

MINUTES OF MEETING OF LAKENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE METHODIST CHURCH CHAPEL
ON MONDAY 11th January 2010

Present :- Messrs D Gathercole (Chairman)

I Frost
D Lucas
E Morley
I Smith
M Whitehand

Mrs A Chambers
Mrs P Rissen
Ms K Sizer

In Attendance :- Cllr Simon Flack (FHDC) and Cllr Colin Noble (SCC)
5 members of the public were present and 1 member of the press.

1.APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Gentle and Rolph – both unwell – acceptable absences.
Sqdn Ldr Neild and PCSO Emma Stacey

2.DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

3. POLICE MATTERS

PCSO Emma Stacey (PCSO Jason Thomas's replacement) has already made herself known to the Clerk and has been familiarising herself with the village. She e-mailed a report. There have been 25 reported crimes for the period 7th December to 6th January, an increase of 66% on the same period last year when there were 14 reported crimes. Of these, 19 are relevant to the meeting – 1 drink/drive; 8 instances of theft from motor vehicles – valuables left on display; 1 theft of pedal cycle; 4 instances of criminal damage to properties; 2 instances of theft from dwellings; 1 instance of burglary from a dwelling and 2 instances of burglary from other buildings. Any information regarding crime should be notified to the Safer Neighbourhood Team. PCSO Stacey looks forward to meeting residents.

Cllr Gathercole has been asked by PC Matt Ross to ascertain PC view on (car) parking on pavements. In the main, the view is that such parking is unacceptable, although 2 Councillors were of the opinion that, in some cases, parking in the road can obstruct the passage of emergency vehicles. Cllr Gathercole asked for a vote on the matter – 6 voted that parking on the pavement would be unacceptable; 1 voted against and 1 abstained.

Concern was again raised about parking on hatch lines outside Fish and Chip shop.

Action Points – Clerk to advise PC Matt Ross on view of PC re parking on pavement and concern at parking on hatch lines outside Fish & Chip shop.

Cllr Smith will also mention both matters at SNT meeting in Brandon on Wednesday 13th January 2010.

4.CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 7thDECEMBER 2009

It was proposed, seconded and agreed by all, with one abstention, to accept the minutes.

The Chairman closed the meeting

5. REPRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were none.

6. REPORT FROM

a) RAF COMMANDER

The Clerk had received an e-mail from Sqdn Ldr Neild's PA, inviting Councillors and members of the public to a tour of the base to take place on Thursday 28th January 2010 between 11.00am and 4.30pm. Although interested persons will deal directly with Mrs Brooks, the Clerk has asked that interested persons should contact her in the first place and by Friday 15th January 2010.

6b) FOREST HEATH DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cllr Simon Flack, referring to December meeting, page 563 item 11, said that the playground had been inspected by mistake – wrong playground. Cllr Smith, having been asked for directions to Wings Road, observed that there is no sign for Wings Road on South side – is it possible for sign to be placed there? This is to be taken up by the District Councillors.

Action Point – Cllrs Flack/Gathercole to look into possibility of getting sign for Wings Road

6c) SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

Cllr Noble has decided to approach issue of signage on C600 and poor state of repair of footpath in Back Street from a different angle in the hope that it will get things moving – try to get it done through "Quality of Life" budget. Responding to Cllr Sizer's concern re (lack of) gritting – he said that over £1million has been spent on gritting by SCC – they had covered half of the counties roads. It is SCC's role to keep Suffolk moving not to attend to every area /car park/building which may need grit. There is no budget for that. However, if bins/grit heaps are in place SCC will fill them. SCC will also "insure" named persons who carry out gritting. He suggested that the PC should identify areas where bins (bought from PC funds)/heaps should be sited. Cllr Noble has also learnt that post boxes will be a matter of scrutiny by FHDC – follows on from request by a resident of Briscoe Way estate.

Cllr Smith advised Cllr Noble that the traffic island bollard in the High Street is still not lit.

Cllr Rissen said that the hedge on High Street at bend by Hall Drive is still not cut.

Cllr Gathercole said that the street light by Lloyds Bank still out – Clerk advised that this is a G39 issue, therefore, likely to take some time, but she had nevertheless advised SCC that it is considered to be a very urgent matter as it is by a cash machine.

The Clerk again raised the matter of invoicing by SCC and unreasonable time scales for payment. The 6 month street lighting contract has been received but payment has to be made within next 9 days. Cllr Noble confirmed that he had already raised this matter with SCC.

Action Points – Cllr Noble to pursue C600; Back Street; unlit traffic bollard and overgrowing hedge. PC to confirm areas for grit bins/heaps.

The meeting was reopened

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

The Clerk confirmed that she had written to the Landlord of the Plough Public House and FHDC re flyposting. She confirmed that FHDC will take action in such cases and for that reason such posters should not be removed – FHDC Enforcement Officer should be informed.

Regarding the PC resolution to "adopt" the telephone kiosk opposite Quayside Court – she had, upon making the necessary application to Planning at FHDC, been told by FHDC that they had received representations from members of the public keen to keep the phone box in use. FHDC would, therefore, be pursuing that line of action. Cllr Chambers urged caution before "adopting" kiosks as another Parish which has already "adopted" a kiosk is now struggling to pay electricity charges.

8. PLANNING MATTERS

a) TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

In the absence of the Planning Committee Chair, the Clerk read the report. 6 applications (including 1 street naming application which had been decided at the last PC meeting) had been received in December. 3 applications are still in circulation.

SN/2009/0050 – Old Co-op – “Saxon Place”

There were no objections to:-

F/2009/0658/ADI-display of “welcome” logo, 2 logos & 4 illuminated lane signs – Gate 2 RAF Lakenheath

F/2009/0580/FUL-erection of 6 6mtr lighting poles – Undley House, 61 Undley Road

9. LAKENHEATH CEMETERY

a) TO RECEIVE REPORT FROM CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Cllr Rissen said that due to holidays and bad weather she had not been to Cemetery very recently.

b) TO CONFIRM GRANT OF EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS

There were three – Ann Palmer, Barr Drive; Grace King, Wingfield Road and Janet Pearce of St John’s Road, ELY.

c) TREES IN OLD AND NEW SECTIONS OF CEMETERY

Cllr Gathercole said that the tree officer from FHDC had been out to the Cemetery. He is of the opinion that the main avenue requires little work, the trees having been recently repollarded. One or two wispy bits to be removed to give a “clean bowl” to about 3mtrs from the ground.

He has said that the trees in the New Cemetery, currently crown lifted to about 2mtrs from the ground should be lifted a further .5mtr to ensure clear access to hearses. The centre seat has a bushy lime beside it and 1 limb join facing the seat is rather weak. This should be removed and the lime opposite raised to the same level for symmetry. He feels that the Cemetery Keeper can carry out all of this work.
Action Point – The Cemetery Keeper to carry out the above work as soon as practicable.

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

The Clerk said that all weekly inspections had been satisfactory. Cllr Gathercole, having made enquiries at FHDC re recent inspection, read a report from Wicksteed. They had identified a number of areas that could do with attention – trimming of wooden logs; replacing pendulum seat and additional bark. Cost is estimated at £734.00. It was agreed by all Councillors that £734.00 be allocated to carry out work identified as requiring attention.

Cllr Smith referring to photo he had taken some time ago of playground gate with warning sign asked if the photo should be retaken/replaced in view of repositioning of the gate – agreed this should be done.
Action Points – Work, as identified, to be carried out.

Cllr Smith to take replacement photo for office records

11. TOWN/PARISH TWINNING

The Clerk read out brief summary of information about the village of Estaires which is seeking twinning. (Approach had originally been made to Brandon) Cllr Chambers explained what twinning involved – exchange visits – families/clubs. After some discussion it was decided that an article should be put in Lakenheath Times to see what interest in twinning there may be with the village as a whole.

Action Point – Clerk to put article in Lakenheath Times re twinning.

12. FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

A list of payments covering the months of December/January 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 November 2009 was presented to the Councillors.It was proposed, seconded and agreed by all to accept the reconciliation.

13.CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk read a letter of thanks from Village Hall Treasurer for £713.00 (woodworm treatment); letter from Ministry of Justice re maintenance of War Memorials & penalties for vandalism; course being offered by War Memorial Trust on 4th March 2010 in Cambridge; information from Suffolk Resilience Forum on safety in bad weather (article to be put in Lakenheath Times); companies/businesses being sought to sponsor athletes taking part in 2012 Olympics; Prince's Trust looking for a community project; film company looking for opinionated rural resident to take part in a programme (at his request, to Cllr Morley); FHDC "No Excuses" campaign offering assistance by way of posters/dog fouling bags/car litter bags/personal ashtrays and litter picking equipment (loan) as well as disposal of collected litter (copy to Cllr Frost); reminder re Boundary Committee consultation; Zurich Municipal "News & Views"; Suffolk View; SCC looking for "Home Grown" talent; FHDC draft supplementary planning document "Open Space, Sport & Recreation" comments, if any, would have to be decided at next PC meeting and Kings Lynn & West Norfolk Local Development Framework – Core Strategy – proposed submission document – again comments, if any, would have to be made at next PC meeting.
All are available at Parish Office.

14. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Cllr Smith requested "Recycling Bins in Wings Road Car Park" and "Purchase of Litter Pickers"
Cllr Whitehand requested "Gritting Arrangements Winter 2010/11"

15. TO NOTE FUTURE DATES

A list of FHDC meetings for January 2010 is on Parish noticeboard and FHDC Town/Parish Forum will be held on Thursday 23rd February 2010 7.00pm – 9.00pm, venue to be confirmed.

16.TO NOTE DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 1st February 2010.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.00pm.