

## LAKENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Lakenheath Parish Meeting held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2021  
Held at Methodist Church Lakenheath commencing at 7:00pm

### **Present**

Names of all councillors present E Morley (Chairman) J Cahill (minute taker), I Frost, J Gentle, A Gyte, P Gyte, J Hastings, G Kelly, R Norman (Vice Chair), S Palmer, W Overy, Stewart Geary (RAF Squadron Leader)  
2 members of the public

### **1 Apologies for Absence – Maggie Flint (Clerk).**

**Absent**-Cllr: C Noble (Suffolk/District County Council) Cllr: S Frost (District Council)

### **2 Declarations of Interest**

Cllr:I Frost- Friends of Lakenheath Library.

Cllr:-A Gyte Lakenheath FC

Cllr:-P Gyte Lakenheath Good Neighbours, CSW

Cllr:-R Norman Village Hall

### **3 Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 1st June 2021**

The Minutes of the Council meeting on 1st July 2021 were signed as an accurate record of the meeting. There were 2 minor adjustments which were noted. All agreed.

### **4 Representations from members of the Public: -**

A parishioner proposed that the council replace the currently operated SID's used for driver's speed alert. He felt that newer SIDs would be more effective in slowing traffic and therefore create a safer environment for the village.

A parishioner – Introduced 'The First Responder Scheme' based in Mildenhall and asked the PC to consider granting under S137 to enable a first responder to be based in Lakenheath.

### **5 Police Matters**

Chair reported that the clerk has spoken to TPS (Temporary Police Sargent) Karl Benton at Mildenhall Police Station and it has been confirmed that the Locality Inspector only attends the Annual Parish Meetings and a representative is not available to attend the meetings, nor do they offer bespoke returns/news for cascading to Parish Meetings. However, the clerk is now following Mildenhall FB and will report going forward from information available from there.

### **Reports and Questions**

**(a) RAF Commander Lakenheath:** - Squadron Leader Stewart Geary Introduced himself and gave a brief overview of his background within the RAF. Started at Lakenheath on 7<sup>th</sup> June. He will make every effort to be in the meeting in the future. He is happy to give updates and answer questions. He has been redeployed to Lakenheath to embed the new F35's. Infrastructure programme is well underway buildings going up quite quickly. The base are hoping to see the first aircraft arrive towards the back end of this year – no date has been confirmed. Squadrons busy either on deployment or preparing for deployment and getting ready for exercises around the UK later this year as well. He is here to help so if there are any issues, please give him a call.

**(b) West Suffolk District Council:** - N/A

**(c) Suffolk County Council:** - N/A

### **6 Financial Matters including: -**

#### **(a) Payments of Accounts**

The Council received a copy of the payments for the month of June and a copy of the Clerks reimbursements they agreed this was an accurate record to sign it off as such. It was proposed and seconded to accept. All agreed.

