

Close heading towards the Undley Road). Cllr Smith said that he had been told by a motorist that stopping on the zig zag lines of a zebra crossing is not legally enforceable, he asked for Sgt Garrard's opinion. Sgt Garrard wished to look into it further but is of the opinion that it is legally enforceable.

Sgt Garrard left the meeting.

6.REPORT FROM

a) RAF COMMANDER LAKENHEATH

Sqdn Ldr Neild had nothing to report but said that he had been grateful to get news of the Wangford Road closure as this would meet with the issue of the coaches going through the village. He said that Gate 2 will be located further inside the base but not much change will be noticed until March. Cllr Gathercole referring to the issue of the school buses and Wangford Road closure felt that some buses could be rerouted. Sqdn Ldr Neild agreed and said he would take it up at the meeting on this issue. Sqdn Ldr Neild wished everyone a Happy New Year and left the meeting.

The meeting was reopened.

4.CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 3rd DECEMBER 2007 – Cllr Smith referred to page 409 item 14 and said that he thought all businesses around the Village Green were to be written to not just the Plough – not agreed, no amendment made. The minutes were then signed as a true record.

The Chairman closed the meeting.

5.REPRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC – Mrs Hermione Pusey said she had not been able to comment at the last meeting about Cllr Gathercole's proposed arrangements for the Playing Fields. She said she was pleased that he had been able to secure a local benefactor to meet the cost and undertake arrangements for the reseeded of the Playing Field but that she did have 2 reservations. June and August (Fair & Fete) are when PF get their main sources of revenue to pay for insurance which is a large cost to the PF – would people be happy for these events to take place on a new surface? Secondly, she had heard that FHDC had recommended that no funding be allocated to proposals put to them by Cllr Gathercole on the basis that :-

- 1) No extensive consultation had been carried out with the local community
- 2) No costs had been identified

- 3) No external funding had been sought
- 4) There is no evidence of partnership working

She went on to say that she understands as a consequence of this a meeting is to be arranged between the 3 interested parties, namely FHDC, Lakenheath PF Association and the Parish Council. Has it been organised? Her main concern is that the PF AGM is in February and there are concerns that long standing members will not stand for reelection. She said she would now like to hear from the PC who rejected a "Rolls Royce" facility and the village is now left with nothing. Fields without proper changing facilities will not be used by any major organisation no matter how good or bad the surface is. Cllr Gentle said that the previous Clerk, Mary Crane, had said there was no "Plan B". He reiterated the history of the Playing Fields Project and suggested that given the situation as it now is Mrs Pusey may want to contact someone else for example her MP or the Ombudsman. Another member of the public wanted to know why no-one else on the Council had answered Mrs Pusey, stating that if they can vote against the project they can say why. Cllr Gentle commented that Lakenheath is the only Parish Council to have turned down money and that since they were new Councillors they should have taken a look at other Councils. A member of the public wanted to know how many more sheets of plywood would be going round the Lakenheath Hall site. A member of the public noted that football was still being played and wanted to know what had changed. Cllr Gentle said that League Football required certain standards. Cllr Ingham said that the Playing Fields Business Plan did not add up – there was no guaranteed income and expenses only ever go up. In support of what Cllr Gathercole is trying to do, he said that he (Cllr Gathercole) had only been trying for 15 weeks and that we need to get more optimistic and give Cllr Gathercole time as he is now dealing with outside agencies. A member of the public asked if each household could receive notification of an election. Cllr Gentle said that the legal requirements regarding the election had been met.

6.REPORT FROM

(b) FOREST HEATH DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cllr Simon Flack said that there had been flytipping at North End Road, Wangford but FHDC did not have enough evidence to proceed with a prosecution. Cllr Gathercole said that as far as he was concerned he had been told by Nigel McCurdy of FHDC that his "Capital Grants Application" was "on track".

