



been chasing this matter for over a year. He had gone to the spot himself today and has identified 2 gates as being SCC and 4 as being Environment Agency . Cllr Noble will arrange this.  
*Clerk to arrange to put Annual Village Meeting "Let's Talk" on December PC agenda.*  
*Cllr Noble to investigate transport issues & arrange site visit Cut-Off Channel re gates*  
*PC to consider anything for remaining Locality Budget*  
*Cllr Noble was thanked for his contribution – he left the meeting*

#### **10. RICHARD WATSON FHDC**

The Chairman introduced Richard Watson, who had agreed to address the Parish Council meeting on the issue of Lakenheath Hall. Mr Watson said that he had been advised that David Burkin FHDC Monitoring Officer updated the Clerk regularly. The Clerk acknowledged that about a week before PC meeting she would e-mail David Burkin so that, if asked or indeed if there were any new developments, she could update the meeting. Mr Watson hoped this would continue. He began by saying that in recent time FHDC had tried to arrive at an agreed scheme with the developer but that had not happened . Work had been stopped when it was seen that the buildings were not in accord with agreed plans. The situation is now complicated because the developer is in a perilous state, ownership of the site is not clear (2 banks are involved along with the Receiver and possibly the Crown). It is believed that the developer himself may still be the owner of a small piece of the site where marquee and caravans are/were. The situation is yes he could be prosecuted but, of course, there would be no money for fines that may be imposed! The banks are expected to move and someone else, hopefully, would take the site over but it will not be quick, all the more so given the current economic climate. Mr Watson was asked about the damaged wall and the felled trees. Reinstating the wall would be a condition imposed on any future developer and a replanting scheme would be sought. Cllr Gentle said his house bordered the Hall and the lives of those around the site had been blighted for several years – mess, noise, carrying on of other businesses - asphaltting etc. He is elderly and his wife unwell. Mr Watson offered his sympathies. Cllr Ingham expressed his surprise at the number of current owners of the site, as he lives in Hall Drive he would like to know who owns it especially as there are a number of trees in the drive and there has already been a problem with a horsechestnut tree. Cllr Gathercole will liaise with Mr Watson on this matter. Cllr Smith asked if bitumen is on the site is that not a fire hazard. Mr Watson said he would look into that. It was noted that 8 vans have "disappeared " in recent days. The Clerk read out a letter from a member of the public regarding the poor state of the footpath in Station Road – an issue now that nights are drawing in. The Clerk had contacted the resident who confirmed she was writing about the pavement alongside the Hall.

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*Mr Watson will look into ownership of the Hall (Cllr Gathercole will liaise), whether or not bitumen is on site and look into issues raised in letter from a resident. Clerk to forward copy to Mr Watson*  
*Cllr Gathercole thanked Mr Watson for his attendance at the meeting. Mr Watson left.*

*The meeting was opened.*

#### **1.APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Margaret Davis

#### **2.DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

*The meeting was closed*

#### **3.POLICE MATTERS**

PCSO Jason Thomas said there had been problems at two building sites in village – one site had previously been unsecured. On Maids Cross Hill there has been another theft of a handbag (not in view) from a parked car. The police will try to get the message (do not leave anything in unattended vehicles) across to residents through village publications. Recently, the team has been spending time with youth in village. For second time this year they have arranged a visit from a local ATC – this time Youth Club addressing 13 year olds – over 13s cannot continue at Youth Club but could join ATC! The police themselves have been to two nurseries and in December plan to spend a day in the primary school. The police team has changed recently – not personnel as such but the formation of a bigger team. A bigger team copes with bigger events e.g. Armistice Day Parade and a mobile police station – large transit van – essentially a mobile office/station. On crime in the village last month there were 15 crimes – no Halloween problems and only 1 theft from a motor vehicle – so “hot spots” with USAF seems to be working. Cllr Morley asked if nuisance caused by pitbikes – between South and North Roads, esp. on Sundays could be addressed and Cllr Chambers asked if parking in area of Coop is ongoing – there is a problem trying to exit Anchor Lane onto High St – vehicles parking on hatch markings. PCSO Thomas confirmed that this is still being addressed. Cllr Whitehand commented that a colleague (in CCTV vehicle) had parked on zigzag lines to go into Coop to get cigarettes! Cllr Smith asked if parking in bus laybys (esp Fridays between 6.30 and 8.00) could be looked at.  
*PCSO Thomas was thanked for his contribution*

*The meeting was reopened*

#### **4.CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 6<sup>th</sup> October 2008**

Cllr Smith referring to line 17 page 470 of October minutes was sure he had said the bus was 1858 and not 1758 as minuted. Amendment agreed by meeting – amended.  
Acceptance of minutes was then proposed, seconded and agreed by all .

