**Draft Minutes of the Meeting**

**Of the Whepstead Parish Council on**

**Wednesday July 24th 2019 at 7pm**

Attendees Councillors N Aitkens - NA

L Smith – LS

T Smith – TS

G Merrett – GM

S Durrant - SD

Clerk D Rix – DR

District Councillor Mary Evans – ME

County Councillor K Soons – KS

Members of the Public Garry Corcoran – GC

Andrea Walsh - AW

Jim Melrose - JM

S Bonney - SB

Jeff Pyne – JP

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 92/1  93/2  94/3  95/4  96/6  97/7  98/6  99/5  100/14  101/9  102/10  103/11  104/12  105/13  106/15  107/16  108/17  109/18  110/19  111/20  112/21  113/22  114/23  115/24 | **Apologies for Absence** None  **Co-Option of Parish Councillors**  It was proposed by TS and seconded by SD that Garry Corcoran and Andrea Walsh be co-opted onto the parish council with immediate effect. Cllr NA welcomed them.  **Declarations of Interest**  To be dealt with as they arise  **District Councillor Report**  ME said community groups, charities and voluntary organisations in West Suffolk could now apply for Community Chest funding for 2020/21. There is £350,000 available and she would happily help with applications.  She apologised as she thought that the new grass contractors had cut the churchyard. GM said the grass was so long it was impossible to strim. A rural taskforce has been set up as 75% of the area covered by the council is rural. Herself, Mike Chester and Terry Clements were on the committee. Broadband and mobile phone coverage would be raised at their next meeting. The failings of the pay on exit car park in Bury were discussed.  **Public Forum** *(Cllr NA brought forward agenda item 6)*  None  **Broadband Champion**  Cllr NA introduced Jim Melrose who is fighting for better broadband for a few Tuffields Road residents with poor speeds. They had tried satellites and line of sight options but with no success. TS said that Plumton Hall now has better speeds that he and others locally ought to be able to tap in to, as it is a public utility. He will find out when. DR to give JM all her most recent Broadband contacts.  **Planning Applications**  Pattles Grove Stud’s application to build a new dwelling was discussed. It was felt that an application for staff accommodation had been made before and there seemed to be very little activity there to warrant more staff accommodation. Councillors agreed that if a site visit by planning was convinced that the business was the size and nature stated and warranted a new dwelling then they would support the application.  Blue North’s application for a single storey side extension was unanimously supported as it is required for a disability. DR said that an appeal for a property on the land next to the White Horse had been dismissed, while South East Lodge’s application had been approved.  **County Councillor Report** *(Cllr NA returned to agenda item 5)*  KS said that a Children’s Services consultation was ongoing. A new pothole repair service was being rolled out and a big campaign to encourage fostering was underway. There are 800 children in care in Suffolk. DR to put something in the newsletter. KS said Suffolk aims to install up to 400 EV charging points across the county at 100 business premises, car parks, hotels and anywhere that EVs could park for a short amount of time which would make the county a national leader in EV infrastructure. Cllr NA criticised the new system whereby verge grass cutters have vans behind with flashing lights. Cllr ME said that it was a health & safety measure that had been raised with the Department of Transport as it has added 50% to the grass cutting budget. NA said it was dangerous and made it virtually impossible to overtake. The grass cutting on the corner of Gypsy Lane had been done badly with no thought for visibility. NA thanked KS for providing £1,500 of her Locality Budget for a new VAS. DR to pass Community Speed Watch’s data analysis to councillors KS and ME.  **Community Speed Watch** *(Cllr NA brought forward agenda item 14)*  Cllr NA explained to AW and GC what CSW does in the village and introduced JP and SB. DR promised to chase Mark Wedgewood about the VAS casing being fixed. Suffolk Highways had accepted liability for it and would reimburse us £279.50 + VAT. She had also registered with the Police Speed Camera Safety Team. She had bought a mannequin and as agreed given it to Emma Stephens to dress on May 30th, though it hadn’t been seen on the road yet. She had also met with Suffolk Highways and after making sure residents were happy, had confirmed 2 positions for new VAS posts on the Brockley end of the B1066. One would have a ‘pedestrians in the road’ sign on it. Only when the posts were in place would the £1,500 funding from KS’s Locality Budget become available for the new VAS. She had spoken to both Chedburgh and Chevington PCs. Neither were interested in sharing the new VAS.  