­­WHEPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting**

**Of the Parish Council held on**

**Wednesday December 10th at 7pm**

Attendees: Councillors G O’Dell - GO

M Morris - MM

E Nutt - EN

N Aitkens - NA

A Maddever - AM

S Durrant - SD

R Murray - RM

Clerk D Rix - DR

Borough Councillor A Rushen - AR

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| 1/194  2/195 | **Apologies for Absence** Terry Clements  **Declarations of Interest**  Cllr AM Green Farm Barn planning application |
| 3/196 | **Borough Councillor’s Report** *(Report attached)*  Bury One has been supported for a further 5 years. AR said that new Government regulations - regarding s106 contributions towards public open spaces on new planning applications for developments of 10 units or less - had sent the planning department haywire. AR to speak to AM regarding community funding at the WCA’s January 13th meeting. |
| 4/197  5/198  6/199  7/200  8/201  9/202  10/203  11/204  12/205  13/206  14/207  15/208  16/209  17/210  18/211  19/212  20/213  21/214 | **County Councillor’s Report**  No report. GO to speak to TC about a new VAS post. EN said that the position of it will have to be approved by Highways. DR to ask TC about the dropped kerb.  **Community Police Officer’s Report**  There have been no crimes since our last meeting.  **Public Forum**  None  **Planning Applications**  The planning application for Willow Cottage had been approved. A new planning application for Green Farm Barn was discussed. Councillors agreed that the existing barn had little merit and as long as the new structure to replace it was built sympathetically then they would support the application with the proviso that as many original materials as possible are incorporated into the new build.  GO reported that the new application for the Old Post Office had been approved, but the head of planning at St Edmundsbury wanted Parish Council to discuss the application again in the light of new Government proposals which effectively meant that we would waive our right to any financial kick back by supporting the application. Councillors concurred that there was no change to their decision. DR to let Gemma Pannell know. (AR left the meeting at 7.35pm)  **Minutes of the Meeting held on November 5th 2014**  Amendments to be made:  List of attendees to include “R Murray – RM”  Agenda item 4/175 – “Locality Budget cheque Cllr AR has agreed for VAS post and bracket cannot be made out to” to be deleted and replaced with “Locality Budget cheque, that Cllr AR has agreed for VAS post and bracket, cannot be made out to”  Agenda item 10/181 – “DR to add the camera” to be deleted and replaced with “DR to add the VAS”  Agenda item 20/191 – “in future, be dropped from the agenda” to be deleted and replaced with “in future, be dropped as an agenda item.”  Agenda item 21/192 – “to ask again if grass cutting could coincide with match schedules” to be deleted and replaced with “to ask if grass cutting could continue to coincide with match schedules.”  Subject to the amendments being made, SD proposed and EN seconded the signing of the minutes as a true record.  **Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on November 5th**  None.  **Clerk’s Report**  Regarding the white fences at both ends of the village on the B1066, David Stiles said that there was only room for one on the left hand side of the road at both ends of the village as they are 1.6m wide and cannot be put on private land. Councillors voted not to have any white gates at all and to turn down Cllr TC’s offer of having “crocodile teeth” painted on the road as a speed reducing measure. DR to ask David Stiles for a sign with an adult and child instead near the entrance to the Old Rectory on Rectory Road.  DR said that she and NA had met with Mr & Mrs Cutting regarding the new footpath at the bottom of Church Hill and that she had organised for the footpath officer Patrick Scrivens to join them to walk the proposed path at 9am on Friday morning if anyone wanted to join them. NA to check that Mr Cutting is still available.  EN reported difficulties that a family in the bungalow next to the social housing on Brockley Road were having walking from their home to the bus stop on Brockley Road as a tree, on land thought to be owned by the Council, protruded into the road which was dangerous. GO to establish whether the land is council or privately owned.  DR had not yet bought a new printer but would do so in the January sales. She was awaiting the grasscutting quote from EFMS before asking about grass cutting to coincide with the cricket home match schedule. DR to ask how much spiking the cricket square would cost and what sort of machinery would be used.  DR said she had moved the May 27th meeting for 2015 forward to May 20th to comply with election guidelines.  DR has reported the need for a snowflake sign on the bend just before Halfway House. She asked AM for confirmation that the £200 Locality Budget payment for Community Speedwatch had been paid into the Whepstead Community Association account.  DR said that Came & Co, the insurer, had increased the sum insured for street furniture to £11,540.25 to include the £3,000 VAS. The annual additional premium for this was £13.67, but the insurer was happy to waive the pro rata additional premium until the next renewal date next October 1, as long as we are happy not to have a new policy schedule sent out.  