

MINUTES OF MEETING OF LAKENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE METHODIST CHURCH CHAPEL
ON MONDAY 1st JUNE 2009

Present :- Messrs D Gathercole (Chairman)

I Frost	M Whitehand
J Gentle	
D Lucas	Mrs P Rissen
E Morley	
R Rolph	
I Smith	

In Attendance :- Suffolk County Councillor Colin Noble; Sqdn Ldr Jerry Neild; PCSO Jason Thomas
9 members of the public were present and 1 member of the press.

The Chairman welcomed back Mrs Margaret Davis. In order to facilitate visitors to the Meeting, he varied the order of business without objection from the Parish Council.

6.REPORT FROM

a)RAF COMMANDER

Sqdn Ldr Neild advised the meeting that there had been a number of complaints about flying over the Bank Holiday weekend. The weekend coincided with Memorial Day (as it usually does); two aircraft returned from deployment - Paris Airshow & Normandy. He said that there will be aircraft noise between 1300 and 1730 hours on Friday 5th June as aircraft take off for D Day celebrations. There is also an exercise taking place nearby. However, there is due to be a period of inactivity 26th June until 6th July. Cllr Gathercole expressed the condolences of the Parish Council to the family and friends of the USAF personnel killed in an accident at Icklingham recently. He also extended thanks to personnel at RAF Lakenheath for the two trips to the base made by the Lakenheath Youth Club. The evenings had been greatly enjoyed.

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

6.REPORT FROM

c)SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

Cllr Noble said that issues raised at May Parish Council Meeting by Cllr Smith, namely road markings and rubbish at junction of Wangford Road and A1065 are being looked at. The issue of the dip in the road at Woodlands and Station Road junction has been taken up by SCC. SCC Highways are also looking at the issue of the trees in the "island" along Station Road and they will report on any dangers that there may be. As the elections are due to be held on 4th June the first meeting for County Councillors will be 25th June; therefore, Locality Budgets will not be finalised before then. Cllr Noble said that he had very much enjoyed being County Councillor for the area during the last three years.

Cllr Gathercole said he was still waiting to hear about C600 – Cllr Noble said he would raise it again at SCC. Cllr Smith noted that the top of the WAITING RESTRICTION post outside the Library is still missing. Cllr Noble noted this and added that he had receive a nice letter from Mrs Phipps re dropped kerbs which had been done in High Street and that he had arranged a meeting between her and SCC re access for wheelchairs/motorised chairs to the Library. However, such work is expected to be a much bigger spend than the dropped kerbs.

Action Points – Cllr Noble to pursue Highways re C600

13. “PRESERVING OUR COUNTRYSIDE” CAMPAIGN

Cllr Frost said that it had not been a good idea to have arranged his meeting re this campaign on the evening of the Champions League football match – as apart from himself and Cllr Noble nobody else had turned up! However, the Campaign continues and he plans to have a litter pick on 13th June between 11.00am and 2.00pm meeting at the Village Hall – all are warmly invited to take part – litter pickers etc. will be provided by FHDC.

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

The Chairman opened the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Chambers – family bereavement.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

3. POLICE MATTERS

PCSO Jason Thomas said that there had been 25 reported crimes – 12 of these would be reported on at the meeting. There was 1 incident of a number plate being stolen, if anyone has any information it would be welcome; a bicycle left at the primary school over the weekend was stolen; there were 4 thefts from houses/gardens in Warreners Reach; a theft of property in Caudle Ave; there has been a spate of thefts from vehicles; there has been a successful stop – suspicion of drink/drive; there have been incidents of rowdy behaviour. PCSO Thomas urged reporting of any such behaviour. Finally, there was a burglary in Pashford Close.

Cllr Frost asked if speed checks could be carried out in Highlands/Highfields area of village. PCSO Thomas said he would ask for a suitability assessment to be carried out.

Cllr Morley said that Eriswell Road attracts speeding motor bikes – this is a speed check area.

PCSO Thomas was thanked for his contribution.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 11th May 2009

Cllr Smith, referring to item 17 page 518 of the minutes said that he had asked the Parish Council agreement to engage the support of MPs – no support for amendment to minutes but it was agreed that Cllr Smith could/should engage MPs and as many others as possible. It was proposed, seconded and agreed by all to accept the minutes.