SB said that as more and more repeat offender drivers were receiving letters from the police, the CSW team were receiving increased abuse which was unacceptable. Yet by law they are not allowed to film their abusers or their cars. He said that the VAS machine was registering 2,000 cars going through Whepstead on the B1066 every day. NA blamed residential expansion in Glemsford. JP said if a child is hit by a car at 30mph they have an 80% chance of survival. At 40mph this becomes an 80% chance of death. According to the co-ordinators to whom they send data, the CSW team has caught multiple drivers twice and one person has been caught speeding 3 times and it was discovered he had no insurance. The fastest speed caught on the VAS since October 2018 was 92mph. In the 19 days since the end of June, speeds of over 75, 70 and 3 over 60 had been registered. In total 4,145 vehicles were travelling over 40mph. DR to forward the analysis to KS and ME. CSW said they are constantly told what they can’t do – white lines to have the effect of narrowing the road, white gates at the village entrance etc. - They would like to know what they can do and asked for the PC’s support. TS suggested speaking to the police & crime commissioner Tim Passmore regarding the lack of action they are allowed to take when receiving abuse or possibly talking to the press. JP was thanked for all his work in presenting the figures.  **Minutes of the Meeting held on May 22nd**  TS proposed and it was seconded by GM that the minutes were a true record.  **Matters Arising from the May 22nd meeting**  None  **Clerk’s Report**  DR had chased the LCPAS planning training but was told it had not been rescheduled as yet.  **Finance**  Invoices for payment:  SALC 6 months payroll - £21.60 (overdue)  Vertas grass cutting - £464.59  Clerk’s fees - £1,120.08  Clerk’s tax - £32.80  Clerk’s exes - £228.52  NALC 2 x Local Councils Explained - £39.98  It was proposed by TS and seconded by GM that the bank reconciliations for May and June were correct and the cheques be signed.  DR had asked Robin to internally audit the accounts. She had sent our exemption certificate to the external auditors before the July 1 deadline and published the accounts online. The public rights of notice was running from June 17th to July 26th. DR to buy Robin a bottle of wine as a thank you.  DR said that a recommended clerk’s pay rise – at her payscale – of an extra 43p an hour from April had been mentioned in December’s minutes. She would add it to the agenda for the next meeting in the hope it would be backdated to April 1st  **Bank balance to end May 2019**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Balance in Treasurers Account | £14,134.53 | | Savings account | £10,449.76 | | Total | £24,584.29 | | Less cheques not presented | Nil | | Total | £24,584.29 |   **Bank balance to end June 2019**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Balance in Treasurers Account | £13,669.91 | | Savings account | £10,450.22 | | Total | £24,120.13 | | Less cheques not presented | Nil | | Total | £24,120.13 |   **Footpaths, Byways and Highways**  DR gave NA a footpath map showing the cutting schedule carried out by the council. A villager had requested 2 other regularly used paths, not on the schedule, desperately needed cutting. NA to liaise with TS. DR to circulate footpath map and cutting schedule.  DR had passed details of the Community Self Help Scheme to the Doughnut Boys who expressed no interest in getting involved. She confirmed that their work is covered by the PC’s insurance policy. The insurers recommended the occasional risk assessment and wearing of hi vis jackets and hard hats where necessary. DR to circulate Community Self Help Scheme document and add to the agenda for the next meeting. DR to send TS insurance confirmation.  **Neighbourhood Watch Scheme**  Cllr LS said that through the Suffolk NW she was hoping to get new signposts. Twenty four new police investigators had been appointed to support Police Officers dealing with major crimes. Jon Gerrish, our community engagement officer, now has to look after 70 villages compared to 26 before, which is probably why we have never met him.  **Neighbourhood Plan**  DR had sent TS the old neighbourhood plan which expired four years ago. He felt drawing up a new one would need a sub-committee to work on it and report back to the PC. NA said the original one was drawn up to see if there was a need for social housing in the village. Six houses were built as a result. He said we are not a development village like Lawshall and Brockley and are bound by the Borough Plan. What would a new one be seeking to achieve? DR to circulate old plan and add to agenda for next meeting. NA to speak to Kala Nobbs who was involved in drawing up the old plan.  **Dangerous Dog**  DR to circulate letters written to the Police and Suffolk Housing on the victim’s behalf. He had been badly bitten on the arm. Suffolk Housing’s policy had been checked. It required tenants to seek permission to keep a dog. Despite recommendations by the Police, the dog in question had been seen without a muzzle.  **Bus Shelter**  NA thought that the treated timber was going on soon.  **Suffolk Association of Local Councils Report**  None  **Whepstead Community Association Report**  GM said that Sue Perkins was the new chair and that Di Howe remained Treasurer. The fete had raised a fantastic £1,394. A provisional programme of events for 2020 will be in the newsletter soon.  **Correspondence**  None  **Chairman’s Comments**  NA said that he had met the new residents at Nunwick Barn and that new people had moved into 5 Mickley Green. DR provided two Welcome Packs and asked GC to check for any updates/improvements.  **Resolution to exclude the Public from the Meeting**  Due to the confidential nature of the agenda item to be discussed it was proposed by TS and seconded by GM that under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 that the meeting move into private session.  **Land in Whepstead**  The meeting closed at 9.43pm  Signed………………………………..Dated……………… |