**Draft Minutes of the Meeting**

**Of the Whepstead Parish Council on**

**Wednesday January 15th 2020 at 7pm**

Attendees Councillors N Aitkens - NA

L Smith – LS

T Smith – TS

G Merrett – GM

G Corcoran – GC

A Walsh – AW

S Durrant - SD

Members of the public: S Bonney – SB

R Ford - RF

Clerk D Rix – DR

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| 1/1  2/2  3/3  4/5  5/6  6/7  7/8  8/9  9/10  10/4  11/11  12/12  13/13  14/14  15/15  16/16  17/17  18/18  19/19  20/20  21/21 | **Apologies for Absence** Cllr Mary Evans  **Declarations of Interest**  None  **District Councillor Report**  None  **Public Forum** *(Cllr NA brought forward agenda item 5)*  Cllr NA welcomed Richard Ford who said he and his family had moved to the village from Bury in October and were keen to get involved in village events.  **Planning Applications**  **DC/19/2489/LB** – Dodds Cottage, Tuffields Road  It was proposed by Cllr GM and seconded by Cllr AW that the application to replace pantiles on 2no. rear single storey lean to rooves with Westmoreland slate be supported. All agreed.  **DC/19/2457/FUL** – Stonecross Farmhouse, Rede Road  The subdivision of Stonecross Farmhouse and an ancillary building to form 2 no. dwellings was discussed. Concerns were raised that residential use had yet to be granted for the ancilliary building, that it was an overdevelopment of a rural location outside the settlement boundary and could set a precedent. A resolution to support the application was carried by 4 votes to 3.  **DC/19/2458/LB** – Stonecross Farm, Rede Road  A resolution to support conversion works to the ancillary building was also carried by 4 votes to 3.  DR reported that the retrospective and part-retrospective applications at Plumpton Hall had been approved as had The White Horse pub’s application. The application to erect a telecoms pole on the grass verge at the top of Church Hill had been refused.  **Minutes of the Meetings held on December 11th**  Cllr TS proposed and it was seconded by Cllr AW that the minutes were a true record.  **Matters Arising from the December meeting**  Cllr NA had written a piece on hedge cutting responsibility for the newsletter and suggested we need to look into doing something for VE Day celebrations on May 8th.  **Clerk’s Report**  DR to mention the Litter Pick in February’s newsletter. She had given Cllr NA Mike Morris’s map and risk assessment. DR to provide refreshments for the litter pick and email villagers for support. Vertas – the grass cutters - confirmed that December’s cut was the last until March. DR had received a request to quote for the grass cutting contract from R.H landscapes & maintenance services and would contact them. She had reported a broken footpath post at the bottom of Fern Hill. SCC said it did not accept what3words to report potholes.  **Finance**  There were 4 invoices for payment.  £72.20 – Clerk’s tax Oct-Dec  £1,256.52 – Clerk’s fees Oct-Dec  £180.94 – Clerk’s exes Oct-Dec  £30 – Will Howe laptop fixing  Cllr AW proposed and it was seconded by Cllr GM that the bank reconciliation for the end of December was correct and the cheques be paid.  After discussing agenda item 20 (in private session) it was unanimously agreed to ask for a £500 rise in the precept to £9,296 which will mean the average Band D householder will pay £42.77 towards the PC next year. That’s £2.21 more, a rise of 5.45%. DR to submit the application before the January 24th deadline.  **Bank balance to end December 2019**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Balance in Treasurers Account | £8,487.91 | | Savings account | £10,452.82 | | Total | £18,940.73 | | Less cheques not presented | Nil | | Total | £18,940.73 |   **County Councillor Report** *(circulated ahead of the meeting)*  Cllr KS said that parliament had approved the move for district councils to enforce parking instead of the police from April 6. Cllr NA asked if what he had read about broadband for all by 2022 was true. Cllr KS apologised but she hadn’t seen the detail. Cllr NA said he still felt it shocking that those without broadband didn’t pay lower council tax rates. KS said that if potholes had been reported but it was felt they weren’t being filled quickly enough to contact her with the report reference. DR to mention the reporting tool in the newsletter again. Cllr GC said although he had superfast broadband speeds of around 130 he was shocked that he couldn’t shop around for a supplier. Cllr KS said it was because BT had invested in the infrastructure. She is standing for election as a district councillor in Newmarket as well as looking after 20 villages. If successful she may no longer represent us later in the year. DR thanked KS for her £1,500 locality grant for a new SID.  **Footpaths, Byways and Highways**  DR and Cllr GM had met the Green Access Team on Dec 19th to discuss/amend the draft footpath map wording. A mocked up leaflet should be with us mid Jan and a fully designed draft in early Feb. The total cost - to be shared with GAT - will be £800 for 2,000 leaflets.  **Community Speed Watch**  A number of complaints had been received about the new signs on Brockley Road. Agreed they are facing the wrong way. DR to investigate a new SID, ensuring the fixings are correct. DR to report that the new sign, warning of the junction at Harram Bottom, has been hit by a vehicle and is facing the wrong way. DR to deliver new mannequin to Emma Stephens. Cllr ME had not yet managed to source camera signs. KS to investigate.SB to supply Cllr GM with 30mph bin stickers.  **Neighbourhood Watch Scheme**  Cllr KS supplied Cllr LS with contact details for people who may be able to help with finding out how to get NWS signs up in villages. LS is still looking for NWS road reps and recently circulated information from Cllr SD about a suspicious person. *KS left the meeting.*  **Village Neighbourhood Plan**  Whepstead should find out if it is being considered for a small development when a public consultation on Shelaa is released soon. It was felt that we should await the outcome of that.  **Suffolk Housing**  Cllr NA had written to Suffolk Housing but had not received a formal response.  **Suffolk Association of Local Councils Report**  None  **Whepstead Community Association Report**  The WCA had organised for cheaper electricity supply through Direct Business Solutions, a non-profit organisation. The Xmas Fayre made £659 which was down as five stallholders failed to turn up. This year there will be a returnable deposit payable. There are new heaters in the kitchen and hall and plans to improve the PA system. Cllr GM will look into a possible VE Day celebration for May 8th.  **Correspondence**  None  **Chairman’s Comments**  None.  **Resolution to exclude the Public from the Meeting**  Due to the confidential nature of the agenda item to be discussed it was proposed by Cllr GM and seconded by Cllr TS that under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 that the meeting move into private session.  **Land in Whepstead**  Cllr NA declared an interest and left the room. Richard Ford left the room.  The meeting closed at 8.45pm  Signed………………………………..Dated……………… |