**Draft Minutes of the Meeting**

**Of the Whepstead Parish Council on**

**Wednesday November 1st 2017 at 7pm**

Attendees: Councillors N Aitkens - NA

M Morris - MM

A Robertson – AR

D Till – DT

L Smith - LS

Clerk D Rix – DR

SCC K Soons – KS

Borough Councillor M Chester - MC

Members of the public B Hill

O Brown

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1/150  2/151  4/152  3/153  6/154  5/155  7/156  8/157  9/158  10/159  11/160  12/161  13/162  14/163  15/164  16/165  17/166  18/167  19/168  20/169  21/170 | **Apologies for Absence** Cllrs N Mann and S Durrant  **Declarations of Interest**  None  **County Councillor’s Report** *(Cllr NA brought forward agenda item 4)*  Cllr Soon’s report had been circulated ahead of the meeting. She said Highways were thrilled to receive the PC’s email thanking them for their work at Westgate Street. Guy Smith (Highways) had introduced a new policy that if anyone saw a redundant road sign they must pick it up. She urged everyone to have a flu jab.  **Borough Councillor’s Report** *(circulated at meeting)*  Cllr NA welcomed Cllr Chester and wished him well in his role as Borough Councillor. Mark Wray had been in touch regarding fly tipping at Stonecross. Identifying material among the rubbish would hopefully lead to a conviction.  The Nunwick Farm planning application would appear before the Delegation Panel on November 15th at 2pm. Regarding his £2,500 Locality Budget, Cllr MM was urged to make a submission for the cricket club via email.  He said the average salary in the Borough was £28,000, making the cost of a small 3 bed semi approximately 8x salary. The need for more affordable housing had never been greater.  Cllr NA said that Whepstead had recently built five affordable houses and the PC had rejected a planning application for a large new build next to the pub, saying it would prefer 2/3 properties on the plot.  **Nunwick Farm – DC/17/1763/FUL** *(Cllr NA brought forward agenda item 6)*  The PC was asked to re-consult in respect of a reworded application for Nunwick Farm, for the construction and part retention of a single storey outbuilding to provide garaging and storage associated with the residential occupation of the site. There was no material change to the application. The applicant, Owen Brown, read out a statement urging support of the application and circulated a response to allegations made by the objectors which he said would be published on the Borough’s planning website. DR had circulated correspondence from the Hill family and their lawyer to councillors ahead of the meeting.  Cllr NA said he had driven past the site and it looked much the same as it has over the past 20 years. He said it was the sort of village building that the PC had supported many times before. Cllr MM said that if there was no change to the drawings, then we were in the same position as at our last meeting when we supported the application as long as there was a s106 agreement in place which meant that the building could never be residential. Cllr LS asked how long a s106 agreement lasted. Cllr NA said they were highly unlikely to be breached. Cllr MM proposed and it was seconded by Cllr DT that the application be supported. Two other councillors were in favour. There was one abstention. DR to report decision.  **Public Forum** *(Mr Hill arrived and Cllr NA returned to agenda item 5)*  Cllr NA explained that the PC had made its decision regarding Nunwick Farm. Mr Hill urged the PC to call in the application to the Development Control Committee. Cllr Chester explained that the PC didn’t have powers to do that, but that he had called in the application to the Delegation Panel. It would be discussed on November 15th at 2pm and if the panel considered it worthy, it could then be put forward to the Development Control Committee. He would be at the meeting. *(Mr Brown left the meeting at 19.30pm)*  **Planning Applications**  Mr Garrett at 2 Rectory Grove – **DC/17/2054/TCA** has applied to fell a conifer and Mr Rose has appealed against the refusal of his application for a dwelling with garage at Finches Meadow – **APP/E3525/W/17/3184119** in TuffieldsRoad.  In light of an objection by Highways of Lavender Cottage’s application **DC/17/1929/HH** to extend the dropped kerb and driveway by 1.2m, the PC had been asked by planning to reconsider its original support for the application. As no explanation had been given by planning on why the application had been refused, DR was asked to find out more.  **Minutes of the meeting held in October**  Cllr proposed by Cllr DT and seconded by Cllr AR that the minutes were a true record.  **Matters arising from the October meeting**  None  **Clerk’s Report**  As requested, DR had thanked Highways for its work at Westgate Street and had written to Lieutenant Colonel Silk of Wattisham Apache Helicopters inviting him to speak at our APM in April.  She had asked, but hadn’t heard back from, PC Darren Marshall regarding the use of blue signs that look like police signs.  