**Draft Minutes of the Meeting**

**Of the Whepstead Parish Council on**

**Wednesday November 6th 2019 at 7pm**

Attendees Councillors N Aitkens - NA

L Smith – LS

T Smith – TS

G Merrett – GM

G Corcoran – GC

A Walsh – AW

District Councillor Mary Evans – ME

County Councillor Karen Soons – KS

Members of the public Emma Stephens -ES

Steve Bonney – SB

Jeff Pyne –JP

Shelagh Merrett -SM

Clerk D Rix – DR

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| 159/1  160/2  161/12  162/3  163/4  164/5  165/6  166/7  167/8  168/9  169/10  170/11  171/13  172/14  173/15  174/16  175/17  176/18  177/19  178/20 | **Apologies for Absence** Cllr SD  **Declarations of Interest**  None  **Community Speed Watch** *(Cllr NA brought forward agenda item 12)*  JP had circulated an update ahead of the meeting. The CSW team reported that the mannequin – which had been having a positive effect in slowing traffic on Brockley Road – had been stolen, in the process damaging ES’s garden fence. Despite attracting much abuse and being used for target practice by some drivers, the CSW team were keen to replace it. DR to buy another one. DR to try and organise a speed monitoring cable across the road. Cllr KS said the level of abuse the CSW team suffers and the theft of the mannequin needs to be reported to Jon Gerrish – our community support police officer. DR to contact him and ask about body cameras for the CSW team. Cllr ME to ask if we can have two signs with images of cameras on them.  **District Councillor’s Report** *(report circulated ahead of the meeting)*  Cllr ME said that the PC had until Nov 26th to respond on the suitability and availability of two Whepstead sites identified for potential development by West Suffolk’s Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment. GS to forward to councillors who could not open document. She felt West Suffolk had responded too late to her request to clear the fly tipped fridge on Pages Hill Road and would chase.  Concerns were raised over a possible connection between drug dealing and laced trainers being hung over overhead wires on numerous roads in Bury. Cllr ME to talk to UK Power Networks about removing them. Cllr ME’s move - in the October Cabinet reshuffle - to Cabinet Member For Children’s Services, Education and Skills was congratulated.  She apologised that she hasn’t yet managed to organise a meeting with the planning policy team at West Suffolk.  **County Councillor’s Report** *(report circulated ahead of the meeting)*  Highlights included the end of November opening of a new recycling centre at Fornham replacing the Rougham one. Barrow Primary School had been recognised for its efforts in encouraging sustainable travel to school. More funding had become available for first time central heating installations through the Warm Homes Fund. Residents have until November 26th to register to vote in the general election on December 12th. Postal votes need to be in by November 26th.  NA asked about the need for the complete road closure of Rectory Road. Cllr ME said that following the death of a worker in 2014 health and safety came first. Cllr KS said she would chase the promised VAS posts, but would not commission a speed survey in the village until data from the CSW team had been collated.  **Public Forum**  None (see agenda item 12)  **Planning Applications**  **DC/19/2146/HH** – Nunwick Road, Rede Road  It was proposed by Cllr GM and seconded by Cllr TS that the application for the installation of a brick wall and gates on the western boundary be supported. All agreed.  **DC/19/2039/FUL** – Stonecross Farm, Rede Road  It was proposed by Cllr TS and seconded by Cllr AW that the building of 1 agricultural building following the demolition of an existing one be supported. All agreed.  **DC/19/1557/HH and DC/19/1558/FUL** – Plumton Hall, Rede Road *(Cllrs TS and LS declared an interest)*  A copy of an email received by the PC and sent to West Suffolk Planning from a neighbour of Plumpton Hall was passed to Cllr ME. She would find out the outcome of a planning officer’s site visit and ask for a thorough overview of the site. Minutes of the PC planning meeting held on October 22nd to be approved at the next meeting.  **Minutes of the Meeting held on October 10th**  Cllr LS proposed and it was seconded by Cllr TS that the minutes were a true record.  **Matters Arising from the October 10th meeting**  None  **Clerk’s Report**  DR has ordered all the equipment required for the Litter Pick on February 16th and will mention the need for volunteers in the December newsletter. She had passed Cllr KS’s details to Andrew King and had asked about the possibility of dragon’s teeth being painted on the road at the entrances to the village.  She had heard from Harlequin that the new senior planning officer, Martin Brown, would be in touch soon regarding the siting of a mobile base station in Whepstead.  It was suggested that someone from Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch might like to speak at our APM on April 17th. Cllr LS to ask.  In addition to the meeting date change from the 4th to 11th in December, DR asked if the January meeting could be held on Jan 15th. All agreed. DR to let DH know.  DR had given Mike Morris a Welcome Pack for the new residents at Saxon House. NA asked her to give him a pack to deliver to the new residents at the Griggs barn.  **Finance**  There were 3 invoices for payment.  £60 – CAS website hosting  £464.58 – Vertas grass cutting Oct-Dec  £132 – SALC Cllr training  Cllr TS proposed and it was seconded by Cllr GC that the bank reconciliation for the end of December was correct and the cheques be paid.  **Precept**  DR had circulated the tax base and a draft precept for discussion. The tax base for 2020/21 has gone up from 216.84 to 217.33, a rise of 49p. Last year we had asked for a precept of £10,796 and had contributed £2,000 from reserves for the WCA’s kitchen refit. In addition to predicted cost increases laid out at the last meeting, it was noted that the PC is also likely to incur legal fees in the region of £3,000.  If the PC was to ask for a precept of £9,296 (up £500) as suggested before the legal fees were considered, based on the new tax base of 217.33, that would mean the average villager living in a Band D property would have to pay £42.77 next year towards the PC’s costs - a rise of £2.21 or 5.45%. Councillors to consider further before the December meeting for approval at the January 15th meeting.  **Bank balance to end October 2019**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Balance in Treasurers Account | £10,295.31 | | Savings account | £10,451.95 | | Total | £20,747.26 | | Less cheques not presented | Nil | | Total | £20,747.26 |   **Footpaths, Byways and Highways**  Anna McGowan (Green Access Team) was to meet her boss in the hope of signing off the footpath map on November 11th and would be in touch when it was ready. DR to ask her whether there will be different colour way markers for each circular walk.  There had been fly tipping of kids toys in Folly Lane as well as the fridge in Pages Hill Road.  **Neighbourhood Watch Scheme**  Cllr LS was pleased to report that in the year to September 2019, Whepstead was one of only 7 villages that had been burglary free. She passed on a request from Suffolk’s NWS for a £50 donation. Councillors agreed a donation would be made if the organisation spoke at our APM. Having NWS reps in each road of the village was discussed. Cllr LS to look into it.  **Village Neighbourhood Plan**  Cllr TS felt it important that we need to address what we are going to do if we come under pressure from developers. Cllr GC pointed out that the previous Parish Plan did not mention development, only the life of the village. Cllr NA said the original plan was drawn up outside the PC. He urged everyone to look at villages similar to Whepstead to see if they had a plan in place. Cllr TS to circulate websites worth looking at.  **Suffolk Association of Local Councils Report**  Cllr TS to attend the SALC AGM on November 26th in Elmswell.  **Whepstead Community Association Report**  Cllr GM said the Jumble Sale had raised £355 and that the WCA needed lots of volunteers for the Fun, Food and Fireworks event.  **Correspondence**  None  **Chairman’s Comments**  None.  **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 GM and seconded by Cllr TS 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 9.15pm  Signed………………………………..Dated……………… |