

LAKENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Lakenheath Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 2nd August 2021.
Held at Lakenheath Methodist Chapel commencing at 7:00pm

Present

Councillors: E Morley (Chairman), R Norman, J Cahill, I Frost, J Gentle, W Overy, S Palmer, Maggie Flint (Clerk)
Cllr C Noble (West Suffolk) Cllr S Frost (District) 1 member of the public

Chairman asked Council permission to vary the agenda, this was agreed by all

1 Apologies for Absence

Cllr: A Gyte, Cllr: P Gyte, Cllr: Hastings, Cllr: Kelly ,Squadron Leader: Stew Geary . Apologies accepted by all.

2 Declarations of Interest

Cllr: Norman. Village Hall and Goward Evans Charity

Cllr: I Frost. Friends of Lakenheath Library

3 Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on July 5th 2021

It was proposed and seconded that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on July 5th 2021 be a true record of the meeting and that they should be signed as such by the Chairman. Agreed by all.

4 Representations from Members of the Public

There were none.

Reports & Questions: -

5 (a)Police Matters Police Matters

Clerk reported that there had been lots of social media comments on a Latvian Student who is selling educational books door to door in the village Mildenhall police have confirmed that they are aware and the student in question is genuine. Resident reported attempt forcing of window in Wingfield Avenue. Police attended. 20/07/2021. Crash on Brandon Road 27/07/2021 between tractor and van. The van driver taken to hospital. Dog attack on Broom Road Field, dog escaped from house and attacked a man, no further details.

(a)RAF Commander Lakenheath-

Nothing to report

(b) West Suffolk District Council

Cllr: S Frost reported no main council meetings.

(c) Suffolk County Council

Cllr: C Noble reported that the council were back to face to face meetings and were no longer allowed remote meetings. He gave further information on the dog attack that the Clerk had mentioned in Police Matters and told the Council that the air ambulance had been called the victim was admitted to hospital. Cllr: Noble was surprised to hear the dog was back with its owner and has raised this with the police today.

There has been concern about the 30 mile an hour speed limited on the Wangford Road, this limited will stay in place until marshalling area is removed.

A lot more plane spotters gathering at the end of the runway which is not where they are supposed to be, the police have raised it and are looking at it. Squadron Leader Geary is aware. Other than that, there has been some road painting on the Farthing Drove and Cllr Noble is following up to find out when this work will be completed.

Cllr: Norman asked about a dip in the road between Eriswell and Beck Row roundabout has recently been resurfaced and there is a dip at the other end of the road why was this work not carried out at the same time? Also that work was prioritised before the A1101, most of the signs has disappeared but the work has still not been completed. Cllr: Noble is aware and will follow up.

	<p>Cllr Norman: Asked why there was a 40mph speed limited on Farthing Drove. Cllr Noble will raise the issue. Cllr: Palmer reported a big dip by Christmas Tree Farm and the new owners have complained that it is dangerous as there is a limited view of what is approaching on the road to the left.</p> <p>Cllr Cahill reported that the litter pick in June highlighted a fly tipping area at Sharpes Corner, this has been reported in June and the site has still not been cleared. Cllr: Noble asked for a reference number and Cllr: Cahill agreed to send pictures across to Cllr: Noble.</p>
6	<p>Cllr C Noble and Cllr S Frost left the meeting 7.27pm</p> <p>Financial Matters including: -</p> <p>(a) Payments of Accounts for July: It was proposed that these were signed off as a true record of payments, this was seconded and all agreed</p> <p>(b) Bank Reconciliation for June: The Council agreed that this was a true record of accounts and it was agreed by all that these would be signed off as such.</p>
7	<p>(c) 1st Quarter Out-turn Report. The Clerk presented the first quarter out turn reports and asked for any questions, there were none and it was proposed and seconded to sign these off as a true record, all agreed.</p> <p>Lakenheath Cemetery</p> <p>(a) To receive a Cemetery Report</p> <p>Clerk read a report from Cllr: A Gyte</p> <p>Very little to report on this month, Scott was grass cutting as I walked round & was all looking neat & tidy. The Chapel looks good & the toilets have now been redecorated. However, the top opener of toilet window has not been painted, I suspect because it's got quite a bit of rot, so maybe a repair needed there at some point soon. Still a headstone laying down on right hand side of old part. Benches are getting done, slowly but surely & ones that are done are looking good. The boxing around tap in new side is done & looking good.</p> <p>There was a mole on the loose but the mole catcher has been tracking him and can report that he was caught this weekend. Not much sign of grave subsidence now, think we are on top of it, but must keep checking. All in all, looking pretty good.</p> <p>(b) To confirm Grant of Exclusive Rights of Burial</p> <p>Christine Tuffs and James Crane</p> <p>(c) Flowers/ bulbs for the entrance of cemetery. It was agreed by all that £100 would be spent on the purchase of flowering bulbs for the cemetery entrance. Cllr Cahill will purchase the bulbs and be reimbursed on production of receipts.</p>
8	<p>Planning Matters: - To receive report from Planning Committee</p> <p>Neighbourhood Planning</p> <p>Cllr: Norman reported for the Planning Sub- Committee. This year's grant money is on the way and will be in the bank within the next few days. The first purchase is Parish Online which is a mapping tool which will allow us to produce maps using official information and we have two volunteers who will be learning the system. The much delayed, Government funded design work is due to start "imminently", but the long delay in hearing about our regeneration bid does not inspire confidence. The most important thing to report is that we have a stall at the Fete on Saturday, which gives us the chance to tell the Parish about progress with the Plan and what we are working on with the other issues arising from the Survey. It would be good to see you all there.</p> <p>Other planning</p> <p>The Rabbit Hill development is to go to the West Suffolk Development and Control Committee on Wednesday, or at least bits of it are. It is disappointing that the project is now in at least four different applications and there are some 278 official documents which the Committee are supposed to read and digest on this application alone. The concern is that voting will once again be on Party lines rather than the merits or otherwise of the case. It is also disappointing that although we have written to the developer, we have not received a reply. Councillors will know that Social and Affordable housing are very different animals, and as you will also know from the Housing Needs Assessment, our real requirement is for Social Housing. Cllr Noble told us categorically at our last meeting that the scheme would address that. However there is nothing in the application, nor from the developer, to confirm that and as it is not in the application there is precisely no reason to think it will happen. There is one other application which is a cause for concern. The application is to convert the hairdressers opposite the Coop to a Tattoo Parlour. This will be the third tattoo Parlour in the village and not the type of shop residents want. However it is understood that the owner has tried to find other tenants and failed. While we would not want to support yet another Tattoo Parlour, the ones we have are well presented and the</p>

	<p>alternative is basically an empty shop in the very middle of the village. We would be grateful for input from Councillors before we respond.</p> <p>The Council discussed the tatoo parlour and decided that although it is not ideal to have a third tatoo parlour the other alternative is to have an empty shop and therefore although the Councillors would like to object, they did not believe that there was any viable reason to, the Council therefore agreed to support the application.</p>
9	<p>St Mary's Church -To receive a report on trees and wall.</p> <p>(a)St Mary's Church request for formal adoption of the disused churchyard</p> <p>M Flint (Clerk) reported she was asked by Rev'd Paul Tams under the freedom of Information act to confirm when the Parish Council took formal responsibility for the Churchyard and having checked the minutes from 1998 to present could see that in 2004 the Parish Council were asking for funding/ support from Forest Heath Council for repairs as time moved on the PC were actually paying for the upkeep. However, there was nothing formally written in the minutes to say that the PC had adopted the Church. Cllr Gentle told her that this came about in an informal way. One of the Councillor at the time was heavily involved in the church and it was decided that the PC slowly became more involved. However, with the Horse Chestnut tree that lost a limb last year both our and the church insurance companies have been involved in a lengthy battle as to who is responsible. The Clerks understanding is that when the church yard becomes disused the Church ask the parish to take it on, if the parish refuses then the repairs will be carried out by the local Council but they will in turn invoice the parish</p> <p>The Clerk has received a letter from Rev Tams this month thanking the PC for all the support given to St Mary's but they have been asked that it now formally accept responsibility for the disused churchyard. There is a budget for the churchyard repair and maintenance of £10,000 for the year and also have a 5 year tree report of work need to maintain the trees. Currently the PC have engaged Tom Rought to repair the clunch wall, this was work scheduled last year and was put off due to the Corona Virus. It is likely that our budget will be exceeded this year and the reason in part for that is due to the work on the wall being delayed from the last financial year.</p> <p>The Council agreed that they would like to postpone a decision on the adoption of St Mary's Churchyard until all members of the Council were available to vote and would therefore it would be added to next months agenda. Cllr: Gentle asked that the Clerk contact SALC to find out where we stand if we did not officially adopt the churchyard.</p> <p>(b) Update on wall repairs and T0.21 reduction of Horse Chestnut to a Habitat Monolith</p> <p>The habitat Monolith for T0.21 was completed by RH Landscaping on 14th July and Tom has now started work on the clunch wall. He did want to requote as the cost of materials have increased but when it was pointed out to him that the PC had agreed his quote in November 2020 for work to start in Feb 2021 and that he then put it of 3 times, he agreed to honour the quote.</p> <p>Chairman asked that the following items be removed from the agenda until the full Council was available to discuss</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Professional emails for Councillors 11. Queens Platinum Jubilee and Plant a Tree 12. Quotes for the Play Park toilets decoration. 13. SID's renewal of. 16. Emergency Planning review and update. 18. Lakenheath Heritage Group continuing support <p>This was proposed and seconded and agreed by all</p>
14	<p>Community First Responder S.137 Grant request</p>

The Clerk reported that she contacted Eastern Ambulance Services and spoke to Jonathan Needle who is the community response manager and he explained that there is currently a hub in Mildenhall and that the Ambulance Service provided the kit for the Mildenhall hub, he was unable to tell her the radius that each hub covers but he did say that only one kit is provided and then it is up to the hub to raised money through charitable donations, fundraising and grants if they require extra kits.

Mr Woods returned the grant request form complete with all details needed However, our available budget for S:137 for the rest of the year is £0.00. The Clerk suggested that this maybe something that the PC wish to consider supporting in the next financial year? Or with the Council permission, the clerk could move the Scout's grant on to S:19 as this is only to be used recreational activities. However this would mean that there would be £3,600 left in the S19 budget for the year, but it would release back to S:137, £1425 which would enable support for smaller grants to good causes throughout the year.

The Council voted and all agreed to move the Scout Grant of £2000 to S:19 therefore realeasing money back to S:137. The Clerk reported that she had sent Mr Woods details of other grants available to his group and also reminded the Councillors that the limited for S137 is £500 so they would not be able to grant the full amount asked for but more offer a portion of this amount. She then asked if the PC would then like to grant to the Community First Responder Group. Cllr: Gentle suggested that the CFR group should be encouraged to fund raise and then we could possibly add to that fund. The Council asked to defer this decision until the full Council were available to dicuss. This was seconded and agreed by all.

Caudle Avenue, Street lights.

The Clerk reported that she has received a lot of complaints about the street lights in caudle Avenue being out for many months and The streetlighting team have investigated and these are the last of the old style lanterns that are owned by the PC. She has received a quote for the individual lights.

Unit 261 Caudle Ave – For The Sum Of; £634.44 + VAT

Unit 262 Caudle Ave – For The Sum Of; £634.44 + VAT

Unit 263 Caudle Ave – For The Sum Of; £634.44 + VAT

Unit 266 Caudle Ave – For The Sum Of; £634.44 + VAT

Unit 271 Caudle Ave – For The Sum Of; £634.44 + VAT

Unit 272 Caudle Ave – For The Sum Of; £634.44 + VAT

Unit 276 North Rd – For The Sum Of; £1,808.19 + VAT. This unit was identified as needing a complete replacement including the column due to deterioration of the concrete structure suggesting it is now past its natural shelf life

The costs in Caudle Avenue are based on being able to remove the old lantern from the existing concrete column and installing the new unit in its place. This might not be possible on all the units due to its age and current condition. If we are unable to remove the old lantern, then it will be a case of having to replace the complete unit including the column itself which will increase to approximately £1800 per unit

The Clerk explained that there was a budget of budgeted £18,000 this year for Streetlighting and a reserve of £57,000. It was proposed that the work on the Streetlights would go ahead and that the PC would accept the quote from West Suffolk Street Lighting Team. This was seconded and all agreed.

Notice boards maintenance.

The Clerk reported that she does not have a firm date for the arrival of the new noticeboard when she last spoke to June at Harry Stebbins she estimated a delivery date of Oct.

In regards to the maintenance of the boards already owned, if they were to be to oiled, the task would need to completed every 12 to 18 months. It will involve cleaning the wood and sanding it down then oiling with Osmo 420 clear oil cost is currently £65.00 for 2.5 litres. This should be done in the autumn on a clear dry day- linseed oil should not be used as it will react with the tannin in the oak. An alternative is to leave the boards to weather naturally and eventually they will take on a lovely silvery sheen of old oak. It was proposed and seconded that the noticeboards were left to weather into a lovely silvery sheen of old oak. This was agreed by all.

19	<p><i>Council to consider excluding members of the public due to the confidential nature of the following items:</i></p> <p>It was agreed to ask members of public to leave the meeting due to the confidential nature of the next two items on the agenda.</p>
20	<p><i>One member of the public left the meeting</i></p> <p>Applications for Part Time Clerk.</p> <p>The Council voted to interview all of the candidates that had applied for the role and discussed who would be on the interview panel after some discussion it was proposed that the decision on panel members be adjourned until next month when all council members would be available to decide. This</p>
21	<p>was seconded and agreed by all</p> <p>Items for Future meetings. Professional emails for Councillors Queens Platinum Jubilee and Plant a Tree, Quotes for the Play Park toilets decoration SID's renewal of, Emergency Planning review and update, Lakenheath Heritage Group continuing support</p>
22	<p>Such other business which, in the opinion of the Chairman, should be considered as a matter of urgency. Keeper's Dog. An incident involving the keepers dog was discussed at length and the Clerk was tasked with speaking to SALC in regards to the situation. If needed the Clerk could also get legal help to compose a letter to the keeper</p> <p>To note date of next Meetings - Monday 6th September 2021</p> <p>There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.37pm</p>
	<p>Sign Date</p> <p>CHAIRMAN</p> <p>Signed as confirmation that they are a true record.</p>

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