(c) SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

Mr Noble apologised for arriving late. He offered his congratulations to Cllr Ingham

on his election to the Parish Council. He asked if we had received a letter from Ian Shipp, FHDC, and said that he would like to be in on any discussion that the Parish Council may have with him. Mr Noble reminded the organisers of the Youth Group that request for monies from his Locality Budget must be made before the end of March. He would like to make contact with Little Fishes and Lakenheath Good Neighbours Scheme. He had nothing new to report from Highways. Cllr Smith asked if one or two bridges on the Wangford Road are to be repaired. Mr Noble said only the word "bridge" had been used so he presumed the other bridge is fine. Cllr Gathercole said 2 cars had gone off the C600 at the same spot so it would seem that there is a problem. Cllr Whitehand asked about Wings Road where the road narrows – ongoing. Cllr Frost raised the fact that the zebra crossing is too close to the road junction. Mr Noble said that this had been highlighted in the Village Plan and was a matter that PCSO Jason Thomas had raised. Cllr Chambers raised the issue of yellow lines. The Clerk asked for confirmation that there will be consultation before any action is taken re yellow lines. Mr Noble said that they would seek consultation from the Parish Council and the PCSO before any action is taken on yellow lines. The Clerk thanked Mr Noble for cheque in the sum of £1,405 – Locality Budget to meet cost of a new Parish / Village Hall noticeboard to be located outside the Village Hall /Parish Office. Cllr Smith said that SCC were ignoring his correspondence on transport, could he, Mr Noble, intervene. Mr Noble asked that Cllr Smith resend the correspondence to him and he will forward it with his comments. Mr Noble advised the meeting that Ipswich had not been successful in its bid for Unitary status. The Boundary Committee will be looking at the structure, so it will be "wait and see". He agreed that a lot of money had been spent on this bid. Mr Noble left the Meeting.

The Meeting was reopened.

7.MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA

Cllr Smith asked what was happening about the proposed roundabout in the children's playground. The Clerk said this would come up later in the Meeting. Cllr Chambers asked if the double delivery of FHDC News had been dealt with. The Clerk confirmed that it had. Cllr Chambers asked if FHDC had responded, the Clerk said that they had not. Cllr Chambers asked that she be allowed to contact FHDC as she had contacts from when she worked there.

Cllr Gathercole left the Meeting.

8. PLANNING MATTERS

(a) TO ELECT MEMBER TO THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Smith was elected.

(b) TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Clerk said there had been 8 applications all of which had been approved.

F/2007/0925/FUL – demolition of 10 bungalows, erection of 18 bungalows & garages on land at 1 – 10 Sharpes Corner

F/2007/0966/COU – change of use from hotel to residential Cromwell Inn 74-76 High St

F/2007/0884/FUL – erection of 2 storey chalet bungalow land at rear of 41 Wings Rd

F/2007/0959/OUT – OPP 79 Back St erection of 2 bugalows fronting onto Magnolia Dr

F/2007/0924/CAT - removal of 3 banches of poplar tree at Dove House, Hall Dr

F/2007/0989/CAT – removal to ground level 1 x Holly, 1 x Yew, 1 x Mountain Ash 5 Back St.

F/2007/0991/FUL – demolition of garage, erection of garage & single storey front/rear extension at 16 Mill Rd

F/20071017/FUL – erection front& side single storey extension 54 Undley Road

(c) TO CONSIDER ANY OUTSTANDING APPLICATION /CORRESPONDENCE

There is none.

(d) LAKENHEATH HALL

The Clerk stated that just before Christmas she had had a number of enquiries from parishioners as to what was happening at the Hall and as a result she had contacted FHDC. She read out an e-mail from FHDC which stated that the developer had been issued with a "STOP NOTICE" whilst FHDC were considering further action re issues on the site. Boarding had been erected to secure the site until approval is given for work to continue. FHDC have met with the developer's new planning team and a new application for the whole site is expected in due course.

Cllr Gathercole returned to the Meeting.

9. LAKENHEATH CEMETERY

(a) TO RECEIVE REPORT FROM THE CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Cllr Rissen said she had nothing to report, she had not been up in the last week but had been up prior to that and that it had been neat and tidy as usual. The Clerk said that she was having on going problems with an undertaker who had reopened a grave but failed to replace / remove the stone (for additional inscription) and as a result it is partially across another grave – on going.

18. CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk said that the next FHDC Parish Forum would be on 13th February 2008 in Newmarket at 7.00pm. She said she would not be able to attend this meeting and urged up to 3 Councillors to consider attending. This invitation is in circulation at the current time.

A letter had been received from Andy Evershed FHDC in response to a letter from the Clerk re FHDC response to S106 monies being allocated to a roundabout for the playground. FHDC feel that the Parish Council should be "more ambitious" and that Lakenheath (at Eriswell Road end) lacks "equipped play space". He & Ian Shipp will get back to the Council with proposals in due course.

19. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The following were requested – St Mary's Church; "What level of involvement does this Parish Council want to have on any new development on the old Playing Field"; Village Plan; Village Emergency Plan.

20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING MONDAY 4th FEBRUARY 2008

The date of the next meeting was announced.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

(b) TO CONFIRM GRANT OF EXCLUSIVE RIGHT OF BURIAL

David King – 24 Sandgalls Road, Lakenheath.

10. WAR MEMORIAL

The Clerk said she had written to Mildenhall Monumentals for a quote but that they had not come back to her. She noted that the Memorial was last cleaned/relettered in 1990 and only Mildenhall Monumentals had responded then. The work had cost £1631 plus VAT. The records suggested that a telephone quote of £3,500 had also been obtained at that time. The Clerk was asked to get quotes from further afield.

11. MOLES

Cllr Gentle remarked that the Playing Fields were mole sanctuary and they had led to the destruction of the tennis courts. Cllr Chambers said that 40 years ago there were molecatchers – now we cannot afford to have a full time molecatcher. Cllr Gathercole remarked that the Cricket Club have a vibrating roller. The problem is that it is not an option to put traps on an open site. Cllr Smith said that his concern is the Village Green, especially have just had some work done on it to improve its appearance. It was agreed that a molecatcher should be sought.

12. STREET FURNITURE

Cllr Smith in his quest to improve the appearance of the High Street suggested that work be undertaken on the seats (1 outside St Mary's Church and 2 on the Village Green). The seats on the Green could perhaps be moved back and then they could all be varnished. There is a parking sign at the Kebab shop which is in disrepair and two posts at the War Memorial. He also noted that there are 5 different types of litter bin in Lakenheath and added that the bins at Hall Drive & Mutford Green need attention. He said that HMP would possibly undertake work again and that he would be prepared to price up materials. Cllr Smith will pursue costings.

13. ST MARY'S CHURCH

It was decided that the Precept should be looked at before discussing/deciding anything on this.

14. RESPONSE RE SUFFOLK DRAFT CLIMATE CHANGE PLAN

It was proposed by Cllr Gathercole, seconded by Cllr Chambers and agreed by all that the Parish Council response to this should be dealt with by a sub committee. The sub

committee will be Cllrs Ingham, Rolph, Smith, Frost & Chambers.

15. FINANCIAL MATTERS

Bank Reconciliations for November & December were tabled along with a list of expenditure for December and expenditure by category from April to December 2007. Queries were raised on payment to Chaplin (£73.44), G & J Peck (£56.40 & £84.53), Browns of Burwell (£41.13). The Clerk said that Chaplin was for hedge cutting in the Cemetery; G & J Peck was for coming out when the tractor broke down – it is thought a switch had been inadvertently flicked, the Clerk was unable to recall what the other invoice related to and apologised for not having the invoices with her; Browns of Burwell related to tank dip to see if there was water in the diesel. No further queries raised, they and the reconciliations being accepted.

16. PRECEPT 2008/9

The Clerk had previously circulated a Budget Summary (dated 4th January 2008) (copy attached to these minutes) and an "Outturn Statement" (copy attached to these minutes).

Cllr Ingham suggested that as £10,500 had not been spent on the Playing Fields that amount should go back into the "pot" as we can't reallocate monies. Cllr Smith said the foregoing should be reason that we reduce the Precept. Cllr Gentle said that there is no point in setting a lower Precept if obligations cannot be met. Cllr Ingham asked about the monies allocated to the Village Plan. Cllr Gentle said that this is essentially a contingency fund for example for things such as sporting/leisure activities. Cllr Smith maintained that the Precept should not be kept at the current level since the Playing Field Project had not gone ahead. Cllr Gentle said that he agreed in principal but wondered by what would it be reduced. Cllr Smith replied £3 per household. Keeping the Precept at its current level was proposed by Cllr Chambers, seconded by Cllr Rissen. The Meeting voted 9 in favour with 1 against.

17. S137 APPLICATIONS

(i) OPTUA

A donation of £100 was proposed by Cllr Gathercole seconded by Cllr Frost and agreed by all.

(ii) SUFFOLK ACCIDENT RESCUE SERVICE

A donation of £100 was proposed by Cllr Whitehand seconded by Cllr Ingham and agreed by all.