**Draft Minutes of the Meeting**

**Of the Parish Council held on**

**Wednesday December 9th 2015 at 7pm**

Attendees: Councillors N Aitkens - NA

M Morris – MM

A Robertson – ARR

L Smith – LS

N Mann - NM

Clerk D Rix – DR

Members of the public Mr J Richmond

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| 1/181  2/182  3/183  4/184  5/185  6/186  7/187  8/188  9/189  10/190  11/192  12/193  13/194  14/195  15/196  16/197  17/198  18/199  19/200  20/201 | **Apologies for Absence** Cllr Durrant, Cllr Till, Cllr Rushen  **Declarations of Interest**  Cllr NA re: planning application DC/15/2258/OUT - RH Maddever Farms  **Borough Councillor’s Report** *(attached)*  Highlights from Cllr AR’s report included news that SCC is to adopt 1,547 of the 3,027 street lights across the Borough which will bring annual maintenance savings of £100,000. An upgrade of all the lights will involve the installation of remote controlled dimmers.  Suffolk Business Park has been designated an Enterprise Zone. Greene King is making 420 car park spaces available for free on the Saturdays before Christmas.  Cllr AR said she has now allocated her Locality Budget to Whepstead, £100 has gone to the Ladies Social Group and £400 to provide a projector and screen for clubs and societies to use at the community centre.  **County Councillor’s Report**  None. Cllr NA said he was shocked by the lack of interest shown by SCC over the hedge on Church Hill and that Cllr TC had passed DR’s email about it to Cllr AR. It was a SCC highways matter. DR to contact Cllr TC again.  **Community Police Officer’s Report**  None. Agreed this item should be deleted from future agendas. In future, crime to be included in Cllr LS’s Neighbourhood Watch reports.  **Public Forum**  Mr Richmond was welcomed and invited to speak but declined.  **Planning Applications**  **DC/15/2258/OUT – RH Maddever Farms, Land off Rectory Road**  *(Cllr NA declared an interest and left the committee room)*  Cllr MM said that he could understand why the application has been made, as the land (in the corner of a field) must be very difficult to farm. But the proposed new dwelling and garage is outside the development boundary of the village and he thought the only premise for land adjacent to this land being sold for development was because it was for affordable housing, which this isn’t. He was surprised there was no agricultural tie. Cllr LS questioned why it had not been sold for affordable housing. Cllr MM said that the housing needs survey only identified a need for five properties. Cllrs NM and MM agreed that if this application was approved it would be difficult to say no to anything else, as there were numerous plots in the village that could be developed in the same way. Councillors agreed that they could not support the application. DR to report decision.  **DC/15/2343/HH and DC/15/2344/B – Pamela D’Alberto, Beehive (formerly Cromwell) Cottage, Old School Road**  Councillors voted to support the application for a garden room and cart lodge.  Cllr MM had been asked by John Jump to attend a meeting regarding Pattles Grove which he couldn’t make. It was pointed out that this meeting was an informal one instigated by Cllr AR for those not happy with the Pattles Grove planning application to talk to the enforcement officer, Adam Ford.  **Minutes of the meeting held on November 4th 2015**.  It was proposed by Cllr MM and seconded by Cllr ARR 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 on November 4th 2015**  Cllr ARR said that the application for a defibrillator has been approved and that we should be getting it soon. Fifty manikins had been delivered (forty returned!) and training would be after Christmas. All agreed that the 30mph bin stickers were effective.  **Clerk’s Report**  DR has emailed Cllr TC regarding the road closure chaos and asked if he could have any influence over the hedge on Church Hill. The owners of West Barn have appointed solicitors to fight the removal of the hedge and Tom Nunn at SCC said that he would ask the legal team to get onto it.  The flooding at the bottom of Harram Bottom has been reported. DR has booked everything necessary for the Litter Pick, including the community centre, on February 21st and mentioned it in the newsletter. Andrew Harvey said they didn’t have signs but suggested either making our own or asking the police to carry out a speed check at the same time. DR to notify police of the date. All agreed the bend at the bottom of Long Hill is dangerous and should probably be left and pickers on Long Hill should work in pairs, so one person can look out for traffic.  DR has not pursued a quote for the installation of a new bike rack as Cllr NA has discovered there is already a bar that a bike can be attached to in the bus shelter.  DR will book onto a website training course on March 1st and will update the website while Graham O’Dell is away.  Graham asked for PC approval for Steve Bonney to take over responsibility for the VAS and deliver it to Chedburgh, after our two week stint, while he is away. All agreed. Graham also reported the broken lamp cover and light outside School House, which has now been fixed.  DR has spoken to David Gott. As he has recently worked for our current contractor he felt unable to quote for grass cutting next year. She said a quote from Proscape would be more than we are currently paying. DR expects the current contractor Vertas’s renewal quote to arrive soon.  Jane Alfred said that Community Speed Watch has two 60cm square signs that the group wanted to put up in the village – probably on Brockley and Rectory Road. Councillors agreed to support this.  DR said that the £47.50 cheque to Lizzie Nutt for 30mph bin stickers has been ripped up and a new one made out to Horringer-cum-Ickworth Parish Council.  DR said that although auditing procedures were to continue as before, the procurement process will change from 2017 and we have to decide – before Jan 31st – whether to opt in or out of the new arrangements. If we do nothing we will opt in to the sector led collective procurement body which will appoint auditors and manage audit contracts. DR to add as an agenda item for January’s meeting and to circulate our options and likely costs involved. DR apologised that she had emailed the Lawshall clerk too late to get a response regarding their development plan.  **Finance**  There were 2 invoices for payment:  Mr Alan Perkins £63.33 for bluebell bulbs  Horringer-cum-Ickworth Parish Council £47.50 for bin stickers  It was proposed by Cllr MM and seconded by Cllr LS that the cheques be paid and the bank reconciliations for the end of October and November be duly signed.  **Bank balance at 30th October 2015**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Balance in Treasurers Account | 8,596.23 | | Savings account | 10,431.11 | | Total | 19,027.34 | | Less cheques not presented | nil | | Total | 19,027.34 |   **Bank balance at 30th November 2015**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Balance in Treasurers Account | 8,579.43 | | Savings account | 10,431.55 | | Total | 19,010.98 | | Less cheques not presented | nil | | Total | 19,010.98 |   **Precept**  As requested, DR had worked out the cost to council taxpayers if PC asked for the same precept (£8,045) as last year. With reduced grants and a higher tax base this would be £37.32, a £1.29 reduction compared to last year (£38.61). DR was asked to work out what the precept would be if taxpayers were to pay the same (£38.61) as last year and circulate the figures to councillors ahead of January’s meeting. She pointed out that from 2017/18 there will be no grants.  **Footpaths, Highways and Byways**  Peter Bradfield reported that responses from the consultation regarding the diversion of the footpath at the bottom of Church Hill had all been favourable, so subject to a small modification (path going north rather than south around the pond) being approved, it was hoped that both the creation and diversion agreements could be signed off early in the New Year. The total cost has been agreed at £2,000 (£1,000 from Cllr TC and £1,000 kindly donated by Theo Cutting). DR to contact Patrick Scrivens regarding fencing monies. Agreed it would come out of the open spaces funding, as had the money for bluebells.  DR to report a pothole near the blue thatched cottage on the B1066 into Bury.  **Neighbourhood Watch Scheme**  Cllr LS said there were only three NWS badges in the village and two were illegible. There was nothing in Chedburgh or Old School Road. To replace them would be costly and require planning permission. As an alternative deterrent, she suggested looking into CCTV signs. Cllr LS said she would ask at a police event - that she is attending tomorrow - what restrictions applied to filming public roads and the cost effectiveness of NWS signs etc. NWS coordinators in the village were being slow to respond to her request for email addresses. A photo of thieves caught on Andrew Maddever’s CCTV stealing money from his potato stall for the second time was circulated.  Agreed NWS should be an agenda item for our APM next year.  **Broadband**  Jonathan Chown – Suffolk Better Broadband - apologised that he couldn’t make the meeting but said everything was on track for superfast broadband delivery in the middle of next year. DR to invite him to our next meeting.  **Trees**  Nothing to report.  **Suffolk Association of Local Councils**  Cllr SD was unable to make the SALC AGM, but Terry Waite has been re-elected as one of five vice presidents and the website has been upgraded.  **Whepstead Community Association Report**  Cllr ARR reported that the Fashion Show raised £1,082.50, the Jazz Lunch £317.50 and Fun, Food and Fireworks £1,038.79.  A copy of the WCA accounts has been requested and would be available soon. A Red Cross Basic First Aid course will be held on Saturday February 20th at a cost of £36 per person. It is not linked to the defibrillator training that will be available. Cllr NA said that it was probably too late for this event, but in future, if there were WCA events that would be of benefit to the whole community and it was felt they required financial support from the PC then could Cllr ARR let us know.  There was a recent attempted break-in at the Community Centre garage, locks were broken but nothing taken. A request for £400 from Cllr Rushen’s Locality Budget for a projector and screen for general use at the Community Centre has been made.  **Correspondence**  DR said that there was a public consultation on the future provision of the fire and rescue service which she would mention in the newsletter.  **Chairman’s Comments**  Cllr NA said the village needs to appoint an Emergency Planning co-ordinator and that we should seek to appoint someone at the APM.  He asked for Self-Build plots to be made an agenda item for January’s meeting. DR to find out whether there are any initiatives promoting self-build.  **Any Other Business**  None    The meeting closed at 20.35pm.  Signed………………………………..Dated…………………………………. |