­­WHEPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting**

**Of the Parish Council held on**

**Wednesday July 2nd at 7.30pm**

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

E Nutt-EN

N Aitkens-NA

A Maddever-AM

M Morris-MM

S Durrant-SD

Clerk D Rix-DR

Member of the public D Stratford

PCSO P Sinclair

County Councillor T Clements

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| 1/103 | **Apologies for Absence** Cllr R Murray (holiday) |
| 5/104 | **Community Police Officer’s Report** *(Cllr GO brought forward agenda item 5)*  Although there had been no crimes in Whepstead since our last meeting, there had been two burglaries, one in Cook’s Lane, Brockley, the other in Hargrave, both on June 30th. Regarding the hit and run cycle incident on Brockley Road, PCSO Sinclair said they had a suspect, but have eliminated him. Speedwatch was going well and would move further into the village. (PCSO Sinclair left) |
| 2/105  3/106  6/107  7/108  8/109  9/110  4/111  10/112  11/113  12/114  13/115  14/116  15/117  16/118  17/119  18/120  19/121  20/122  21/123  22/124 | **Declarations of Interest**  None  **Borough Councillor’s Report**  As a time-saving measure, Cllr Rushen would in future circulate her report with the agenda and if on the back of that councillors wanted her to attend meetings, she would.  **Public Forum**  Cllr GO invited Ms Stratford to speak. She thanked councillors for the dimming of the street light opposite her house, but reiterated her request for white lines to be painted on the road outside her house as a possible speed reducing measure. Cllr NA cautioned against the positioning of concrete blocks or similar on the verge outside people’s properties. If a car hit the block and the driver sued the homeowner, the homeowner’s insurer would not cover them. Homeowners are liable for anything that happens 5ft from the edge of their property.  **Planning Applications**  Cllr GO said that both applications for a replacement barn at Maddever Farms and the cutting of trees in the cemetery had been approved.  Councillors voted to support the application DC/14/0835/HH at Larkhill, Rede Road for a side extension and other works.  **Minutes of the Meetings held on May 28th and June 19th**  Cllr SD proposed and Cllr EN seconded the signing of the minutes as a true record.  **Matters arising from the Minutes of the Meetings on May 28 and June 19**  Cllr EN asked about a children crossing sign and white fencing in the village. DR said that Cllr TC was due to attend and we could ask him.  **County Councillor’s Report** *(Cllr TC arrived at 7.45pm and Cllr GO returned to agenda item 4)*  Cllr TC urged the clerk to email him regarding outstanding requests for signs, fencing, another VAS signpost, white lines etc. and to copy the email to Guy Smith and Steve Boor. Regarding the VAS signs, he said he had bought three, which he hoped local villages could rotate. More information would be sent out about them soon. TC said that our request for £1,000 for the path from his Locality Budget had gone through. DR to also mention adverse camber at the north entry to the village, where at least two cars a year end up in the ditch. *(Cllr TC left the meeting at 8.08pm)*  **Clerk’s Report**  DR said that Brian Carr hoped to start work on the war memorial in the next few days. Suffolk Housing thought the planting of a memorial tree was a good idea at the new development and they would talk to their landscapers about where to plant it.  **Finance**  There were four invoices presented for payment:  WCA Hall Hire £56  DR (clerk’s fees) £999.02  HMRC (clerk’s tax) £85.20  DR expenses £110.51  It was proposed by Cllr NA and seconded by Cllr AM that the cheques be signed and the monthly reconciliation for the end of May was approved as correct. DR said that she would send the annual accounts to BDO LLP before the July 14th deadline.  **Bank balances at 30th May 2014**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Balance in treasurers account | £8,857.16 | | Savings account | £10,423.72 | | Total | £19,280.88 | | Less cheques not presented | Nil | | Total | £19,280.88 |   **Footpaths, Highways and Byways**  Cllr NA presented a map with the proposed new footpath at the bottom of Church Hill which he would confirm with Theo Cutting. All agreed that it would really open up the rest of the village to Old School Road walkers. He said that the path behind the hedge on the B1066 between the Havebury Homes and Tuffields Road was being used regularly.  The path down Fern Hill had been cut and Cllrs GO and NA would build a wooden step at the bottom of Fern Hill next Wednesday.  DR was asked to report broken sleepers on the footbridge on FP4 behind Cllr AM’s land and FP6 opposite Cllr SD’s house.  DR to find out who is responsible for the cutting of hedge growth alongside paths and to write to Mr & Mrs Hill of Whepstead Manor (formerly Kinvara) regarding the one running alongside their property.  Cllr AM to talk to Mr & Mrs Lambert at Whepstead Hall regarding the cutting of the land around the bus stop, bench and memorial.  **Correspondence**  None  **Broadband**  DR reported that Jonathan Chown said the second procurement process was going well and that SCC was on track to sign a contract in September. He was happy to come to a meeting then, when he hoped he would be able to give Whepstead a date for fibre upgrade. Cllr NA said he had noticed a new green box in Lawshall.  **Speedwatch**  Cllr GO congratulated the speedwatch volunteers. Cllr EN said they had reported 4 speeding drivers (+35mph) on the first day, 7 the next, 12 the next and then 7. She said John Grigg was to join the team. GO, Steve Bonney and Deborah Stratford also to join in.  **Trees**  Cllr NA asked Cllr SD if the advice regarding Ash die back had changed. And if so DR to report it in the newsletter.  **Suffolk Association of Local Councils**  No report  **Whepstead Community Association Report**  The fete raised a fantastic £1,350. The scarecrow trail event was in limbo and the Jumble sale was to move from the morning to the afternoon so not to clash with a similar Horringer event. All agreed the WCA committee do a great job.  **Donations**  DR had received requests from the Samaritans, EACH, Avenues East and Headway Suffolk. She reminded councillors that last year the WPC had donated £100 to St Edmunds Archers and £20 to CAB. After discussion it was decided to send £40 to CAB and £75 to Samaritans, as that was the amount set aside in the precept.  **Chairman’s Comments**  Cllr GO said he was disappointed to see village fliers being delivered by the postman, who probably found it difficult to refuse, but who could lose his job over it.  **Affordable Housing**  DR reported that bidding on the new properties would run from July 9th to July 16th. Councillors to spread the word. DR to ask Sue Philp if the councillors can have a sneak preview of the houses before tenants move in.  **Any Other Business**  None  The meeting closed at 9.05pm  Signed………………………………………………  Dated………………………………………… |
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