­­WHEPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

 **Minutes of the Meeting**

**Of the Parish Council held on**

**Wednesday November 5th at 7pm**

Attendees: Councillors G O’Dell - GO

M Morris - MM

 E Nutt - EN

 N Aitkens - NA

 A Maddever - AM

 S Durrant – SD

 R Murray - RM

Clerk D Rix - DR

County Councillor T Clements - TC

Borough Councillor A Rushen - AR

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| 1/1722/173 | **Apologies for Absence**None. Cllr GO thanked Cllr MM for chairing the last meeting in his absence.**Declarations of Interest** None |
| 3/174 | **Borough Councillor’s Report** *(Report attached)*AR said that there would be another committee meeting regarding the Old Post Office application on December 4th as the owners had reduced the building size so that it stays within the original footprint. She also said that people were to be asked to vote on whether they still want One Bury (the umbrella group for Bury in Bloom, the Xmas Fayre and Free after Three parking initiative) to exist. If they support it, businesses will continue to contribute 1.75% of their business rates to it, if not, it will fold at the end of March. Cllr GO complained about resident parking in Bury which continues to spread, while the parking spaces remain empty for most of the day. It was terrible for rural communities wanting to visit the town he said. Cllr RM asked AR to investigate the state of the roads around Lower Baxter Street.  |
| 4/1755/1766/1777/1788/1799/18010/18111/18212/18313/18414/18515/18616/18717/18818/18919/19020/19121/19222/193 | **County Councillor’s Report** *(TC arrived at 7.10pm. Report attached)*TC’s agreement to fund a dropped kerb and white fencing was discussed. SCC had quoted £350 for the kerb and £1,000 for two white gates, plus a potential £1,250 at each location if road closure is required. DR to establish whether this was for gates at both ends of the village on the B1066.DR to contact Gemma O’Shea as Locality Budget cheque, that Cllr AR has agreed for VAS post and bracket, cannot be made out to Parish Council. Cllr AM agreed it could be paid into the WCA account and that he would pass on the money to Community Speed Watch. NA mentioned that white lines need to be painted in the middle of the road near Halfway House and DR to ask for a skid warning sign for the bend there, which all thought they had seen once before. *(Cllrs TC and AR left the meeting at 7.35pm)***Community Police Officer’s Report**One crime has occurred since our last meeting. There was a theft from a motor vehicle on Rectory Road between October 24th and 26th, where a handbag was taken from a car parked on a driveway and later found further down the road with the contents removed from it. The car had not been locked. DR to mention in newsletter and urge villagers to be vigilant.**Public Forum** None**Planning Applications** The planning applications for 3 Ark Cottages and Cromwell Cottage had been approved. DR said she had reported the decision by councillors that they had no objection to the application for Willow Cottage on Rectory Road on October 29th. **Minutes of the Meeting held on September 24th 2014**Cllr SD proposed and Cllr EN seconded the signing of the minutes as a true record. **Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on September 24th**Regarding the permissive path, Cllr NA said that, having staked the new path, he and DR were at the form filling stage with Theo Cutting. NA to ask if villagers can get ahead and start clearing the area.**Clerk’s Report**DR said although agreeing to two white gates and the dropped kerb, which Cllr TC said he would fund, David Stiles said that after looking at accident data for Brockley Road he could not justify any more signage or white lines outside Stag House. DR urged to ask for two sets of white gates or nothing. DR to add the VAS, which GO had taken delivery of, to our insurance policy when we get a schedule of dates that we are having it in the village. DR reminded councillors that our meetings are open to scrutiny and can now be filmed and then broadcast on social media. She said that as elections will be held on May 7th next year, councillors would retire or become elected four days later on the 11th and councils by law must hold their AGM within 14 days of that date, which means no later than May 25th. That means we need to bring forward our AGM to May 20th. DR to check availability and book with Di Howe. DR was urged to mention (from January) that if villagers were interested in becoming a councillor to come and sit in on our meetings and get a feel for what was involved. DR to add a link to a good website on the subject too.Regarding HMRC she said new £100 late penalties will be incurred for late submissions for employees paid quarterly as DR is. The new rules apply from March 6th. DR to investigate moving meetings to coincide with payment dates. DR said the printer was useless and councillors supported her request to buy a new one. She mentioned that Samsung Xpress M2022, a mono laser printer which looked much like the old one, was £79 +VAT. **Finance**There were four cheques for signing:Clerk’s pay (July – Sep) £992.38Clerk’s tax (July – Sep) £84Clerk’s expenses (July – Sep) £198.61SALC six months payroll £16.80DR explained that HSBC was investigating a potential error. The £40 cheque paid to CAB had appeared on the bank statement as £40.80, so the reconciliations for the months ending September and October were 80p out. On that basis, it was proposed by Cllr EN and seconded by Cllr RM that the cheques be signed. Also, on that basis, it was proposed by Cllr MM and seconded by Cllr NA that the monthly reconciliation for the end of September and October be approved as correct*. (Cllr AM left the meeting at 8.15pm)***Bank balances at 30th September 2014**

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| Balance in Treasurers Account |  £7.049.35 |
| Savings account | £10,425.47 |
| Total | £17,474.82 |
| Less cheques not presented |  Nil |
| Total | £17,474.82 |

**Bank balances at 30th October 2014**

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| --- | --- |
| Balance in Treasurers Account |  £6,690.35 |
| Savings account | £10,425.90 |
| Total | £17,116.25 |
| Less cheques not presented |  Nil |
| Total | £17,116.25 |

**Precept**DR circulated a draft precept and said that the Parish Revenue Support Grant and the Local Council Tax Support Grant were falling by another 25% this year from £823 to £663 for the former and from £34 to £23 for the latter. If we were to ask for the same £8,730 funding for 2015/16 as we were currently getting, then our precept would be £8,044. Assuming the same tax base (212.44) then we would be asking villagers for a £37.86 contribution from their council tax compared to £37.05 last year, an 81p rise. She explained that we had two more meetings before having to complete, sign and submit the forms before January 31st. RM proposed and NA seconded that the draft precept be accepted, subject to no alterations in the tax base before the end of January. **Footpaths, Highways and Byways**Cllr EN said despite repeated requests there was still no parent and child sign in Rectory Road. Villagers had also requested a dog waste bin near the footpath next to the Chapel. DR to remind villagers to take home their dog’s waste particularly where there are children and pushchairs. DR to justify the need for a poo bin saying there are five new homes and six more dogs in that area and find out the implications in terms of emptying.Cllr EN mentioned the dumping of litter at the bottom of Church Hill and the need to fill in a large hole where a tree has been removed. DR to ask for a skid warning sign near Halfway House. Just a snowflake in a triangular sign would suffice. Regarding Theo’s path DR to set up a date for a form filling meeting. Cllr GO said he had reported a lamp out next to the chapel. DR to remind people to take home their litter. It is an offence to fly tip. Requests for a village footpath map have been made. Agreed need to add the new one first.**Correspondence**SALC’s AGM is on November 12th at Henley.**Broadband**More funding has been secured and the Better Broadband programme is ahead of schedule.**Speedwatch**Cllr EN said she was frustrated that the police were providing no feedback after they had submitted information. One persistent offender, from Essex, needs catching, but Essex police are not interested as he offends in Suffolk. Trish is also due to retire. Cllr GO showed everyone the new camera which he would organise to be erected and was happy to look after. DR to insure when she gets the schedule. Cllr NA said he would look at a suitable spot for the new pole and bracket at the Brockley end of the village. Cllrs EN and GO to establish a good location for a parent and child sign in Rectory Road. Cllr EN to involve the children locally. **Trees**Cllr SD reported that Michael will come and look at the dead Millenium oak tree at the junction of ‘Three Ways’. Cllr AM to talk to the WCA about bringing forward by a few meters the Jubilee tree which is struggling to survive. Cllr RM offered leaf mould.**Suffolk Association of Local Councils Report**None**Whepstead Community Association Report**Fireworks night was a huge success with over 200 attending. Cllr GO reminded Cllr AM that the banner at the junction of the B1066 with A143 needs removing. **Affordable Housing**DR to let Hannah Gardner know that all the councillors would like to attend the event and the buffet afterwards and to confirm details with everyone and ask again about press coverage. Cllr GO proposed that affordable housing can, in future, be dropped as an agenda item. **Chairman’s Comments**DR to ask grass cutters if they could ‘spike’ the cricket square (roped off area) ahead of next year’s cricket season and to ask if grass cutting could continue to coincide with match schedules. Cllr MM to supply DR with match dates. **Any Other Business**Cllr SD said flooding outside Hugh Maddever’s home was terrible when it rained. The meeting closed at 9.25pmSigned………………………………………………..Dated……………………… |
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