

been quoted by SCC.. Amendment “ For future lights it was agreed that the Parish Council should look at energy efficient technology” – agreed and amendment made.

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

The Chairman closed the meeting

5. REPRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

There were none.

6. REPORT FROM

a) RAF COMMANDER LAKENHEATH

Nothing reported.

b) FOREST HEATH DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cllr Flack said that on Monday 8th December FHDC are debating the School Review. Cllr Gentle commenting on the completion of the Newmarket Sports Centre said the cost had one from 6 to 14 million pounds. He further stated that he was not happy about the lack of minutes from meeting on 17th November 2008 and that he would possibly seek clarification on this matter. Cllr Gathercole said that he had an e-mail from Andy Evershed FHDC stating that he is proposing a clearout/cleanup at Mutford Green in near future – he would like to get residents of Mutford Green involved and so he will write to them in near future. Cllr Chambers welcomed this news. Cllr Gathercole again reading from an e-mail tried to demonstrate just how much FHDC hands are tied by Government when it comes to LDF. On litter bin issue – 11 new bins have been made available to Lakenheath, 5 of them are replacements.

c) SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

Cllr Noble said that he would be chairing the School Review Meeting – he was aware that there is talk about a secondary school at Brandon but this is not on the table at the moment and he would not view a new (unproved) school favourably for Lakenheath children. However, he wished to say that the meeting is about the *whole* (geographical) area. Minutes from the transport meeting held at Beck Row were circulated this afternoon – Clerk has not yet seen them – Cllr Noble asked that Cllr Smith gets a copy. On Locality Budget, Cllr Noble has, from this, met the cost of goal posts; additional fencing around new play area on LPF (for which he was thanked by Cllr Gathercole); railings outside Village Hall; £1,000 for mirrors for Cygnet Ballet Classes; microphone and generator for Carnival Committee and support for Forest Heath Radio station which will broadcast across a 15 mile radius of Forest Heath – will be a Community Radio station. On a more negative note, he is vexed by poor communication within SCC Highways – a matter already discussed with the Clerk – notice has been received of road closure at Sedge Fen/High St but at the same time plans are afoot to put in place speed restrictions on Shippea Hill Road to Beck Row road due to other roadworks. He is pursuing this matter but is not hopeful of an entirely satisfactory outcome. “Lets Talk” considered, by Cllr Noble, to be a good way forward. Going back to Locality Budget, Cllr Noble said that he still had about £6,000 remaining but he did also note that from an original Budget of £3,618 for Lakenheath they had received in excess of £7,000. Leaflets on Fostering/Adoption in Suffolk were left with Clerk to go in Parish Office.

Cllr Smith asked if badly worn road markings at Wangford Road traffic lights could be looked at. Cllr Gathercole asked Cllr Gentle if he had views on School Review in light of his experience (as a former teacher in Suffolk). Cllr Gentle said that Suffolk had been forward looking when middle schools brought in but that the system was not best suited to rural areas and therefore, the proposed two tier system would possibly be better – the national system does not sit well with a three tier system.

Cllr Smith mentioned that changes to school system would impact on transport in the area.

Action Points – *Cllr Noble to see if timetable for roadworks as above can be altered and to ask Highways to look at road markings end of Wangford Road*

Clerk to give copy of Transport Mtg minutes to Cllr Smith, when she gets them and to place leaflets on Fostering/Adoption in Parish Office

Cllr Noble was thanked for his contribution and he left the meeting.

The meeting was reopened

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

Cllr Smith said that he had confirmed that inners for bins which he had “found” are galvanised. Cllr Gentle confirmed that he had had a call from Trading Standards on Tuesday 4th November re possible money scam – PCSO Thomas had also looked into it with some success but there are no further details at the moment. Richard Watson FHDC (Head of Planning) is still investigating ownership of some trees in Hall Drive.

8. PLANNING MATTERS

a) TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Rolph said that 6 applications had been considered and that one is being recirculated as revised plans have been received. There were no objections to the following:-

F/2008/0658/ADN-erection 2 nonilluminated signs – RSPB Reserve

F/2008/0636/FUL- conversion Cromwell Inn – 5 dwellings;demolition Coach-house erection of cartlodge with residential unit in roof space & rebuilding of 1 dwelling (amended plans rec'd)

F/2008/0698/FUL- erection2 bungalows/garages- land at rear of 9 Lilac Drive

F/2008/0709/FUL- erection single storey bldg for storage plant etc – Hall Contracts, Station Road

There were objections to the following:-

F/2008/0672/FUL (4 to 1) –erection single storey side ext. Inc front porch entrance – 4 Larch Close

F/2008/0669/FUL (4 to 1) –erection front ext. – 4 Covey Way

b) TO CONSIDER- ANY OUTSTANDING APPLICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

The following are in circulation:-

F/2008/00636/FUL – amended plans – Cromwell Inn as above

F/2008/0725/FUL – erection 1 detached dwelling + new vehicular access & conversion outbldg to 2 bedroom dwelling – land at Holly Lane

F/2008/0766/COU-change of use office to farm shop – High Fen Farm, Station Road

The Clerk read out an update from FHDC on Lakenheath Hall – new consortium trying to buy the development but their plans are not acceptable; banks are looking to take over but there are problems re access and some of land – possibly now under Crown ownership. Enforcement action under consideration. Work in tents is also under enforcement consideration.

