

MINUTES OF MEETING OF LAKENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE METHODIST CHURCH CHAPEL
ON MONDAY 1st February 2010

Present :- Messrs D Gathercole (Chairman)

I Frost
D Lucas
E Morley
R Rolph
I Smith
M Whitehand

Mrs A Chambers
Mrs P Rissen

In Attendance :- Sqdn Ldr Neild Cllr Colin Noble (SCC)

2 members of the public were present and architect for Lakenheath Hall developer – Mr Hardingham of George Laurel & Partners

6.REPORT FROM

a)RAF COMMANDER

Sqdn Ldr Neild had little to report. There had been a tour of the base Thursday 28th January 2010 to which local residents had been invited. Sqdn Ldr Neild felt that the day had been a success, Cllr Chambers, an attendee was in agreement with that and thanked Sqdn Ldr Neild for this opportunity extended to members of the public. Wednesday 3rd February 2010 there will be an early morning single aircraft take off. There will be no flying w/c 8th February 2010. A disabled parking bay by the Post Office on base has been set up. Answering questions raised by Cllr Smith, Sqdn Ldr Neild said that driving in UK and roundabout etiquette is addressed at newcomers' briefing each Tuesday, as is the issue of parking on the pavement.

Cllr Gathercole asked that Col. Silveiras be thanked for his efforts with local residents – no doubt of help with Anglo/American relations.

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

The meeting was opened.

1.APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Gentle – unwell – acceptable absence.

Cllr Simon Flack and PCSO Emma Stacey

2.DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

3. POLICE MATTERS

PCSO Emma Stacey is on a rest day but she had e-mailed a report to the Clerk. There have been 19 reported crimes in the village for the period 6th January 2010 to 30th January 2010. In the same period last year there were 24 reported crimes – a reduction of 24%. 14 of these crimes are relevant to the meeting :- there have been 3 instances of theft of motor vehicles (all believed to have been left securely); there have been 7 instances of theft – 2 generators; 2 fence energiser units; 2 lots of heating oil and wheels/tyres left at the side of a property; 2 instances of theft from a motor vehicle (fuel

siphoned out of the same vehicle and finally 2 instances of criminal damage – window of a property and window of a car. Any information regarding crime should be referred to the SNT.

Cllr Smith said that the Librarian had told him that some youngsters were occasionally causing disruption in the Library.

Action Points – Clerk to ask PCSO Stacey to call in at library to discuss disruptive behaviour with Librarian.

4.CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 11th JANUARY 2010

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

Mr Hardingham, an architect for Lakenheath Hall developer, Mr John Cruickshank, asked to speak to the meeting regarding proposals for the site.

Cllr Gathercole, being a member of FHDC Planning Committee decided to leave the room.

The Vice Chair, Cllr Chambers, took over the Chair. The new developer is keen to stick as closely as possible to the original (2002) planning application – conversion of Hall; 18 dwellings and 7 affordable homes (increased from 4 as ratio has been increased). Developer is working closely with FHDC but there are complications. The site was split into 3 “ownerships” by previous developer who is now bankrupt. The current developer will/can only go ahead if planning permission is granted. Mr Hardingham acknowledged that the site has been wrecked and he stressed that the new developer is willing to replace trees that were wantonly removed. He is prepared to answer any questions – contact details are held by the Clerk – he acknowledged that this could not be done at the Parish Meeting.

Cllr Gathercole returned to the meeting and thanked Mr Hardingham for taking the time to attend the meeting.

6.REPORT FROM

6b)FOREST HEATH DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cllr Gathercole advised the meeting that FHDC are well aware of the problems with the sewage system in parts of the village adding that the issue is being addressed – embargo on “greenfield” development until matter satisfactorily resolved.

The planning application for houses at back of 65/69/73 Station Road has been refused again – this is the 5th time there has been a refusal for the site.

FHDC have begun legal proceedings for non compliance of Enforcement Notices at Lakenheath Hall.

In the absence of Cllr Flack, the Clerk read an e-mail advising the meeting that although FHDC only have to repair broken/damaged street signs or replace those that go missing they have agreed to erect a “Wings Road” sign on the Chip Shop side. However, as signs have to be ordered in bulk there may be some delay before it is in place.

6c)SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

Cllr Gathercole, holding up a “No Right For Horses” sign said that there have been complaints about horses going through the footway between the High Street and Mayfields. It is not FHDC responsibility and is thought to be an SCC matter. Cllr Noble will look into this.

Cllr Gathercole went on to read a letter regarding delays in dealing with G39 issues – original copy handed to Cllr Noble (copy is being sent to Shona Bendix CEO SALC who has been liaising with SCC & EDF).

Finally, Cllr Gathercole said that there had still been no action on C600 road signage.

