

MINUTES OF MEETING OF LAKENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE METHODIST CHURCH CHAPEL ON MONDAY 4th August 2008

Present :- Messrs D Gathercole (Chairman)

Mrs A Chambers (Vice

Chair)

J Gentle
I Frost
J Ingham
R Rolph
I Smith

Mrs P Rissen
M Whitehand

In Attendance :- Cllr Colin Noble, and Squadron Leader Jerry Neild
10 members of the public and 2 members of the press were present.

1.APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

PCSO Jason Thomas,(FHDC) Cllr Simon Flack (meeting) & Cllr Morley (-)

2.DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

3.POLICE MATTERS

In the absence of PCSO Jason Thomas, the Clerk read out a report he had e-mailed earlier in the day. There were 18 reported crimes in July, of those 5 were of a personal nature, such as domestics and are not crimes as such. There were 6 thefts from motor vehicles/sheds – message is, secure your property. There were 3 cases of cannabis possession; 2 cases of criminal damage; 1 case of house burglary and 1 case of accosting – a child being followed on the way home from school. The SNT are in contact with the child's family.

PC 118 Matthew Ross has joined the SNT and indeed took part in the Tug of War Team at the Village Fete.

PCSO Thomas added that he had enjoyed the Carnival/Fete, having been both on duty but also being able to take part in the fun – Tug of War!

The Chairman closed the meeting.

6. Report from

(a)RAF Commander Lakenheath

Sqdn Ldr Neild was thanked by the Chairman for both his and the Base Commander's contribution/assistance with the Carnival /Fete. Sqdn Ldr Neild in return thanked all involved with Carnival/Fete for an enjoyable event. The Base Commander, Brigadier General Hesterman, takes up a new post in 3 weeks and his position will be filled by someone already stationed in the country. Sqdn Ldr Neild said there had been a few complaints about flying activity but as of 5th August most of the F15s will be on deployment; therefore, the only activity will be from helicopters.

Sqdn Ldr Neild was thanked for his report and he left the meeting

The meeting was reopened

4.CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 7th July 2008

Acceptance of minutes was proposed, seconded and agreed by all present at the meeting of 7th July.

The Chairman closed the meeting

5.REPRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were none.

6.REPORTS FROM

b) FOREST HEATH DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cllr Gathercole said that FHDC are proceeding with plans for the "Ball Park" – on the Playing Fields. It is at procurement stage, out to tender. The Planning Application has been submitted.

c) SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

Cllr Noble added his congratulations to all for the enjoyable Carnival/Fete, noting that despite the weather for the first hour or two, the number of people who stayed on showed how enjoyable it had been. He, himself, was thanked by the Chairman for his support and in taking part in judging of Carnival floats.

Referring to the minutes of July PC meeting, Cllr Noble said he would welcome a request for Locality Budget monies to assist with War Memorial cleaning. Commenting on Quality Parish Status, he said that he felt the PC should "go for it" – no doubt a bigger role for PCs if change goes ahead. He was pleased to note that the PC had donated £500 to Peace Memorial Hall for new railings and added that he would be meeting the remainder of the cost from Locality Budget. On the matter of flooding raised at he last meeting SCC have been out and noted that there are silting problems in a least two areas of the village and they will, therefore, carry out a village wide survey of the situation.

On A11 upgrade proposals, he noted that there will be no direct access from B1112 (road will go underneath) – Highways are keen no to have farm vehicles on dual carriageway. The Tuddenham junction is being looked at.

As a result of the multi agency flytipping meeting in the village in July an article is expected to be put in the Lakenheath times in September. A booklet "Tackling Flytipping" was given to the PC by Cllr Noble.

Cllr Noble mentioned "Homeshield" – aimed at promoting health, well being and safety of people, although referrals will apparently only be made by "frontline staff" and "Suffolk Welcome Pack" website – providing information to new arrivals in the country – text will be found in English, Polish, Portugese and Russian.

Cllr Smith said he had received information from County Council stating only chnge to bus services would be wef 18 August 2008 services would be taken over by Mulleys (in place of Burtons). Cllr Chambers wondered if work had already started on Wangford Road – Cllr Noble was not aware that it had begun and Cllr Rolph suggested it was a drainage problem only. Cllr Whitehand raised the issue of Wings Road sign (road narrowing) – still not resolved.

Turning to Local Government Review Cllr Noble urged people to give consideration to a "One Suffolk" bid stating that 80% of Council Tax is currently spent by County; proposed University at Ipswich would provide outreach service to rural areas where youngsters "dropping out " of education/study/work is a problem and finally,tax base spend (buses being a good example) a split would create a rich town/poor countryside

situation – to which Cllr Gentle added that the East is the poorest beneficiary in the country in terms of money received.

