

MINUTES OF MEETING OF LAKENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE METHODIST CHURCH CHAPEL  
ON MONDAY 10<sup>th</sup> August 2009

Present :- Messrs D Gathercole (Chairman)

Mrs A Chamber s

J Gentle

D Lucas

E Morley

R Rolph

I Smith

I Frost

Mrs P Rissen

Ms K Sizer

In Attendance :- Suffolk County Councillor Colin Noble & Sqdn Ldr Jerry Neild  
9 members of the public were present and 2 members of the press.

The Chairman extended a warm welcome to Karen Sizer who was attending her first Parish Council Meeting since her co-option.

In order to facilitate visitors to the Meeting, the Chairman varied the order of business without objection from the Parish Council.

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

##### **a)RAF COMMANDER**

Sqdn Ldr Neild said that he had nothing to report and would take any questions. There was one comment only - Cllr Smith said that he had observed an incidence of overtaking by an American on the A1101 at Shippea Hill – something advised against in the light of accident risk. Sqdn Ldr Neild said that this was an issue that had been under discussion the previous week.

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

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

##### **d)Lakenheath Hall – update – Richard Plowman – Forest Heath District Council**

Mr Plowman gave a brief resume on Enforcement Orders of which there are 6 in place. In the absence of any appeals, Enforcement Officers from FHDC visited the site on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2009 and found that only 2 had been complied with. The next step is prosecution for which there can be significant fines. The matter has been referred to Legal Services at FHDC. However, due to the complicated nature of the situation at this site it is considered that it will take some unravelling! “Direct action” is another option that could be pursued but it would be a last resort. Mr Plowman did say that FHDC had been contacted by architects in the last few days – they are keen to work with the Council – initial plans are for 20/21 houses on the site. A specification for the rebuilding of the wall (within the Conservation Area) have been drawn up. This will be a requirement of any future development. Mr Plowman agreed to take questions from Councillors – Cllr Gentle expressed his disgust with the way in which this situation has been handled by FHDC. He said that original plans on this site were for 12 houses; the conversion of the Hall into 3 dwellings and a further 3 dwellings which would be “social housing”. He added that the entrance would not cope with 20/21 dwellings. He added his frustration that those acting illegally seem to “get away with it”. Cllr Morley wondered about the merits of imposing fines if the current developer does not have money to pay those fines! Mr Plowman said that direct action could be taken and, in that event, there would be a “charge” on the land Cllr Gathercole reminded the meeting that the lawful

process is a slow and painful one. Cllr Gentle stating that the 2 storey site office should be removed, as requested by a family living on the perimeter of the site, said that direct action would be the best solution. Cllr Smith wanted an assurance that protected trees, which had been felled, would be required to be replaced in any future planning application. Mr Plowman confirmed that a landscaping scheme would be required. Cllr Gentle asked for an assurance that marquees to house foreign labour/work would not be allowed in any future application. This assurance was given to him by Cllr Gathercole, for as long as he is on Planning Committee at FHDC.

*Mr Plowman was thanked for his contribution and for attending the meeting. He left the meeting.*

#### **d)Street Naming – presentation by David O’Reilly – Forest Heath District Council**

Mr O’Reilly handed out a sheet on “Street Naming Legislation”. Due to the very short timescale for raising any objection to a proposed name (one month under the Public Health Act 1925) he is of the opinion that it may be better if Town/Parish Councils (who know and live in the area) supply FHDC with a list of possible names for future developments. Cllr Rolph wondered why the names of people (alive/dead) cannot be used despite Newmarket being able to use names from “horse racing world”. Cllr Smith said that it may be that in the future the Parish Council may want to commemorate a resident in this way. Mr O’Reilly explained that up to 2004 there was no problem using people’s names and that Newmarket and Red Lodge were the only Councils to have taken up an offer from FHDC to provide a list of names at that time. However, if a Council feels strongly about this particular issue it can be raised by the Ward Member at Committee.

*Mr O’Reilly was thanked for his contribution and for attending the meeting. He left the meeting.*

The Chairman opened the meeting.

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

Cllr Whitehand- working away

PCSO Jason Thomas – early morning shift

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

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

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

PCSO Thomas had e-mailed a report to the Clerk which she read to the meeting. He wished to express his thanks for an enjoyable day at the Carnival/Fete on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2009 – of benefit to both residents and the police. There were 29 recorded crimes in the period 1<sup>st</sup> July to 10<sup>th</sup> August 2009 ( in the same period 2008 there were 43 recorded crimes). There were 3 instances of thefts from vehicles – recurring crime – 2 of the vehicles were locked but articles on display. Please remove valuables from vehicles.

PCSO Thomas detailed 2 types of crime occurring frequently at the current time – “distraction burglaries”often involving water companies and “telephone scams”. All local water companies through Water UK have provided contact numbers for members of the public who wish to verify the identity of officials – numbers are :-

Anglian Water 0800 145145 and Essex and Suffolk Water 0845 7820999. The telephone scam involves a plausible sounding adult male who says that money is owed to BT as the (victim’s) bank has stopped the Direct Debit. Consequently an immediate payment by credit/debit card is required. Message is be vigilant, do not give out personal details. Cllr Smith said he had been told about the sale of cigarettes to under 16s. The Chairman asked that the Clerk advise PCSO Thomas about this.

*Action Point – Clerk to contact PCSO Thomas re sale of tobacco products to under age persons.*

#### **4.CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 6<sup>th</sup> July 2009**

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 member of the public expressed her concern at parking in Wingfield Road – on bend. She had spoken to PCSO Thomas about it but on his own he cannot do much as there are no parking restrictions in force. Within the last week there has been an accident at this spot. She is of the opinion that if the hedge at no. 41 was cut then there would be visibility around the bend.

The Clerk read out an e-mail from a Councillor who had received complaints re hedge at 19 High St allegedly causing obstruction to wheelchairs and the like. The Clerk is of opinion that hedge is not growing over pavement but suggested a Councillor/s may wish to look. Cllrs Rissen and Chambers have offered to look at the hedge and get back to Clerk.

*Action point – Cllrs Rissen and Chambers to report back to Clerk on hedge at 19 High St*

#### **6b) FOREST HEATH DISTRICT COUNCIL**

There was nothing to report. Cllr Smith asked why the recycling bins had been relocated in Wings Road Car Park, esp. as the Minister from the Methodist Chapel had requested resiting to previous location due to disturbance on Sunday mornings by people disposing of their glass bottles. Cllr Chambers explained that previous location had caused drain problems to commercial premises on High Street. Cllr Gentle said that the Annual Report from FHDC lacked detail/clarity in areas of spending.

#### **6c)SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL**

Cllr Noble added his congratulations to all who had worked hard to make the Carnival/Fete a success. He is still waiting for SCC updates on C600 and Anchor Lane. Regarding the 30MPH limit on Maids Cross Hill SCC are satisfied that it is correctly positioned. He clarified the position re libraries – not within his portfolio. He gave the meeting a telephone number for adult protection issues – 0808 8004005. There are embedded social workers on this number. He will try to get posters advertising this service for village noticeboards and Parish Office. He confirmed that Councillors had seen “20s Plenty” plans and that representations had been made to SCC re Rights of Way within Parish – undertaken by Cllr Smith. Turning to the situation at the library and access for mobility scooter users , Cllr Noble said that there are 2 options available – one is fully compliant and the other is compliant but the turning circle is not as good . The difference in cost is great - £12,000 or £45,000. Cllr Noble is of the opinion that he may be able to secure funding for the cheaper option but not for the more expensive option. He would like to find out what the Parish Council’s view is. It was agreed that this would be an agenda item for the next meeting. With regard to Locality Budget Cllr Noble wanted to make it clear that although he may say “yes” to a request for funding at an early stage “yes” does not mean funding is in the bag, it means that he will recommend it for funding. Currently, he has recommended funding of £1600.00 towards a new dishwasher for the Village Hall. Cllr Smith thanked Cllr Noble for the work due to be undertaken on Woodlands but asked what was happening about the holes in road at Sharpes Corner/Station Road ( due to be done) and pavement in Back Street (Cllr Noble to chase up). Cllr Gathercole said that the issue of the C600 – Sedge Fen Road was raised 9 months ago, little has happened and winter will soon be here. Cllr Noble has agreed to chase this up. Cllr Gentle asked for an update on Boundary Review – successful appeal by FHDC has been appealed by the Boundary Committee!! Could well run out of time!