Cllr Noble said that there is due to be a meeting re C600 on Tuesday 9th February 2010. There is a "Quality of Life" budget meeting shortly and he hopes from that to be able to meet the cost of repairing pavement in Back Street (Methodist Chapel to Mill Road). He asked if the light outside Lloyds Bank (G39 issue) had been repaired – he was advised that it had not. He is "on the case" as far as lighting and the traffic bollard is concerned. He was advised that the hedge (High Street by Hall Drive) has still not been cut – he will look into this, possibility, perhaps, that all hands are required to repair potholes. He confirmed that the Clerk had received communication from SCC re i)Grime Drove/White Fen Drove accepted to be a public footpath – a modification order will be made in due course; ii)Smeeth Drove – adding it as a restricted by-way and iii)Bridleway 24 north bank of Little Ouse – adding it as a bridleway. He also confirmed that the Clerk had literature advertising "Warm Front". His attention has recently been drawn to a website "Town & Bridge.org.uk" which helps with community projects such as gardens – something that Lakenheath may wish to look at. He said that he had taken up Clerk's concerns re short timescale to pay SCC invoices – hopes, but cannot guarantee it will make any difference. Cllr Whitehand asked if grit bins are topped up free of charge during winter months – Cllr Noble confirmed that they are. Cllr Noble said that the "Big Freeze Workshop" on Friday 5th February 2010 should answer some questions on gritting issues – replenishment, insurance etc.. Unlikely that any Councillor will be able to attend. Cllr Lucas suggested that local contractors could perhaps help to keep county moving in such difficult weather – e.g. farmers. Regarding the traffic bollards in High Street, it was suggested by Parish Council that it should be removed – more dangerous if it is in place but not lit. Cllr Noble wants views from residents before considering removal of bollards. Cllr Smith will put an article in next month's Lakenheath Times and it will be an agenda item in April.

Action Points – Cllr Noble to update PC on whether SCC are responsible for walkway between High Street/Mayfields; C600; G39 issues; pavement repairs in Back Street and outcome of "Big Freeze Workshop"

Cllr Smith to put article in Lakenheath Times re possible removal of traffic bollards in High Street.

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

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

Referring to the possibility of "adopting" phone kiosks Cllr Chambers read from an article published by South Norfolk County Council who had campaign successfully to get large electricity bills (£200 for one bulb) paid by BT (as long as it has not been disconnected) and it is hoped reduced charges can be negotiated with energy companies once the boxes are adopted. BT have also been charging a £500 disconnection fee.

Cllr Smith said that, having attended Planning Training given obo SALC at Red Lodge on 25th January, it is clear that in order to strengthen PC views on Planning Applications (e.g. in Lakenheath there is a problem with sewage – little capacity to cope with further increase) any evidence e.g. photographs would assist. He would, therefore, be prepared to put article in Lakenheath Times asking people to photograph potential problems. There was no objection to this idea.

Action Point – Cllr Smith to put article in Lakenheath Times

8.PLANNING MATTERS

a) TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

5 applications had been considered by the Planning Committee.
There were no objections to :-

F/2009/0747/HOU – erection single storey rear ext. – 80 Woodlands

F/2009/0759/FUL (resub. F/2009/0413/FUL) – dem. existing bungalow; erection replace. Chalet bungalow& erection 2 dwellings – 28 Broom Road

F/2010/0017/EOT – ext of time limit F/2006/0715/OUT – 7 residential plots – Curlew House, Breckland Ave.

There were objections to:-

F/2009/0623/FUL –erection 2 storey dwelling – 65 Eriswell Road

F/2009/0748/HOU – erection single storey rear ext. – 78 Woodlands

b) TO CONSIDER ANY OUTSTANDING APPLICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

2 applications are in circulation

9. LAKENHEATH CEMETERY

a) TO RECEIVE REPORT FROM CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Cllr Rissen said that the Cemetery is in good order given current weather. The Keeper has just taken delivery of shingle and is now distributing this around the drives in the Cemetery. Whilst in the Cemetery, the Keeper drew Cllr Rissen's attention to a leak in the old shed, where there is an electrical socket. Cllr Gathercole will assess the situation and work which may be required to be done and whether or not Keeper and Asst. Keeper could undertake repair. Cllr Rissen said that there was also a "sensitive" issue which required discussion but not during an open meeting. The Chairman said that as there were two other matters which fell into the same category an extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council would be held after this meeting and after members of the public had left. The Clerk read an e-mail from Carol Ensinger (daughter of the late Ted Palmer) thanking the Parish Council for allowing the family to place a bench in the New Cemetery in memory of her parents. Cllr Gathercole asked for confirmation that the Clerk had not received an estimate for work to be carried out in New Cemetery to make new area for children's graves. Clerk confirmed no quote received.

Action Point – Cllr Gathercole to assess work needed on old shed in Cemetery

b) TO CONFIRM GRANT OF EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS

There were none

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

The Clerk said that all weekly inspections had been satisfactory. Cllr Smith had provided the Clerk with 2 photos showing signage in play area. He was duly thanked.

11.RECYCLING BINS – WINGS ROAD CAR PARK

Cllr Smith said that when the various bins are emptied they are not always replaced in the same spot and, consequently, are taking up a fair bit of space in the car park. The Methodist Chapel had also complained about noise from the bottle bank. Cllr Gathercole suggested that he could speak to Dick Almond, FHDC, in the first place if the Parish Council so wished – agreed.

Action Point – Cllr Gathercole to speak to Dick Almond, FHDC, in the first place, to see what can be done

12.PURCHASE OF LITTER PICKERS

Cllr Frost has been trying to organise regular litter picks and for the Parish Council to have their own pickers may be useful. After some discussion it was proposed, seconded and agreed by all, with two abstentions that £50 be spent on litter pickers, which should be stored in shed at Cemetery. (To liaise with Cemetery Keeper when needed)

Resolved - £50 to be spent on litter pickers

13.GRITTING ARRANGEMENTS FOR PARISH WINTER 2010/11

Cllr Whitehand, observing the lengthy period of bad weather this year had caused problems for people trying to get around the village, is of the opinion that it may be worth considering getting 2 machines to spread grit – one to walk with and the other to be towed. A consequence of any such purchase would be storage of grit and how would areas be prioritised? Clerk said that the workshop in Ipswich on Friday could possibly help with ideas on how to tackle this problem. Cllr Chambers will contact Cllr Noble to get feedback from the workshop. The Clerk said that she had been made aware of 3 new areas that may require grit heaps – Wingfield Road; school (although it could be that school should be responsible to persons making their way there) and Covey Way (Mrs House would be prepared to grit in that area if there is a heap put nearby). Cllr Chambers said residents in Briscoe Way would also like a grit heap. Cllr Rissen wonders if SCC may have an upper age limit when covering residents who volunteer to carry out gritting.

Action Points – Obtain prices for machines – Clerk

Storage of grit – Chairman/Clerk

Prioritisation of areas – Parish Council

Feedback from “Big Freeze Workshop” (inc. age limit) – Cllr Chambers

14. PARKING OUTSIDE CO-OP AND AROUND THE VILLAGE

Having attended the last SNT meeting, Cllr Smith said that parking around the village is an issue the police take seriously but if the Parish Council want zero tolerance then bollards will have to be erected in problem areas! The only other option is “ticketing” which they do when they are in village. No resolution was put forward by the Parish Council.

15. RESPONSE/COMMENTS ON

i) RECORDED MUSIC LICENSING REGULATIONS

It was agreed by Parish Council that Clerk should write to MP, Richard Spring, in support of National Council for Voluntary Organisations “Dont Stop the Music Campaign”. Considered by the PC to be heartless move in view of difficult times being faced by all.

Action Point – Clerk to write to MP in accordance with above

ii) POST OFFICE FINANCIAL /BANKING SERVICES

Suffolk Acre is working to support services available to rural communities and they would like to obtain Parish Council views on current and future financial/banking services (to be) offered by Post Offices. The Parish Council were in agreement with Cllr Smith’s view that banks/building societies should be encouraged to use Post Office counter services.

Action Point – Clerk to write to Suffolk Acre expressing view as above

iii) OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT – FHDC

The Parish Council had no comment/response

iv) DRAFT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY & ACTION PLANS – FHDC

The Parish Council had no comment/response

16. FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

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

17. CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk has received from Land Registry, at request of Pamela & Michael Annear, a "Notice to adjoining owner of an application for registration of a person in adverse possession" – land on west side of High Street. No land is owned by PC here; therefore, really no grounds for objection.

New tractor likely to be delivered mid February.

Legacy Trust has funding for Community Celebrations Programme (celebration of 2012 Olympics in London)

Age Concern Annual Review 2008/09

Timetable of Junior Leisure Activities in FHDC area.

Zurich Court Circular

All are available at Parish Office.

18. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Gritting Arrangements

Dog Fouling was asked for by Cllr Chambers

19. TO NOTE FUTURE DATES

FHDC Town/Parish Forum is to be held on Tuesday 23rd February 2010 7.00pm – 9.00pm, venue to be confirmed.

SALC Forest Heath area meeting is to be held on Tuesday 9th March 7.00pm – 9.00pm

Crucial Crew – West Row Stadium – Monday 8th March 2010 – Clerk to be advised if any attendees

Annual Parish Meeting – Monday 19th April 2010 – it was suggested that a talk be given on "Anglo Saxon Horse" (excavated on the base) – Clerk to make enquiries.

20. TO NOTE DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 1st March 2010.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm.