

MINUTES OF MEETING OF LAKENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE METHODIST CHURCH CHAPEL  
ON MONDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2009

Present :- Messrs D Gathercole (Chairman)

I Frost

Mrs A Chambers

D Lucas

Mrs P Rissen

E Morley

R Rolph

I Smith

M Whitehand

In Attendance :- PCSO Jason Thomas; Suffolk County Councillor Colin Noble; FHDC Councillor Simon Flack & Sqdn Ldr Jerry Neild  
13 members of the public were present.

### 1.APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Gentle (sickness) – acceptable absence and apologies were received from Matt Lucas –Suffolk County Council, Locality Pilot and Stephanie Brooks – Bury Free Press - inclement weather.

The Chairman advised the meeting that John Ingham had resigned from the Parish Council wef 15 January 2009. FHDC have been advised in line with current procedure.

### 2.DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Gathercole – Planning & LDF (FHDC), Village Hall & Lakenheath Playing Fields & Cllr Smith- St Mary's Church.

*The Chairman closed the meeting*

### 6.REPORT FROM

#### a)RAF COMMANDER

Sqdn Ldr Neild advised the meeting that a presentation from RAF Lakenheath would take place in the Village Hall on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2009 at 7.30pm. It will essentially cover helicopter operations – what they do and why they do it.

*Sqdn Ldr Neild was thanked for his attendance and he left the meeting.*

### 3. POLICE MATTERS

Having been unable to attend the January meeting PCSO Thomas wished everyone a Happy New Year . 13 crimes had been reported over the last month – attempted burglary at Royal British Legion (the alarm scared off intruder (s); 2 vehicle licence plates have been stolen – advice is park as near to house/garage as possible; items had been stolen from an unsecured car (although following a request from the victim some items have been returned!); trailer has been stolen from a back garden (trailers are currently “hot items”) and a handbag, momentarily left outside a pub, has been stolen. On a more positive note a drink/driver with no insurance and not in possession of a full licence was apprehended. An off road motor cyclist rode straight into the “hands” of PCSO Thomas. A S59 warning has been issued. The offender and his family are now working with PCSO Thomas, hopefully towards a good

conclusion. Finally, PCSO Thomas said that the police and SNT had worked with APNR equipment just prior to Christmas with good results – this will be repeated in the near future.

Cllr Smith stated that people using the ATM machine outside Lloyds had had their cards cloned – PCSO Thomas said that there are no further details available on this at the moment.

Cllr Chambers said that an oil delivery truck had not been able to deliver oil to a customer in Anchor Lane due to badly parked cars – she said something had to be done re traffic problem in Anchor Lane.

PCSO Thomas has tried to address parking problems in that area – needs some consideration.

*PCSO Thomas was thanked for his contribution and he left the meeting.*

*The meeting was reopened.*

#### **4.CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETINGS HELD ON 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2009**

Minutes from both meetings were accepted by all Councillors.

*The Chairman closed the meeting*

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

Mrs Parker, a parishioner, referred to an article she had submitted to February Lakenheath Times - requesting that Lakenheath Times continues to be a monthly publication. As a deliverer she is very aware that both the elderly and newcomers look forward to receiving it each month. She had two letters from Parishioners who expressed similar views. Mrs Parker said that she would be willing to assist with the bundling of the papers for despatch to the deliverers.

Mr R Crane, a parishioner, expressed similar views – everybody has access to the paper – a number of people already volunteer their time for various activities, which through this paper can be publicised. People cannot always plan too far ahead and if one does it may be forgotten by the readers. It is a mere 25p per month per household.

Mr R Rolph, a parishioner, explained the position of Lakenheath Life (why they are so keen to keep advertising) – it had been hoped in earlier days that that publication could serve as a Parish Magazine but that had never materialised.

Mr H Spencer, a Parishioner, said that the Lakenheath Times is the catalyst that unites and binds troubled waters! He referred people to an article in this month's magazine "Obituary for Common Sense".

Mr J Cross, a parishioner, suggested that perhaps a contribution from Village Hall users who advertise their activities in Lakenheath Times.

Mrs J Williams, a parishioner, said that she has both Lakenheath Life and Lakenheath Times and that different items are in each. She suggested a "For Sale" section for which a small amount could be charged. She also offered to assist with bundling of the Lakenheath Times.

Mrs A Cross, a parishioner and booking clerk for the Village Hall stated that users of the Hall have said that they choose to come to Lakenheath Hall because there is advertising of their activities in Lakenheath Times.

Cllr Gathercole passed a letter from Mrs Tracy Whitehand, a parishioner, to the Clerk to read to the meeting. She too reiterated earlier comments on Lakenheath Times – it is a lifeline for clubs in the village.

Mr J Eagle, a parishioner, asked what the Parish Council view of proposed development at Four Bays, Back Street, is. He feels there is insufficient room for two cars and that it is right beside a dangerous cross road.

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

#### **c)SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL**

Cllr Noble said that he had received two e-mails from parishioners who hoped that Lakenheath Times would remain a monthly publication. He did add that £254 remains from this year's Locality Budget and that it must be used by the end of March. He urged the Carnival Committee to get paperwork supporting their request for Locality Budget for generator to him asap.

SCC have increased their portion of Council Tax by 2.45% - lowest increase ever. This has been achieved through efficiency savings. SCC have made formal representations to Breckland District Council re LDF and housing allocations for Weeting. Breckland's view is that Weeting does not really have any retail outlets, therefore, is not suitable for development. SCC take the view that Brandon is just down the road, it has good retail facilities and development in Weeting would provide S106 monies which could then assist with Brandon by-pass. Cllr Noble will forward an email to the Clerk on this issue.

Monies for Belisha beacon improvements have been approved.

Cllr Chambers said that there was further objection to development at Weeting as it is a haunt of the stone curlew. She went on to raise the issue of parking and Anchor Lane. Just prior to Christmas an oil tanker had been unable to make a delivery to a resident in Anchor Lane due to parked vehicles. It is an ongoing problem but there does not seem to be any consensus on the way forward.

Cllr Whitehand asked about the extension to 30MPH on Maids Cross Hill. Cllr Noble confirmed that it had been approved.

Cllr Gathercole raised concerns again about C600 – 2 lorries had come off the road very recently, one caused interruption to electricity supply in the area. He confirmed that the SCC 2 man gang had been diligent in replacing the chevrons but there is a problem and it needs investigating. Cllr Noble said he would take up this matter.

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

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

Cllr Flack had nothing to report.

Cllr Gathercole said that FHDC are promoting new ways to pay Council Tax, the Clerk advised the meeting that she had been told by FHDC that all but "direct debit" CT payers will be issued with a barcoded bill which means that CT could be paid at the Post Office.

Cllr Gathercole said that Forest Heath Crime Prevention Panel have issued an invitation to the opening of the 2009 "Crucial Crew" on Monday 9th March 2009 11.15am at Mildenhall Stadium. He cannot attend and is, therefore, issuing invitation to any other Councillor who may be able to attend. Details left with Clerk.

Re Village Green improvements - Cllr Gathercole passed round a communication from FHDC re their proposals for improvements to access/parking area and Cllr Smith expressed his wish to see litter bin replacement/refurbishment work completed.

*The meeting was reopened*

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

It was noted that the phone box which the Parish Council had requested to sponsor (through BT) had had its handset removed and had broken concrete inside. The Clerk said that this was in fact vandalism. BT have raised a work order on this but it will be at least two weeks before anything is done.

Cllr Gathercole asked the Clerk to read the letter which she had sent to the LPFA in line with resolution at 11 page 490 of the 5<sup>th</sup> January 2009 minutes.

#### **8. PLANNING MATTERS**

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

Cllr Rolph said that 3 applications had been considered – 2 had been objected to.

There was no objection to:-

**F/2008/0827/FUL** –erection single storey side extension – 61 Covey Way

There were objections to:-

**F/2008/0810/FUL**(part retrospective)- erection single storey extension -111 High Street

**F/2008/0811/CAC**(part retrospective)- demolition rear outbuildings – 111 High Street

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

There are 3 applications in circulation.

The Clerk read out an e-mail from FHDC re latest position at Lakenheath Hall – “FHDC have been approached by a new representative of a new consortium that has said they are buying the site. We expect a new plan soon and a fresh round of pre application discussions. We very much hope that this will bring to an end the problems that have beset this site and that we can finally conclude the development”

**c)PLANNING COMMITTEE – ELECTION OF ONE MEMBER**

There were no immediate takers, Cllr Rissen said she would be prepared to take on the position. Confirmed by the meeting.

**9. LAKENHEATH CEMETERY**

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

Cllr Rissen reported that it looked neat and tidy.

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

There were two :-

Richard Flack of Feltwell

Linda Allison of Lakenheath

**10.LOCALITY PILOT- PRESENTATION MATT HALES OF SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL**

Item left on table due to Matt Hales absence.

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

Inspections have all been satisfactory – no work required.

**12.VILLAGE PLAN**

It was pointed out that the Village Plan had not really been looked at in the past year or so with a view to achieving something for the village. A great deal of time and effort had been taken in the production of the plan and a good number of villagers had given their time in completing the questionnaire. It would not be good practice to virtually ignore the Plan. It was suggested that the Councillors should look at the Plan and agree to focus on something that would and could be achieved in the foreseeable future. The meeting was reminded that the play area/ play in general was a HIGH priority and at the last Parish Council Meeting Cllr Smith had suggested that the railings in the Play Area could be finished off. Cllr Chambers proposed that a quote should be obtained for railing work. This was seconded by Cllr Rissen and agreed by all.

*Resolved Clerk and Cllr Gathercole to obtain quote for railings.*

**13LAKENHEATH TIMES**

Cllr Gathercole said that the Parish Council had heard what members of the public had said about Lakenheath Times. However, the Finance Committee had wanted to reduce the overall cost of the publication. There are possibly three ways to proceed with that – reduce frequency; reduce number of pages or allow advertising. If advertising was the option chosen, he Parish Council had to bear in my mind any impact this may have on Lakenheath Life – look to completely new advertising. There was discussion around the type of paper used (although this has just been changed). Quality Parish Status

could not be achieved if frequency was reduced too much – every 2 months was suggested and this would still meet QPS criterion. Cllr Whitehand said that we should not be doing this for QPS but for the people, especially those who have come out tonight. Cllr Smith said savings had to be made. Cllr Whitehand and Cllr Lucas felt advertising may be the way to proceed. Cllr Gathercole said that he was willing to take a look at Brandon Life to see if improvements/benefits could be made to Lakenheath Times but he stressed that he would remain mindful of commitment to St Mary's ( Lakenheath Life). It was proposed, seconded and agreed that Cllr Gathercole would look at a different layout for Lakenheath Times.

*Resolved Cllr Gathercole to look at layout of Lakenheath Times.*

## **15.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)BANK RECONCILIATION**

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

The Clerk asked if someone would check Cash Book in line with Internal Audit recommendations. Cllr Chambers will do this.

*Action Point – Cllr Chambers to contact Clerk re Cash Book check.*

## **16.FUTURE OF FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Cllr Gathercole said that with the resignation of its Chairman what was the future of the Finance Committee. Cllr Morley said he thought it should be disbanded. Cllr Rolph wondered if Cllr Smith would still want to carry on. It was proposed, seconded and agreed by 5 to 2 that the Finance Committee should not continue.

## **17.S137 REQUESTS-TO INCLUDE DONATION TO LAKENHEATH LIFE**

Cllr Rolph said that he had asked for “donation to Lakenheath Life” to go on agenda. He said that the Parish Council had always given money to the publication. It was proposed, seconded and agreed by all with one abstention that £170 should be given to St Mary's towards publication cost of Lakenheath Life. The Clerk said that she had received a number of S137 requests – Suffolk Accident Rescue Service; Optua; The Voluntary Network, Newmarket and Age Concern. Brief details from letters read out. The Clerk said that up to now only £50 plus £170 as above had been spent - £500 had been allocated. The Clerk did say that the PC had earlier in the year agreed to donate £100 to RSPB – this was to take the form of a membership (Kirsty Nutt was supposed to have worked on this but the Clerk had not received replies to her e-mails). It was proposed and seconded that the money be shared equally amongst the four. Cllr Morley suggested choosing one only but there was no seconder for this proposal. It was proposed, seconded and agreed by all but one that the remaining monies be shared by the four bodies as above.

*Resolved Clerk to arrange payments as above.*

## **18.FUTURE OF UNDLLEY ROAD LAND**

Cllr Gathercole said that a letter from Brown & Co re valuation of the land had been circulated to Councillors by the Clerk and he wished the contents to be kept confidential but that the Council had to make a decision on whether to retain or dispose of the land. There was discussion on the options around the table. There was some concern that the land could be occupied illegally and concern that the land was not doing anything. Concern was also expressed about the price the land might sell for in the current climate. Cllr Smith reminded the Council that the aborted project had cost a lot of money.

It was proposed, seconded and agreed by all but one that the land should be offered for sale.

*Resolved – the Clerk to make arrangements for sale of the land*

#### **19.TRAINING**

The Clerk said that there is to be an E-Planning Course on 10 February at SALC offices in Claydon. She has booked one place (E-Planning is the future!) – no Councillor free to attend so Clerk will attend. There is also an “Introduction to Quality Parish Status” lunch at Great Barton on 12 February - Clerk and Cllr Morley to attend.

*Action Point – Clerk to see if SALC will undertake training at other times (evenings) and in west of area so that more Councillors can attend.*

#### **20.CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk said that she had received correspondence from Age Concern re “Food & Friends” clubs that they are trying to set up; Suffolk Preservation Society including their diary for this year. All correspondence available in office.

Cllr Chambers said that she had received complaint re a tree causing an obstruction on the pavement in Back Street. The Clerk asked for an exact location – behind the garage (said to be Mr Marston’s property)

*Action Point – Clerk to write to owner*

#### **21. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

Cllr Morley asked for “Lakenheath Times”

Cllr Gathercole asked for “Village Hall”

#### **21. TO NOTE FUTURE DATES**

Local businesses opportunity, an FHDC/St Edmundsbury Council joint venture at Palace House, Newmarket on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2009 10am till 4pm.

FHDC Parish Forum at Jubilee Centre, Mildenhall 5<sup>th</sup> February 7pm – 9pm – Clerk to be advised of attendees.

The Clerk said that the Village Hall is getting very booked up and that a date should be set for the Annual Parish Meeting – Monday 20 April 2009.

*Action Point – Clerk to make arrangements for 20<sup>th</sup> April with Village Hall Booking Secretary*

#### **22.TO NOTE DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2009**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm