

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF LAKENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE METHODIST CHURCH  
CHAPEL ON MONDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> JUNE 2008**

Present :- Messrs D Gathercole (Chairman)

Mrs A Chambers (Vice Chair)

J Gentle

Mrs P Rissen

D Lucas

E Morley

R Rolph

I Smith

M Whitehand

In Attendance :- Cllr Colin Noble, Cllr Simon Flack and Squadron Leader Jerry Neild

11 members other public and 2 members of the press were present.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr Ingham (Illness)

PCSO Thomas

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Gathercole – planning (FHDC); Village Hall & Lakenheath Playing Fields

**3. POLICE MATTERS**

In the absence of PCSO Thomas, the Clerk read a report which had been e-mailed to her. There were 21 recorded crimes in the month of May – damage to motor vehicles, theft, possession of controlled drug and the theft of a motor vehicle, which has since been recovered. The Safer Neighbourhood Team have been looking into off road motor cycles and mini motos. Speed Enforcement has been tackled resulting in 19 drivers receiving cautions and 3 drivers being summoned to court.

The message PCSO Thomas would like to get across is keep property secure and valuables out of sight and any information regarding off road motor cycles, mini motos or quad bikes will be gratefully received.

**4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 12<sup>th</sup> MAY 2008**

Acceptance of minutes was proposed, seconded and agreed by all.

*The Chairman closed the meeting*

**5. REPRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

There were none.

**6. REPORTS FROM**

**a) RAF COMMANDER**

Sqdn Ldr Neild said he had been away for two weeks but he was aware that there had been complaints about aircraft noise and the helicopters. He said the complaints were taken

seriously and the issues would be addressed. The helicopters had been training prior to deployment – they have now been deployed so there should no longer be helicopter nuisance.

He was aware that there had been traffic congestion problems this morning at the Lord's Walk roundabout. PC Paul Glover will be in attendance tomorrow to see what problems there are. (There should not have been any as the new entry points – further into the base- are now operating). It is hoped that all will run smoothly in future.

Sqdn Ldr Neild was thanked and he left the meeting.

**b) FOREST HEATH DISTRICT COUNCIL**

There was nothing to report.

**c) SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL**

Cllr Noble confirmed with Cllr Smith that he had heard from Adam Baker re Sport Bursary. He wondered if Lakenheath had an Emergency Plan as he had taken part in an exercise in Eriswell last week. He was advised by the Chairman that Lakenheath have an Emergency Plan. Cllr Smith said it should be worth noting that BT public phone boxes will always “work” in an emergency – mobile phones may not- and villages should be aware of this when the PO are looking to get rid of phone boxes. He felt this was something SCC may want to consider.

Cllr Noble said that he was aware Lakenheath Doctors had a petition which could be signed by residents ( saving local surgeries – in light of polyclinics which may be set up). Cllr Noble is aware that such a clinic may be set up in Haverhill and Newmarket Hospital may have two doctors' surgeries.

Cllr Noble was asked about speed limit on Maids Cross Hill and road narrowing signs for Wings Road but neither issue has progressed. He was asked if something could be done about the overgrowing hedge around Caudle Farm (visibility hazard for drivers leaving South Road). The Clerk advised that she had already taken up this matter with Elvedon Farms who are trying to make arrangements with SCC for the necessary cutting work to be done. He was also asked if the work at Mutford Green was in hand – the Clerk said that this had been referred to SCC 2 Man Gang and they had not said they would not do it so it was taken to be “in hand”. Cllr Gathercole said it was 10 months since chevrons through the Fens had been looked at but nothing had happened and it was 9 months since the resident at 10 High St had reported that he is flooded out in wet weather – no progress.

On flytipping, Cllr Noble said that he and Cllr Chambers are to attend another multi agency meeting. On which note Cllr Chambers said that she had an incident of flytipping to be reported – she wondered if the Parish Keeper could deal with it. Details passed to Clerk.

*Resolved – Cllr Noble to chase up chevrons & flooding at 10 High St*

*Clerk to see if Parish Keeper can deal with flytipping*

Cllr Noble was thanked and he left the meeting.

*The meeting was reopened.*

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

The Clerk read a letter from Matthews stating that they had not had any communication with Tesco or any of the other companies that make up the medias "Big 4".

The Clerk said that FHDC had apologised if the Parish Council had felt ignored during the street naming process at "The Grange". They had followed procedure – a copy of which would be available from the Clerk.

The Clerk said she had heard from the Flower Club re "fostering" of the planters on the Village Green. However, they did not feel that they could take on this role – time would be at least one of the issues. The Chairman asked Cllr Morley how he had got on with his efforts – trying to persuade local retailers to get involved. Cllr Morley said that very early on manpower and money were identified as being problems. Did the Parish Council want the planters or should they be got rid of? It was proposed and seconded and agreed 4 to 3 to get rid of the planters on the Village Green.

*Resolved – Clerk to look into disposal of planters.*

## **8.PLANNING MATTERS**

The Chairman declared an interest, said he would remain in the meeting but take no part in discussion.

### **a) TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Cllr Rolph said that 3 applications had been received – 2 were amendments to the proposed development at the rear of 65 – 73 Station Road, 1 of which was still in circulation and the other, again still in circulation, erection of 2 barn style dwellings/garages 64-66 High St. The 1 application which had been considered was objected to :-

F/2008/0236/FUL (amended) – major development 23 houses – rear of 65-73 Station Road – amendment makes no difference to previous objection – not in keeping with character of area, high density, access point not acceptable.

### **b) TO CONSIDER ANY OUTSTANDING APPLICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE**

2 applications in circulation, as above.

## **9. LAKENHEATH CEMETERY**

### **a)TO RECEIVE REPORT FROM CEMETERY COMMITTEE**

Cllr Rissen said that Zurich Municipal had carried out a memorial safety check and had found 66 memorials with a problem. 8 of the 66 had been "fixed" last time – these had "bonding" issues; 7 are old headstones; the latest one to fail was erected in 2005 – an open book, again with bonding issues. There was some discussion as to who should "foot the bill". It was noted that following the last inspection Mildenhall Monumentals had sorted out their memorials free of charge.

It was proposed that Mildenhall Monumentals be approached in the first instance, this was seconded and agreed by all.

**Resolved – Clerk /Chair of Cemetery Committee contact Mildenhall Monumentals**

### **b) TO CONFIRM GRANT OF EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS**

There were none.

### **c)REVIEW OF CEMETERY FEES**

The Clerk had obtained details of fees from 3 neighbouring cemeteries and had drawn up a comparison, as far as possible – this had been previously circulated to Councillors. Lakenheath fees were considerably lower. It was proposed that the fees were raised by 10%. This was seconded and agreed by all.

### **10. VILLAGE EMERGENCY PLAN – UPDATE**

In the absence of Cllr Ingham, the Chairman said this item would be held over until the next Parish Council Meeting.

### **11.CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND**

Cllr Gathercole, reading from his copy of minutes January 2006, said it had been agreed that the swing nearest the main road, in the children's playground, should be painted but this had not been done. It was proposed, seconded and agreed by all that this should be done.  
*Resolved – Clerk to arrange with the Village Keeper to have this done.*

The Chairman, being Chairman of Lakenheath Playing Fields Association, left the meeting at this point.

### **12. SKATE PARK INSPECTIONS – PARISH COUNCIL ROLE**

There had been a request from the LPFA that the assistant village keeper, who currently carries out a weekly inspection of the children's playground for the Parish Council, be asked, with the permission of the PC to carry out the skatepark inspection. This is currently carried out by FHDC at a cost in excess of £1,000p.a. If the PC agreed to this (the only cost being a little additional time on Mr Archer's timesheet) it could be seen as a contribution/goodwill by PC to LPFA. This was proposed, seconded and agreed by all.

*Resolved – Clerk to include this as part of assistant village keeper's duties and to advise parties accordingly.*

*The Chairman returned to the meeting.*

### **13.BOUNDARY COMMITTEE REVIEW – as a Parish Council do we wish to adopt a view?**

Cllr Gathercole said that the PC should have a view. It was generally felt that decisions had already been made and the view of the PC would carry little weight. However, it was proposed, seconded and agreed that the PC would draft something to be submitted, preferably via other PCs.

*Resolved – Cllr Gentle to draft PC view.*

### **14. STREET LIGHT – THE FIRS, 102A HIGH ST**

The Clerk had previously circulated correspondence on this matter but SCC were now giving 2 options for the site – Option 1 would site the light towards the rear of the path, lighting that footway, whilst Option 2 would be sited 1 metre back from the highway (in the verge) therefore, possibly throwing more light on the opposite footway. It was proposed to proceed with Option 2 in sum of £1091.81 plus VAT. This was seconded and agreed by all.

*Resolved – Clerk to contact SCC to arrange new light unit.*

#### **15. SUFFOLK PCSO PILOT – does the Parish Council wish to get involved**

Correspondence on this had previously been circulated by Clerk – pilot scheme to have/share a PCSO on 50/50 split Constabulary/Parish Council over a 2 year period – total cost in region of £30,000. The view of the PC is that large contribution made to policing. Proposed and seconded that the PC has nothing to do with the “pilot”. Agreed by all but one.

*Resolved – Clerk to advise SALC office that PC no longer have any interest in the scheme.*

#### **16. FINANCIAL MATTERS**

List of expenditure for the month was tabled. It was proposed to accept expenditure as listed, seconded and agreed by all.

The circulation of financial papers prior to PC meetings was raised – the Clerk stated that it would be impossible to get bank reconciliations out before every meeting – as in case of this meeting if PC meeting very early bank statements will not have arrived. Equally a list of expenditure, prior to meeting, could be difficult and put the Clerk to a considerable amount of last minute running around. The Clerk was of the opinion that if these papers were wanted prior to the meeting then the meeting day may have to be changed.

*Resolved – this issue is taken to Finance Committee*

#### **17. SUBSCRIPTIONS – SWT and RSPB**

The Clerk said subscription for SWT was due for renewal. It was agreed by the meeting to continue SWT membership. She reminded the PC that it had been suggested by previous Council that the PC may wish to show support for RSPB reserve on our doorstep (with all the benefits that tourists could bring to village). The papers she had circulated re RSPB membership had related to very costly Corporate Membership. However, she had since spoken to RSPB at Lakenheath and they said that an affiliate membership could be arranged – that would be in the region of £5 to £10 a month. After some discussion it was proposed that £100 be “donated” to RSPB. This was seconded and agreed by the meeting.

*Resolved – Clerk will contact RSPB with a view to arranging “affiliate” membership of RSPB.*

#### **18. CORRESPONDENCE**

##### **a) RECEIVED**

All correspondence had been circulated.

##### **b) REVIEW CIRCULATION MEETING**

There had been complaints about the volume of correspondence in circulation, it was felt that a lot of it did not have to be circulated. The meeting was reminded that they themselves had asked that all correspondence be circulated. Cllr Gathercole proposed that in future he, as Chairman, would view all correspondence and take the decision on what would/would not be circulated thus taking this difficult decision from the Clerk. This was seconded and agreed by the meeting, with one vote against and one abstention.

#### **19. HEALTH & SAFETY SEMINAR**

The Clerk said she would like to attend this meeting and asked if anyone else would like/be willing to attend as Cllr Whitehand could no longer attend due to work commitments. Cllr Smith said he would attend.

## **20. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

Cllr Rissen said she had been in the Parish Office on Tuesday morning and had noticed how noisy it was (hiring in the Hall). As this is a regular hiring she wondered if the Parish Office opening hours should be looked at – perhaps a Tuesday afternoon instead of the morning. The Clerk said opening hours had been mentioned during interview and she had been advised that they could be reviewed once the “novelty” of a Parish Office in the village had worn off. She added that in fact not opening at all on a Tuesday may be better as she could “reclaim” some of her hours as she regularly works between 25 and 30 hours a week.

The following were put forward :-

Disposal/Auctioning of the old Village Sign

Wooden railings around Wings Road Car Park

War Memorial

Quality Parish Status – in light of Boundary Commission Review

## **21. TO NOTE DATE OF NEXT MEETING –MONDAY 7<sup>th</sup> JULY 2008.**

The Clerk advised that the Parish Office would be closed for the week commencing Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June. She also reminded Councillors about SALC Forest Heath Area Meeting at Freckenham the following night.

Cllr Rolph said he would like to say how grateful he is to the Playing Fields Association for the work they are doing.

Cllr Chambers asked if she could make an announcement re a Ceilidh to be held in Village Hall on 11<sup>th</sup> October in aid of Playing Fields.

Cllr Gathercole said he had become aware of a campaign to keep the Doctors surgery in the village open (in light of government proposals to set up polyclinics) & he suggested going to surgery to sign or going on line. The Clerk asked if this was to be done on behalf of the Parish Council and it was agreed that it should be.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.30pm.