

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

The Chairman closed the meeting

5. REPRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

A member of the public asked why the "holding area" at RAF Lakenheath cannot be reopened.

Resolved – Clerk to contact Sqdn Ldr Neild re this.

6. REPORT FROM

b) FOREST HEATH DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cllr Gathercole read out a letter from Peter Heard FHDC asking for a Parish Councillor to join the Standards Committee. The Clerk said she holds paperwork if anyone is interested. Cllr Gentle said that he had received his voting registration form and he noted the variety of ways in which one can register. However, he does not have * on his home phone so could not register by phone. Posting the form is not an automatic option – why not?

Resolved – Cllr Gathercole to take up with FHDC

The meeting was reopened

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

Cllr Smith said, on the issue of transport, that 2 parishioners had advised him that bus service 355 from Bury St Edmunds gets in to Mildenhall at 1858, 8 minutes after service 201 leaves for Lakenheath.

Resolved – Clerk & Chairman to see if approach can be made to bus companies to hold 201 in view of current (Wangford Road) situation. See item 6c below.

Cllr Frost said that about 5 people had taken part in the "Big Tidy Up" on 13th September - as it had been quite successful it might be an idea to arrange another one in the future.

Resolved – Cllr Frost to arrange another "Tidy Up" in the future.

8. PLANNING MATTERS

a) TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Rolph said that 5 applications had been considered. Of these, there was no objection to the following:-

F/2008/0496/FUL(amd) – erection 2 bungalows & 2 chalet bungalows + new vehicular access – 3 Eriswell Rd

F/2008/0568/FUL – erection bungalow, garage & new vehicular access – land adj. Curlew Lodge

F/2008/0518/OUT – OPP 2 chalet bungalows & 2 bungalows+garages +access – 6-8 Cemetery Rd

F/2008/0567/FUL – erection farm shop & bungalow – land at rear of 44-46 Station Road

F/2008/0593/FUL – erection bungalow (demolition of existing) inc. temporary siting mobile home – 23a Back St – no objection in principle BUT provision must be made for legal/safe disposal of hazardous material (asbestos) and suggested that Ash tree remain in place and proposed hedging should not contain leylandii or, if allowed, restricted to a maximum 6ft. in height as this is a troublesome/controversial species.

There was an objection to the following:-

F/2008/0503/FUL(readvertisement) – COU hot food takeaway

b) TO CONSIDER- ANY OUTSTANDING APPLICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

The following are in circulation:-

F/2008/0597/CAC – demolition outbuilding – 1 Wings Road

F/2008/0596/FUL – erection bungalow+garage & new vehicular access – 1 Wings Road

c)RESPONSE TO FHDC HOUSING RENEWAL STRATEGY

The Clerk advised the meeting that a response to the above had been sent to FHDC. In accordance with wishes of PC at September meeting this document was circulated to the Planning Committee and their comments collated. Copy of response in Parish Office if anyone wants to see it.

9. LAKENHEATH CEMETERY

a) TO RECEIVE REPORT FROM CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Cllr Rissen said that she had met with Mr Hickford regarding seat to be placed in Cemetery in memory of his son. Suitable seat has been found and that should be in place soon.

Cllr Rissen has received 1 telephone call in response to her article in Lakenheath Times – looking relatives of deceased whose memorials failed Zurich safety testing. Clerk received 3 calls today. Cllr Ingham asked if PC would pick up bill for remedial work if relatives not found. Cllr Rissen said that is what had happened on previous occasions.

Cllr Gathercole said that he had been to Cemetery following a call from Cemetery Caretaker re oak tree at bottom of Cemetery which has split and appears dangerous. Following some tidying up work, orange netting has been placed round the tree so that members of public do not get too close. Cllr Gathercole has obtained a verbal quote of c £200 for necessary work to be done on tree. It was proposed, seconded and agreed by all to accept this quote.

