­­WHEPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting**

**Of the Parish Council held on**

**Wednesday August 13th at 7.30pm**

Attendees: Councillors G O’Dell (Chairman)-GO

E Nutt-EN

N Aitkens-NA

M Morris-MM

S Durrant-SD

R Murray-RM

Clerk D Rix-DR

Members of the public W and D Howe

PCSO P Sinclair

Borough Councillor A Rushen

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| 1/129  2/130 | **Apologies for Absence** Cllr A Maddever (working) Cllr T Clements (Holiday)  **Declarations of Interest**  Cllr EN planning - SW Lodge |
| 5/131 | **Community Police Officer’s Report** *(Cllr GO brought forward agenda item 5)*  On the night of 15.7 a Fordham trailer was stolen from a driveway in Old School Road and a John Deere tractor stolen from Mickley Green. Three pubs in Chedburgh, Acton and Horringer had been broken into and alcohol and cash stolen. There had also been thefts of lead from Kedington and Dalham. The next priority setting meeting is on September 9th, 7pm at Bury St Edmunds Police Station. (PCSO Sinclair left) |
| 6/132  3/133  7/134  4/135  12/136  8/137  9/138  10/139  11/140  12/141  13/142  14/143  15/144  16/145  17/146  18/147  19/148  20/149  21/150 | **Public Forum** *(Cllr GO brought forward agenda item 6)*  Di Howe said her daughter Charlotte was delighted to have been allocated a three bedroomed house on the new housing development. However her son Will, who has been told he is 3rd on the waiting list - despite fulfilling all the criteria - has been told he can’t have a bungalow. Why did he have to go through the bidding process if that’s the case? Cllr GO said it was not for the PC to know. But he was aware that three two bedroomed properties were going to be advertised and that it sounded as if Will would have a good chance of being allocated one of those.  Di Howe also reported that the footways on both sides of Fern Hill needed cutting back*. (At 7.45pm D & W Howe left the meeting)*  **Borough Councillor’s Report** *(Cllr GO returned to agenda item 3)*  (See attached) Cllr AR confirmed that the WCA had approached her about funding new crockery from her locality budget. She urged them to shop around. One council had picked up a bargain on ebay.  Cllr GO complained about the resident’s parking in BSE. He said the Borough Council looks after residents in the town, but rural residents are ignored. Cllr AR urged him to write and complain to the Council.  Cllr RM complained that the Borough Council was spending £100,000 funding the new waste recycling plant when it needs to make more cutbacks. Cllr NA said that the money would probably come out of the Opportunities Fund which generates cash from the sale of assets and that it will benefit the whole of West Suffolk.  **Planning Applications**  **DC/14/1351/PMBPA** – Nunwick Farm, Rede Road. Cllrs discussed the prior approval application to convert two agricultural buildings into two new dwellings. It was pointed out that a printing company had shown interest in the buildings a few years ago and it was agreed that a house/working shed next door would be more appropriate than one very large dwelling so close to a much smaller one, as is proposed. Cllr EN questioned whether the barns are listed as they are on lots of old maps. If the large barn was converted into three cottage style dwellings it would be more favourable. But as it stands councillors voted to **reject the application**.  **DC/14/1199/LB** – SW Lodge, Rede Road. Cllrs had **no objection** to the application to replace existing rear doors in a rear Edwardian extension with folding patio doors. The conservation officer was involved and it could not be seen from the road.  **DC/14/1228/HH** – Whepstead Hall, Brockley Road. Cllrs agreed that they had **no objection** to the application to move an oil tank from within a building to outside and surround it with willow fencing.  **DC/14/0835/HH** – Larkhill, Rede Rd, has been approved. *(Cllr AR left the meeting at 8.25pm)*  **County Councillor’s Report** *(Cllr GO returned to agenda item 4)*  None. He has confirmed £1,000 from his Locality Budget for the new footpath has been approved.  **Footpaths, Highways and Byways** *(Cllr GO brought forward agenda item 12)*  Cllr NA showed a map of the footpath that has been confirmed with Theo Cutting. He just wants to wait until the field is cut to find a post that confirms the divide in ownership of the field. Cllr RM suggested that we apply for a grant for any outstanding money required. DR to look once the exact costs are known.  **Minutes of the Meetings held on July 2nd and July 24th.**  Cllr EN proposed and Cllr MM seconded the signing of the minutes as a true record.  **Matters arising from the Minutes of the Meetings on July 2nd and July 24th** *(Cllr NA left the meeting at 8.35pm)*  None.  **Clerk’s Report**  Cllr AM had spoken to the Lamberts who were very happy to keep the grass cut around the bus stop. Broken footbridges had been reported as had the overgrown byway on Old School Road (ref:3431475) and an email sent to Guy Smith, Steve Bloor and Cllr Clements regarding children crossing signs, white fencing, white lines near Stag House, another VAS post and the adverse camber on the road near the Community Centre.  The Till’s at Whepstead Manor agreed to cut their hedge next to the footpath before September 12th. Jonathan Chown confirmed attendance at our next meeting on September 24th and a letter of apology had been received from Gipping regarding the incident involving Sue Perkins near the new housing development on July 24th. DR circulated dates for next year’s meetings.  **Finance**  There were two cheques for signing:  Citizen’s Advice Bureau £40  Samaritans £75  It was proposed by Cllr MM and seconded by Cllr RM that the cheques be signed and the monthly reconciliation for the end of June and July approved as correct.  **Bank balances at 30th June 2014**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Balance in treasurers account | £8,594.16 | | Savings account | £10,424.16 | | Total | £19,018.32 | | Less cheques not presented | Nil | | Total | £19,018.32 |   **Bank balances at 30th July 2014**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Balance in treasurers account | £7,182.15 | | Savings account | £10,424.59 | | Total | £17,606.74 | | Less cheques not presented | Nil | | Total | £17,606.74 |   **Footpaths, Highways and Byways** *(Cllr GO returned to agenda item 12)*  Cllr GO said that the steps at the bottom of Fern Hill were in, thanks to lots of helpers. GO to look at the need for cutting back on Fern Hill as reported by Di Howe. Cllr EN said the footpath entrance by the chapel was very overgrown. DR to report the need for a dropped kerb on the new footway built by the housing development in Rectory road, so that wheelchair users could have access to the community centre, chapel etc. DR to report hole in the road full of water near the new bungalow for the disabled, a pothole opposite the north entrance to Plumpton on Chedburgh Road and a pothole, full of water, 30 yards from Saxham House towards Old School Road.  DR to write to Jonathan Van Jennians regarding his overgrown hedge.  **Correspondence**  Email from Till’s saying they hadn’t realised the hedge next to the footpath was their responsibility, but would cut it before September 15th. DR to tell both that it is PC’s opinion that Whepstead Manor owns and is responsible for the hedges on both sides of the footpath.  Letter of apology from Gipping to be forwarded to Sue Perkins. Letter from the Mayor, Robert Everitt. DR to invite him to our housing development opening. DR to pass on an email from Erica Hurford, the granddaughter of an old resident of Owl Cottage to the History Group.  **Broadband**  DR said Jonathan Chown was coming to our next meeting on September 24th.  **Speedwatch**  Cllr GO had attended a meeting regarding the sharing of three VAS signs that Cllr TC had bought. He explained that we would share one with Horringer and that they would be up for a maximum of four weeks at a time. Another pole would cost £120 and a bracket £80. Agreed DR should ask Cllr AR on behalf of Whepstead’s speed watch group if she could fund the £200 from her Locality Budget. Steve Nutt to provide a 3 legged ladder to erect the sign. Batteries would need recharging and changing every week. DR to add it to our insurance. Cllr GO to check the value.  **Trees**  Cllr NA provided a newspaper article regarding the need to report ash dieback. DR to mention it in the newsletter.  **Suffolk Association of Local Councils Report**  None  **Whepstead Community Association Report**  None  **Affordable Housing**  DR said that councillors could view the new properties on Tuesday August 19th from 9-9.30am. The bungalow for the disabled was occupied and three of the other properties had been allocated, to the Ducks, Rosbrookes and Chaffeys.  **Chairman’s Comments**  Cllr GO apologised that he wouldn’t be at the next meeting. He would order a wreath from Steve Nutt and mention an Emergency Planning meeting to Cllr NA. He commended Brian Carr on a fabulous job doing up the war memorial. DR to check with Rob Griffiths about a rededication service.  **Any Other Business**  None  The meeting closed at 9.30pm  Signed………………………………………………..Dated……………………… |
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