**Draft Minutes of the Meeting**

**Of the Whepstead Parish Council on**

**Wednesday March 18th 2020 at 7pm**

Attendees Councillors N Aitkens - NA

L Smith – LS

T Smith – TS

A Walsh - AW

G Corcoran – GC

District Councillor M Evans – ME

WCA Chair S Perkins – SP

WCA Treasurer D Howe - SH

Members of the public: S Bonney – SB

Saunders Family - LS

Clerk D Rix – DR

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| 1/46  2/47  11/48  3/49  4/50  5/13/51  6/52  7/53  8/54  9/55  10/56  12/57  14/58  15/59  16/60  17/61  18/62  19/63  20/64  21/65  22/66 | **Apologies for Absence** Cllrs K Soons, S Durrant and G Merrett. G Durrant, K Nobbs,  **Declarations of Interest**  None  **Covid-19 PC Response** *(Cllr NA brought forward agenda item 11)*  Cllr NA explained that we had split the village into 7 areas and had found volunteers in each willing to help neighbours whether it be shopping, picking up meds or dog walking. DR drawing up the list which already has nearly 30 people on it. Although over 70s might have to self-isolate they can still act as coordinators.  LS from the White Horse explained why he felt it responsible to close the pub. He circulated a take-away menu which he plans to offer villagers initially from Tuesday to Sunday at 12.30pm. Collection will be contactless via a heated cupboard under a gazebo at the front of the pub. Home delivery may be an option. Orders must be received by 4pm the previous day.  The move was warmly welcomed and LS was thanked for his community spirit. Information with a menu and the list of volunteers to be circulated via the newsletter. DH to print  **District Councillor Report**  Cllr ME said that SCC was providing daily Coronavirus updates and that Facebook had a useful Suffolk Coronavirus news and advice page. She felt loneliness and keeping minds active would be the biggest problem. DR thanked her for her £400 Locality Budget contribution to the footpath leaflet. ME has another £200 available before the end of March, if we can come up with a worthy cause. Cllr NA suggested it could cover the rent of the hall for a few people at a time to play table tennis or carpet bowls etc.  **County Councillor Report** *(circulated ahead of the meeting)*  KS away  **Public Forum and Community Speed Watch** *(Cllr NA brought forward agenda item 5 and 13)*  SB was pleased that having looked at the speeding data (nearly 50% of drivers heading towards Brockley were over the limit) provided last summer, the Police had decided the village warranted Police enforcement. The CSW team had been out today and had recorded a page full of speeders. DR had taken delivery of the new SID and would deliver it to SB. SB to put up 30mph enforcement signs around the village soon and to speak to Emma Stephens about the mannequin.  **Planning Applications/Decisions**  Dodds Cottage application to replace pantiles with slate had been approved.  **Minutes of the Meetings held on February 12th and March 12th**  Cllr TS proposed and it was seconded by Cllr GC that the minutes were a true record.  **Matters Arising from the February and March meeting**  None  **Clerk’s Report**  DR said RH Landscaping had decided against quoting for the grass cutting contract. It was proposed by AW and seconded by LS that the Vertas quote for £1,626.64 + VAT be accepted. DR to let them know home cricket match dates (assuming cricket will still be on) Whepstead’s B1066 to be cut by the Council on May 11th and July 27th and the C&U roads on June 29th. DR is following guidance from NALC regarding any relaxation of statutory obligations regarding PC meetings etc. Agreed the APM scheduled for April 17th should be cancelled. LS to cancel speaker. DR’s application for £400 from ME’s Locality Budget towards the footpath leaflet had been accepted. She had renewed the PC’s membership with CAS and had reported broken posts at Tuffields Road, Brockley Corner and the byway post on OSR.  **Finance**  There was one invoice for payment.  Westcotec £3,660 inc. VAT  Cllr AW proposed and it was seconded by Cllr TS that the bank reconciliation for the end of February was correct and the cheque be paid. DR to ask Robin Drayton to internally audit the accounts.  **Bank balance to end February 2020**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Balance in Treasurers Account | £7,546.87 | | Savings account | £10,453.72 | | Total | £18,000.59 | | Less cheques not presented | Nil | | Total | £18,000.59 |   **Footpaths, Byways and Highways**  Anna McGowan from GAT had submitted everything for the footpath leaflet to Design & Print two weeks ago and would let us have the first draft as soon as possible. DR to report pothole at Harram Bottom.  **Neighbourhood Watch Scheme**  Cllr LS had circulated some useful NWS Coronavirus advice to her 20 coordinators and was putting it in the newsletter too. A number of scams were discussed.  **Litter Pick Follow Up**  Another fabulous turn out with 33 volunteers helping last Sunday. Cllr NA suggested next year everyone must have his mobile number to call it if they come across something hazardous or too big to put in their bin bag. Need to investigate buying 2 ‘litter pick in progress’ signs. NA also suggested with more people we could use the day as a chance to do a pothole survey across the whole village. DR to thank volunteers.  **VE Day Commemoration**  This has been cancelled.  **Suffolk Association of Local Councils Report**  Cllr TS pointed out that SALC is circulating daily bulletins.  **Whepstead Community Association Report**  None  **Correspondence**  None  **Chairman’s Comments**  Cllr NA said he was pleased that the pub would be taking bank card payments over the phone as a potential problem could be funding people’s shopping. However, he said volunteers must know they will never be out of pocket as people in the village were prepared to guarantee payments.  **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……………… |