**Draft Minutes of the Meeting**

**Of the Parish Council held on**

**Wednesday November 4th at 7pm**

Attendees: Councillors N Aitkens - NA

M Morris – MM

S Durrant - SD

A Robertson – ARR

D Till – DT

L Smith - LS

Clerk D Rix – DR

Members of the public Mr J Jump

Mr & Mrs E Cantillon

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| 1/161  2/162  3/163  4/164  5/165  13/166  7/167  8/168  9/169  10/170  6/171  11/172  12/173  14/174  15/175  16/176  17/177  18/178  19/179  20/180 | **Apologies for Absence** Cllr Mann (away) Cllr Clements and Cllr Rushen  **Declarations of Interest**  None  **Borough Councillor’s Report** *(attached)*  Highlights from Cllr AR’s report included news that SEBC is to invest £39,500 in the bus station to achieve savings and potential for further income. The first stage towards the development of a significant new leisure facility is also underway at Park Farm, Ingham and SEBC has voted to upgrade the street lights it owns and transfer about half to SCC reducing maintenance costs by £157,000 a year.  **County Councillor’s Report** *(attached)*  Highlights from Cllr TC’s report included news that Suffolk’s 16 year olds have performed better at GCSE than the national figure for the first time since 2007. He said that SCC was seeking parental input on its proposed admissions policy, ensuring school places are offered to children in a fair way. DR to mention how parents can have their say in the newsletter.  **Community Police Officer’s Report**  Our local PCSO said that village crime reports will be hard to provide in future as a new computer system doesn’t allow it. However the police will still provide information on trending crimes like lead theft from churches, burglaries and speed check figures and will try to come to meetings when they can.  Regarding lead thefts, Cllr NA said that Whepstead church had no lead and the doors were now left unlocked.  **Neighbourhood Watch Scheme** *(Cllr NA brought forward agenda item 13)*  Cllr LS said that the village was now registered with Neighbourhood Watch and that she would send a letter to all those who were happy to be coordinators for their roads asking them for their email addresses and mobile phone numbers so that information could be shared quickly.  It was agreed that policing has changed radically and the more that we can do to help ourselves the better. Cllr LS will attend a local policing information evening event on December 10th in Ipswich.  **Planning Applications** *(Cllr NA brought forward agenda item 7)*  **DC/15/2102/TCA – Whepstead Hall, Brockley Road**  To fell 7 conifers. Councillors voted to support the application.  **DC/15/2100/LB and DC/15/2099/HH – Whepstead Hall, Brockley Road**  Installation of a swimming pond in the rear garden. It was agreed to support the application  **DC/15/2016/HH – Satchels, Old School Road**  (i) Porch (ii) conversion of car port to garage (iii) loft conversion and (iv) associated alterations. Councillors voted to support the application.  Cllr DT asked what influence the Parish Council had with planning decisions. Cllr NA said that as long as we were positive or negative, consistent and attended meetings with development control if we felt strongly about an application, then he felt we did have some influence.  *(Cllr NA delayed the public forum and discussing planning application DC/15/1915/FUL as he was aware that villagers were coming to the meeting to discuss it)*  **Minutes of the Meeting held on October 7th 2015**.  It was proposed by Cllr ARR and seconded by Cllr MM that the minutes were a true and accurate record of the meeting and should be signed by the Chairman.  **Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on October 7th 2015**  Cllr NA mentioned that the funding of the 30mph bin stickers had been well received. Cllr ARR said that the application for a defibrillator was in hand and that she had put the Community Centre down as a possible location, but was aware that the bus stop had been discussed. She said that no timescale had been given and asked for support when decisions needed to be made.  **Clerk’s Report**  DR had referred Di Howe to Suffolk Housing following her request for a “children playing” sign at William Flack Place. She had mentioned dog fouling, the Ickworth historian and Fit Villages in the newsletter.  Mark Wray is going to put the village footpath map on the wall in the hall of the Community Centre. DR had asked the PC’s insurer Came & Co about a joint insurance policy with the WCA, but they can’t quote as the WCA are in a three year deal until the end of March 2018.  Having forwarded information regarding the Queen’s 90th birthday celebrations to the WCA, they have agreed to organise a fete and tea party on June 11th.  DR thanked Cllr MM for backing up the PC laptop and helping her overcome a few glitches. He suggested DR purchase a memory stick for future back-ups.  DR has reported the potential visibility hazard at the Gypsy Lane junction. Alan Perkins has purchased £30 worth of bluebells which the footpath working party planted yesterday, whilst also clearing up the walk along the river and the front of the Community Centre. Mr Perkins won’t submit a bill yet, in case they felt the need for more bulbs.  