*The Chairman closed the meeting*

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

Mrs Whitehand asked who edits Lakenheath Times as two articles she has submitted have not been published and one article which had been published was out of date and had caused confusion. She was advised that the editor has sole control. She confirmed that she had not contacted the editor and, when asked by Cllr Gathercole, agreed she would like PC to investigate.

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Mr Flack raised concerns about traffic island in High Street – very difficult to see, lights not working. The Clerk advised that this matter had been reported to SCC.

*Chairman/Clerk to contact Lakenheath Times Editor re articles submitted for publication  
Clerk will chase up SCC re traffic island*

#### **6.REPORT FROM**

##### **b) FOREST HEATH DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Cllr Gathercole said that both he and Cllr Flack are undergoing Comprehensive Performance Assessment training with Forest Heath District Council. Cllr Gentle mentioned a couple of “scams” which had been brought to his attention – one from China, the other Spain – both suggesting money about to come his way! He had also been made aware of a company going door to door trying to get residents to sign up to an electricity supplier, claiming cheaper tariffs – although it is suspected figures being used are not correct. This is considered by him to be insidious behaviour towards large numbers of older residents – perhaps warranting investigation by Trading Standards.  
Chairman will get in touch with Trading Standards

*The meeting was reopened*

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

The Clerk stated that the revised lease had been returned from the Solicitors – she had not had chance to look through it yet but asked if the Parish Councillors would be quite happy for the Chairman of the PC to sign the revised lease on behalf of the PC if she confirmed that all agreed amendments/changes have been made. The whole Parish Council agreed that this should be done. It was noted that there is still no supply to the light opposite 102A High Street. Cllr Chambers advised that the Parish Council could, nonetheless, be shown as having taken action and, therefore, shown due diligence. The Clerk was asked to contact SCC to ascertain reason for delay in getting supply to light. Cllr Frost is making plans for a litter pick in November/December and he hopes to get some assistance from base personnel. Cllr Gathercole advised the meeting that he had taken up the issue of return/completion of Electoral Registration forms with FHDC. FHDC had advised that they could be posted back, although it was noted that no return envelope had been provided! Cllr Gentle said that the point he was trying to make was that his phone does not have an \* key – he does not object to phone being used as a way of confirming information. Cllr Gathercole said that he had discussed gate/fence on Children's Playground with FHDC. FHDC have suggested new zigzag fencing between existing playground and newer items on the Playing Fields but if S106 monies are to be used (as has been suggested) PC approval is needed. Carrying out this work will mean that the gate (at Undley Road end) which has caused concern to some parents can be done away with. The Parish Council all agreed that S106 money could be used for this purpose.

*Clerk to confirm Parish Office lease in order and arrange signing.*

*Clerk to contact SCC re supply to light opp. 102A High Street*

*Cllr Frost making arrangements for litter pick*

## **8. PLANNING MATTERS**

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

Cllr Rolph said that 4 applications had been considered & that the Committee had no objection to any:-

**F/2008/0627/FUL**-erection 2storey side/rear ext. – 65 Eriswell Rd

**F/2008/0597/CAC**- demolition outbuilding 1 Wings Rd

**F/2008/0596/FUL**- erection bungalow/garage & new access 1 Wings Rd

**F/2008/0637/OUT**- OPP-erection 2storeydwelling-land at rear79 Station Rd

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

The following are in circulation:-

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**F/2008/0672/FUL** – erection single storey side ext. Inc. front porch entrance - 4 Larch Close

**F/2008/0669/FUL** – erection front ext. - 4 Covey Way

The Clerk asked if any Councillor wished to make any comments re application notified to FHDC by Kings Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council – erection of 76 dwellings for military use at RAF Feltwell – brief details of which had previously been circulated. No comments.

## **9. LAKENHEATH CEMETERY**

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

Cllr Rissen said that the rubbish/spoil had been removed and that the seat in memory of Mr Hickford had been put in place. It is felt now that the Cemetery has reached capacity as far as seats go. She observed that two headstones, in the old part of the Cemetery, which still need earthing in. Cllr Whitehand has the matter in hand. Cllr Gathercole updated the PC on the urgent work which had to be done on an oak tree in the Cemetery (under high voltage cables) – FHDC Tree Officer advised that the tree was dangerous and no part could be saved. The work was carried out immediately and with the assistance of EDF who blinked the power whilst the work was done.

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

There was one – Dennis Rutterford of North Road

### **11. CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA – update/work to be done**

The Clerk advised the meeting that the annual ROSPA inspection had been carried out and she now has a copy of the report if anyone wants to look at it. No urgent work needs to be done. There are 4 low/medium risk areas – mole hills; 2 pieces of equipment may pose possible entrapment problems; the slide faces south; therefore, could get hot and a suggestion that a “No Kite Flying” sign could go up. The Clerk went on to say that the Village Keeper has started repainting some of the equipment

### **12. TELEPHONE KIOSK – PC SPONSORSHIP**

The Clerk stated that she had registered Parish Council interest in sponsoring the kiosk earmarked for removal by BT (kiosk situated in High St in Conservation Area and kiosk which English Heritage believe should remain). The register of interest had been done in view of short deadline although since registering the interest the deadline had been extended! The possible cost would be £520 per annum. It was not known at this stage if any funding would be available from English Heritage. It was pointed out by a Councillor that in emergencies mobile phones often fail but a public phone box would provide a telephone line. It is close to Village Hall which would be the “base” in an emergency. It was proposed that the register of interest in “Sponsoring” the kiosk should be confirmed and if “push comes to shove” the Chairman could sanction the £520 cost. The proposal was seconded and agreed by all but one.

### **13. STREET LIGHT SURVEY**

The Clerk confirmed that SCC had carried out a safety check on lights in the village. As a result 2 lights (with concrete columns) were identified as immediate risk and taken down right away and 1 was identified as medium risk and will be removed. The lights are all situated in the Highfields area. The cost to replace the units (metal columns) will be £2,572.44 plus VAT. There was some discussion about delaying this decision and looking at other options, especially in view of rising power costs. However, it was pointed out that urgent action should be taken on these lights as the area in question is now quite dark but that other options for future could be looked at – sodium lights for example. It was proposed, seconded and agreed by all but one that SCC be asked to replace 3 lights, as above, for the sum of £2,572.44. \*For future lights it was agreed that the P C should look at energy efficient technology.  
*Resolved – Clerk to arrange for SCC to replace lights as per quote above & to ask about sodium lights.*

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### **14. UNDLLEY ROAD LAND**

The Clerk said she had not heard back from Secretary of State re sale of Undley Road land. Cllr Gathercole stated that the Playing Fields Association had looked at all options – the £4,000 “rent” for potato harvest received this year was a “one hit”, in future it would be in region of £30 an acre. If problems arose e.g. illegal encampment the PFA would not have funds to deal with it.  
*Clerk to put item on December Agenda if reply received from Secretary of State.*

### **15. PRECEPT**

A draft Precept - attached and Budget narrative – attached had previously been given to Councillors. Budget has not been allocated to some areas of likely expenditure as the Parish Council must make decisions on where and how much it wishes to allocate. The Chairman said that salaries would only be discussed in a closed meeting. Cllr Ingham observed that there are some holes in the draft precept but acknowledged that predicting costs will be difficult. However, he does want to see an allowance for a “Contingency Fund”. There is to be a Finance Committee Meeting, they will look at figures and get back

to Clerk. Cllr Ingham proposed an Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> November to discuss salaries. This was seconded and agreed by all but one.

*Resolved – Clerk to make arrangements for meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2008*

## **16. 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 September 2008 was presented. It was proposed, seconded & agreed by all to accept the reconciliation.

## **17. CORRESPONDENCE**

The Chairman read a letter from Margaret Davis who said she would not attend Parish Council Meetings until the lighter nights return – she has difficulty seeing in the dark. It was agreed by the whole PC that the Clerk should write to Mrs Davis to thank her for her many years of reporting on PC meetings, the time and effort freely given.

The Clerk read out briefly from a Suffolk Acre report on Key Services being lost in rural areas. Lakenheath, despite complaints, comes out not too badly – there is a post office, library, doctor's surgery, a general store and activities for youngsters. On that note she asked the PC if they would agree to her placing an article in Lakenheath Times about paying Council Tax at the post office (no fee payable), since FHDC office in Mildenhall will not take Council Tax payments after January 2009. The Parish Council agreed to the article being submitted to Lakenheath Times. The Clerk confirmed that the PC comments on FHDC LDF Core Strategy Final Policy Option had been acknowledged. S137 expenditure increased to £6.15; NALC has said there is no protection for Councils in the current economic downturn, neither can they offer advice; Suffolk Draft Fire Action Plan 2009-10 is available; consultation document on Code of Conduct for local authority members & employees; and details of West Suffolk Local Strategic Partnership project to keep older people warmer in winter. All of this correspondence is available from Clerk.

*Resolved – Clerk to write to Margaret Davis and to submit article to Lakenheath Times as above*

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## **18. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

Cllr Ingham proposed "Precept"; Cllr Chambers proposed "Editorial of Lakenheath Times"; Cllr Morley proposed "Undley Road Land" (as long as reply received from Secretary of State) and Cllr Frost proposed "Hedges in Wings Road"

## **19. TO NOTE FUTURE DATES**

The Clerk has a list of FHDC meeting dates in November and West Suffolk Local Strategic Partnership Annual Conference is in BSE on 26 November 2008 9am to 1pm – any Cllr interested in attending to advise Clerk ASAP

## **20. TO NOTE DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2008**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05pm