mar £100.02Clerk’s fees Oct-Dec £757.94 (including £20 tax rebate)Clerk’s expenses £98.46It was proposed by Cllr TS and seconded by Cllr GM that the reconciliations were correct and the cheques be signed. Having looked again at the draft precept figures, it was proposed by Cllr LS and seconded by Cllr GM that the precept (asking for £8,796, up from £8,410) be signed and submitted before the January 25th deadline. Cllr SD provided a signature for a Lloyds Bank signatory form. **Bank balance to end December 2018**

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| Balance in Treasurers Account | £8,742.03 |
| Savings account | £10,447.61 |
| Total | £19,189.64 |
| Less cheques not presented | Nil |
| Total | £19,189.64 |

**Footpaths, Byways and Highways**Cllr NA to meet Plovers residents on Friday about cutting the hedge overhanging the path on their boundary and to supply them with the name of a local contractor. DR to ask if Highways could give us some spare waymarkers, posts etc. for fixing ourselves. DR to report leaning public footpath post on Tuffields Road, Cllr NA to provide her with location of other missing markers. Cllr MM to contact Lizzie Nutt regarding words to accompany the second village footpath walk. **Neighbourhood Watch Scheme**A very frustrated Cllr LS said that she was meeting the Safer Neighbourhood Watch team next week, but no-one ever responded to her emails. She said we seem to be doing the Police’s work with no results. She said she would happily support the £2 a month rise in council tax proposed by the Police Commissioner if it guaranteed we would actually see someone. She is talking to Cllr KS about locality budget funding for some new neighbourhood watch signs. We currently have 5 in the village. **Litter Pick February 17th**DR to ask Andrew Harvey for some extra-long pickers. Cllr MM to ask Andrew Maddever if we can borrow his pick up truck. DR to organise refreshments and to email villagers requesting help. The Robertsons and Pyne family have already offered. DR gave the latter’s requested route to Cllr MM. **APM Speaker April 12th**The date has been changed not to clash with Good Friday. DR to ask Cllr Chester about a good speaker on recycling, relevant because the new incinerator in BSE is now up and running. DR to organise drink, glasses and food.**Tuffields Road Post Box**After a one and a half year wait, a new post box has arrived in Tuffields Road. Cllr NA organising an ‘opening’ party next week. DR to notify Cllr KS of the date and time. **Bus Shelter**Cllr NA said Nick Hayward would start work on the roof next month. He is awaiting a second quote for installing windows.**Suffolk Association of Local Councils Report**None**Whepstead Community Association Report** Cllr TS said the new kitchen is progressing and should be ready in a matter of weeks. Due to a cancellation on the 26th, a coffee morning is being brought forward. Cllr NA mentioned the importance of setting up a village lunch club. A possible rise in hall hire fees was discussed. **Correspondence** None**Chairman’s Comments**None**Any Other Business** Cllr NA said the lack of white lines at the bottom of Fern Hill posed a danger.The meeting closed at 8.30pm Signed………………………………..Dated……………… |