*Action Points – Clerk to arrange for “Library Access” to be an agenda item for September PC meeting  
Cllr Noble to chase up work on Back Street (pavement) on C600*

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

*The meeting was reopened*

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

Cllr Gentle, speaking about flooding problems, wondered if boards were a better option than sandbags. The Chairman felt that this is really a matter for SCC Environmental Services. Cllr Chambers has concerns about storing the sandbags – should be available as soon as they are needed. It was suggested that the bags could be stored in shed at Cemetery, although Cllr Lucas is of the opinion that they need to be stored carefully as they will attract vermin. It was suggested that a steel container be used for storage of bags and that the Emergency Planning Officer be advised of their whereabouts. It was, therefore, proposed, seconded and agreed by all, with 1 abstention that the bags are stored in a steel container in shed at Cemetery and that the Emergency Planning officer is aware of their whereabouts.

## **8. PLANNING MATTERS**

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

Cllr Rolph said that 5 applications had been considered – 4 had been objected to.

There was no objection to:-

**F/2009/0302/FUL**-erectionof 2 chalet bungalows& 2 bungalows with garages & new vehicular access – 6-8 Cemetery Road (Risk Assessment requested)

There were objections to:-

**F/2009/0320/RMA** – erection of bungalow & vehicular access – 17a Back Street

**F/2009/0294/FUL**(resub F/2009/0110/FUL) – erection chalet bungalow&vehicular access off Back Street – land rear of 1 Broom Road

**F/2009/0349/FUL**(resub F/2009/0147/FUL) – erection 4 detached dwellings/garages & new vehicular access – Brandon House, 6 Wings Road

**F/2009/0139/TPO** – Secretary of State Appeal – felling of 1 Corsican Pine&2 Scots Pines – land adj. 47 Mill Road

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

There are 3 applications in circulation.

## **9. LAKENHEATH CEMETERY**

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

Cllr Rissen said that there had been a number of complaints about an area in the Old Cemetery left uncut until the end of July due to the presence of a rare plant. Although some people appreciate the conservation efforts and some read the notice in the Cemetery noticeboard many do not. Cllr Rissen wondered if, in view of the fact that there is now a picture of the plant, a sign should be bought and erected in the hope that complaints will subside. Additionally, it may be an idea to put an article in Lakenheath Times in spring stating that the area will not be cut until the end of July. It was, therefore, proposed, seconded and agreed by all that a sign should be obtained & erected and that in Spring months an article explain the situation regarding cutting of this area should be put in Lakenheath Times. *Resolved – Clerk to arrange purchase of sign and insertion, in due course, of article in Lakenheath Times.*

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

There was one – Virginia Reeve, Grey Gables, Maids Cross Hill, Lakenheath

## **10. CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA – UPDATE/WORK TO BE DONE (TO INCLUDE FENCING WORK)**

Cllr Gathercole said that he wanted to put the record straight – he is not expecting the fencing work to be done but he would like it to at least be considered at Precept Meeting. He did go on to read from long held papers about S137 Powers. S137 can be used by Councils to fund something which is of benefit to the community as a whole. As Cllr Morley had requested item on the agenda the Chairman

asked him to address the Council. He said that the facilities on the Playing Fields were as good as he could remember and that in order to see the job through it would seem a good idea to replace the old fencing. The cost has not been allowed for in the Precept but there are funds in the bank. After some general discussion it was proposed, seconded and agreed by all with 1 abstention that the fencing should be replaced with fencing to match that already in situ. Cllr Smith asked if, rather than coming back to the meeting with 3 quotes, the Chairman and Clerk could accept the best quote. The Clerk asked for a resolution on this matter. It was therefore, proposed, seconded and agreed by all with 1 abstention that the Chairman and Clerk accept the best quote.

