

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

Present :- Messrs D Gathercole (Chairman)

I Frost

J Gentle

E Morley

R Rolph

I Smith

M Whitehand

Mrs A Chambers

Mrs P Rissen

In Attendance :- Lisa Rosenthal – FHDC Environmental Services; Suffolk County Councillor Colin Noble;  
& Sqdn Ldr Jerry Neild

11 members of the public were present and 1 member of the press.

**6.REPORT FROM**

**a)RAF COMMANDER**

Cllr Gathercole offered his apologies for having been unable to attend the presentation at the Village Hall by RAF Lakenheath on 26<sup>th</sup> February. Sqdn Ldr Neild advised the meeting that the presentation had been quite well attended and he hoped that it dispelled the notion that the base “hide behind the fence”. Certain procedures are being looked at – it is also thought that the village has been spreading out in a northerly direction and this may cause some problems .

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

**10.PRESENTATION BY LISA ROSENTHAL – FOREST HEATH DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Lisa Rosenthal, Forest Heath District Council Waste and Street Scene Strategy Manager, advised the meeting that Forest Heath District Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Councils are launching an anti litter campaign starting this month. Each month they will focus on different types of litter e.g. cigarette ends, rubbish from cars, dog fouling, flytipping etc.. The message is “No Excuses”! The campaign is planned for six months but may well continue until the end of the year. A vehicle is going to be liveried up in support of the campaign. Cllr Iain Frost will be the coordinator in Lakenheath. Ms Rosenthal told the meeting that FHDC have just had a successful flytipping prosecution in Newmarket! Cllr Smith, in answer to his question, was told that there are no litter wardens in FHDC area. He is of the opinion that litter problems tend to occur in the evenings and at weekends. Ms Rosenthal said that FHDC try to work in voluntary partnership with retailers and takeaways and they are looking into possible sponsorship with Greene King. Flytipping incidents are always investigated. Cllr Chambers said that language appears to be a barrier with some takeaway premises. Cllr Gentle said that dog fouling can result in a 1,300 euro fine in Spain. Ms Rosenthal said that dog fouling is a difficult problem here as it must be witnessed and a statement given – fine here is £80! Cllr Gathercole said that this type of education needs to start in the schools.

*Ms Rosenthal was thanked for her contribution.*

*In order to keep the subject going the Chairman, Cllr Gathercole, said he would, with the Council’s permission vary the order of business, open the meeting but take item 11 next.*

## **11. LAKENHEATH STOP THE DROP ANTI LITTER AND FLYTIPPING CAMPAIGN**

Cllr Frost said that he is keen to get involved with “youth and the environment” and as such he is coordinating the above mentioned campaign. He had been involved in a “clean up” campaign towards the end of last year in the village and he feels that it is something he would like to do every month – perhaps even 2 Saturdays every month and he feels it will link in well with FHDC campaign. It was suggested that an article in Lakenheath Times would be a good way forward. Cllr Smith asked whether or not the Parish Council had obtained any litter pickers but the Clerk advised that as there would be a cost to the Parish Council she had not pursued this (Ms Rosenthal confirmed that FHDC would only loan out litter pickers for specific periods/campaigns and that they had to be returned. They cost £13 each). Cllr gentle suggested that education is the issue – a child cannot be remonstrated with about their “social behaviour”. The High Street (in Lakenheath) doesn’t look attractive therefore, doesn’t encourage good social behaviour. He did, however, praise the work being done at Mutford Green! Cllr Whitehand said that Ms Rosenthal would be welcome at the Youth Club on a Thursday evening. She said she is not able to attend for the next fortnight but she would leave a card with Cllr Whitehand. Cllr Smith asked who was responsible for roadsides and he was advised that it would be FHDC in the main. Cllr Whitehand wondered if FHDC used signage e.g. in lay-bys “just been cleaned – take your litter home”. Ms Rosenthal said they did not use signage but thought such signage seemed a good idea and could perhaps be looked at. Cllr Chambers noted that in days gone by RAF Lakenheath had helped in clean up campaigns.

*Ms Rosenthal left the meeting.*

*The Chairman closed the meeting.*

## **6.REPORT FROM**

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

Cllr Noble asked Cllr Frost to let him have details of the “Stop the Drop Campaign”.

Cllr Noble advised the meeting that FHDC have the lowest Council Tax rate in Suffolk and that it is to be commended!