Havebury Housing said it was unable to notify us when properties become available in the village as the social houses were not built under a s106 agreement. Cllr NA to speak to Havebury board members.  DR was going to be away from Nov 5-26. Cllr MM agreed to write the newsletter copy and oversee emails in her absence.  **Finance**  There were 3 invoices for payment:  Vertas grasscuting £437.90  CAS website hosting £60  Royal British Legion £17  DR had circulated a draft precept to all councillors before the meeting. She said that the tax base for 2018/19 was 214.87. If the PC were to agree the draft precept of £8,410 (up £30 on last year) the cost to villagers would be an extra 21p or 0.54%. A decision needs to be made at the January meeting.  **Bank balance to end September 2017**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Balance in Treasurers Account | £12,211.44 | | Savings account | £10,441.12 | | Total | £22,652.56 | | Less cheques not presented | £nil | | Total | £22,652.56 |   Cllr MM proposed and Cllr LS seconded that the bank reconciliations for September were correct and the signing of the cheques approved.  **Footpaths, Highways and Byways**  Mr Hill said that he had recently completed the Clare to Bury walk and that there was a footpath sign missing between the B1066 and Rectory Road. DR to report.  **Neighbourhood Watch Scheme**  Cllr Smith was shocked to have heard from a villager rather than the police about a burglary in Tuffields Road. There had been two. One at Cages Farm, the other at Dodds Cottage. Cllr Till had reported suspicious men in his drive saying they were picking up a bicycle they had bought on ebay. He had reported their car registration number to the police who had seemed disinterested. Cllr Smith to follow up with Tim Passmore. A villager had received a hoax phone call supposedly from BT asking for bank details. Everyone urged to be more vigilant and to report any suspicious behaviour.  **VAS - Speed Camera Update**  Cllr Chester said the VAS was back up and running in Chedburgh and that speeding in the village had been much worse without it. The long delay was down to having to buy a new radar. Cllr NA was hopeful that Chevington might get involved again and share the costs of the repair. DR had received notification that Deborah Stratford and Steve Bonney have handed responsibility for the setting up and operating of the VAS camera back to Graham O’Dell as they felt quite strongly that the Parish Council had not supported their efforts to get the machine fixed and up and running sooner. DR to write and thank them for their support.  **Bus Shelter - windows**  DR had emailed the planning helpdesk to ask whether planning permission would be required to put glass in the windows of the bus shelter but hadn’t heard back.  **Broadband Update**  DR had submitted numerous telephone numbers, addresses and emails regarding poor speeds and terrible experiences of some residents despite the village upgrade to superfast broadband in April to Suffolk Better Broadband but hadn’t heard back about what residents could do. Cllr NA said that fibre had been run from a box at the end of Rectory Road to Folly Farm but had not been connected as yet. Cllr MM said that planning permission had been submitted a long time ago for a green box at Threeways. Cllr Chester to investigate what more residents can do.  **Suffolk Association of Local Councils Report**  DR gave a copy of the SALC Annual Report to Cllr MM  **Whepstead Community Association Report**  The Jumble Sale and Car Boot raised £386.48. The committee was still looking for sponsors for Fun, Food & Fireworks on November 11th. A Christmas Carol was on December 9th at 2pm, tickets from Di Howe.  The WCA committee was disappointed in the muted response of the PC re: moving the noticeboard and putting in its place a Hall advertisement board. This would be in the form of a double-sided A frame. Cllr NA had spoken to Terry Smith who explained that if the noticeboard was moved to the community centre no planning application would have to be submitted. DR to ask Graham O’Dell about the pub noticeboard. Agreed that as long as the PC could put up legal notices, it was happy to move the board.  The Doughnut Boys had made repairs to the roof by inserting sealant between the overlapping sheets immediately above the leak area and will review this after the next bout of bad weather. They may well repeat the treatment to the overlaps further up the roof and will keep everyone aware of their progress.  The next meeting is on November 21st at 7pm. CPR session dates were circulated.  **Correspondence**  None  **Chairman’s Comments**  Cllr NA said that the Welcome Pack and village Website needed to be more exciting and encourage residents to get involved in village activities. Cllr Chester suggested that social media like a Facebook page, should be the first point of reference for villagers.  **Any Other Business**  None  Signed………………………………..Dated……………… |