John Hooper phoned to complain about the full bin at the bus stop. Cllr NA to empty it and DR to remind him in future.  DR said she had reported the obstructed public footpath (1) on land at Pattles Grove and the removal of a stile and footpath sign.  She had forwarded a useful police document on Church Security to Robin Drayton and she had let Tom Nunn – from SCC’s resource management team – know that the laurel hedge on Church Hill still hadn’t been removed by the owners of West Barn and that it would be good if it was gone by Sunday as the Remembrance Service involves churchgoers walking from the church to the war memorial. Cllr NA said that some paving stones that had been laid would be a trip hazard and would need dealing with too.  DR drew councillors’ attention to the fact that neighbouring Lawshall was drawing up a Neighbourhood Development Plan and if they wanted to comment on it they had until Dec 1. DR to speak to Lawshall’s clerk to find out more. DR said that the community speed watch team had thanked the PC for fully financing the 30mph bin stickers and wanted to know if we would consider the erection of small “we’re a speed aware village” style signs around the village. DR to ask Jane Alfred what size they are, how many they want and where they want to put them.  DR updated councillors on the progress of the diversion of the footpath at the bottom of Church Hill. The statutory consultations have been completed with no representations for reconsideration. The draft order, to be sealed by Suffolk Legal and advertised (triggering a 28 day objection period), should happen later this month. So assuming no objections, SCC should be able to confirm the order early in the New Year. Following that, Mr Cutting would then be asked to sign the Creation Agreement to bring the new footpath into being. DR to confirm costs.  *(Mr Jump and Mr & Mrs Cantillon arrived at 7.30pm. Cllr NA returned to agenda item 6 and 7)*  **Public Forum**  Mr Jump and the Cantillons said they had not been sent details of the planning application submitted by Pattles Grove Stud - as Adrian Wilson had - despite being neighbours. Planning had apologised and extended their consultation period for a further 21 days. DR confirmed that she had received and circulated to councillors a copy of Adam Ford the enforcement officer’s letter to Angela Rushen, a copy of a letter from Adrian Wilson to the case officer Charlotte Waugh and a map showing the alleged planning breaches. Mr Jump provided the PC with an aerial photograph of Pattles Grove and Plumpton.  Mr Jump reiterated his concern from the previous PC meeting that a planning application should not have been submitted, as there are a number of covenants in place restricting development. Mr Cantillon was concerned about the development causing drainage problems on his land, the potential for disease, the lack of a concrete business plan or business track record in running a stud, the contravention of policy DM32 for equestrian development which states that the siting of additional buildings should be close to existing ones. The Cantillons questioned what would happen if the Pattles Grove Stud business fails - which they said seemed likely given the small amount of land the owner was proposing to run it on – and what all the buildings would be developed into next. Why, asked Mr Cantillon, did the owner - some time ago - turn stables into accommodation if he wanted to run a stud. He was also concerned that a neighbouring fence had been knocked down and a tall building with a window overlooking his yard erected in its place.  Cllr MM remembered that the previous owner of Pattles Grove, Martin Perceval, had applied for an extra dwelling, and had had to come up with a business plan, but had been turned down.  Cllr NA made clear to members of the public that the PC had to look at the planning application on its own merit.  **DC/15/1915/FUL Pattles Grove, Chedburgh Road**  (i) Change of use from agricultural land to horse stud farm (ii) proposed stables, barn, office, yard, horse walker, lunge ring and parade ring (iii) associated landscaping and access.  Cllr NA said that he was concerned by the level of development and felt it was a massive overdevelopment of a very small site, which originally had only a two bedroomed cottage and a few agricultural buildings on it.  It seemed that approval had been given for an extension to be built for someone to be employed to look after horses but that this had now been incorporated into the main property. He said that planning enforcement seemed to be taking the matter very seriously.  Councillors agreed that the development was too much for such a small site. Cllr MM said that the application was completely flawed and councillors made the unanimous decision to reject the application. DR to report decision.  (*Members of the public left the meeting at 20.02pm)*  **Finance**  There was 1 invoice for payment:  SALC – 6 months payroll £`16.80  It was proposed by Cllr DT and seconded by Cllr ARR that the cheque be paid and the bank reconciliation for the end of September be duly signed.  **Bank balance at 30th September 2015**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Balance in Treasurers Account | 10,737.92 | | Savings account | 10,430.68 | | Total | 21,168.60 | | Less cheques not presented | nil | | Total | 21,168.60 |   Precept  DR had received the tax base figure of 215.57, but the Borough Council had to ratify this at a full council meeting in December, so we could only agree the Precept in principal.  Councillors had been given a copy of the draft precept at the previous meeting. DR confirmed that we had just over £21,000 in the bank and that the footpath (1) diversion and creation costs would hopefully be fully met by Cllr Clement’s £1,000 contribution and the £1,000 kindly offered by Mr Cutting.  DR said that based on keeping our requirements at last year’s level of £8,730 with the reductions in the Parish Revenue Support Grant to £520 (£663) and Local Council Tax Support Grant to £11 (£22) we would be asking for a precept of £8,199, £154 more. As our tax base had risen from 208.35 to 215.57 that would mean a cost to Band D households in the village of £38.03, 58p less than last year. Cllr NA asked DR to work out what the cost to villagers would be if we asked for the same precept as last year.  Precept to be approved at December’s meeting. Cllr NA asked Cllr ARR if she could get a copy of the WCA’s accounts as it would be useful to see if there were any areas – like insurance – where the PC could help.  Clerk’s Pay  DR explained to councillors that she had received a pay rise from £8.31 to £8.631 in January which was effective until March next year and that she was happy with that. Her mileage allowance was 0.587p a mile and she received £30 a month for broadband and telephone costs.  **Footpaths, Highways and Byways**  DR to write to Cllr Clements about the ridiculous road closures in the village recently. Cllr DT said that in getting home one evening he passed through three “road closed” signs as there were gaps and he saw no roadworks at all, but found a SCC JCB and truck in his drive!  DR to invite grass cutting quotes via the village newsletter as our contract runs out at the end of January. She has left a message with David Gotts from Hartest asking him to quote. Cllr MM said that from the Cricket team’s point of view, they could not have been happier with the job that was done this year.  Regarding a bike stand at the bus stop, DR said she had spoken to planning and that no planning permission was required if we attach a stand to the back of the Bus Stop, as it is a PC asset and not owned by SCC. The West Suffolk Parks Department suggested we look at stands provided by [www.barrriersdirect.co.uk](http://www.barrriersdirect.co.uk) DR said that a wall mounted rack for four bikes cost £80.83 + VAT. DR to ask Brian Carr to quote for the work and erecting some fence screening between the bus stop and East Barn. DR to write to the residents of Hall Cottage, Whepstead Hall and East Barn.  **Broadband**  Jonathan Chown – Suffolk Better Broadband - had apologised that he couldn’t make the meeting but had sent an update. He said that it was quite a critical time as they were formalising the rollout plan for 2016-19. The infill/stop gap scheme is also ready and being piloted. He expected the majority of the central part of the village to be served from Phase 1 – over 120 premises – which should be ready for service around the middle of next year. Phase 2 will rely upon more complex work and technology, with telephone lines needing to be re-routed onto completely new green cabinets and that should happen later in 2016 and early 2017. DR to publish postcodes of the 112 premises due to benefit from the 1st phase and give a general update in the newsletter.  **Trees**  Cllr NA said that he has a 6ft oak that could replace the dead tree opposite Three Ways. Cllr NA to talk to Steve Nutt.  **Suffolk Association of Local Councils**  DR passed details of the SALC AGM on November 12th to Cllr SD.  **Whepstead Community Association Report**  At the WCA meeting on October 13th Cllr ARR had informed the committee that the defibrillator funding was available in full provided we fulfil certain criteria which includes committing to CPR training. She had completed the application on line. The proposed First Aid course is likely to be early in the New Year. The Curry Night was a great success and raised £861. Fun, Food & Fireworks is on November 7th and the Queen’s 90th birthday celebration was agreed for June 11th. The next meeting is November 17th.  **Correspondence**  DR mentioned an offer of funding from Tesco from its 5p plastic bag charge.  **Chairman’s Comments**  Cllr NA asked councillors to consider whether they would be interested in becoming Parish Council chair next year. Cllr DT said that he was amazed at the amount of emails and paperwork involved with Parish Council. DR will try to filter it more.  **Any Other Business**  DR suggested a date for the Litter Pick of February 21st. DR to ask the Borough Council for road signs either end of the B1066 warning motorists that the pick is in progress.  The meeting closed at 20.50pm.  Signed………………………………..Dated…………………………………. |