**Draft Minutes of the Meeting**

**Of the Whepstead Parish Council on**

**Wednesday August 16th 2017 at 7pm**

Attendees: Councillors M Morris - MM

L Smith – LS

A Robertson – AR

D Till – DT

N Mann – NM

S Durrant - SD

Clerk D Rix – DR

Prospective Borough Councillor

& Chedburgh PC Chairman Mike Chester

15 members of the public

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| 1/110  2/111  3/112  4/113  13/114  5/115  6/116  7/117  8/118  9/119  10/120  11/121  12/122  14/123  15/124  16/125  17/126  18/127  19/128 | **Apologies for Absence** Cllr NA and County Cllr Karen Soons  **Declarations of Interest**  None  **County Councillor’s Report**  Report circulated ahead of the meeting  **Public Forum**  Sara Feakes asked that when social housing becomes available in the village could villagers be made aware of it via the newsletter, as people with a local connection to the village should have priority. DR said that a request for this had recently been made. Cllr MM welcomed Mike Chester, the conservative candidate hoping to take over as Borough Councillor after Angela Rushen’s death. Jane Alfred asked the PC - via the newsletter - to urge people to trim their hedges next to pavements.  **Barrow Heath Shooting Club (***Cllr MM brought forward agenda item 13*) Concerns were raised about two clay pigeon shoots being hosted in the village at Hall Farm on August 28th and September 10th. They will take place down the track that leads from the layby on the Bury side of the Community Centre.  Barrow Heath’s website describes this as a new venue and concerns were raised that Hall Farm will become a permanent venue for the club. It is believed that Barrow Heath’s current lease runs out at the end of October.  The scale and frequency of the shoots was a concern as the club apparently regularly attracts 200+ guns every other Sunday (24 a year) with entries starting at 9.30am through to 2.30pm and each gun firing around 100 cartridges.  Apparently shots can already be heard in the village from the club’s current venue in a railway embankment in Risby, four miles away. Questions were raised about increased traffic and parking arrangements. One villager said the club would be in direct sight of his house and there was nothing in between to muffle the noise. All of Rectory Road and Brockley Road residents would be affected. But it was felt that Hawstead and Pinford End would probably be worst hit. DR was asked to notify Hawstead PC, the County Councillor Karen Soons and residents at the bottom of Long Hill know. A shooting club member had said that the noise would be almost constant throughout the day.  The PC was asked what jurisdiction there was to act on a matter on private land and to investigate the planning legislation regarding noise nuisance and to report back to villagers. The general view was that no planning was required as long as a shoot was not held for more than 28 days a year and there were no permanent structures erected to support the activity. It was thought that the 1990 Environmental Health Act might have a restriction on the number of hours the noise could be made and if sound barriers were erected, then those would be seen as permanent structures and would contravene the planning laws. At the current venue there is a clubhouse. The advertisement for the shoot at Hall Farm says there will be catering on site. The PC was asked to notify the club of Whepstead residents’ views and one villager was surprised that few people in the village seemed aware of the scheduled shoots in the village. DR said notification would be in September’s newsletter but would come out after the first shoot has taken place. Residents want to know if Andrew Maddever plans to host the shoot permanently and if so how long the lease will be on his land. It was felt that pets, horses, the Cricket Club, people renting the Community Centre, the Church and Chapel could all suffer from increased noise on a Sunday. DR was asked to invite the Shooting Club and Andrew Maddever to come to our next meeting on October 4th and someone from Environmental Health to monitor the shoots. The PC was thanked for listening to residents’ concerns*.(most* *residents left the meeting*) Cllr NM said it was important that the PC was clear about the facts before acting on residents’ behalf.  **Planning Applications**  **DC/16/2795/FUL**  DR said that an appeal had been lodged – after planning consent had been refused - to develop the land adjacent to The White Horse pub.  **DC/17/1656/HH**  Councillors voted to support the application to build a single storey extension (following demolition of existing conservatory) at Hill View on Chedburgh Road. DR to report decision.  **Minutes of the meeting held in July**  Cllr AR proposed and it was seconded by Cllr DT that the minutes were a true record.  **Matters arising from the July meeting**  None  **Clerk’s Report**  DR circulated 2018 meeting dates. She had discovered a Groundwork Community Award nomination had already been submitted by the WCA.  She was still waiting to hear from Royal Mail about the missing Tuffields Road post box. Hartest’s box had been removed (without warning) for renovation and was now back in situ. It was hoped that the Tuffields box might be undergoing the same.  A new Community Speed Watch sign was back in place on Old School Road. To comply with new pensions legislation DR was to formally write to herself to say that she would not be getting a pension. Kala Nobbs had been on a training course and was now able to access the History web page.  **Finance**  The audit had been returned for DR to amend as she had put grants in the wrong column. The amendment will incur a £30 fee. Insurance was up for renewal at the end of September. We are tied into an arrangement until the end of September next year.  There were three invoices for payment:  £437.90 – Vertas grass cutting Jul-Sep  £73.50 – WCA Hall Hire Jan-Jul  £168 – Came & Company insurance renewal  **Bank balance to end June 2017**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Balance in Treasurers Account | £14,587.42 | | Savings account | £10,439.78 | | Total | £25,027.20 | | Less cheques not presented | 0 | | Total | £25,027.20 |   **Bank balance to end July 2017**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Balance in Treasurers Account | £12,908.84 | | Savings account | £10,440.22 | | Total | £23,349.06 | | Less cheques not presented | 0 | | Total | £23,331.06 |   Cllr LS proposed and Cllr DT seconded that the bank reconciliations for June and July were correct and the signing of the cheques approved.  **Footpaths, Highways and Byways**  The Green Access Team have added Whepstead to their waiting list of village’s wanting footpath maps but were busy until late spring next year. DR circulated existing maps for Leavenheath and Kersey. She hadn’t heard back about costs. DR to report a pothole near The White Horse.  **Neighbourhood Watch Scheme**  Cllr LS said that there had been many suspicious vehicles reported and rather a lot of daytime burglaries in neighbouring villages. Thieves seemed to be targeting the vulnerable and she urged everyone to keep an eye on elderly neighbours.  **VAS Speed Camera Update**  Chedburgh PC had managed to secure a discount for the repairs with Westcotec but was asking for even more money off and hoped the machine would be back in action by the end of the month.  **Bus Shelter**  Cllr NA had received a quote from Nick Hayward for repairs (involving fixing lead to the top of the walls on both sides of the shelter and replacing and realigning roof tiles) of £262 plus VAT. Cllr MM said with winter approaching it would be good to expedite the work. Councillors agreed that if Cllr NA thought the quote reasonable then to accept it. Neighbour Ian Curnow is aware of the work.  **Suffolk Association of Local Councils Report**  Cllr SD mentioned the defibrillator. Cllr AR said that she looks at it weekly and does a thorough monthly check.  **Whepstead Community Association Report**  WCA meetings had been held on July 11th and August 8th. The fete was very successful and raised £1,223. Due to poor support, the Scarecrow & Sale Trail have been cancelled and a coffee morning – with cake and book stalls - will be held on Saturday September 2nd instead from 10am-12pm. There will be a jumble sale on October 14th, Fun, Food & Fireworks on November 4th and a visiting theatre production of “A Christmas Carol” on December 9th at 2pm.  Magnet’s new quote for the kitchen is a little lower following adjustments at £9,109.50 inc. VAT but excludes appliances. The RIGS application is about to be submitted. Cllr AR to check whether the VAT is recoverable. Discussion regarding the roof continues and possible grants will be explored. AR has not yet received a copy of the WCA constitution. The next meeting will be held on September 12th.  **Correspondence**  None  **Chairman’s Comments**  None  **Any Other Business**  None  The meeting closed at 20.01 pm  Signed………………………………..Dated……………… |