

LAKENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Lakenheath Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 10th January 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, Cllr: I Frost, Cllr: S Palmer, Lakenheath Squadron Leader: S Geary, M Flint (Clerk)
Cllr: C Noble-District and County, Cllr: S Frost – District 5 member of the public.

Apologies for Absence

There were none

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 6th December 2021

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

A parishioner raised concerns in quality of life in the village and net carbon emissions, planes taking off from RAF Lakenheath, flying directly over the village and excessive noise which affects the quality of life of the residents and also regards to the behaviour of the American Air Personnel in the village including, speeding in the village, leaving cars running for up to 30 minutes outside properties, not changing number plates, parking on pavements. And also concerns in regards to planes taking off from RAF Lakenheath, flying directly over the village and excessive noise which affects the quality of life of the residents.

(a)Police Matters Police- Police have issued a dispersal order in Mildenhall due to anti-social behaviour. A resident of High Street Lakenheath was sentenced for drink driving this month. Police are appealing for witnesses to a burglary that took place at Lakenheath. It happened at some point on Wednesday 22nd December at the offices of an RSPB Lakenheath Fen nature reserve on Station Road. An alarm was triggered just after 4am with the quad bike driven off behind the vehicle at around 4:30am. Padlocks to the premises were cut using a hacksaw with a quad bike stolen. Stihl brush cutters, Husqvarna chainsaws and multiple hand tools were also taken. These were marked with Smartwater.

Reports & Questions:

(a)RAF Commander Lakenheath.

SL: Geary gave his report in regards to activity on the base over the Christmas period. There are now 5 operational squadrons at Lakenheath. SL: Geary has investigated concerns over flying over the village. Questions were asked by Cllr: Norman in regards to take off's over the village.

SL: Geary and 2 member of the Public left the meeting at 7.14pm

1 member of the public returned to the meeting 7.16pm.

	<p>(b) West Suffolk District Council</p> <p>Cllr: S Frost reported that there is a government think tank scheme to reduce packaging. Looking a weekly separate food waste service and weekly glass recycling services. He reported his concerns in regards to health and hygiene in regards to this. He asks the Parish Council to look out for information on this scheme and to make their views known.</p> <p>There followed a discussion by the councillors in regards to recycling.</p> <p>(c) Suffolk County Council</p> <p>Cllr Noble reported on Council Tax rises, 2% for District, County 2% and 1% on Adult Social care. Highways: everything is being pulled together and there will be a single report pulling everything together. Cllr: Noble commented that further down the agenda is the Lakenheath Times and he feels that it is an powerful tool to use in the village to get information out to the villagers.</p> <p>Cllr S Palmer mentioned that there was a provision under S:106 for a bridge for dog walkers over the cut of channel and that this money could be used for something else.</p>
7	<p>Financial Matters including: -</p> <p>(a) Payments of Accounts 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) Bank Reconciliation for December</p> <p>It was accepted that an accurate record of accounts and it was proposed and seconded that this be accepted as an accurate record of accounts. All agreed.</p> <p>(c) 3rd Quarter Out-turn report.</p> <p>The Clerk presented the 3rd quarter outturn report and explained the variances to the budget. It was proposed to accept this as an accurate record of expenditure for the quarter and this was seconded and agreed by all.</p>
8	<p>Lakenheath Cemetery</p> <p>(a) To receive a Cemetery Report</p> <p>Cllr Hastings reported. Head stone fallen down face down so no inscription can be read or identified. Just needs turning over. Head stone fallen down and trapping plant holder underneath just needs raising slightly to release plant holder. Large tree and bush growing over grave and onto next grave. Grave and stone completely covered in large mounds of ivy. A mole has been caught this month. There is a funeral service being held in the Chapel on the 14th January and the Chapel will be cleaned in preparation. There is a small gap in the hedging and although we have brought whips in the past they do not seem to be growing fast enough and Cllr: Hasting suggested buying some extra hedging to close the gap. It was agreed that the Cemetery Committee laise and bring together some figures for the next meeting. This was agreed by all</p> <p>(b) To confirm Grant of Exclusive Rights of Burial</p> <p>There were none.</p> <p>Lakenheath Times</p>
9	<p>It was agreed that a working group would be set up to look at the Lakenheath Times and recommend improvements, this group consists of Cllr: Wendy Overy, Cllr A Gyte and Cllr: P Gyte. They will report back in 2-3 months with their findings. Cllr: Morley reminded the Council that this was not the first time that this had been on the table and that something constructive and affordable needs to come</p>

	<p>out of it. Cllr: Kelly did remind all Councillors that one way to improve the content was for the Councillors themselves to submit articles.</p>
10	<p>Staff Handbook</p> <p>Clerk reported that the handbook had been reviewed by Cllr: P Gyte and Cllr: Hastings and the amendments sent to worknest to draft the final copy. Cllr: Hastings remarked that although there were items in the handbook that were not relevant to the current staff it was future proof and would be relevant for any new staff coming into the Parish Council.</p>
11	<p>H & S Handbook The Councillors had received a copy of the draft H&S hand book and it was agreed to discuss this after 16.</p>
12	<p>Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations</p> <p>A working party was set up to consider ideas to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations this consists of Cllr: Hasting, Cllr: P Gyte and Cllr: Overy. They will report back at future meetings.</p>
13	<p>St Mary's Churchyard.</p> <p>(a)Tree work update</p> <p>Clerk reported back on the findings of Network Power and a concern by a resident that although 16 limes had been identified there were actually 19 in the churchyard. It was agreed that the tree be pollard and that the Clerk and the Chair be given delegated power to arrange for the contractors to complete this work. This was proposed, seconded and agreed by all.</p>
14	<p>Urban Hydro Festival. It was agreed that due to the amount of noise pollution last year that the Parish Council would register an objection to this licencing application. Cllr: Kelly will take the lead in this.</p>
15	<p>Planters on the High Street.</p> <p>Cllr: P Gyte informed the Council that she had contact with a resident who was concerned with parking on the pavements outside the Co-op on Lakenheath High Street. A suggestion being that there were planters placed on the High Street at this point. Cllr: Kelly reported that this was already under consideration as part of the High Street regeneration plan.</p>
16	<p>Planning Matters - To consider all outstanding Planning Applications and if necessary, any applications received after preparation of the agenda:</p> <p>Cllr Kelly gave a report on outstanding planning applications and also reported on a request to move a street lamp in Anchor Lane. As this was a parish owned street lamp this was discussed and it was agreed that the PC had no objection to the lamp being moved. Clerk to report back to WS Street LightingTeam.</p> <p>(b) Neighbourhood Plan update.</p> <p>Cllr: Overy reported the date for the first Lakenheath Farmers Market on 1st May and that hopefully that will followed by seasonal farmers markets. There has been a business forum set up on FB</p> <p>Cllr: Kelly further slippage date wise as we are trying to be as hooked up with West Suffolk and until that progresses, we are now talking about October 22, this gives us a better chance to get the design code work in place as that is still not back from ACOM. And also, there will be a better chance of moving forward with the High Street project and we have applied for more funding from Central Government for some works on Master planning.</p>

The Council voted to exclude members of the public from the meeting due to the confidential nature of the next items. 4 members of the public left the meeting 7.55pm

17 Staff Absence

Clerk gave an update. This was accepted by the Council.

A discussion on a staffing issue was raised and discussed fully, Clerk was instructed to carry forward the wishes of the Council.

The new H&S handbook was discussed and Clerk was given instructions to feed back to Worknest.

Such other business which, in the opinion of the Chairman, should be considered as a matter of urgency.

There was none

To note date of next Meetings - Monday 7th February 2022

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.44pm

Sign

Date

CHAIRMAN

Signed as confirmation that they are a true record.

--	--