The Chairman closed the meeting

5. REPRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A resident from Eriswell Drive said that a few evenings earlier there had been a “drag race” through the area from Broom Road end at 1.30am. She had fears that someone would be seriously hurt. PCSO Thomas took details (outside meeting).

A member of the public asked if money from the sale of the Undley Road land could go back in the “council pot” so that instead of perhaps increasing the Parish rate next year any increase could be met from that pot.

6b) FOREST HEATH DISTRICT COUNCIL

There was nothing to report.

The meeting was reopened

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

Cllr Gathercole asked Cllr Gentle if he was happy about state of affairs at Lakenheath Hall. He said he wasn't – marquees, although now removed, had not been removed when they were said to have been; site office is still there and seems likely to remain; chainsaw noise has been heard – believed to be connected to the breaking up of the caravans. However, Cllr Gentle did acknowledge that some action is being taken and expressed his thanks for that.

Cllr Gathercole asked if weeds/leaves in area around The Firs had been cleared – Clerk advised that leaves still there but weeds have been sprayed and look as if they have died off. Leaves to be referred to ES at FHDC.

Cllr Smith said that a member of the public had spoken to him about the poor state of the toilets in Wings Road car park – threatening to take photos of toilets and send them to local paper. Thought by some members to be a PC issue but Clerk said FHDC have responsibility.

Action points – Clerk to refer leaves at The Firs to ES at FHDC

Cllr Gathercole to make enquiries about responsibility for maintenance of toilets in Wings Road car park with FHDC

8.PLANNING MATTERS

a) TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Rolph said that 3 applications had been considered – 1 had been objected to.

There was no objection to:-

F/2009/0176/FUL –erection front porch – 18 Briscoe Way

F/2009/0126/FUL (amended)- erection pavilion bldg. amdt. allows for turning space for emergency vehicles - LPF Eriswell Road

There was an objection to:-

F/2009/0147/FUL – erection of 4 detached dwellings – Brandon House 6 Wings Road

b) TO CONSIDER- ANY OUTSTANDING APPLICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

There is 1 application in circulation.

The Clerk said that she had received notification of a change to planning regulations from FHDC re hardstandings in front gardens – as of October 2008 hardstandings at the front of dwellings require planning permission unless they are :-

- i) less than 5 sq mtrs or
- ii) are made of porous material
- iii) if the run off is directed to a permeable/porous area or surface elsewhere in the curtilage of the house

The Clerk suggested putting an article in Lakenheath Times and this was agreed by the meeting.

Action Point – Clerk to put article re hardstandings in Lakenheath Times

c) STREET NAMING

The Clerk had previously circulated a letter from FHDC re street naming and numbering to Councillors. FHDC are asking for a suggested list of names from which they can ask a developer to choose. Cllr Smith could not understand why FHDC should have a ban on naming streets after individuals since 2004 (except for Newmarket) as there may come a time when a PC may wish to commemorate someone in

this way. Anger was expressed at recently put up sign over Cromwell Public House conversion to residential units "Cromwell Mews" – especially as it is situated opposite St Mary's Church which suffered damage in Cromwell's time. The Parish Council voted unanimously that all new street names should be referred to PC before being adopted.

Resolved – Clerk to write to FHDC to say all proposed new street names for Lakenheath to be referred to PC for approval.

9. LAKENHEATH CEMETERY

a) TO RECEIVE REPORT FROM CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Cllr Rissen said that she had called in at the Cemetery on her way to the meeting and that it looked neat and tidy.

