­­WHEPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting**

**Of the Parish Council held on**

**Wednesday April 2nd 2014 at 7pm**

Attendees: Councillor N Aitkens-NA

R Murray-RM

M Morris-MM

S Durrant-SD

A Maddever-AM

Clerk D Rix-DR

Borough Councillor A Rushen-AR

County Councillor T Clements-TC

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1/50 | **Apologies** Cllrs O’Dell and Nutt. |
| 2/51  4/52 | **Declarations of Interest**  None  **County Councillor’s Report** *(MM brought forward agenda item 4)*  DR had circulated Cllr TC’s report (attached) He urged DR to resubmit complaints about potholes and requests for VAS signs and anti-speeding measures previously requested and to copy him, Guy Smith and Angela Rushen into the correspondence. DR also to report the need for the white lines to be repainted where the B1066 meets the A143. Cllr TC was thanked for his offer of £1,000 towards the cost of the permissive path.  *Cllr AR arrived at 7.05pm* |
| 3/53  5/54  6/55  7/56  8/57  9/58  10/59  11/60  12/61  13/62  14/63  15/64  16/65  17/66  18/67  19/68  20/69  21/70  22/71 | **Borough Councillor’s Report**  DR had circulated AR’s report (attached) regarding Borough Councillors’ new Locality Budget of £2,500 from April. DR was asked to mention it in the newsletter and make the WCA aware of it too. Cllr AR said she will also raise it at the APM. In response to Cllr RM’s question regarding the closure of the tourist office, AR said the new tourist information hubs around the town will offer the same as the main tourist office and will be open an extra 400 hours a year. The current property will be let by owners the Town Trust.  She said that the most frequently asked question in the tourist office is ‘where are the loos?’ It seemed most people sought the information they required online.  Cllr NA asked that if BSE continues to be successful, will the Council consider park and ride in the town, as it was impossible to park last Saturday. Cllr TC said that it was very expensive - costing around £5 a car. AR said she will ask if it’s an option being considered. Cllr RM said in the light of Vision 2031’s 6,000 more homes in BSE it ought to be looked at. Cllr AM said it was only an issue on one day of the week, so would be hard to justify.  Cllr MM thanked AR and TC for attending and they left at 7.30pm.  **Community Police Officer’s Report**  None. Cllr NA said that around ten days ago, Nick Turner had a red Vauxhall van stolen from his yard. It was caught on CCTV. DR to report it to Bob Steel of Rural South Watch. Cllr RM urged DR to include a piece in the newsletter reminding villagers that there are thefts occurring.  **Public Forum**  None  **Planning Applications**  DR said that late today she had received an email regarding an application (DC/14/0327/HH) for a garage/workshop at Moat House, Tuffields Road, but had not received the hard copy as yet to pass to Cllrs RM and SD. Cllrs MM and AM had looked at it on line and although very big, did not object.  Whepstead Hall DC/14/0350/LB. Cllr RM said it would have little effect on the exterior of the property. Councillors agreed that, as the conservation officer would be involved where the original fabric of the building was concerned, they had no objection.  DR reported that a decision was still pending for Green Farm Barn but The Cottage and Dim Saesneg applications had been approved.  **Minutes of the Meeting held on February 26th 2014**  5/27 – Add ‘speed’ before ‘gun with the red dot on’  It was proposed by Cllr NA and seconded by Cllr SD that, subject to the above amendment, the minutes be accepted as a true record.  **Minutes of the Meeting held on March 19th 2014**  It was proposed by Cllr AM and seconded by Cllr SD that the minutes be accepted as a true record.  **Matters arising from the minutes of the Meeting on February 26th 2014**  DR said that Rev Canon Norburn would attend the APM if he was in good enough health. Cllr RM asked that it be noted for future APM’s that Lucille Payne from the CAB gave a very good talk.  **Matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting on March 19th 2014**  None  **Clerk’s Report**  DR said she had accepted Brian Carr’s quote for work on the war memorial and would look after the village sign while he was replacing the old post.  She asked for help in answering questions regarding the Locality Budget offer of £1,000 for the new permissive path. She had written to Robin Drayton regarding the trees in the churchyard and had asked Andrew Harvey about a poster for the village about litter. She would report the potholes again.  