*Resolved – 3 quotes to be obtained for work*

*Best quote to be accepted by Chairman and Clerk without further reference to Parish Council*

#### **11.LAKENHEATH HALL –UPDATE**

The Clerk read out an e-mail from FHDC Monitoring Officer who has recently visited site so that evidence of non-compliance of 4 of notices can be obtained, namely caravans, marquees(2) and portacabins. Prosecutions will begin. An injunction against the storing of all extra equipment on site is being applied for. The Chairman also circulated to each member the copy of an e-mail from a family whose property borders the site and who are appealing desperately for help in pursuing enforcement action. Cllr Gathercole has said he will pursue this vigorously.

#### **12. VILLAGE TOILET FACILITIES**

Cllr Gathercole said that he has not yet been able to obtain concrete figures for running/upkeep. Cllr Smith requested that this should be an agenda item next month.

*Action Point – above should be agenda item in September*

#### **13.FINANCIAL MATTERS**

##### **a)PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

A list of payments covering the months of July and August was presented to the Councillors. It was proposed, seconded and agreed by all to accept them.

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

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

#### **14.S137 APPLICATIONS – TO INCLUDE LAKENHEATH BEAVERS**

The Clerk read out a letter from Adam Harrison who is hoping to lead a reformed Beaver unit in the village. He has been involved in Scouting for 10 years and apart from opportunities to find skills/fellowship/responsibility it has kept him entertained and off the street. He wishes to give this experience “back” to other youngsters but they have little money to buy equipment. After discussion it was proposed, seconded and agreed by all to give £250.00 to Beaver Group. Cllr Rissen suggested that the Beaver Unit could contact Goward Evans Trust to see if they would provide additional funding. The Clerk read a letter from Age Concern – there are an increasing number of older people needing their services. After discussion it was proposed, seconded and agreed by all with 2 abstentions to give £250.00 to Age Concern. Finally the Clerk read out a letter from Marie Curie Cancer Care who need to raise £320,00.00 to provide 16,000 hours of nursing care for the terminally ill in Suffolk. After a brief discussion it was proposed, seconded and agreed by all to give £250.00 to Marie Curie Cancer Care.

*Resolved – Clerk to arrange 3 S137 payments as above*

*Action point – Clerk to suggest Adam Harrison contacts Goward Evans Trust obo Beaver Unit*

#### **15.CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk read out i) a letter from Mr Cross, Treasurer of Village Hall, expressing very grateful thanks for donation of £2700.00 towards roof repairs and replacement dishwasher; ii) a letter from East Anglian Daily Times asking if Clerk or someone else representing Council would provide minutes/report of meetings for inclusion in their paper. The Clerk said that PC meetings are already attended by Margaret Davis who provides a report for local papers and by a reporter from Bury Free Press. Minutes are only minutes when approved (usually at next meeting, therefore, would not be “news”) and in any event she does not have time to do a separate report – nfa; iii) poster for “Dial a Ride” provided by the Voluntary Network – leaflets in office; iv) e-mail from LexisNexis publisher of “Arnold-Baker: Local Council Administration” latest version on offer £54.00 instead of £67.00. Clerk explained that more up to date version needed. Meeting agreed that up to date one should be purchased. Cllr Lucas asked for a copy to be ordered for his personal use and at his own expense; v) copy of FHDC “Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report” available in office.

#### **16. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

Already mentioned above “Library Access” and “Village Toilet Facilities”.  
“Street Naming” requested with Cllr Rissen suggesting that each Cllr brings a name to the meeting.  
Cllr Morley requested “Donation to Methodist Chapel”

#### **17. TO NOTE FUTURE DATES**

The Clerk has a list of FHDC committee meeting dates for month of August; temporary road closures Woodlands (7 to 11 September) and Lakenheath Level Crossing (30 October to 1 November; 7 November to 8 November and 12 December to 13 December); “Playing It Safe” Evening Workshop at FHDC 17<sup>th</sup> September 2009; SCLCC Regional Conference at Chilford Hall on 24 September 2009 £64.00 per delegate; FHDC Festival of Culture 26<sup>th</sup> September 2009 in Memorial Hall, Newmarket 11am till 3pm and FHDC Parish and Town Forum at Red Lodge Millenium Centre 13<sup>th</sup> October 2009 7pm till 9pm

#### **18. TO NOTE DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2009**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm