**Draft Minutes of the Meeting**

**Of the Whepstead Parish Council on**

**Thursday October 10th 2019 at 7pm**

Attendees Councillors N Aitkens - NA

L Smith – LS

T Smith – TS

G Merrett – GM

G Corcoran – GC

A Walsh – AW

S Durrant – SD

District Councillor Mary Evans – ME

County Councillor Karen Soons – KS

Members of the public Kala Nobbs – KN

Steve Bonney - SB

Clerk D Rix – DR

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| 138/1  139/2  140/14  141/5  142/12  143/3  144/6  145/7  146/8  147/4  148/9  149/10  149/11  150/13  151/15  152/16  153/17  154/18  155/19  156/20  157/21 | **Apologies for Absence** None  **Declarations of Interest**  Cllrs TS and LS planning  **Neighbourhood Plan** *(Cllr NA brought forward agenda item 14)*  Kala Nobbs had been involved in the last village neighbourhood plan and explained that it had taken a few years to prep a questionnaire for villagers and involved a sub-committee of ¾ people. Suffolk Acre (now CAS) had helped. The response rate, at 65-70%, had been high. The questionnaire had been delivered and collected by hand. She explained that it hadn’t been the plan that had triggered the social housing development. That happened on the back of a developer wanting to build some social housing in the village. The greatest need identified was for more youth provision. TS felt we needed to update the plan and said lots of villages were using them to guide developments. Even though Whepstead is currently classed countryside, that could change under a revision of ‘Vision 31’, which according to Cllr ME is in the process of being updated. Cllr NA thanked KN for coming to the meeting. DR to circulate the old parish plan again.  **Public Forum**  *Cllr NA brought forward agenda item 12*  **Community Speed Watch**  Steve Bonney thanked Cllr LS for putting him in touch with police engagement officer Jon Gerrish, who said that he would try and bring a covert speed gun to the village. He said the VAS had been repaired by Westcotec (paid for by Highways). DR said that despite numerous emails she had not heard when the new VAS posts were being installed. Cllr ME to chase. DR to ask KS about the possibility of some ‘dragon’s teeth’ on the road at the entrance to the village. Regarding data collection, ME suggested SB contact John Barton at Wickhambrook PC who has devised a simple formula for collating the data. She said the police (Danny Cooper and Matt Gilbert at Haverhill) only want headline information and will act on it if they see fit. SB to ask the police for a new speed gun. SB said that the recently installed hi-viz dressed mannequin on Brockley Road was definitely having a positive effect. The plan is to move it around the village and not leave it in one place all the time. The PC gave its approval for the putting up of school children’s anti-speeding posters on posts around the village.  **District Councillor’s Report** *(circulated ahead of the meeting)*  Regarding a neighbourhood plan ME invited TS to meet with the planning policy people at West Suffolk Council. She said the West Suffolk Rural Task Force had held a series of community engagement sessions with key rural support and service groups such as Citizens Advice, the Rural Coffee Caravan, Community Action Suffolk and SALC. The key emerging themes are affordable housing; appropriate housing; transport; connectivity both internet and mobile phone; building on the strengths of local communities; enabling older residents to stay on in their communities; support for young people; and assistance for new businesses to start up in the countryside.  She said that bin collection days were changing for half of the 81,000 households in West Suffolk and for those whose day remained the same the time of collection would likely change.  Cllr ME said that she had grant money available if we needed it. Regarding the proposed installation of a mobile phone mast on the Bury Road, ME suggested the PC ask Harlequin for a site visit and mention the benefits of it being positioned on Community Centre land.  **Planning Applications**  **DC/19/1636/HH** – Threeways, Rede Road  Councillors had voted on September 9th to support the application for an extension.  **DC/19/1557/HH and DC/19/1558/FUL** – Plumton Hall, Rede Road *(Cllrs TS and LS declared an interest and left the room)*  The part retrospective application for a stable block and retrospective application for one open sided agricultural barn had been registered. In light of a complaint received by the PC, DR had requested a site visit without success. Cllr NA to ask complainant for a site visit and to report back to ME.  **DC/19/1934/FUL** – Land to the south of Chedburgh Road  The change of use of agricultural land to equestrian use and erection of 2 stable blocks and one haystore building was discussed. Concern was raised by one councillor about drainage and the proposed number of horses on the acreage. All others voted to support the application.  **Minutes of the Meeting held on August 14th**  Cllr GM proposed and it was seconded by Cllr LS that the minutes were a true record.  **Matters Arising from the August 14th meeting**  Cllrs reported positive responses having delivered Welcome Packs to the new residents of Nunwick Farm and 4 Mickley Green. Cllr NA confirmed that he had sent an email to Police regarding a dangerous dog in the village.  **County Councillor’s Report** *(Cllr NA returned to agenda item 4)*  Ruffins Farm resident Andrew King had requested two traffic signs warning drivers on the very busy Haverhill Road of the concealed entrance to his farm. KS said she would speak to him as there could be a much cheaper alternative than getting the sign via the Council. DR to forward her details. Cllr NA said he was disappointed that the Council refused to believe that contractors had not cut the verges in Tuffields Road and Folly Lane. He said he was going to provide a list of contractors with public liability cover to circulate to villagers looking for help in cutting back hedges etc.  **Clerk’s Report**  DR had received a request from the Wildlife Group for insurance cover for members working on a project in Cages Wood. The PC agreed unanimously that the PC policy only covered volunteers undertaking work for the PC like improving public footpaths and did not cover villagers working on private land. DR to let them know.  DR corrected a 2020 meeting date (to September 30th) which had been circulated ahead of the meeting. She said the Litter Pick would be on February 16th and asked councillors to think of a speaker for our APM in April. Steve Nutt had agreed to organise the PC’s poppy wreath. She would look into how long planning applications/minutes etc. needed to be kept.  **Finance**  There were bank reconciliations for the end of August and September and 10 invoices for payment.  £21.34 - uncontested election cost  £75.60 – Anne Robertson defibrillator costs  £251.52 – SALC subscription (late payment)  £21.60 – SALC six months payroll  £1,103.67 – clerk’s fees July-Sept  £34 – HMRC clerk’s tax  £114.61 – clerk’s exes  £187.26 – CAS insurance (3 year deal)  £438 – Nick Hayward Roofing (bus shelter work)  £20 – WCA hall hire  Cllr TS proposed and it was seconded by Cllr AW that the bank reconciliations for the end of August and September were correct and the cheques be paid.  DR had secured a new three year insurance deal with CAS for £187.26 a year, much lower than the £344 renewal premium offered by Came & Co.  **Precept**  DR had not yet received the tax base, but she felt that the precept would be along similar lines to last year’s £8,796 which cost the average villager in a Band D property £40.56 last year. A clerk’s fee rise could add £177 to costs, but the insurance deal was £31 less. There wouldn’t be election costs and mowing costs looked to be £200 lower. Extra costs to consider included the excess over Cllr KS’s locality grant of £1,500 towards a new VAS and footpath map costs of just under £395. DR would circulate a proposed budget before the next meeting in November.  **Bank balance to end August 2019**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Balance in Treasurers Account | £11,916.31 | | Savings account | £10,451.08 | | Total | £22,367.39 | | Less cheques not presented | Nil | | Total | £22,367.39 |   **Bank balance to end September 2019**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Balance in Treasurers Account | £11,916.31 | | Savings account | £10,451.52 | | Total | £22,367.83 | | Less cheques not presented | Nil | | Total | £22,367.83 |   **Footpaths, Byways and Highways**  DR and Cllrs TS and GM had met with Anna McGowan of the Green Access Team and had answered her queries and provided photos for a footpath map. She was having a meeting tomorrow and hoped to be able to show us a draft map next week.  Cllr NA to talk to the managing farmer of Mark Wray’s field with the public footpath across it after complaints that it was unwalkable.  Matthew Fox at Highways felt that the trees on Straight Road did not warrant cutting back and did not present a danger to the carriageway. He had ordered a cut of the visibility splay at Pages Hill Road. DR to ask if it is possible to have way markers to pin to posts ourselves as SCC did not consider FP1 a priority.  **Neighbourhood Watch Scheme**  The burglary of copper piping at the Warnes property was discussed. Cllr LS said she urged anyone coming face to face with a burglar - as they had - to call 999 not 101. She was still chasing Peter Ingrams regarding NW signs and was pleased that our community engagement officer had been in touch with Steve Bonney regarding speeding.  **Village Recorder – Susan Quay**  DR had spoken to Susan Quay who was happy to take on the role of village recorder as she loved local history. She had also confirmed her role with Janette Robinson of the Suffolk Local History Recorders Scheme.  **Suffolk Association of Local Councils Report**  DR to book Cllr TS on a planning course at SALC on Nov 21st  **Whepstead Community Association Report**  Cllr GM said help was needed for both the Jumble Sale and Fun, Food & Fireworks. Bookings were down. DR mentioned that a Chedburgh resident said Whepstead parents were choosing Chedburgh village hall over the Community Centre because of cost.  **Correspondence**  Councillors requested fewer emails were circulated.  **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 9.35pm  Signed………………………………..Dated……………… |