On Local Government Review – there is to be an announcement on 13<sup>th</sup> March and a further period of consultation.

Nothing has yet happened on C600 (Sedge Fen Road) – safety concerns – Cllr Gathercole said that there had been yet another accident – 4<sup>th</sup> February – car came off the road – this will be chased up by Cllr Noble.

Cllr Noble handed the Clerk a poster re “Warmer Homes” for older people in West Suffolk – there is money available. The Clerk advised that she had already put articles in Lakenheath Times.

On Locality Budget - £3618 had originally been allocated to village but this figure had been exceeded – Cllr Noble to e-mail Clerk with up to date details.

There has been some speculation that Breckland School in Brandon may become a secondary school and that Lakenheath pupils would feed into it. Cllr Noble wishes to see Lakenheath pupils continuing at Mildenhall College of Technology. The Headmistress at Lakenheath Primary is in agreement with this.

Cllr Noble added that a high number of 16 – 19 year olds are not in school/employment/training – this is not good. Cllr Gentle expressed some reservations at standard of education at MCT and Cllr Smith felt that Lakenheath pupils are disadvantaged as they cannot always take part in extra curricular activities as there is no bus back to the village, although he did acknowledge that some teachers drive the minibus.

He also went on to say that many pupils who do go onto university do not return to the village. It is hoped that the university in Ipswich may have a positive effect.

Cllr Chambers expressed concern at how SCC carry out roadworks/repairs – poor notice. Cllr Noble said statutory notices are put up.

Cllr Smith noted that the traffic bollards in the High Street have been “out of action” for some time – perhaps they should be removed. Cllr Noble said that Guy Smith (Portfolio Holder at SCC) is not keen on their removal.

The Clerk advised that she had heard from SCC that the extension of the speed limit on Maids Cross Hill has been delayed due to representation made by a resident – he wants limit extended even further.

*Action Points – Cllr Noble to chase up SCC Highways re C600 and to e-mail Clerk with details of Locality Budget spending.*

*Cllr Frost to pass on details of “Stop the Drop” campaign to Cllr Noble*

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

*The Chairman reopened the meeting.*

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

Cllr Lucas (no reason) and PCSO Jason Thomas.

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

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

### **3. POLICE MATTERS**

In the absence of PCSO Thomas, the Clerk read out a report from him.

There has been 1 instance of possession of Class B drugs.

There has been 1 theft of a quad bike from an unlocked garage – ongoing enquiries.

A number plate has been stolen – advice is park as near to light and house/garage as possible. If you are a victim of this crime it must be reported so that you can be protected from “ghost plating”.

A cannabis factory has been found in the High Street – enquiries ongoing.

In Eriswell Drive pane of glass (house window) was smashed.

### **4.CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETINGS HELD ON 2<sup>nd</sup> FEBRUARY 2009**

Cllr Smith referring to the third line of item 17 on page 498 asked for an amendment as it read as if he had objected to the donation of £170 to St Mary’s Church whereas he had abstained – with approval of the meeting the wording in the third line was amended to read “with one abstention.....”

The minutes were then accepted by the meeting.

*The Chairman closed the meeting*

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

Cllr Gathercole thanked Mr Wilderspin for his efforts during the recent spell of frosty/snowy weather.

Mrs Pusey expressed her disappointment that the Undley Road land - was being put up for sale in a poor state; that it was being sold rather than rented out ; could be protected from trespassers by a small ditch; is an asset and could allow for extended sporting facilities; questioned £5,000 being allocated to LPFA and finally said she was not happy that there is no longer a Finance Committee.

Cllr Gathercole said that £5,000 has not been allocated to LPFA – it had been suggested but not agreed; the decision to put the land up for sale had been taken by the Parish Council who will confirm the decision when the offers come in. Again it was the Parish Council who voted to get rid of the Finance Committee – there were no amendments to that resolution. Cllr Gentle said that here had not been a Finance Committee in the past and added that the Clerk is the RFO.

Mr Pullen pleased with the clearing work that has been carried out at Mutford Green asked if it would be possible to have an exercise area there for older people. Cllr Gathercole said that area falls under FHDC but asked Mr Pullen to give him details of what he has in mind and he will take it to FHDC.

*Action Point – on receipt of information from Mr Pullen, Cllr Gathercole to discuss with FHDC*

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

Under Local Community Projects there are more ways to get monies (£250 > £3000) from FHDC.

Council Tax (FH) is lowest in the County.

The meeting was updated on - refurbishments being undertaken by FHDC in Newmarket and Mildenhall and Local Government Review (FHDC) stance – 3 authorities is their preferred option :- East/West /Greater Ipswich.

There has been disappointment at decision by Marshalls of Cambridge not to transfer business to Mildenhall.

Cllr Smith asked about village green improvements – there will be nothing else until new financial year. Litter bin replacement /refurbishment is “work in progress”.

*The meeting was reopened*

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

The Clerk updated the meeting on – Parish Councillor vacancy and Undley Road land. No election has been requested; therefore, someone will be coopted. An article will be put in Lakenheath Times and a notice will be placed in the Parish and Sedge Fen noticeboards. The Undley Road land should be advertised at the end of the week; closing date for offers is 26<sup>th</sup> Marc 2009.

Cllr Smith observed that the phone box is still out of order. The Clerk advised that it had been reported but BT had said it would be at least 2 weeks before anything would be done.

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

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

Cllr Rolph said that 7 applications had been considered – 2 had been objected to and in 1 application decision to be left to FHDC

There were no objections to:-

**F/2008/0625/COU**-change of use, agricultural to equestrian – Apollo Stables (conditions asked for)

**F/2009/0032/FUL**-conversion side storey outbldg. to provide self contained accom.- Old Alehouse 81 High St

**F/2009/0044/FUL(resubmission)**-single storey front extension – 4 Covey Way

**F/2008/0634/FUL**-erection 2 storey dwelling(access off Belltrees)- 65 Eriswell Road

There were objections to:-

**F/2009/0023/CAC**- demolition of dwelling- 4 Bays, Back St

**F/2009/0015/FUL**- erection 4 Bays, Back St

Referred back to FHDC (Tree Officer)

**F/2009/0046/TPO**- removal of 1 Scots Pine – land at rear of 7 Meadow Drive

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

The Clerk said that she had today received notification that both applications in respect of 4 Bays, Back St (as above) have been withdrawn.

Cllr Smith said that at bottom of The Mallards a tree had been felled contrary, he believes, to planning permission – he is pursuing with FHDC.

##### **c)PLANNING APPLICATION F/2008/0236/FUL – LAND AT REAR 65 69 & 73 STATION ROAD**

The Clerk said that the above application (refused by FHDC) has gone to appeal. She asked if the Parish Council wished to change their views (PC had objected). The meeting agreed that original objections should stand.

*Action Point – Clerk to write to Planning Inspectorate (with copy to FHDC) confirming objections .*

#### **d) LAKENHEATH HALL – REPRESENTATIONS TO FOREST HEATH DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Cllr Gentle said that this is a problem on his doorstep but nonetheless the caravans are on the site illegally. He reminded the meeting of the problems that had been encountered with caravans on the Sedge Fen Road because they had been there for too long before action was attempted. Nothing is being resolved on this site. Action has to be taken by FHDC otherwise the matter should be referred to higher authority. Cllr Gathercole asked the meeting what they would like him to do – as a member of FHDC Planning Committee he would be prepared to take the issue there. It was proposed, seconded and agreed by all that Cllr Gathercole takes the issue to FHDC Planning Committee and failing response from them it goes to higher authority.

*Resolved – Cllr Gathercole takes issue of Lakenheath Hall to FHDC Planning Committee Meeting for action to regularise situation there.*

### **9. LAKENHEATH CEMETERY**

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

Cllr Rissen reported that it looked quite good but that there is a pile of rubbish to be removed and a Cambs County Council road diversion sign (picked up during the “Big Tidy Up” campaign) which needs to be handed over to Cambs County Council.

Cllr Rissen advised the meeting that the Cemetery Keeper had reported a memorial plaque missing. After extensive enquiries the Clerk had located it – with an Undertaker! However, not to notify the Cemetery Keeper (or the Clerk) of its removal is not acceptable.

There has been an enquiry from a resident as to why dogs are not allowed in cemetery. Cllr Rissen said that it has always been a regulation that dogs are not allowed – fouling; might dig and causing nuisance/upset to others. The meeting was in agreement that the regulation regarding dogs should remain.

*Action Point – Clerk to write to all local undertakers and monumental masons reminding them that memorials cannot be removed from the Cemetery without prior approval.*

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

There was one :-

Irene Margaret Thurstance of Lakenheath

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

Inspections have all been satisfactory – no work required.

### **13. VILLAGE HALL**

Cllr Gathercole said that there is a noise problem between Village Hall and Parish Office – conversations in Parish Office can be heard by hirers of the Hall and the Clerk hears noise from the Hall. He reminded the meeting that the Parish Council had approached the Village Hall on the possibility of an office from part of the Hall. Although on the plans there was no door between Hall and Parish Office building regulations required one (in case of fire). The Village Hall Committee do not wish to be responsible for overheard conversations. It is suggested that a padded door may help and Stan Heywood is willing to do the work free of charge but materials would have to be paid for. Cost is expected to be no more than £300. It was proposed, seconded and agreed by all with one abstention that the Parish Council would meet the cost (up to £300) of padded door.

#### **14.LAKENHEATH TIMES**

Cllr Gathercole said that there are 4 options :-

i)leave as it is and find £2500

ii)go bi-monthly

iii)the current editor has suggested a new format with advertising, would require an extra 2 pages – extra cost would be £104 per month – sample circulated

iv)completely revamped but with same number of pages as now – approx £2946 would have to be gained from advertising each year – sample circulated

There was discussion around options with some Councillors concerned that in the current climate businesses may not be able/want to spend on advertising; advertising must not impact on Lakenheath Life; some feel the current content does not differ greatly from one month to another and to go bi-monthly might be the better option. It was proposed, seconded and agreed 7 votes to 2 that option for Lakenheath Times should be as iv) above – monthly with advertising

*Resolved – Cllr Gathercole will look into advertising for Lakenheath Times and feasibility of option iv)*

#### **15.LAKENHEATH WAR MEMORIAL – TO CONSIDER LISTING**

The Clerk said that she had been advised that £879 (grant from War Memorials Trust for cleaning of War Memorial) should be credited very shortly to Parish Council's bank account. The WMT had suggested that the Parish Council should consider requesting listing of the War Memorial – listing will provide statutory protection of the memorial and will ensure its future preservation . Does the Parish Council wish to pursue listing? It was proposed, seconded and agreed by all that listing should be requested.

*Resolved – Clerk to make an application requesting listing of the War Memorial*

#### **16.STREET LIGHTING**

The Clerk has been told by SCC that 2 lights in Caudle Avenue; 1 light in Palmer Drive and 1 light in Wingfield Road have been identified as structural hazards (concrete columns). The cost for the 4 will be £4000.77 plus VAT. It was proposed, seconded and agreed by all with one abstention to replace lights as per quotation above.

*Resolved – Clerk to contact SCC to confirm replacement lights as above*

#### **17.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 with one abstention.

The Clerk said that she had not written one cheque – in respect of Insurance for Cemetery Cottage/Chapel; Public Liability and Employers Liability. She had not written this cheque as Suffolk Acre can offer the insurance at a slightly reduced premium if the PC agrees to a 3 year term. Some felt that the premium is high and the PC should shop around. The Clerk confirmed that the insurance policy is through Zurich. It was proposed, seconded and agreed by all that enquiries should be made to try to obtain cheaper insurance – two week deadline as insurance runs out at end of March 2009.

*Resolved – Cllr Smith to make enquiries for cheaper insurance – to notify Clerk by 16<sup>th</sup> March 2009*

*Action Point – Clerk to give Cllr Smith copy of insurance schedule so that like for like obtained*

##### **(b)BANK RECONCILIATION**

A bank reconciliation for month of January 2009 was presented. It was proposed, seconded & agreed by all to accept the reconciliation.

#### **18.CORRESPONDENCE**

Planning Application received from SCC – to seek lawful Development Certificate confirming lawful land use for the operation of a Waste Recycling and Transfer Station at Causeway Pit, Undley Road – paperwork in office if any Councillor wishes to see/comment  
Representations from Jeremy Pembroke (Leader SCC) re Boundary Committee proposals  
FHDC Parish Briefing – also with Boundary Committee proposal article  
Rural Services Community Newsletters – Clerk said that there are interesting items  
Meeting reminded all correspondence available in office for 3 months before being filed.

**19. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

Cllr Gathercole asked for Woodlands; Nature Reserve Gates and Undley Road land

**20. TO NOTE FUTURE DATES**

Annual Parish Meeting – Monday 20 April 2009.

**21. TO NOTE DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2009**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00pm