

## LAKENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Lakenheath Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2022  
Held at Lakenheath Methodist Chapel commencing at 7:00pm

### **Present**

Councillors: E Morley (Chairman), R Norman, J Cahill, J Gentle, A Gyte, P Gyte, J Hastings, G Kelly, W Overy, S Palmer, Lakenheath Squadron Leader: S Geary, C Mason (Clerk)  
Cllr: C Noble-District and County, Cllr: S Frost – District 2 member of the public.

### **Apologies for Absence**

Cllr I Frost

### **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr: A Gyte-Lakenheath Football Club

Cllr: P Gyte- Lakenheath Good Neighbours

Cllr: J Hastings-Lakenheath Keep Fit, Curling Club

Cllr: Overy- Keith Overy Commercials, Tina's Country Kitchen, Fenland Flowers

Cllr: Norman. Village Hall and Goward Evans Charity

### **Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

A typing error to be corrected.

It was agreed that the minutes were a true record of accounts and it was proposed and seconded that these should be signed as such. All agreed.

### **Representations from Members of the Public**

No matters were raised.

### **Police Matters**

Distraction burglary: On Friday 7 January at 12 midday two unknown males knocked on a door at a home in St Catherine' Close, Mildenhall saying they were workmen and needed to look at the roof. The victims allowed the men inside their home and whilst inside, the two offenders stole a quantity of cash.

### **Reports & Questions:**

#### **(a)RAF Commander Lakenheath**

SL Geary's report: From an operational perspective there are five squadrons operating out of Lakenheath. Three additional F-15s will be arriving this week, progressing to a full complement by 2023. The Rt Hon Jeremy Quin and the local MP Matt Hancock visited the base on 20<sup>th</sup> January. Met with a member of the community who had raised two specific issues at the last meeting a) driving behaviour of Americans in the village – training is given on arrival, as well as meetings on a weekly basis, a driving test is needed prior to registering a car b) overflying the village – met with the Operations Support Commander to look at the flight order book and regulations. Currently exploring changing the flight order book slightly. As a trial, Gate 2 closure from 10pm to 6am. Gate 1 to be used. Questions were asked relating to cars speeding with an American plate - SL Geary to contact MOD police/local police to confirm to whom the speeding offence should be reported; commencement of day time flying – varies but generally from 7.30am; Queen's Jubilee – an offer was given that if needed RAF Lakenheath would be glad to be involved.

	<p><b>(b) West Suffolk District Council</b></p> <p>Cllr Frost reported on the budget due to be set later this month. To be increased but limited to how much. Last year of equalisation between the former FHDC and St Edmundsbury. No questions were raised.</p> <p><b>(c) Suffolk County Council</b></p> <p>Cllr Noble reported on the SCC budget, slightly less than a 3% increase. Highways issues at Farthing Drove still outstanding. Fees to close roads for the Queens Jubilee are to be waived, monies are available for the celebrations from DC and SCC Locality Budgets. Community Report for S106 monies from developers is still pending. This will be one document listing all the different things that have been talked about including those within the Neighbourhood Plan. The date when the Community Engineer will be here is not to be advertised, only Parish Councillors to attend.</p> <p>A question was asked relating to the school – no update at present.</p>
7	<p><b>Financial Matters including: -</b></p> <p><b>(a) Payments of Accounts</b> It was agreed that the payments were an accurate account and it was proposed and seconded to pay the accounts as stated. This was agreed by all.</p> <p><b>(b) Bank Reconciliation for December</b></p> <p>It was accepted that the bank reconciliation was an accurate record of accounts and it was proposed and seconded that this be accepted as an accurate record of accounts. All agreed.</p>
8	<p><b>Lakenheath Cemetery</b></p> <p><b>(a) To receive a Cemetery Report</b></p> <p>On behalf of Cllr Frost, a brief verbal report was read out by the Chairman. All of the graveyard looking neat and tidy; some issues with holes in the hedge; Chapel of Rest looking good with positive feedback from families attending the two recent funerals; toilet stocked with appropriate supplies of soap and towels. Toilet door not shutting, the Chairman to look into it.</p> <p><b>(b) To confirm Grant of Exclusive Rights of Burial</b></p> <p>Five EROBs have been issued since the last meeting.</p> <p>Margaret Flack Margaret Atkins Bernard Lee Leslie Tipton Martyn Strevens.</p>
9	<p><b>Lakenheath Times</b></p> <p>To be revisited at a future meeting.</p>
10	<p><b>Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations</b></p> <p>Cllr Hastings reported the Chairman of the Pavilion Committee has been contacted but has said they will be doing their own preparations for the day, no response as yet from the Vice-Chairman. Going forward, businesses have been contacted to do a window display, Cllr Overy is looking at sponsorship, costs for flag poles/flags through the village are being sought.</p> <p>Cllr Gyte asked if a commemorative coin could be purchased for the village school children.</p> <p>Approximately three hundred and twenty would need to be ordered, exact number to be confirmed.</p> <p>Cost per coin 99p. It was proposed and seconded that the sum of £320 be approved. All agreed.</p>

11	<p><b>Tree work at St Mary's Churchyard update</b></p> <p>Only one revised quotation has been received. With delegated powers in place, the cheaper of the two quotations to be accepted – all agreed.</p>
12	<p><b>Street lighting quotations to be approved</b></p> <p>Unit 349 Anchor Lane £467.50 + vat – to be queried as street light is to be moved.</p> <p>Unit 249 Roebuck Drive £467.50 + vat</p> <p>Unit 137 Breckland Avenue £467.50 + vat</p> <p>By show of hands it was unanimously agreed the quotations be approved.</p>
13	<p><b>Planters for the High Street</b></p> <p>Deleted as completed at the last meeting.</p>
14	<p><b>Planning Matters - To consider all outstanding Planning Applications and if necessary, any applications received after preparation of the agenda:</b></p> <p>Cllr Kelly gave a report that after speaking with residents on potential waste disposal/noise/traffic, support for the Kennels planning application at Sedge Fen be withdrawn. WSC to be advised.</p>
15	<p><b>Neighbourhood Plan update</b></p> <p>The Draft Design Guide, produced at Central Government expense has been received from ACCM. To be noted that WSC Planners are now speaking with the NP Group on new housing developments. Realistically, looking at October to get everything right and sent out.</p> <p>Number of things happening with Lakenheath Business, a litter pick coming up shortly, outdoor gym stalled as the question of ownership and who picks up the cost of the insurance has yet to be agreed. Costs estimated at £16,000. To be put on hold until the next financial year. Cllr Gyte to lead negotiations with Lakenheath Pavilion to divide the outlay 50/50 but must include insurance and siting of the equipment. A resolution to be brought back to the table for the next meeting.</p> <p><i><b>The Council voted to exclude members of the public from the meeting due to the confidential nature of the next items. 2 members of the public left the meeting at 7.45pm.</b></i></p> <p><b>Staff Matter</b></p> <p>The Chairman and Cllr Kelly gave an update on a matter relating to a member of staff. A vote of thanks was given to Cllr Kelly for all his hard work in dealing with this ongoing issue.</p>
16	<p>Agenda items for the next meeting:</p> <p>Change of room for future Parish Council meetings.</p> <p>Register of Member's Interests.</p>
17	<p><b>Such other business which, in the opinion of the Chairman, should be considered as a matter of urgency</b></p> <p>Date of next Forest Heath Parish Alliance arranged for Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2022 at 7.00pm.</p> <p>Cllr Overy and Cllr Kelly to attend.</p>

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**To note date of next Meetings - Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.10pm

Sign .....

Date .....

CHAIRMAN

Signed as confirmation that they are a true record.

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