Cllr RM requested the planning document from the meeting attended by DR and GO be circulated in the correspondence folder again.  **Finance**  There were five invoices for payment:  SALC 6 months payroll £16.80  WCA Jan-Mar room hire £25  Clerk’s fees £774.30  Clerk’s tax £193.60  Clerk’s expenses £142.78  The authorisation of the payments was proposed by Cllr AM and seconded by Cllr NA and the cheques signed. Cllr AM and Cllr NA proposed and seconded that the bank reconciliation be signed by Cllr MM.  DR said that the WPC audit date was July 14 and that approval of the accounts had to be before June 30, so she would circulate them ahead of the May 28th meeting.  DR said that there was no longer a two signature rule for cheque signing to free councils to bank via the internet. But DR said that she would be happier to stick with the current system. Councillors agreed it would mitigate risk.  DR also mentioned an online consultation regarding the exemption of councils with a turnover below £25,000 to have their accounts externally audited. New transparency requirements would have to come into force instead. Councillors and DR agreed that they would be happy to stick with the current system of audit.  **Bank balances at 28th February 2014**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Balance in treasurers account | £1,629.64 | | Savings account | £10,422.46 | | Total | £12,052.10 | | Less cheques not presented | Nil | | Total | £12,052.10 |   **Footpaths, Highways and Byways**  Cllr NA to report to Theo Cutting that we have secured another £1,000 of funding for the path and it was agreed that it should be mentioned at the APM and a map of the new path put up on display.  **Correspondence**  DR said she thought that this year would be a good one to enter the Suffolk Village of the Year competition which was open to villages with up to 500 electors. The deadline was May 17th. The prize money £500. Councillors agreed.  **Broadband**  Councillors said there seemed little evidence locally of superfast broadband being installed despite mention of more funding. Cllr NA urged everyone to question friends in other villages about their experience and report back.  **Speedwatch**  Nothing to report.  **Trees**  Cllr SD said that he would talk to Cllr O’Dell about chopping down long branches of some trees on Straight Road.  **Suffolk Association of Local Council’s Report**  None. Unfortunately no one had managed to attend the SALC meeting held in the community centre on March 12th.  **Whepstead Community Association’s Report**  None.  **Annual Parish Meeting**  Speakers agreed included Cllrs AR and TC, Jordan Hughes (St. Nicholas Hospice) and hopefully the Revd. Canon Norburn. Cllr MM to chase Gemma O’Shea. Cllr EN - Speed Watch, Book Club, History group and Whepstead Walkers, Steve Nutt - owl boxes and Emergency Plan. Cllr MM - affordable housing and broadband and mention that a new leader for the Emergency Plan was required, Cllr NA - permissive path. DR - drinks, nibbles etc.  Regarding the affordable housing, Cllr NA said that he had spoken to Sue Philp from Suffolk Housing who said applications ‘go live’ six weeks before completion which she thought would be some time in May. DR to mention this in the newsletter and to urge people to contact anyone who has expressed an interest in moving back to the village. DR to contact Housing Link to get full details of the application process. Agenda for the meeting to be sent out earlier than usual.  **Chairman’s Comments**  Cllr MM urged anyone with comments or ideas for the APM to get in touch within the next 10 days or so.  **Affordable Housing**  Cllr MM asked Cllr NA where things stood with naming the new housing development. The Council had rejected the proposed ‘Chapel Field’  Cllr NA thought that, as there were enough references in the village to Mickley Green, it would be poignant to use the name of a villager who had died in the 1st war, as 2014 was its anniversary. Although two families (Rolfe and Bumstead) had lost two sons, William Flack had lived in Mickley Green and had been the first member of the Suffolk Regiment to die in August 1914 at the battle of Mons.  Cllr MM asked if permission would be needed from the family and whether they could be traced. Cllr NA had spoken to Sue Philp at Suffolk Housing who said not. But NA would contact Colin Smith at the regimental museum to see if the family could be traced. It was unanimously decided to call the new development William Flack Place. DR to report name to Martin Last and Sue Philp.  **Any Other Business**  None  The meeting closed at 8.50pm  Signed……………………………………Dated…………………………… |