

Cllr Noble said that he struggles to get to the monthly Wednesday SNT (Safer Neighbourhood Team) meetings in Brandon. He feels, however, that Lakenheath needs a presence and wondered if any Councillor can attend. Cllr Smith will consider the possibility of attending and get back to the meeting with his decision. Cllr Noble has, today, had an e-mail confirming that road signage for C600 is completed and will be in place by Friday 11 September 2009. He would like a meeting with Cllr Gathercole to discuss C600 and, although he has a meeting with Cllr Chambers on 24th October to discuss Anchor Lane problems he will not have enough time to meet up with Cllr Gathercole then. He is also keen to have SCC officers look at some of the drainage problem areas in the village. Cllr Gathercole has suggested that Cllr Noble sets up the meeting when he can. On Locality Budget, Cllr Noble said that he has £2600 remaining and he feels that Lakenheath has had its fair share (£1,000 to Methodist Chapel for roof repairs; £1,600 to Village Hall for improvements and £500 to RBL towards kitchen refurbishment). Cllr Noble asked if anything had been done with regard to drainage issues in Car Park – PCSO Thomas and Cllr Gentle said that they did not know what the situation was/is with regard to the drain(s) but that a small wall has now been built! Cllr Smith observed that traffic lights on A1065 junction of Wangford Road were not functioning properly – traffic light malfunction should be reported direct to SCC and only be brought up with Cllr Noble at PC meetings IF nothing gets done. Cllr Gentle expressed his dismay that a pamphlet from SCC is short on detail. He would like to know, for example, how many employees and wage bill for each department. Cllr Noble said that there is an annual discussion about what/how much information should go in the pamphlet. There are those who think too much information is given. Cllr Noble has suggested that the website is a good source of information but if information is not available/accessible he will obtain it. Cllr Gathercole asked the Clerk to detail a complaint she had had earlier in the day re street lighting bill – she had received an “overdue” reminder but no invoice had been received – this is the second time in 6 months this has happened and, although now sorted, it is not satisfactory. Copies to be sent to Cllr Noble so that he can investigate. Cllr Gathercole thanked Cllr Noble for double chevrons which are now in place.

Action Point – Cllr Noble to set up meeting with Cllr Gathercole and officers from SCC to discuss issues of concern around village.

*Cllr Smith to advise next meeting if he will attend monthly SNT meetings in Brandon
Clerk to send copies of street lighting invoice/reminder to Cllr Noble for investigation.*

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

1.APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Lucas - working away
Cllrs Chambers & Frost – on holiday

2.DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

4.CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 10th August 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

There were none.

6b) FOREST HEATH DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cllr Flack said that attendance at the "Turn Up and Play" sessions held in Lakenheath during the summer holidays were well attended – one of best attendances in District. Cllr Gathercole read a letter from Joe White, Principal Accountant at FHDC, which he felt would be of interest to Cllr Gentle. When 2008/9 accounts have been finalised information requested should be available (approx 5th October 2009). Additionally, Head of Finance at FHDC may attend next Parish Council Meeting and she will answer questions which Councillors may have. An incidence of tyre burning on land in village has been pursued by FHDC Environmental Officer. Matter seems to be resolved – no further complaints. Work on Village Green (parking area by Chinese takeaway) scheduled to take place mid Spring 2010. Cllr Smith is happy to note that the red bins are in process of being repainted but he has also observed that there are still green bins on Village Green (although plan was originally to have all red bins in village!). He also said that the street signs by the Village Green seem not to have been cleaned. Clerk to ask Village Keeper to clean signs. Cllr Gathercole said that there is likely to be a second green bin on Village Green!

Action Point – Clerk to arrange for Village Keeper to clean sign by Village Green

The meeting was reopened

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

Cllr Morley expressed his frustration that phone box opposite Avenue Road is still in a state of disrepair. It was also noted that a pane of glass is missing from newly repaired box by library. Clerk to contact BT
Action Point – Clerk to contact BT re repairs as detailed above

8.PLANNING MATTERS

a) TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Rolph said that 6 applications had been considered – 2 had been objected to.

There was no objection to:-

F/2009/0321/HOU – infill extension front of bungalow – 39 Woodcutters Way

F/2009/0385/FUL – fell 1 cherry plum & reduce crown on 2 cherry plum trees – 9 High Street

F/2009/0388/FUL- demolition existing house & erection 2 storey dwelling & garage – 53 Eriswell Rd

F/2009/0425/HOU- erection single storey side extension – 83 Eriswell Rd

There were objections to:-

F/2009/0320/RMA (amended) – erection 1 bungalow & new vehicular access – 17a Back Street

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

b) TO CONSIDER- ANY OUTSTANDING APPLICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

There is 1 application in circulation.

c) LAKENHEATH HALL – update

Clerk said enforcement action is in progress. Cllr Gathercole said that he understood summonses have been issued.

d)STREET NAMING

The Chairman asked Councillors for their suggestions :-

Cllr Smith suggested – Oriole/Bittern/Lapwing

Cllr Gentle suggested – Clunch Corner/Close and Flint Way

Cllr Morley suggested - Saxon way

Cllr Rissen suggested – Bittern/Pines/Oaks

Cllr Gathercole suggested – Medieval Way

Cllrs Rolph & Whitehand said that they would prefer to see location of sites before naming

Cllr Sizer apologised for the fact that she had not come up with a name.

All names to go forward to David O'Reilly at FHDC.

Action Point – Clerk to give list of names to David O'Reilly

9. LAKENHEATH CEMETERY

a) TO RECEIVE REPORT FROM CEMETERY COMMITTEE

The Chair of the Cemetery Committee, Cllr Rissen, said that the noticeboard has had new notices put in and that in due course the Cemetery Keeper will paint it. The Cemetery is neat and tidy. There has been a request from the family of a recently deceased resident to have a seat placed in the Cemetery. Cllr Rissen would, therefore, like a meeting of the Cemetery Committee to discuss this and any other matter which may arise. She has suggested 7.00pm on Monday 21st September 2009 in the Cemetery. The Chairman, Cllr Gathercole, said that the Cemetery Keeper is in need of a blower (for leaves etc. – he has been using his personal one up till now) He believes he can purchase one for between £300 and £350. It was proposed, seconded and agreed by all to purchase blower.

Action Point – meeting of Cemetery Committee to discuss, amongst other things, another bench for Cemetery?

Resolved – Cllr Gathercole to arrange purchase of blower.

b) TO CONFIRM GRANT OF EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS

There were two – Lilian Hampshire, Breckland Ave. and Jeannie Morley, Back Street

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

The Clerk said that ROSPA inspection due this month. Inspections have not shown any major problems. She added that, in accordance with resolution at last Parish Council Meeting (item 10 pages 538/539) she has accepted lowest quote for new fencing in children's play area - £4424.00 plus VAT. Cllr Smith noted that the painting work in the play area has been completed and he would like his compliments passed onto Village Keeper.

Action Point – Clerk to pass on Cllr Smith's compliments on painting work in children's play area.

11. VILLAGE TOILET FACILITIES

Cllr Gathercole read a letter from FHDC regarding toilet facilities in Wings Road car park. FHDC would offer an annual payment of £5000 to look after toilets and a one-off payment of £5000 to assist with repairs/updates. Currently, FHDC spend c£15000 on cleaning 4 conveniences; £900 on business rates and a similar figure on water rates. FHDC are exploring any alternatives – local business would be supported if they would open toilet facilities to the public. Although it was felt in the long term that there would be little option but to take over the facility or lose it, the current view of the Parish Council is that they do not wish to take over responsibility for the toilets at this time.

Action Point – Clerk to write to FHDC stating that comments in letter have been noted but that there is no agreement within PC to take over the facility.

12. LAKENHEATH LIBRARY – ACCESS

Cllr Noble had asked the Parish Council to consider options for improved access for mobility scooters at the Library. He had received a letter of complaint from a resident who uses a mobility scooter. There are 2 possible options – although SCC would be unlikely to be able to fund the full amount of the more expensive option. Cllr Gathercole said that although the PC have been asked to consider the matter it is essentially an SCC matter. He wondered if any of the Parish Councillors had received any complaints from other residents; he noted that library access was not an issue raised in the Village Plan; he further wondered if the library had room for pushchairs/wheelchairs/scooters – not a spacious facility and he finally asked if library access is the most important issue for SCC in the Village Plan. It was agreed by all Councillors that the matter should be left with SCC.

Action Point – Clerk to advise Cllr Noble that Parish Council are of opinion that SCC should make decision – the library is SCC facility – no Parish Councillor has been made aware of access problem

13.LAKENHEATH METHODIST CHAPEL – DONATION

The Clerk advised the meeting that a Parish Council has no powers to make donations, even to local bodies, other than under S137. There has been no request from the Methodist Chapel for help with meeting the cost of roof repairs, and whilst the Clerk is sure the Chapel would be heartened to know that the Parish Council seem prepared to make a donation, nothing can be done at the current time and under the current circumstances.

14.FINANCIAL MATTERS

a)PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

A list of payments covering the months of August/September was presented to the Councillors. Whilst reading through the list, the Clerk asked Councillors if they would give consideration to a 5year undertaking (LTU) to insuring Parish Council property with Zurich through Suffolk Acre. Such an undertaking would allow PC to budget for insurance more effectively and, on figures provided would mean savings of nearly £200 per year. All were in agreement with accepting 5 year LTU. Cllr Smith observed that invoice for August Lakenheath Times was considerably higher than usual. Cllr Gathercole reminded him that there is another full sheet in magazine(4 sides). It was proposed, seconded and agreed by all to accept them.

Clerk to arrange 5 Year LTU for Parish Property Insurance

b)BANK RECONCILIATION

A bank reconciliation for the month of July 2009 was presented to the Councillors. Cllr Whitehand asked if the number “1” was missing from the first figure in the top line of the Bank Reconciliation. The Clerk confirmed that it was indeed a typographical error. It was proposed, seconded and agreed by all to accept the duly amended reconciliation.

15.S137 APPLICATION

The Clerk read out a letter from West Suffolk Voluntary Association for the Blind asking for a grant as they are struggling financially to fund frontline services. It was proposed, seconded and agreed by all with one abstention to give a grant of £200 under S137.

Resolved – Clerk to arrange S137 payment as above

16.CORRESPONDENCE

E-mail from Cllr Frost to say that there will be a litter pick on Saturday 26th September between 11.00am to 2.00pm Councillors and members of public invited to take part;Suffolk Wildlife trust looking for volunteers to help “man” charity card shop in Newmarket between 27th October and 19th December – Cllr Sizer interested; FHDC have asked for comments on “Statement of Principles Gambling Act 2005” – document can be viewed on FHDC website or Parish Office – comments to be in by 31 October - therefore, will be needed by next PC meeting if indeed there are any; Community Buildings petition – Clerk has added PC to petition which seems not to be well supported – perhaps Councillors may wish to look at it for themselves and encourage support; e-mail from “unlock democracy” re powers to Parish Councils – nfa; Fieldwork; Suffolk View and Suffolk Acre Annual Report.

Action Point – Clerk to forward Cllr Sizer’s details to Suffolk Wildlife Trust (assisting in charity card shop)

17. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Cllr Gentle asked for Lakenheath Hall to be an agenda item. Clerk advised Councillors that they need to be giving consideration to the Precept.

18. TO NOTE FUTURE DATES

The Clerk has a list of FHDC committee meeting dates for month of September 2009; FHDC Festival of Culture 26th September 2009 in Memorial Hall, Newmarket 11am till 3pm; FHDC Parish and Town Forum at Red Lodge Millenium Centre 13th October 2009 7pm till 9pm and Suffolk Police Authority will be attending a Forest Heath District Public Meeting at Heath Court Hotel, Newmarket on Wednesday 7th October at 7.00pm – Clerk needs to give notice of the number of attendees for this meeting.

19. TO NOTE DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 5th October 2009.

The Clerk advised the meeting that the office would be closed from Monday 14th September 2009 to Friday 18th September 2009, inclusive

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.20pm