Cllr Gentle said it had been quiet on site for some time but he had been told that the door to the 2 storey office/control tower was swinging open and it seemed empty inside.

Action Point – Clerk will refer Cllr Gentle's comments to FHDC

9. LAKENHEATH CEMETERY

a) TO RECEIVE REPORT FROM CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Cllr Rissen said that on her last visit all seemed fine. The two memorial stones which needed earthing in had been dealt with by Cemetery Keeper and part-time Village Keeper.

b) TO CONFIRM GRANT OF EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS

There were two – Cyril Matthews of High Street and Josephine Heffer of Covey Way

c) MEMORIAL SAFETY INSPECTION

Cllr Rissen said that following articles in Lakenheath Times contact of some kind had been made with (extended) family in 16 out of 20 of memorials in Old Cemetery identified as having safety problems. On a previous occasion, the then Cemetery Caretaker, Mr Archer, had been able to take remedial action at a fairly nominal charge – thought to have been in the order of £20 per memorial. It was proposed, seconded and agreed by all that Mr Archer be asked if he would be prepared to undertake this work again and perhaps pass on his knowledge/expertise to the current Cemetery Keeper, Mr Aldous.

Resolved – Clerk to ask Mr Archer if he would consider taking on the remedial work required.

10. RENEWAL/REPLACEMENT OF STREET & PLAYGROUND FURNITURE AND TREES

The Chairman, referring to Parish Council responsibility, said that they should bite the bullet and replace the long since broken seat opposite Quayside Court. It was proposed, seconded and agreed by all but one to replace this seat. Moving on to the children's playground, the Chairman reminded the Council that the broken picnic table/bench had not been replaced. It was proposed, seconded and agreed by all to replace it. The Chairman asked if the Council would consider another two picnic table/bench sets for the revamped Playing Fields. It was proposed, seconded and agreed by all that one set should be ordered now and a second set in the new Financial Year (after April 2009). The Council agreed that the order should be placed with Whitehouse Enterprises – local, deal with recycled materials and who provide supported employment for adults who have a disability or have been disadvantaged. The Chairman said that he would like to see some tree planting around Playing Fields. Cllr Gentle suggested that in the past FHDC would supply trees free of charge.

Resolved – Clerk to place orders as above with Whitehouse Enterprises

Action Point – Clerk to contact FHDC to see if they would supply trees free of charge

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

The Clerk stated that weekly inspections satisfactory and no work currently required. The Village Keeper is repainting equipment as and when weather permits. It was suggested that some topsoil is needed in playground – cost expected to be around £100 per load. It was proposed, seconded and agreed by all that two load of topsoil are ordered.

Resolved – Cllr Gathercole to arrange ordering/delivery two loads topsoil

12. HEDGES IN WINGS ROAD

Cllr Frost is of the opinion that some hedges are encroaching onto the pavement. As exact location is not clear, Cllr Frost will identify house numbers where problem(s) seem to be.

Cllr Frost to return to meeting with further details

13. EDITORIAL OF LAKENHEATH TIMES

It was stated that Cllr Whitehand had asked for this item on the agenda following representation made by Mrs Whitehand in November Parish Council Meeting. In view of Cllr Whitehand's absence it was felt that the matter should not be discussed. The Clerk did, however, state that she had spoken to Mrs Whitehand on this matter. The Clerk suggested that Mrs Whitehand (and indeed any contributor) may wish to confirm with the Editor that their article had been received by him and would be published. Further, if an article is no longer required in Lakenheath Times, advise the Editor accordingly.

14. UNDLEY ROAD LAND - UPDATE

The Clerk stated that she had had a reply from the Secretary of State re sale of land. Permission now only required from Secretary of State if market value of land not expected to be obtained. There was some discussion around what should happen to land – opinion being divided as to selling or renting. Concern was expressed at cost to Parish Council should anyone "take up residence" on land but it was

also felt that the Council should not act too hastily. It was pointed out that possibly £100,000 had been spent so far on this land – purchase of land and professional fees etc in connection with Football Foundation/LPFA Project. One Councillor stated that this would now be deemed a “brownfield” site as Outline Planning Permission had been granted but the Chairman stated that in fact it was “change of use – agricultural to recreational” and, in any event, the land lies outside the LDF. It was proposed, seconded and agreed by 7 to obtain a valuation on the land – sale and rental, 1 councillor objected and 1 abstained. There was no preference expressed on which Land Valuation company to be used. The Clerk stated that Deed of Transfer had been signed by 2 Councillors and was currently being signed by Playing Fields Trustees.

