

LAKENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Lakenheath Parish Council Extra-Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 9th March 2020
at the Methodist Church commencing at 6:30pm

Present

Councillors E Morley (Chairman), J Hastings, G Kelly, S Palmer, J Gentle, R Norman, P Gyte, A Gyte, W Newman, D Gathercole, Clare Shimmon (Clerk), Maggie Flint (Clerk), 1 member of the public and 9 Lakenheath Playingfields Association Committee members and supporters.

1 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Frost.

2 Declaration of Interest

Cllr A Gyte - Lakenheath Football Club Trustee and Assistant Manager

Cllr P Gyte - Lakenheath Good Neighbours and Lakenheath Community SpeedWatch

Cllr Hastings - Lakenheath Keep Fit & Curling Clubs

Cllr Norman - Village Hall & Goward and Evans Charity

Cllr Palmer - Ownership of land at Briscoe Way

Cllr Gathercole - Lakenheath Playingfields Association & West Suffolk Council

3 Representations from Members of the Public

The vice-chair of Lakenheath Playingfields Committee apologised for not being at last week's meeting and wanted to assure all Members that the committee fully support the proposed loan. The committee work tirelessly for the LPFA including putting on functions at Christmas and the summer fete. She would step up to chair the committee if required.

4 Lakenheath Playingfields Association Loan

Cllr Gathercole, the Chairman of Lakenheath Playingfields Association gave another summary of the works the present committee had completed and how the Parish Council should support the playingfields and help the committee moved forward.

Cllr Hastings asked if the cricket club were represented at the meeting.

Two members of the cricket club were present.

The Chairman proposed to vary the agenda. Voting - 9 in favour.

3 Representations from Members of the Public

A cricket club member confirmed that the club is not opposed to the loan application. The two committees have disagreements but try to get along and support their efforts made by the playingfields association to move forward.

4 Lakenheath Playingfields Association Loan

There followed another lengthy question and answer session between Members of the Council and Cllr Gathercole including the accounts, cashflow predictions, using a leasehold asset as security, playingfield costs, use of public monies to support an organisation, supporting all groups in the village, creation of the pavilion to provide a home for organisations, legal loan agreements and working together.

Cllr Gathercole confirmed that the Playingfields Association was able to support itself and that a hand out was not being requested. A loan was a way of making council funds work.

The chairman summed up the debate confirming that this was the third time the matter had been discussed and that a loan of £75,000 was requested over a 174 month term increasing the return on funds held by the Parish Council.

The clerk confirmed that if the loan was agreed, a legal agreement would be prepared. West Suffolk Council had confirmed that local solicitors carried out this kind of work for charities free of charge.

Cllr Palmer proposed lending the Playingfields Association £75,000. Seconded by Cllr P Gyte. Voting 2 in favour, 4 against and 3 abstain.

5	<p>To note date of next Meetings</p> <p>Monday 6th April</p> <p>Monday 4th May 2020</p> <p>Parish Meeting – Monday 18th May 2020 (Peace Memorial Hall)</p> <p>There being no further business the meeting closed at 7:10pm</p>
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