

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at the Village Hall, Lakenheath
Monday 20th May 2019 at 7.00pm.

Present: - Cllr Morley (Chairman), 6 members of the Parish Council, Councillor Noble and 28 members of the public were present.

The Chairman, Edward Morley, welcomed all to the meeting.

Apologies – Cllrs Stephen Frost and David Gathercole.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st May 2018 were available to all present. Those present were given time to read the minutes, which were confirmed as correct and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING

There were none.

ST MARY'S SCRABBLE & GAMES CLUB

Following a suggestion, a new a scrabble club has been set up in the village. The Harvest Room in church is used as a venue. Players have increased from 7 to 14. The £1 cost covers tea and biscuits and all profits will help towards the new Church toilet and kitchenette.

LAKENHEATH GOOD NEIGHBOURS

Good neighbours was set up 13 years ago to give assistance to villagers. Volunteers man the phone between 9am and 5pm and help with lifts to hospital, the surgery, pharmacy and help with small household tasks. There is no charge for trips in the village, outside a charge of 40p is asked, with a trip to West Suffolk Hospital costing £16. 48 hours' notice is generally required although with same day doctor's appointments the volunteers will help out where they can. 574 jobs have been completed since May 2018 with only 3 requests not fulfilled. A quarterly afternoon tea is held with pick up and drop off included. Attendance has been 30 and is open to everyone. Some volunteers have been with the group since day 1.

LAKENHEATH FOOTBALL CLUB

The biggest development for the club since the 1950s has taken place over the past 12 months. With the help of volunteers and hundreds of hours funding of over £80,000 was secured to install floodlights, hardstanding and technical area. The team are playing in the highest league they have ever played in, achieving the highest position in over 100 years.

FA competitions will be entered and all games advertised on noticeboards.

The drop out between 16 to 18 years of age is huge and to help provide something for this age group, a youth link will be offered between youth and men's football. Under 18s will play in a mid-week league under floodlights. 30 – 40 attended both sets of trials

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

Councillor Colin Noble gave his report:

Cllrs Stephen Frost and David Gathercole were recently elected as District Councillors. When campaigning the main discussions were around Brexit, Doctor's Surgeries, Bus Services, Schooling and Travel to School.

Brandon Academy are working hard to raise standards and although there has been confusion over catchment areas, both Mildenhall and Brandon are options, with 98% of parent's receiving their first choice of secondary school.

Planning permission has been passed for the new school in Lakenheath, although the case is being resurrected in High Court.

Suffolk County Council have agreed £3m for the cost of the land but where will it be placed? New homes will mean new children who may have to be bussed out of the village for school. Bus services around the village are running at a loss most of the time and if the services aren't used bus companies don't want to continue running them. The community transport scheme can support.

The County Council increased their element of the Council Tax by the maximum permitted. The increase is required to support an aging population and a n increase in child protection cases. £200m is needed for older people and £75m for children services. £50m I also spent on the roads used by all.

Financial support has been given in Lakenheath to Community SpeedWatch and Speed Indicator Devices. Visibility slows down traffic entering the village and helps to prevent further injuries as recently seen on Eriswell Road.

The chairman invited Questions to Cllr Noble. There were none.

The chairman thanked Cllr Noble for attending and Cllr Noble left the meeting.

LAKENHEATH CONSOLIDATED CHARITIES

The clerk gave a report on behalf of Mr Howard.

Natural England had inspected both sites at Turf Fen and Pashford Poor Fen and reported that the issue of ragwort has been largely controlled be the graziers. The Eriswell Road allotments were kept in good order, which was helped by having the site ploughed at the start of the year.

In December 2018, 252 applications were received by the Trustees of Lakenheath Consolidated Charities from the aged and needy of the Parish. Nine of whom were over 90 years of age and one was over 100 years of age. Each applicant received a similar amount as the previous year £40, with those over 90 receiving £45 and one parishioner receiving £50. A total of £10,535 was distributed. It was decided to issue cheque payments to the applicants which avoided the need for large cash sums.

LAKENHEATH COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

Community SpeedWatch has ben active in the village for 2½ years with 7 volunteers hoping to been seen once per week. Three volunteers are needed each time and cover 4 sites with an additional site on Undley Road being investigated. Although the team have no powers to prosecute the data reflects an approved awareness. Speeding is worse in the early morning and at night-time. Speeds in excess of 33moh are reported to the SNT which they follow up with letters or visits. The aim is to educate and encourager with the majority of drivers giving their support.

LAKENHEATH HERITAGE GROUP

The Heritage Group have been working for 2 years. Lakenheath is a village worth being interested in with new ways of sharing the heritage experience via the website. More people are coming forward with their photographs and memories.

Sadly all four of the poem plates on the Celtic Cross / Maidscross monument were recently stolen. This was a big blow to the Heritage Group who had persuaded the District Council to reinstate it. It was first built in 2000 and was restored with improved path access. Everything will be done to rebuild it in a way that cannot be stolen. Others cannot be allowed to spoil it.

A larger heritage event will be held in the church in two years' time. An archive is being built of articles written by villagers and an official recorder has been appointed for the Heritage Council. The Records Office is used to ensure future historians know what went on.

Roy Silverlock had originally tried to establish a heritage trail and has sadly passed away. The Heritage Group are trying to reignite the trail and allow others to experience heritage. A poster was available and parishioners were asked to take a look and give feedback. It is hoped to raise funds for electronic access with information readily available. All volunteers are welcome to get involved.

LAKENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2019

Copies of the Annual Report were available to all present. There were no matters arising.

The chairman thanked all organisations and councillors that had taken time to attend the meeting.

PARISHIONERS' ISSUES

Cllr Gyte acknowledged the ongoing issue of illegal parking which had recently been discussed at a Parish Council meeting.

The Parish Council have no powers to prosecute but are trying to educate drivers. An article had been published in the Lakenheath Times encouraging everyone to contact the Police SNT with evidence. Constant nagging might help getting something done. There is awareness of police constraints but policing is about communities feeling safe. Vehicles parking on the zig zags and obscuring the crossing should be reported. The article was forceful and notices had been put around the village with contact details for the police and SNT. The police are the only ones with powers, please bombard them with evidence. Checks are regularly seen in Eriswell but not Lakenheath. Station Road is at time like a racetrack.

It was argued that everyone complains about speeding in the village but some then use social media to warn motorists. If the warning slows motorists down was this not helping? Speed signs had been removed from the village sign with no repeaters put up, stickers on wheelie bins could help.

County Highways have to agree to any reduction in speed and speed calming measures.

Pavement parking and the commercial vehicle parked just off the footpath next to the Doctor's surgery causing visibility problems were highlighted.

It was acknowledged that if the pavement is not blocked, parking is permitted. The Highway Code states that cars should not (NOT must not) park on pavements and actually helps with natural traffic calming. It is however illegal to drive on the footpath.

In closing, the Chairman again thanked everyone for such a good turnout.

The meeting closed at 7:45pm.