Regarding HMRC fines for late payments from March next year, DR said that to comply she would need to move two meetings, but would confirm the changes at the next meeting.  DR to forward email regarding a new dog foul bin to EN.  GO said that the street light outside the chapel had been replaced and he had reported the broken one outside the old school.  Councillors agreed that a good date for the annual litter pick would be February 22nd. DR to check that the community centre is free with Di Howe and to include the date in January’s edition of the newsletter.  **Finance**  There were no invoices for payment.  HSBC had repaid the 80p owed which was reflected in the reconciliation for the end of November. AM proposed and NA seconded that the reconciliations were approved as correct and signed.  **Bank balances at 30th November 2014**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Balance in Treasurers Account | 5,381.66 | | Savings account | 10,426.36 | | Total | 15,808.02 | | Less cheques not presented | Nil | | Total | 15,808.02 |   **Precept**  DR said that following circulation of the draft precept at the previous meeting, nothing had changed, so based on asking for the same £8,730 funding for 2015/16 that we had in previous years, our precept would be £8,044. And assuming the same tax base of 212.44 then we would be asking villagers for a £37.86 contribution from their council tax compared to £37.05 last year, a rise of 81p. She said that the forms would be completed and submitted before the January 31st deadline.  RM queried the need to increase the precept in the light of a Clerk’s pay rise being backdated to April. Also from 2017 he said the Parish Council may need to make employee pension arrangements. DR said she did not think the proposals affected her, but would confirm at the next meeting. Either way, GO didn’t think it would affect the bottom line.  **Footpaths, Highways and Byways**  DR to report four broken sleepers on Footpaths 4, 5, 10 and 15. GO to provide coordinates. Regarding the proposed new footpath, NA said that Mr Cutting proposed that an existing gate on his land could be moved to near the farm gate at the bottom of Church Hill.  **Correspondence**  None  **Broadband**  Nothing to report.  **Speedwatch**  EN said that Jane Alfred is the new coordinator. Following the vulnerability felt after being verbally abused by an aggressive driver, police have supplied volunteers with a sheet of paper to hand to difficult motorists explaining that what they are doing is supported by the police. GO explained the need to reset the VAS recently after it was only picking up every other car’s speed. It appears to be fine now. He said the battery needed changing every week and data collected regarding volume of traffic, speeds etc. could be downloaded at the same time. GO – with Steve Bonney’s help – has established a good spot for the second VAS post at the Brockley end of the village. It had to be within the 30mph zone, 1m from the road and have 100 yards of straight road in front of it. DR to write to TC to let him know that we have established a good position (next to AM’s fencing just before the footpath going down Fern Hill) and ask him who we need to speak to in the Highways department. GO mentioned that when the posts don’t have the VAS on them, we could put plastic signs up urging drivers to be careful.  **Trees**  SD reported that Michael will come and look at the dead Millennium oak tree at the junction of ‘Three Ways’. A decision to bring forward by 1m and mulch the Jubilee tree at the Community Centre was made for February.  **Suffolk Association of Local Councils Report**  None  **Whepstead Community Association Report**  The Jumble sale raised £426 and the Fireworks night £512. There would be a wine tasting evening on February 7th. Tickets £10. It was agreed to plant a tree in the wildlife section of the play area in memory of Angelina. AM asked about the PC’s £600 contribution to newsletter printing. DR said that last year it was paid in January. GO commented that he thought it was good that the WCA’s meetings were now open to the public.  **Chairman’s Comments**  GO explained that at the Old Post Office planning meeting he had attended on December 4th, open space funding from the developer was mentioned. On further enquiry by AR, it was established that the Parish Council could be due £11,500 funding for open spaces in the village and around £5,000 for built facilities as a kick back from the housing development at William Flack Place. He asked councillors for ideas on what the money could be invested in. The footpath, new kissing gates to replace stiles, a possible Trim Trail and a new footpath map were discussed.  AM said that one of the items of play equipment at the Community Centre had been condemned and needed replacing. AM to confirm the cost of replacing it.  RM asked about changes in the VAT position for parish councils - following a new EU directive whereby only councils with a turnover above a certain level could register for VAT. DR and GO to investigate.  **Any Other Business**  GO said that the next meeting would be on January 21st at 7pm and he wished everyone a Merry Xmas.  The meeting closed at 9.05pm  Signed………………………………………………..Dated……………………… |
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