Resolved – Cllr Gathercole to confirm with FHDC (Tree Officer) work to be carried out and make necessary arrangements

b) TO CONFIRM GRANT OF EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS

There were two – Vic Rutterford, Anchor Lane and Joyce Brown, Covey Way

10.RESPONSE TO FHDC ON LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK- CORE STRATEGY

The Clerk had previously circulated Suffolk Preservation Society's comments and representations (a meeting at which Cllrs Rolph & Smith had been present) to all Councillors. Cllr Rolph informed the meeting that individual representations can also be made. There was some discussion about numbers of houses proposed for Lakenheath – total is 700; 200 on brownfield (in-fill) sites and 500 possibly on Greenfield sites. It was pointed out that Lakenheath is "between a rock and a hard place" – it is neither a pretty picture book village nor is it big enough to sustain sizeable employment opportunity.

It was proposed, seconded and agreed by all to support SPS comments & representations to FHDC.

It was further proposed, seconded and agreed by all but one to send a letter of thanks to Marie Smith FHDC for attending September Parish Council meeting and for her hard work in producing this document.

Resolved – Clerk to write to Marie Smith FHDC confirming the views of PC on LDF – Core Strategy and to express thanks of PC to Marie Smith.

11.PARISH OFFICE – APPROVAL OF LEASE (WITH VILLAGE HALL)

The Clerk had circulated the lease to Cllrs Ingham, Frost & Smith and advised that the points they had raised had been dealt with – there is planning permission for use as an office; originally PC had requested 12 year lease, it was felt to have 4 and 8 year option to determine may be better and finally on service charge Bendalls have been asked to reword paragraph so that it falls due at end of year. It was noted that although initially there may have been reservations about having Parish Office it has worked for both parties. It was proposed, seconded and agreed by all to accept the lease, with amendments as noted by both parties.

Resolved – Clerk to return draft lease to Bendalls with note of amendments as agreed.

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

The Clerk advised the meeting that the main issue at the moment is repainting of equipment but the Village Caretaker now has the paint, brushes etc so the work will be undertaken as soon as possible. The Clerk said that the issue of safety and the “main” gate had been brought to her attention. Cllr Gathercole said that some parents considered the situation is an accident waiting to happen – a child could easily run out of the playground onto the road. It was proposed that the “main” gate be moved at least half way down the fence (2 exits are recommended as an anti bullying measure). This was proposed, seconded and agreed by all.

Resolved – Cllr Gathercole & Clerk to make arrangements for work to be done.

13.VILLAGE GREEN – consider the registration thereof

Cllr Smith has ascertained that although this can be done without professional legal help going down legal route might be wiser option. It was proposed, seconded and agreed by all that Cllr Smith obtains formal costings for this work.

Resolved – Cllr Smith to obtain quote for legal work.

The Chairman closed the meeting

6.REPORT FROM

c)SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

Cllr Noble apologised for his late arrival. Cllr Noble drew the meeting's attention to SCC service – testing electric blankets – over 1,000 fires per year in UK are caused by faulty blankets. Nearest venue is Bury St Edmunds on 8th October. Clerk expressed disappointment at late notification – does not allow for good advertising esp. as the village has a newsletter that goes to each household. Cllr Noble will see if it is possible to set up something in Mildenhall or perhaps even Lakenheath.

Cllr Smith asked if road signage on A1065 showing a now non existant junction at top end of Lords Walk could be removed or covered up. He also asked Cllr Noble if bus companies could be more flexible in departure time in view of current situation at Wangford Road – service 355 from BSE gets in to Mildenhall at 1858, 8 minutes after the Lakenheath bus leaves. Cllr Noble is not sure that anything can be done at this *late* stage and before he takes it up with SCC he would like to be assured that another bus for Lakenheath does not leave shortly after 1858.

Cllr Gathercole asked that the positioning of the “diversion” sign in the Undley Road by the playground be looked at as it obscures vision of motorists. He also wished to thank Cllr Noble for Locality Budget which has enabled the purchase of goal posts & nets and haulage charges for temporary changing rooms.

Cllr Noble added that Locality Budget has also been used to top up outstanding amount for railing around Village Hall.

On Lords Walk roundabout – it is felt that this may be a problem beyond that of the Wangford Road closure. FHDC & SCC had objected to Lords Walk closure. It is felt that there is the possibility of another road at the bottom end of Earlsfield Estate – this is once again open for access. However, best current option is considered to be reopening of the “holding” area.

Cllr Noble was asked if “Unitary” status would provide actual savings of £100. The £100 is apparently on Band D properties and the straight answer is “may be”.

Cllr Smith to contact Cllr Noble re next bus to Lakenheath (from Mildenhall) after 1750 Cllr Noble to proceed with bus issue thereafter.

Cllr Noble was thanked for his contribution – he left the meeting

14. STREET SCENE – LITTER BINS

The Clerk had previously circulated 2 sheets of proposals re bins in main part of village. Cllr Gathercole said that he, the Clerk and Dick Almond from FHDC had walked round the village with the proposals – thanks were expressed to Cllr Smith for the work he had done. Cllr Smith asked that the bin outside the Chinese takeaway be included in repainting list – this was done. He also said that he felt a bin should be located in Briscoe Way / Station Road area. It was agreed by the meeting to add this as a new bin for the area – should not obstruct traffic. Cllr Gathercole said that although he had been told there was money at FHDC for these new bins it seems that this may not currently be available.

On issue of bin inners it was decided in view of expense -5 would be required (Wings Road car park is FHDC responsibility) 5 x £71.68 + VAT plus delivery £65 + VAT this would be held in abeyance (until setting of Precept). Parish Councillors would like to know if inners are galvanised.

Resolved - Clerk to write to Dick Almond with our proposals (as long as funding available)

Cllr Gathercole to make further enquiries on funding

Cllr Smith to ascertain if inners galvanised

15. LIGHTING

The Clerk advised the meeting that there had been 3 requests since April 2007. Two of those – Birch Crescent & o/s 70 Woodlands had been looked at and it was considered that neither was disadvantaged in terms of light. The 3rd one o/s 16 South Road had not been looked at – the Clerk is of the opinion that FHDC are responsible for lighting in South Road. Cllr Lucas said that attempts to get a light there had been going on for 40 years – residents were now OAPs . Cllr Smith drew attention to a costings table (since 2003 and covering Energy/Maintenance/Admin) which was circulated at the meeting by the Clerk. It is clear that these costs are rising significantly and additional lights (and new developments) will add to this bill. Attention was drawn to the information leaflet compiled by SCC on costings; energy savings and G39 issues – this had previously been circulated to all Councillors. There are 23 G39 issues in the village. Concern was expressed about concrete columns – these are all of different ages (built with the new estates) so they would not all need replacing at same time. There are 123 concrete columns. However, it was concluded that the biggest part of the Precept goes on lighting. It was proposed, seconded and agreed that a survey to identify dark spots in the village be carried out.

Resolved – Cllrs Whitehand, Chambers, Frost & Gentle to carry out survey.

Cllr Gathercole & Clerk to find out how Mildenhall Town Council dealt with concrete issues

Clerk to find out about light measurement.

16. ELECTRICITY – COSTINGS THEREOF

It was felt that this had been discussed as far as possible under previous item.

17. PRECEPT

Cllr Ingham said the time given to the Parish Council to consider the precept for the current year had been too short . He proposed that a draft precept should be presented to the Parish Council for November meeting. This was seconded and agreed by all.

Resolved - Clerk to present draft Precept at November Parish Council

18. EMERGENCY PLAN – UPDATE

Cllr Ingham said that after advert in Lakenheath Times in September there were only 2 volunteers but the October advert had gained another 5. However, to be workable 12 volunteers will be needed.

19. 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.

The Clerk advised the meeting that cheque 2072 4th August 2008 to HMRC had been wrongly listed as £61.16 it should have been £616.16

(b)BANK RECONCILIATION

A bank reconciliation for month of August 2008 was presented. It was proposed, seconded & agreed by all to accept the reconciliation.

20.S137 APPLICATION – MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

The Clerk read out an appeal from Macmillan Cancer Support . It was proposed, seconded and agreed by all that £50 be given to them.

21. FUTURE OF UNDLEY ROAD LAND

Declaring an interest, Cllr Gathercole left the meeting and the Chair was handed over to Cllr Chambers Vice Chair. Cllr Whitehand asked to sign Register of Interest (Lakenheath Playing Fields Association). A letter from Lakenheath Playing Fields Association was tabled – the LPFA do not wish to continue with the lease on the Undley Road site. Cllr Gentle said that he had spoken to a local resident, a member of a cycling club, and they are looking for somewhere to set up a track. He went on to say that PC had been lucky enough to get this land and that there will never be the opportunity again. Cllr Ingham said that in order to sell the land the Secretary of State’s approval is needed. Cllr Gentle left the meeting. It was noted that although sale of the land was being discussed this was not the issue before the Council. The Clerk said that if sale was being considered the PC needed to proceed cautiously – if for any reason the current LPFA did not carry on it would fall on the PC to run the playing fields. She agreed that under 12.38 of LCA (Charles Arnold Baker) Secretary of State’s approval needed but would the PC want to give up land it owns in favour of leased land? It was argued that the lease on the current field is “protected”. The Clerk said it was her understanding that protected in this context meant Elvedon Estates would have to provide an alternative site if they did not renew the lease on current site. It was suggested that exactly what “protected” lease meant should be established in time for the next meeting. It was proposed, seconded and agreed by all that the Parish Council should accept the lease back. It was further proposed, seconded and agreed by all but two that the Secretary of State should be written to – so that approval for sale is there if need arises.

Resolved – Clerk to write to Secretary of State as per 12.38 LCA

Clerk to instruct Solicitors to take back lease from LPFA

The Chairman returned to the meeting and the Chair

22.CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk read out an invitation to the Chairman and all members of the PC to Lakenheath’s 2nd Art Show & Sale on Sat 25th October 10 to 3.30 at RBL in aid of Poppy Appeal.

The Clerk said that, following discussion with the Chairman, she had registered PC interest in “sponsoring” the payphone (earmarked by BT for removal). BT are unable to say how much they take per year but 1526 calls were made in the last year.

A summary of the financial case for Unitary Status had been received from SCC.

Correspondence on Suffolk LINK (Local Involvement Networks) – particular reference to health & social care.

“Place Survey” being conducted by FHDC on way they deliver services - sample survey by post with chance to win £50 High St shopping spree!

SCC School Organisation Review – copies available.

Issue 3 of Town & Parish Standard

Consultation Paper on Making & Enforcement of Byelaws – comments invited by 20 November, Clerk reminded meeting that this is piece of legislation of interest to PC (removal of concrete planters from grassed areas of village which some believe could lead to motor vehicles being parked thereon).

“Play your Part” pack from SCC – SCC Community Safety Unit in partnership with District Councils & SNTs.

Suffolk View – magazine of SPS

Reviews from Zurich Municipal

FHDC letter on flytipping. FHDC have some signs available if “hotspots” can be identified. Meeting identified :- playground; Maids Cross Hill; Sedge Fen Rd; Borehole Cnr & Mill Pond. Cllrs Smith & Chambers asked for copies of the letter from FHDC.

Questionnaire from SPS – trying to gauge Councils wish for a “Community Planner “ – independent help with planning in the community – completed during PCmeeting – PC has no desire to support such a move nor would they be prepared to provide funding for a community planner.

Clerk said correspondence on table for Cllrs to read or will be available in office.

23. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Cllr Gathercole proposed “Telephone Kiosk” & “Light Survey” & Cllr Ingham proposed “Undley Road Land”

24. TO NOTE FUTURE DATES

8 October – Safer Neighbourhood Team – Brandon - Cllr Smith attending

23 October – FHDC Parish Forum - West Row Village Hall

SALC are running 2 “Planning –dealing with applications” in October 13th at Thurston – Cllrs Rolph & Smith are attending

The Clerk asked that she be notified asap if anyone wished to attend FHDC Parish Forum.

25. TO NOTE DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 3rd November 2008

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00pm