Cllr Noble was thanked and he left the meeting.

Resolved – Clerk to liaise with War Memorial Trust/Cllr Noble re Locality Budget for Memorial cleaning.

The meeting was reopened.

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

The Clerk said that £260 had been raised from the auction of the old village sign for the War Memorial cleaning – as per PC resolution of 7 July 2008. She also updated the PC on 2nd application to War Memorial Trust – had 2 questions for Fairhaven – Clerk had been in touch with Fairhaven who had intimated that the work could be done in October if convenient. The matter of the railings was raised and the Clerk said that she had no sooner spoken to the Village Keeper about it than the work was done – she has not seen the railings herself.

8.PLANNING MATTERS

Cllr Gathercole said he would remain in the room but take no part in debate.

a) TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Rolph said that 4 applications had been considered. Of these, there was no objection to the following:-

F/2008/0184/FUL(resubmission)-single storey side ext. – 1 Broom Road Close (3 for :1 against)

F/2008/0479/FUL – dropped kerb – 3 Palmer Drive

There was an objection to the following:-

F/2008/0255/FUL(resubmission)- erection 2 dwellings – 3 Roughlands (3against:1for) and further information has been requested for the following:-

F/2008/0464/FUL(retrospective) – single storey garage& carport – Felsted, Drift Road

b) TO CONSIDER ANY OUTSTANDING APPLICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

2 applications in circulation. The Clerk said that she had been advised by the Monitoring Officer at FHDC that they were in talks re situation at Lakenheath Hall – no other information available at this time.

c)TO CONSIDER F/2008/0341/FUL – erection 18 x 2 storey houses/garages, demolition 10 bungalows land at 1 – 10 Sharpes Corner –

Cllr Gentle stated that adjacent site at Mutford Green had been built as homes for elderly (bungalows) and at that time required piling but there was no mention of that on this application. It can be seen how bungalows on current site are sinking – an eyesore. Cllr Gathercole said piling is not a “material consideration” and Building Regulations should address that issue. It was further stated that this is an overdevelopment on a dangerous corner. Cllr Smith acknowledging that an extra access is to be put in said that it will add to the danger and no doubt the grass verge would be used by vehicles. Cllr Rolph stated that development should be bungalows not houses and no more than currently there. It was proposed, seconded and agreed by all (bar Cllr Gathercole) to object to application. “It is considered that this application is an overdevelopment; houses are not in keeping with the site/situation; the access is dangerous and it will overload an already overloaded sewage system. Mutford Green, an adjacent site was piled but there is no mention of piling in this development”

Resolved – Clerk to respond to FHDC as at c) above

9. LAKENHEATH CEMETERY

a) TO RECEIVE REPORT FROM CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Cllr Rissen reported that 2 headstones in the Old Cemetery were laying down and as there is the slight possibility of them being a trip hazard the Cemetery Caretaker has put string around them with a warning sign. It is felt that these could both be earthed back in. It was proposed, seconded and agreed by all to earth the stones back in. Cllr Whitehand offered his assistance to the Cemetery Caretaker to do this. Cllr Rissen went on to say that stonemasons are being contacted by the Clerk in connection with memorials that were noted in the recent safety inspection. For older memorials, noted in the inspection, the Clerk is liaising with Cllr Rissen to see if relatives are contactable. The Clerk stated that she has advised main undertakers of increased Cemetery Fees which took effect from 1st August 2008. Cllr Chambers stated that she is awaiting costings from other Cemeteries to come back.

Resolved – Clerk to liaise with Cemetery Caretaker & Cllr Whitehand to earth back in 2 stones in Old Cemetery. Clerk to continue contacting stonemasons re memorials, as above.

b) TO CONFIRM GRANT OF EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS

There were none.

10. REMOVAL OF PLANTERS FROM VILLAGE GREEN AREAS – to receive quotes

Concern was expressed about possibility of car parking on Village Green /grassed areas to which Cllr Gathercole stated that he is currently in discussion with FHDC about a BYLAW, which can be enforced by police/PCSO. The Clerk stated that the 2 quotes requested by the PC had been received – B J Rutterford quoted £150 plus VAT and Sutton Services Ltd quoted £450 plus VAT. It was proposed, seconded and agreed by all to accept the quote from B J Rutterford. There was some discussion about the 3 planters opposite Quayside Court which are not to be removed. It was suggested that some of the better plants in the planters to be removed be transplanted to these 3. This was proposed, seconded and agreed by all.

Resolved – Clerk to contact B J Rutterford accepting quote . Clerk to liaise with Village Keeper re transplanting plants. Cllr Gathercole to continue efforts in obtaining BYLAW re car parking.

11. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH- update from meeting 22nd July 2008

Cllr Whitehand attended the meeting – nothing for PC to deal with but message seemed to be that they would like to be kept informed of what is happening at Parish Council. The next meeting is in 3 months time.

12. CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA – update/work to be done

From last month's inspections the two main issues are "inners" for the bins and signage. Wood chippings had been an issue but a load has been put down. On inners for bins (these are older , but perfectly serviceable concrete bins) Cllr Whitehand said he would look on internet. Re signage – Cllr Gathercole expressed frustration and disappointment that no sooner had an advisory notice gone up in the skatepark than it had found its way to the river/cut! A number of the Councillors have spoken to the youngsters hoping to gain their confidence in tackling the vandalism. Cllr Gathercole stated that the Legal Dept. at FHDC said that the LPFA had shown due diligence. The Clerk suggested that

the sign be replaced and the signs for the Playground (which have been provided by LPFA) be put in place and photographed. (This course of action had been suggested at Zurich H & S Seminar, recently attended by her and Cllr Smith).

Resolved – Clerk to ask Village Keeper to put up signs in playground; Cllr Smith to photograph signs in place. Cllr Whitehand to see if he can locate inners for the bins.

13.LAKENHEATH TIMES – costings

The Clerk advised the meeting that it is becoming increasingly difficult to meet requirements with 2200 copies and suggested that the number should perhaps be increased to 2250. Cllr Ingham said that the Editor had said he did not think it would be long before 2400 copies would be required. It was proposed to increase the number of copies to 2250. This was seconded and agreed by all. Regarding the actual cost of the Newsletter, Cllr Ingham said he had been in touch with Rev Leach but that they had not yet managed to meet up. He added that Quality Parish Status would still be met even if the newsletter only came out once a quarter. It was suggested once every two months. It was considered that some of content was repetitive. The meeting was reminded that the PC had voted for the Newsletter. Cheaper paper was suggested as was putting recurring items on one page only. It was felt that there should be more involvement from the village. A proposal to keep a monthly Newsletter on cheaper paper with an article about possible options was put forward. A second proposal, to leave the Newsletter monthly, economise on the paper and include more relevant information was put forward. The second proposal was seconded and agreed by all.

Resolved – Clerk to contact Editor regarding number of copies and paper

14.FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a)PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

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

(b)INTERNAL AUDIT – report/update

The Clerk reported that the Internal Audit had been carried out, nothing to note, report available, in Parish Office. The Annual Return had, therefore, been completed by the Clerk, Chairman and the Internal Auditor and sent off to BDO Stoy Hayward.

15.PARISH COUNCIL DONATIONS

Cllr Ingham stated that the PC had already spent £600 out of an annual budgetted figure of £1000 and that a limit should be set. The Clerk urged caution in passing a resolution on this as donation should mean exactly that – if it could not be afforded at time of request then it should not be approved, that is always an option on donations. It was proposed not to exceed £1000 in donations this financial year. This was seconded and agreed by all.

16.DISCUSS OPTIONS FOR CHANGING DATE OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS TO 2nd MONDAY OF MONTH

It was stated that this had been proposed so that more financial information could be available prior to the meeting (bank reconciliation & monthly payments) rather than being tabled. The Clerk stated that there is no requirement to produce bank reconciliations each month (or indeed at all) and that the monthly payments will

always be tabled (as they always have been) as some invoices come in on the morning of the meeting and it would be unfair to leave them until the next meeting which could be more than a month later and having too many cheques signed in between meetings is not ideal practice. It was noted that the first Monday of the month is easier to remember . It was proposed, seconded and agreed by all to leave meetings as 1st Monday of the month.

17. CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk read out a letter from NALC re Undley Road Land/PC/ LPFA “based upon the information provided there does not appear to be any restrictive covenants imposed as to the future use of the land. In the circumstances the PC can (if it so wishes) consent to the Trustees sub-letting for agricultural purposes”.

The Clerk advised the PC that the Village Hall/Parish Office proposed lease is in the office if anyone would like to look at it prior to it going to the Solicitors.

FHDC are looking for another member (Parish/Town Councillor) of the Standards Board – sight of this requested by Cllr Chambers.

There is other correspondence available in the office :- East of England Plan; Minerals Specific Site Allocations; Boundary Committee; Play your Part (Crime & Disorder); Zurich Reports & FHDC Parish Briefing.

Cllr Chambers has been advised that 2 street lights are on most of the time – reported and that flytipping is happening again on 1st Drove.

18. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Cllr Smith proposed “Registration of Village Green”.

19. TO NOTE FUTURE DATES

19 August -SCC meet re Boundary Review at Newmarket

2 September - Boundary Committee at Millenium Centre

9 September – SALC Forest Heath Area meeting at Eriswell

The Clerk asked that she be notified asap if anyone wished to attend any of the meetings.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be on Monday 1st September 2008.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm

