**Minutes of the Meeting**

**Of the Whepstead Parish Council held on**

**Wednesday October 7th at 7.30pm**

Attendees: Councillors N Aitkens - NA

M Morris – MM

S Durrant - SD

A Robertson – ARR

D Till – DT

N Mann - NM

Clerk D Rix – DR

Borough Cllr A Rushen – AR

Members of the public A Wilson

Mr & Mrs J Jump

Mr & Mrs E Cantillon

Mr S Bonney

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1/141  2/142  3/143  4/144  5/145  6/146  7/147  8/148  9/149  10/150  11/151  12/152  13/153  14/154  15/155  16/156  17/157  18/158  19/159  20/160 | **Apologies for Absence** Cllr Linda Smith (holiday)  **Declarations of Interest**  None  **Borough Councillor’s Report *(attached)***  Cllr NA read out Cllr AR’s report which included news that from next April the charge for brown bin garden waste to be collected will be £35 to £50 a year.  **County Councillor’s Report *(attached)***  Cllr NA read out Cllr TC’s report which included details of a bid to find locations for short stay stopping sites for the traveller community and a Fit Villages campaign. DR to mention the latter in the newsletter.  **Community Police Officer’s Report**  There have been three crimes in the village since our last meeting. Burglary other building where entry was forced into a garage and a number of power and hand tools removed between 8.30 and 10pm on September 15th. Theft from a motor vehicle where entry was forced into a horsebox and a number of riding jackets taken overnight between September 15th and 16th and on the same night interference with a motor vehicle where entry was forced into a horsebox but nothing taken.  **Public Forum**  Cllr NA welcomed everyone and circulated a letter from Mr Wilson addressed to the enforcement team at St Edmundsbury Borough Council. In it, he voiced his and other villager concerns about the development of Pattles Grove, since it was purchased in 2011.  These included the scale of the development, its design and impact on neighbouring properties, the effect on both flora and fauna, the apparent demolition of listed buildings and the lack of any planning permission or listed building consent granted for the majority of the work.  He said that there had been damage to the site through tree felling, road construction and waste tipping.  Mr Jump said he was concerned that developments were taking place that neighbours had not been consulted on. He was also aware of a number of listed buildings at Pattles Grove that had been demolished.  Mr Wilson said that only yesterday new footings had gone in for a building they had not been consulted on.  Cllr AR assured everyone that the enforcement team at the Borough Council were “onto it” and had been alerted three weeks ago via an anonymous telephone call. But they did have a backlog of 160 cases to deal with.  Concerns were also raised that the property was now being marketed through Bedfords as an up and running stud and yet there was no bloodstock there. The latest development involved the erection of a horse walker and stables, yet previous developments by the current owner had involved the conversion of stables into a gym and a cinema which appeared to have been absorbed into the house.  Mr Cantillon mentioned the recent demolition of an adjoining wall of a listed building, which now meant that his property was overlooked.  He also said that landfill rubble had been brought onto the site and dumped over trees, which he believed to be illegal.  Hard tarmaced roads and brick buildings that looked like bus shelters had been erected which were totally out of keeping in a rural environment. He also voiced concerns about the danger of disease being spread to horses on his stud.  Mr Jump said that when he had sold the land to the previous owner, there were restrictive covenants put in place, which still stood.  Cllr AR assured everyone that something was being done and to continue to copy her into any correspondence.  Mr Wilson also raised the recent closure of Horringer Court Post Office and asked if there was a forum where concerns about PO closures could be made. DR to investigate.  *(Mr Wilson, Mr & Mrs Jump, Mr & Mrs Cantillon left the meeting)*  Mr Bonney reminded the PC about his request last year for white lines outside his property as a speed calming measure. He said that as a result of an incident with a neighbour a representative from the Highways department had visited and agreed to monitor the weight and speed of traffic outside Stag House on Brockley Road. As a result of their findings – nearly 50% of cars travel over 36mph - they agreed that it warranted some speed calming action. But he was concerned that he had heard nothing since. DR to pass on SCC Cllr Terry Clement’s email to Mr Bonney. Cllr AR said that the assistant manager had recently left the Highways department which could explain why Mr Bonney has been slow to hear from them. Mr Bonney shared his suggestions for possible calming measures with the PC and Cllr AR which included an extension to the footway on the road opposite Stag House.  Regarding Community Speed Watch, Mr Bonney said that volunteers were monitoring vehicle speeds at least once a week and that Lizzie Nutt had purchased 50 30mph stickers for residents to stick on refuse bins. Cllr MM to scan Community Speed Watch figures and circulate to other councillors.  **Planning Applications**  **DC/15/1524/VAR** for West View, Old School Road involving the removal of a privacy screen from a Juliette balcony had been approved.  **Minutes of the Meeting held on August 19th 2015**.  It was proposed by Cllr MM and seconded by Cllr DT 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 August 19th 2015**  None  **Clerk’s Report**  DR said that she had voiced the PC’s concerns about the proposed closure of the Magistrate’s court to Matthew Hancock MP and had reported the pothole on Chedburgh Road. There had been a complaint about the hedge outside Fieldfare encroaching on the road and one from Phil Finch about the height of Colin Smith’s hedge. Cllr NA to take a look. Cllr ARR said that Phil Finch had passed away last weekend.  A complaint about dog fouling on Rectory Road and a request for a ‘Children Playing’ sign to be erected at the entrance to William Flack Place had also been made. DR to mention dog fouling in the newsletter. Cllr NA said that Suffolk Housing were responsible for the road in William Flack Place and suggested they are approached.  DR said that she had delivered a bottle of wine to Robin Drayton and thanked him for internally auditing the accounts. She had purchased a frame for the village footpath map costing £54.73and would ask Di Howe which wall we could put it on.  DR said Community Speed Watch had requested the funding of 50 30mph bin stickers costing £47.50. The PC agreed to support them from its Open Spaces Fund.  DR said that she had looked at the PC’s insurance and couldn’t see where there might be overlap with the WCA’s, but she would ask to see the WCA policy and look at it in more detail.  Regarding funding available for villages to comply with the Transparency Code, DR to ask Graham O’Dell if he would like to make an application for funding as he was the one who incurred costs in putting information on the website. DR asked for a meeting with Cllr MM to discuss some problems she was having with the PC laptop.  **Finance**  There were 7 invoices for payment:  Clerk’s Fees - £970.17  Clerk’s Tax - £72  Clerk’s Expenses – £173.32  SALC (cllr briefings) £24  Vertas (grass cutting 6mths) - £802.20  Steve Nutt (poppy wreath) - £17  Lizzie Nutt (for 30mph bin stickers) - £47.50  Anne Robertson - £100 (for locality budget money received on behalf of the Ladies Social Group for speakers)  Cheque no: 522 to Royal British Legion cancelled  It was proposed by Cllr SD and seconded by Cllr NM that the cheques be paid and the bank reconciliations for the end of August be duly signed.  **Bank balance at 30th August 2015**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Balance in Treasurers Account | 10,894.42 | | Savings account | 10,430.25 | | Total | 21,324.67 | | Less cheques not presented | nil | | Total | 21,324.67 |   DR read out the external auditor BDO Issues Arising Report, for the year ended March 31 2015. There were two issues to be addressed. DR had failed to minute the risk assessment as part of the review of the effectiveness of internal control during the year. She has made a note to do this before the end of the next financial year. Secondly, as part of a BDO review questionnaire, in the minutes she supplied, she had failed to specifically minute the council’s approval of Section 1, Section 2 and the yes/no answers to Section 2 of the annual report. She had made a note to do this in future.  DR circulated a draft precept to councillors and said that once she had received details of the parish revenue support grant and tax base etc. we would need to discuss and approve it, preferably at our next meeting in November. But she pointed out that the PC had until the end of January to submit the precept to the Borough.  **Footpaths, Highways and Byways**  Cllr NA said that having checked with Land Registry, he could confirm that the owners of the barn on Church Hill where a laurel hedge has been planted, did not own the land in front of it and so should not have planted the hedge on - what for generations has been - the footway. He said that we need to get SCC involved as the PC had no powers of enforcement. Cllr SD said that at a recent SALC meeting he had mentioned the hedge to Tom Nunn from Highways who said he would look into it. He had been given the reference: 117598.  Although not in the village, DR was asked to request the cutting of grass and levelling of land where the A143 meets the B1066. Travellers from Gypsy Lane turning into the B1066 had said it was hard to see traffic turning from Bury.  **Neighbourhood Watch Scheme**  DR said that on Cllr LS’s behalf she had registered the village with the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. She had supplied Cllr LS with addresses of all previous NW reps and Cllr LS had forwarded a Suffolk Local Police Review which she would circulate.  **Broadband**  DR said that Jonathan Chown of Suffolk Better Broadband had said that he would attend the meeting. Cllr NA asked DR to make another date with him. The loss of broadband and phone lines at the Brockley end of the village since last Sunday was discussed.  **Trees**  The WCA had confirmed that it wanted to fund a memorial tree and plaque for Angelina Johnson and did not require financial help from the PC.  **Suffolk Association of Local Councils**  Cllr SD said that Steve Boor from Suffolk Highways said that any member of the public was now to be encouraged to report potholes etc on the Suffolk.gov.uk website, where they would find a colour coded system detailing the stage the SCC was at in its investigations. DR to mention in the newsletter and to raise at our APM. The SALC AGM is on November 12th.  **Whepstead Community Association Report**  Cllr ARR said there would be a Jazz Lunch on Sunday November 1st and Fun, Food and Fireworks was on Saturday November 7th. It had been mentioned that WCA funds were “rather short at present”  The PC’s suggestion of a defibrillator for the village had been warmly received and discussed at length. Cllr ARR had investigated costs and discovered that the British Heart Foundation – with Government support in the March Budget – was offering them for free. They had to be accessible 24/7, and a clear need and the support of the local ambulance service given. She would look into it further and apply for one.  **Correspondence**  DR passed a request for further information from an Ickworth historian on the crashing of a German bomber in Whepstead to Cllr SD who remembered it well. DR to mention in the newsletter too.  DR said that October 8th was Community Action Suffolk’s Annual Review in Ipswich, Parish Conference was on October 12th in Haverhill’s Samuel Ward Centre, and Stowupland Village Hall was hosting a Community Emergency Planning Conference on November 13th if anyone was interested.  **Chairman’s Comments**  A bicycle stand had been requested for behind the bus shelter. DR to check who owns the land there and to look into availability.  **Any Other Business**  Cllr SD asked if there was a mileage allowance for attending SALC meetings. DR suggested he submit an invoice.  The meeting closed at 9.30pm  Signed………………………………..Dated…………………………………. |