b) TO CONFIRM GRANT OF EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS

There were none

c) REVIEW OF CEMETERY REGULATIONS

The Chairman had previously distributed to all Councillors a review of the Cemetery Regulations – review had been brought about following a letter from a recently bereaved parishioner who wished to erect a heart shaped headstone in the New Cemetery – there are only two designs currently allowed – normal headstone and open book, both of which must be of a particular size. It was acknowledged that there had been no review of the New Cemetery regulations. The Chairman starting with Cllr Morley asked for his views – good deal of money and effort spent on Cemetery which he said may be considered old fashioned but he considered to be beautiful; Cllr Rissen acknowledging that the regulations had not been looked at since 1996, said that there may not be a problem with heart shaped memorials but she had noticed recently that there is a grave with a ceramic photograph – this is not allowed and was not shown on the paperwork. She added that there are a number of wooden crosses – some of which may have been up for at least two years whereas 12 months is the maximum period allowed. Cllr Rolph said that we should stick with the regulations. Cllr Gentle said that there must be regulations – desirable in the long term. Cllr Whitehand felt that the Old & New Cemeteries look contradictory. Cllr Gentle said that they are of different periods in time. Cllr Whitehand wondered why there had been the change. Cllr Gentle said that there were found to be two problems – strength of the headstone with varying shape is a problem and that there is less risk of damage to a stone of more regular shape. He added that he felt such issues should be dealt with by the Cemetery Committee. He said that it had been acknowledged that the best cemeteries are those in the care of the War Graves Commission. Cllr Lucas said that he agreed with Cllrs Rolph and Gentle. Cllr Frost said that he too agreed with Cllrs Rolph and Gentle. Cllr Smith agreed that ceramic photographs should not be permitted and said that they disintegrate in time.

It was proposed, seconded and agreed by all that there should be no change to the regulations.

It was further proposed, seconded and agreed by all that the main undertakers and stonemasons should be sent a copy of the regulations and that they should be ensuring that anyone, wishing to have relative/friend buried in the Cemetery, is fully aware of the regulations pertaining to the Cemetery.

Resolved – Clerk to write to undertakers/stonemasons as above

d) REPLACEMENT OF LIME TREES

Cllr Gathercole said that there appears to be a problem with some of the lime trees. Cllr Smith asked if the proposal is to take down all of the lime trees – Cllr Gathercole said it is. Cllr Gathercole said that yew (between 2 and 4 feet) would be approximately £10.00 each. It is proposed that the replanting would start in the autumn – the limes being replaced with yews as and when the need arises. Cllr Rolph asked if the yews would be grown as trees or a hedge. It is proposed that they are grown as trees – hedging would require too much attention. Asked if it would be entirely yew trees or yew and holly, as had been mentioned at a previous PC meeting, it was said that it would be yew and holly. It was proposed,

seconded and agreed by all that the lime trees in the Cemetery would be replaced with yew and holly as and when the need arises.

Resolved – lime trees in Cemetery to be replaced with yew and holly as the need arises.

e) CONSIDER THE LOCATION OF CHILDREN'S SECTION IN NEW CEMETERY

Cllr Rissen said that the last space in the Old Cemetery for a child's grave had been used and that there is no provision for such in the New Cemetery. Cllr Gathercole said that it was time to allocate a spot in the New Cemetery. Cllr Rissen had been wondering about the area opposite the New Garden of Rest but asked if a site visit may be better idea before a decision is made.

It was agreed that a site visit would be made by Parish Councillors on Monday 8th June 2009 meeting at the Cemetery at 7.00pm.

Action Point – Councillors to meet at Cemetery 7.00pm Monday 8th June 2009

10. COUNCILLOR VACANCY – CO-OPTION

The Clerk had previously circulated a letter from Ms Karen Sizer who was asking to be considered for co-option onto the Parish Council. Cllr Rolph proposed acceptance of Ms Sizer's application stating that he thought she would make a good Councillor. The proposal was seconded and agreed by all but one – who abstained.

Clerk to contact FHDC and Ms Sizer re co-option.

11. CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA – UPDATE/WORK TO BE DONE .

The Clerk said that inspections of play area have been satisfactory – no work required. Cllr Gathercole said that the fencing work is due to start on 8th June 2009. Cllr Smith, referring to graffiti in play area, asked if it could be painted over. It was agreed that the Clerk should take up this matter with the Parish Keeper.

Action Point – Clerk to ask Parish Keeper to paint over graffiti in children's playground

12. VILLAGE GREEN

As part of improvements to the Village Green FHDC have said that they have some money that they could put into the resurfacing of the car parking area on the green – however, they would require some money from the Parish Council. The total cost of resurfacing has been given as £6,457.80. It was proposed, seconded and agreed by all that the Parish Council would pay one third of this cost. Replacement bollards would be extra – SCC have quoted £2500 for 10 but they believe sourcing bollards locally may be cheaper. No decision on bollards was taken by PC.

Cllr Smith, referring to last PC meeting said that Councillors may remember he had asked for consideration to be given to the purchase of two seats in vicinity of War Memorial. He said that two wooden ones would cost £500. Cllr Gentle felt that they would be ill used during the summer months. There was no support for purchase of the seats.

Cllr Gathercole referring to the issue of the signs (High Street sign and Nature Reserve signs) said that in the current climate – the first one would be cleaned rather than replaced and that the Parish Keeper would be asked to prune trees round the second one to improve its visibility rather than moving it. Cllr Gentle, referring to the Nature Reserve, said that leaflets about the Reserve had been poorly distributed. It is thought that FHDC have them, possibly 3 different ones – flora; fauna and a third one with poems. Cllr Gathercole will make enquiries at FHDC

Resolved – PC agreed to fund one third of cost of resurfacing work on Village Green car parking area.

Clerk to advise Boyd Nicholas of FHDC accordingly

Action Point – Cllr Gathercole to try to get leaflets on Nature Reserve from FHDC

14. FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) BANK RECONCILIATION

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

b) INTERNAL AUDIT REVIEW

The Clerk said that the Internal Audit had now been completed and that nothing seemed to require attention. She read from "Conclusions" item 4 of I.A.

The Parish Council accepted the report without comment

c) COMPLETION OF ANNUAL RETURN

The Internal Auditor had completed his section of Annual Return (page 5) and Parish Council required now to complete and sign pages 2 & 3 of the Return. The Clerk had completed figures for page 2 explaining that all figures included therein are from Annual Accounts presented and approved by PC at their meeting in April 2009.

It was, therefore, proposed, seconded and agreed by all that pages 2 & 3 of the Annual Return be completed and signed by the Clerk and the Chairman

Resolved- Annual Return pages 2 & 3 duly completed and signed by Clerk & Chairman of the Parish Council

15. CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk had received a letter from Village Hall Treasurer stating that their Management Committee are looking at tenders to repair VH roof. Expected to be in the region of £4,500. They are unable to meet full cost immediately and are asking if PC would offer a grant towards the cost. The Chairman suggested that this should be an agenda item for the next meeting by which time the cost of repair to the roof should have been established – agreed by meeting.

Suffolk Acre are urging PCs to sign a Community Buildings petition to Downing Street to set aside funds to help maintain buildings which are essential for the vitality and vibrancy of community life. The Parish Council agreed that the Clerk should add the name of the Parish Council to the petition.

Zurich Municipal Court Circular is out – again, Clerk urged Councillors to read this as there seems to be a clear shift in responsibility/liability when it comes to accidents/mishaps. Safety in playgrounds features in several cases

SCC Claimed Rights of Way – correspondence has been received re this – does the PC wish to put forward a case? It has been suggested that Roger Crane could be approached for his thoughts on this matter. Cllr Smith said that he too would like to look at the papers.

SNAP – Housing Related Support Service – Clerk will put article in Lakenheath Times

FHDC – working with Aran Services installing home insulation for which there are grants available.

SALC – various correspondence, including training courses & S137 legislation

The Clerk reminded the Councillors that all correspondence in box file in office, where it can be looked at for 3 months, thereafter, it will be filed. She urged them to look at it.

Action Points – Clerk to put Village Hall on agenda for July PC meeting

Clerk to add Lakenheath PC to Buildings Petition

Clerk to contact Roger Crane re claimed rights of way and pass papers to Cllr Smith

Clerk to put article in Lakenheath Times re SNAP

16. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Village Hall as per item 15 above.

17. TO NOTE FUTURE DATES

2nd June 2009 7 – 9pm at FHDC Council Chambers SALC Forest Heath Area Meeting

16th June 2009 7 – 9pm at Beck Row – FHDC Parish and Town Forum

19th June 2009 WSLSP at Great Welnetham Village Hall

18. TO NOTE DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 6th JULY 2009

A reminder given that August Parish Council meeting will be 11th August – second Monday of month

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.20pm