

**Minutes of Meeting of Lakenheath Parish Council held at the Methodist Church
Chapel on Monday 4th February 2008 at 7.00pm**

Present: Messrs J Gentle

I Frost

D Gathercole

J Ingham

E Morley

R Rolph

I Smith

M Whitehand

Mrs A Chambers

Mrs P Rissen

17 members of the public and one member of the press were present.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr David Lucas and Mrs M Davis

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

signed by Cllrs Gathercole & Smith

The Chairman closed the meeting.

3. POLICE MATTERS

PCSO Jason Thomas reported that there had been vandalism to the sign in Briscoe Way; theft of 2 motor vehicles from driveways (the vehicles had not been used for some time); vandalism of walls in Highfields. Sheds are being targeted, keep them secure is the advice. He noted that the sign for the school at Highfields/Maids Cross Way is facing in the wrong direction and asked that that be rectified.

The meeting was reopened.

4. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 7th JANUARY 2008 –

Cllr Gathercole moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Cllr Rissen and agreed by all.

The Chairman closed the meeting.

5. REPRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A member of the public noted that the Precept had been “frozen” at its current level and said that this represented a 13% increase, since money for the Playing Fields (£10,500) had not been allocated to the PF. Another member of the public said that there had yet again been a double delivery of the FHDC Newsletter. She had spoken to FHDC who are keen to hear about any double delivery. It was pointed out that the bottle bank in the car park was overflowing – this has been attended to. A member of the PFA reminded the meeting that PFA AGM takes place on 21st February 2008 and that there is a real possibility that not enough people will be found for the Committee with the inevitable result that PFA could be wound up.

6. REPORT FROM

(a) RAF COMMANDER

Sqdn Ldr Neild said that they had not been able to make any headway on a case of flytipping (suspected to be American origin) reported to him by the Parish Clerk. He said that some “local” firms offered a house clearance service and it was suspected that some of these people were responsible for fly tipping. However, Sqdn Ldr Neild has said he will include fly tipping in his newcomer’s briefing. Cllr Smith raised concerns about American LHD cars whose lights dip in the wrong direction. Sqdn Ldr Neild will take up this issue.

(b) FOREST HEATH DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cllr Flack had received complaints about flytipping at Apollo Stables and said that he had previously raised a couple of issues with the Clerk which she had suggested should be addressed to Cllr Noble. Cllr Gentle said that he had received a call from the Eastern Daily Times regarding the developer on Eriswell Road being unhappy about monies he was being asked to pay. Cllr Gathercole said that

S106 monies had been agreed to but the developer then said he would not pay. FHDC have said that there are no grounds not to pay the money which has been earmarked for Village Hall improvements. Cllr Smith reported that there had been more flytipping at Sedge Fen Road. The Clerk said that she had received notification of a "Local Development Framework Working Group" meeting at FHDC on 6h February 2008 at 4.00pm – she has downloaded papers if anyone is interested and she reminded the meeting that 4 Councillors have said they will attend the FH Parish Forum in Newmarket on 13th February 2008 at 7.00pm.

(c) SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

Cllr Noble noted that Mrs Smith (caravan dweller on Sedge Fen Road by Paradise Lake) had moved and that he is arranging an earth bung in order to address any return of the problem there. He said that there are to be 3 weekend road closures at Eriswell weir bridge whilst repair work is carried out. The first of these will be Friday 29th February until Monday 2nd March. Regarding lorry traffic, a new site has been opened at Feltwell but Norfolk CC did not consult SCC and as a result there has been an increase in lorry traffic esp. as the Wangford Road is considered to be substandard. It is hoped that when the improvements on this road have been carried out the traffic will be rerouted. The remainder of his Locality Budget is going to a DVD which the RBL are producing to mark its 75th Anniversary. He hopes to be able to look at Little Fishes & Good Neighbours in the next financial year. Cllr Gathercole said that a member of the public had asked about a street light at the Firs (High Street where the old chemist / bakery was). Cllr Noble said that this was a Parish matter and the Clerk confirmed that the Parish does "look after" other lights on the High Street. Cllr Flack said that Quayside Court residents had asked if a crossing o/s Quayside Court and a bench between Quayside Court and the Coop could be considered. Cllr Noble said that a crossing was highly unlikely and had not been identified in the Village Plan but that when the Wangford Road works were carried out a temporary crossing might be a possibility. Regarding the bench, he felt sure that one of "his" charities would

meet the cost of that if the PC would install & pay for the upkeep. However, a suitable site would have to be identified. Cllr Morley asked that this be an agenda item for the next meeting – to be considered along with “street furniture”. Cllr Gentle asked if a soakaway could be put in place at Wangford Road/A1065; Cllr Noble said that he will raise this, remarking that the road silts up badly there. Cllr Ingham said that the crossing in the High Street* is an on-going issue but nothing seems to be done, the PC should have a duty of care. Cllr Gathercole proposed that Cllr Ingham take it on, seconded by Cllr Chambers, who suggested “ACTION POINTS” on minutes. Cllr Chambers said there is a big problem with flytipping and produced a map and photos of Eldon Drove area. Part of the problem is that a number of agencies are involved. Cllr Noble said that he has now involved Adam Smith of SCC Waste Management Team and he would like to arrange a meeting in the next 2/3 weeks. The Clerk will look at Village Hall bookings to see if a suitable morning can be found. Cllr Smith said that there is a lot of residue from the works at the Wangford Road/A1065. Cllr Chambers said that there are problems at the household waste site at Barton Mills, this, and the £20 charge, pointed out by Cllr Smith, to get rid of bulky items is possibly attributing to flytipping. Perhaps there needs to be a review of the charging policy#. Cllr Chambers to take this on. Cllr Noble is now the SCC Councillor & Assistant Portfolio Holder for Resource Management & Transformation. He is also chairing meetings on the Schools Reorganisation Stakeholder Forum. Roll out is expected in 2011. SCC Budget – headline figure of +3.75% which is considered acceptable when inflation is running at 4%. Transport has been given another 1million pounds – bus users in Suffolk have been increasing. Cllr Noble left the meeting. (*AP – JI # AP- AC)

The meeting was reopened.

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

Cllr Morley asked about progress on the new sign. The Clerk said that when she last spoke to Mr Horne several weeks ago he hoped to have it done by the end of February. She reminded the meeting that he had been unwell. The Clerk to follow

up. Cllr Smith asked if a location for the old sign could be an agenda item for the next meeting. Cllr Chambers reiterated the need for residents to say if they receive more than one copy of FHDC newsletter.

Cllr Gathercole left the meeting.

8. PLANNING MATTERS

(a) TO RECEIVE REPORT FROM THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Clerk said that Cllr Rolph had been elected Chairman of the Planning Committee. The Clerk had contacted FHDC re Lakenheath Hall – it is unlikely that anything will happen there much before the end of May. There have been 4 applications all of which have been approved:-

F/2007/1028/FUL-erection of new HQ for 493rd Fighter Wing, with car parking & access over taxiway

F/2007/1041/FUL- erection single storey front&side extension-36 Woodcutters Way

F/2008/0044/FUL- rear conservatory-13 Pashford Close

F/2008/0070/FUL-resubmission loft conversion – 2bedrooms,shower room with 2rear facing dormer windows -155 High St

On the following:-

F/2007/0925/FUL – 18 bungalows , Sharpes Corner- application withdrawn

F/2006/0928/OUT- 2detached bungalows, 3 garages & turning space – 132 High St – Appeal has been dismissed.

(b) TO CONSIDER ANY OUTSTANDING APPLICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

There are currently 2 plans in circulation – one for a single storey dwelling and storage underneath at Apollo stables and one for removal of horsechestnut tree

branches- land adj. to 15 Cornfield Ave

Cllr Gathercole returned to the meeting.

9. LAKENHEATH CEMETERY

(a) TO RECEIVE REPORT FROM THE CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Cllr Rissen said that there had been a meeting of the Committee and that they had approved expenditure on Memorial Inspection by Zurich Municipal. The Clerk has been asked to get quotes on tree pollarding in the Cemetery. Arrangements have been made to get rid of wood waste from the Cemetery and the Cemetery Keeper has been advised that he can use his pressure washer to remove algae from the Memorial Gates at the New Cemetery – the situation re further work needed on the gates will be assessed after that is done. Cllrs Rissen & Chambers sat with the Clerk one morning to see what paperwork needed to be done for funerals. Cllr Gathercole said that the Keeper had asked him, as had the Clerk, to look at a front tyre. Some wear to one side was noted - tracking out? This is to be looked at when tractor is serviced with a new tyre being bought then. Cllr Rissen said that she had received a call from an undertaker re the placing of a seat in the New Cemetery. She is of the opinion that although there are 6 seats in the New Cemetery there would be room for another on the other side of the pathway. Cllr Gathercole proposed allowing the seat to be placed in the Cemetery*, seconded by Cllr Rissen and agreed by all. The Clerk to contact Mr Denney re this. Cllr Smith asked if a headstone had been removed by Turners for further work# – not known. He will contact Turners. (AP *-Clerk #- IS)

10. PLAYING FIELDS-WHAT LEVEL OF INVOLVEMENT DOES THE PARISH COUNCIL WANT

Cllr Gathercole was asked to make a statement, rather than leave the room – the Code of Conduct allows for this. Cllr Smith said that if the PF is wound down the PC will be obliged under the Local Government Act to provide this facility. There

was discussion around this and comparison with the Village Hall. However, it was claimed that there is no statutory obligation on a PC to provide Village Hall facilities. Cllr Gathercole said that he now had 3 people who would do work on the PF. Cllr Rolph proposed that Cllr Gathercole should continue in his quest for funding. Cllr Rissen said that we didn't know if the PF would have a Committee after 21st February. Cllr Ingham proposed leaving any decision on this until the PF had had their AGM. This was seconded by Cllr Rolph. Voted 4 to 2 in favour.

11.VILLAGE EMERGENCY PLAN-DISCUSSION & EXPLANATION

Cllr Ingham said he had been in touch with SCC & FHDC . There is no legal requirement on a Parish to have a Plan. Arrangements fall under the Civil Contingency Act. FHDC are asking Parishes if they would get a Community Plan in place. Essentially this would cover the first 24 hours of an emergency. He would envisage the Plan being kept under lock & key in the Parish Office and he estimates that a village the size of Lakenheath would require 4 co-ordinators, 2 of whom he hopes would come from the public. Cllr Gathercole proposed that Cllr Ingham should carry on the work he had begun, seconded by Cllr Chambers and agreed by all. (AP – JI)

12.VILLAGE PLAN- ANNUAL REVIEW

Cllr Gentle said he wanted to be sure that all of the PC knows what it is about. This year only the Cinema has been achieved.

13.QUALITY PARISH STATUS

Cllr Gentle said that there is major reorganisation of local government and this could be the way forward. For a Parish to be treated with respect, to be viewed favourably when trying to get money and to have a qualified Clerk this is the way to go. Cllr Ingham suggested proceeding with caution and Cllr Gathercole said he was still and always had been against it. The qualification is with the Clerk and should the Clerk leave, the status goes too. Cllr Gentle suggested nothing should

be done on the spur of the moment that it needed thought and that there should be a good working relationship with a Clerk.

14. ST MARY'S CHURCH- CONSERVATION WORK ON PAINTINGS

Cllr Morley said he knew that a lot of money would be involved in this work but that it is our heritage. Cllr Gentle suggested putting in a nominal sum and perhaps approach FHDC (through Cllr Flack) for funding. Cllr Gathercole urged a cautious approach as the PC are liable for expenditure on St Mary's Churchyard and the wall is a liability. He said he could chase up FHDC. Cllr Morley suggested a donation of £1,000, seconded by Cllr Frost and agreed by all.

15. FINANCIAL MATTERS

A list of expenditure from January to current date, including cheques to be signed, and a bank reconciliation were tabled. Cllr Ingham moved to accept and Cllr Gentle seconded, agreed. Cllr Ingham asked what steps were in place to ensure Internal Audit procedures were satisfactory to PC. The Clerk said an independent internal audit is done and his recommendations are on file, on which note the Clerk is keen to get a Councillor to check balances as this had been identified as a risk check*. Cllr Ingham to see Clerk on Wednesday morning. The Clerk asked that 2 Councillors remain at the end of the meeting to sign cheques and a bank transfer. (*AP – JI/Clerk)

16. CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk said she had posters about a very powerful performance Dance East were putting on – Mildenhall 6th March – a bus will be put on £1 return from Lakenheath. She will put it in Lakenheath Times but suspects it may not be delivered in time. Cllr Gathercole said he was aware of a parishoner keen to get involved in the Hedgerow Survey*. (*AP – Clerk)

17. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING- SET DATE/SPEAKER

Date set at Wednesday 16th April 2008, Village Hall 7.00pm. Cllr Gathercole suggested, as a speaker a gentleman who had addressed a SALC AGM*. The Clerk wondered if it was Lord Phillips who is one of SALC's Vice Presidents. Confirmed.
(*AP – Clerk)

18. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

War Memorial

Standing Orders

Street Light at the Firs, High Street.

19. NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 3rd MARCH 2008.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.00pm