Resolved – Clerk to obtain valuation – sale/rental.

15. PARISH OFFICE OPENING HOURS

This item was withdrawn.

16. ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING “LET’S TALK”

It had previously been suggested by Cllr Noble that representatives from various organisations should attend Annual Village Meeting. However, it was felt that the Meeting should be of interest and not be a platform for people/organisations to talk at length. The Chairman had previously suggested Mike Hollingsworth – Police Commander for this area. The Clerk said that she had attended a SALC Forest Heath area meeting the previous week and Matt Hales of SCC is piloting a Locality project (aim of which is to establish/make use of existing local forums to develop devolved local decision making powers– will shadow SNT area). He would be prepared to talk at PC or Annual Village Meeting. The Clerk also read an e-mail from Sqdn Ldr Jerry Neild who said that he and possibly a member of the Operations Group would possibly be able to attend a “Let’s Talk” event. No decision was made but the Parish Council did feel it should be a more restricted meeting rather than an “open forum” to many organisations.

17. PRECEPT

Cllr Smith presented a precept paper for consideration – drawn up following 2 Finance Committee meetings. The Committee are keen to have a £2,000 contingency fund. They wish to see funding for Village Hall kept as a separate item and would like to see some items broken down even further. It was felt that Lakenheath Times should be looked at more closely to see if savings can be made. It was noted that in excess of £600 had been spent on tractor service in the last month – this would no doubt go up in future. Cllr Gathercole said that the previous Council had bought current tractor expecting to replace it after about 2/3 years – however, there is no provision for replacement as such. It was noted that nothing has been allowed for Playing Fields Association. Final consideration on precept amount will be carried out in January.

The Clerk stated that she had received a letter from FHDC who wanted proposed payment dates confirmed. As in previous years – 50% in April; 15% in July and 35% in September. It was agreed by all to accept the proposed payment dates.

Action Point – Clerk to write to FHDC confirming proposed precept payment dates.

18. 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 had not presented one cheque for payment – Bendall & Co invoice in sum of £397.14 fees in connection with Deed of Transfer of Lease on Undley Road land. The Chairman asked Councillors what action they wished to take with regard to this invoice – did they wish

the LPFA to bear half the cost? It was proposed, seconded and agreed by all that the invoice should be split 50/50.

Resolved – Clerk to write to Bendall & Co to obtain revised invoices – 50/50 split.

(b)BANK RECONCILIATION

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

(c)PRESENTATION & ACCEPTANCE OF EXTERNAL AUDIT (y/e 31 MARCH 2008)

The Clerk said that the Annual Return y/e 31 March 2008 had been returned by the External Auditors – nothing to note and no recommendations to be followed up. The Parish Council were now invited to approve and accept the audit. It was proposed, seconded and agreed by all to approve and accept the audit.

Resolved – Clerk to display completed audit on Parish and Sedge Fen Noticeboards from 4th December 2008 for 14 days

19.CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk had received an email from the lady who leads fortnightly Parish Walks to say how good footpaths 4 & 15 are. She had also received a letter of thanks from Macmillan Cancer Care for S137 donation. She also has copies of SCC Revenue Budget 2009/10 (presented at SALC Forest Heath area meeting) and SCC Locality pilot in office if anyone wishes to look at them

20. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Cllr Smith proposed Village Green and Playingfield Railings; Cllr Chambers proposed War Memorial; Cllr Ingham proposed Precept.

21. TO NOTE FUTURE DATES

The Clerk had hoped to be able to attend Freedom of Information training on 5th December but course is full – SALC are hoping to arrange another date in west of the area. She asked if anyone else wished to do training – although PC has FOI policy in place we will be required to adopt the new policy as of 1st January 2009. In absence of training and in view of short timescale the Clerk asked if the PC would be quite happy for her to introduce whatever may be suggested to her by SALC (including charging for copy documents – e.g. minutes of meetings. This is currently not done by Lakenheath but suggestions of 10p per copy are being suggested). PC agreed that the Clerk can take up advice given. Clerk also reminded Councillors that the Boundary Commission is due to report back its findings to Secretary of State by 31 December and that there will be a 4 week consultation period after that date.

22.TO NOTE DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 5th January 2009

There being no further business the Chairman wished all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. The meeting closed at 8.50pm