­­WHEPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

**Approved Minutes of the Meeting**

**Of the Parish Council held on**

**Wednesday February 25th at 7pm**

Attendees: Councillors G O’Dell - GO

E Nutt - EN

N Aitkens - NA

A Maddever - AM

S Durrant - SD

R Murray - RM

Clerk D Rix - DR

Borough Councillor A Rushen – AR

PCSOs R Wilson

Suffolk Housing M Barnes-Smith

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| --- | --- |
| 1/30  2/31 | **Apologies for Absence** Terry Clements  **Declarations of Interest**  None |
| 3/32  4/33  5/34  6/35  7/36 | **Borough Councillor’s Report** *(sent in advance of the meeting)*  Cllr GO thanked Cllr AR for the money from her Locality Budget for the Community Speed Watch VAS bracket which had arrived. Cllr AM also thanked Cllr AR for her contribution to the new community centre chairs.  **County Councillor’s Report**  None  **Community Police Officer’s Report**  PCSO Ryan Wilson said that there had been five crimes in Whepstead since our last meeting.   * Burglary other building (4.2.15) between 7-9.30pm – a lock was damaged to gain entry to an outbuilding where they attempted to remove a quad bike but left it on the front garden, nothing else taken. * Burglary other building (4.2.15) between 4-10.30pm – x3 locks broken to gain access into three outbuildings where electrical fence batteries, hand tools, power tools and a generator were removed. * Burglary other building (30.1.15-5.2.15) – 3 padlocks were broken to gain access to a barn but nothing was taken. * Burglary other building (18.2.15) between 7-9pm – entry was gained to an outbuilding by forcing a lock and a livestock trailer was removed. * Burglary other building overnight between 19.2.15 and 20.2.15 – entry was gained to an insecure building, feed buckets, a trolley jack and electric fence spools worth £2,000 were removed.   PCSO Wilson’s colleague handed out some leaflets “Shutting the gate on Rural Crime” and said that there was the availability of bringing a police tractor to the village fete. Unfortunately Chedburgh has booked it for June 27th. DR to sign Cllr NA up to Police Connect alerts.  **Public Forum**  Martin Barnes Smith, Community Development Manager explained the work of Suffolk Housing and how it is trying to get more involved at community level. In response to a question about whether the road in front of the William Flack Place housing development had been adopted, he said no, that it remained a private road that will be maintained by Suffolk Housing. All agreed that the development had worked very well and how good it was to see young families in the village.  **Planning Applications**  Cllr GO said that the Green Farm Barn had been approved and the Kilmorie application was still pending a decision. |
| 8/37  9/38  10/39  11/40  12/41  13/42  14/43  15/44  16/45  17/46  18/47  19/48  20/49  21/50 | **Minutes of the Meeting held on January 21st and February 4th 2015**  Agenda item 8/8 “Minutes of the Meeting held on November 5th to be deleted and replaced with “Minutes of the Meeting held on December 10th” and Agenda item 9/9 “Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on November 5th” to be deleted and replaced with “Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on December 10th”. Subject to the amendments being made, it was proposed by Cllr EN and seconded by Cllr SD that they be accepted as a true record.  It was proposed by Cllr RM and seconded by Cllr NA that the minutes of the meeting held on February 4th be accepted as a true record.  **Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on January 21st and February 4th.**  Regarding agenda item 23/23 of the January 21st minutes, Cllr RM asked for clarification from Cllr GO as to whether he was stepping down as chairman or from the Parish Council as a whole. Cllr GO confirmed he would not be standing for re-election at all.  **Clerk’s Report** (*Cllr MM arrived*)  DR said that Claire Starling had ordered the VAS extension post and hoped it would be with us within the next two months. DR has given the bracket to Cllr GO. EFMS, the grass cutters, said to spike the cricket square would cost £79 + VAT. They would use a ride on mower with the spiker attached on the 3 point linkage. Cllr MM to confirm home cricket match dates for DR to pass on.  DR is going on an election briefing course on March 2. She said that the anachronistic law regarding the electronic summons of councillors to meetings had been amended. She had twice left a message asking Lorraine Payne of the CAB if she would speak at our APM on April 24th but had not heard back. She will visit the CAB offices.  Highways said they would add two more chevrons on the bend outside the community centre. Regarding the flooding outside Mickley House, they couldn’t see a problem and would come back when it was wet. SCC said grit supplies would be replenished when they were in the area and investigations were ongoing with regards to the request for white lines in Rectory Road to be reinstated. DR to chase David Stiles regarding the dropped kerb as Cllr Clements said he would fund this from his locality budget and the deadline was looming. Anne Robertson said she had passed the WI postcards to Steve Nutt. DR had asked the Newmarket Ramblers who had had a whip round after using the car park on Feb 15th to pass a cheque for £10.50 to Di Howe and the WCA.  Regarding forthcoming elections, DR suggested prospective new candidates write a little about themselves in the April newsletter. Cllr NA pointed out that as the PC fund the newsletter this would not be lawful. Instead, agreed we should write a “bold poster” for the newsletter urging villagers to “support your community” DR to give details of how they go about completing nomination papers etc. If after the April 9th deadline we don’t have many candidates we can then raise the issue at the APM on April 24th.  **Finance**  DR has submitted a VAT reclaim form for £299.41 (up to 19.1.15) and submitted the precept forms before the January 31st deadline.  There were two invoices for payment  £6 – G O’Dell (Litter Pick refreshments)  £96 – Westcotec (VAS bracket)  The authorisation of payments was proposed by Cllr MM and seconded by Cllr AM. It was proposed by Cllr AM and seconded by Cllr EN that the bank reconciliation for the end of January be approved as correct.  **Bank balances at 30th January 2015**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Balance in Treasurers Account | 3,784.43 | | Savings account | 10,427.21 | | Total | 14,211.64 | | Less cheques not presented | 1,324.40 | | Total | 12,887.24 |     **Footpaths, Highways and Byways**  DR to report potholes in Chedburgh Road when the weather improves. Cllr NA and Cllr GO had had another meeting with Patrick Scrivens who is very supportive of the new footpath. He says that fencing will be required at a few “pinch points”. Cllr NA had a quote for 60m of post, rails and chicken wire for £350 + VAT. AM said that installation would add £8 a metre. Cllr GO said that SCC said that if it gets to do both the creation and diversion, it won’t charge for the creation and will only charge £2,000 for the diversion, a reduction of £500.  Patrick Scrivens said that he had submitted his report and that the proposed path would be assessed on March 13th, soon after, we should get a decision.  Cllr GO to get together a working party and decide how often they should work on the new path. Cllr NA to pass fencing quote to DR to pass to SCC in order that we don’t lose Cllr Clements £1,000 locality funding for the project.  **Correspondence**  The correspondence file was being circulated. Cllr RM asked for confirmation that the Transparency Code has become law. It has. DR to register him for a free Neighbourhood Planning Workshop on March 25th in Mildenhall. He suggested Cllr AM look at details of a deregulation bill regarding a relaxing of the licencing laws which could be good news for the WCA.  **Broadband**  Cllr MM to locate who in BT is responsible for the network in our area. All agreed broadband is terrible. The only good news, according to Cllr MM, was that the ability to carry data on copper wires is getting better all the time.  **Annual Parish Meeting**  DR to chase Lorraine Payne at the CAB and mention the event in April’s newsletter. All agreed offering refreshments afterwards was good PR and important in attracting villagers.  **Speedwatch**  Cllr EN said the volunteers were going to have a meeting with Tibor Pollerman, the Horringer speed watch coordinator, regarding recruitment. They were using a new camera which was better and had decided that only two volunteers were required to operate the speed gun and take down car registration details. All agreed Cllr EN should investigate the cost of “Slow Down 30mph” stickers that Horringer residents have on their wheelie bins and perhaps apply for funding for them from Cllr AR’s locality budget for next year.  **Trees**  Cllr SD to look into replacing the millennium tree near Three Ways and moving the Jubilee tree at the Community Centre forward.  **Suffolk Association of Local Councils Report**  None  **Whepstead Community Association Report**  Cllr AM said there had been no meeting last week. The wine tasting had been a huge success raising £233. New bark had been laid in the play area. Cllrs AM and NA had spoken to Kevin Mayes about filling the potholes in the car park and were looking into lamps to light it.  **Chairman’s Comments**  Cllr GO thanked Cllr MM for organising the litter pick, Cllr AM for the use of his pick-up and Clerk DR for ringing round. Cllr RM thanked Cllr GO and his wife for providing refreshments and Cllr GO thanked Cllr RM for his help at the community centre. He said that Andrew Harvey from SEBC who delivered the pickers etc. was very impressed by Whepstead’s community spirit and said if we ever had problems, like fly tipping, to not hesitate in contacting him.  Commenting on concerns from a villager that the residents of Stag House might have been encouraged by Parish Council to put mud on the road in front of their house to create a grassy verge, all agreed that this was not the case and that it had been done on the residents’ own initiative. DR to thank her for the information and say the PC will monitor the situation.  Regarding reports of horses and scrambler bikes being spotted on the footpath by Leaf House and near the pump station at the bottom of Church Hill, DR to write and say the PC will monitor the situation.  Regarding the cutting back of the hedge part owned by Sally Tollhurst, she said that a number of local residents had asked her not to cut it, as it slowed traffic.  **Any Other Business**  None  The meeting closed at 9.05pm  Signed………………………………………………..Dated……………………… |