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|   | <p><b>(b) Bank reconciliations</b> - Bank reconciliation for May 2021 was presented. It was proposed and seconded to accept. All agreed.</p>  |
| 7 | <p><b>Planning Matters: - To receive report from Planning Committee including The NP update, Discovering Suffolk, Heritage group update on Interpretive Panels.</b></p> <p>Cllr: Kelly reported that the Housing Needs Assessment has gone to vote, it is on both the NP and One Suffolk websites. Grant for this year has been approved but not yet received.</p> <p>The work of the Neighbourhood Planning group has been split into several manageable sub-groups with people working to their own personal strengths. The plan, however, is of course still one. The leads for the groups are: Environment (lead Cllr J Cahill) the Great British Spring Clean came under this banner, there is an update (still waiting) from Discovering Suffolk their original offer was to give the village some little plaques that can be put on footpaths, using this as a starting point Cllr: Cahill will explore what else Discovering Suffolk can do for us. There is a great interest in 'rewilding and looking after the environment.</p> <p>Business issues (lead Cllr: W. Overly) clearly there is a lot around what cannot be done but on the other hand things requested such as the Farmers Market is something that can be looked at. Similarly, there has been some feedback from a couple of businesses saying the main problem in the village is that businesses don't talk to each other.</p> <p>Highways and Traffic (lead Cllr P. Gyte)</p> <p>Sport and Leisure (lead Cllr A. Gyte).</p> <p>We have received information in regards to Sedge Fen wanting to change the Baptist Church into a Community Hall. There is progress being made and we will keep abreast of what is being planned.</p> <p>The management team at the village hall are keen to start a drop in coffee shop. The football club have also said they would run an open-door type of arrangement. The farm shop already has a tea/breakfast shop and the business seems to be taking off. A big part of the plan will involve people putting their heads above the parapet and saying, 'we could do that'.</p> <p>From the survey there were some things that residents could do themselves, things that needed support and things that there were beyond the scope of the parish councils powers. The survey brought up the request for more High Street shops but unfortunately this is beyond the PC remit and although in the past Lakenheath has had a more diverse High Street, they were individual businesses that the Parish Council can do little about.</p> <p>Planning applications: The Heritage Group have applied for planning permission for their panels which the Parish Council has supported and have also supported the football club's application for a new stand. There are also some fairly normal ordinary residential applications going through. Rabbit Hill is still pending. It was originally down for discussion tomorrow (6<sup>th</sup> July) but this appears to have been moved to August. They have been written to and we are waiting for a response. We have written to Suffolk County Council around the issue of the school. Which order is the building taking place, is it school and then housing or the other way around? There is a potential issue due to Covid and the guidance to every school to open every window this cannot be done with the current planning permission as the windows are sealed units which cannot be opened. We have asked them for their thoughts on this.</p> |
| 8 | <p><b>Street Lighting Caudle Avenue</b> – The Chair reported that the Clerk had received correspondence in regards to the last of the old-style lanterns in the village. These are situated in Caudle Avenue and are owned by the PC. The parts are no longer available for the old style lanterns and the units will need replacing. It has been agreed previously that the PC would adopt a new for old policy and replace with LED. This has been followed on other occasions. It was proposed and seconded the Clerk will source a quote from West Suffolk Highways for the replacement of all the lamp and report back to the next meeting. Agreed by all.</p>   |
| 9 | <p><b>Lakenheath Litter Pick –</b></p> <p>Cllr Cahill reported on the Friday there were about 20 people out and about and there was a huge pile of litter collected. On Saturday there were about 12 people, and the pile was added to. On Sunday there were 8 people, and more litter was found including a 'Fly Tipping' area which has been reported to Suffolk County Council and is being investigated. This needs to be checked to see if it has been cleared yet. It was noticeable that a lot of face masks were picked up so hopefully this aspect will disappear when restrictions are lifted. Days after the litter pick the village looked good.</p>  |

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|    | <p>Sedge Fen residence completed a litter pick the following week and were surprised by the amount of litter that was collected. It brought the community together. Some were families with children attended which was very encouraging .</p> <p>There is a proposal that another litter pick in January 2022 so that litter can be cleared from the hedgerows as everything should have died back by then and litter will be visible. Date to be arranged and published in the Lakenheath Times.</p> <p>West Suffolk have been working in the village and have been seen in the High Street and Back Street clearing litter which is encouraging. There is an issue of weeds growing in the gutter throughout the village. There have been several complaints to the clerk in regards to the verges, due to weather conditions the growth has been phenomenal. It makes the village look untidy. West Suffolk have said they are putting in extra resources to address these matters.</p>   |
| 10 | <p><b>Lakenheath Cemetery</b></p> <p><b>(a) To receive a cemetery report</b> – Cllr I Frost reported that overall, the cemetery is looking quite good. The railings still need cleaning and repainting, the Chapel has now been redecorated there were a few cobwebs around the lightning. The old cemetery is looking clean and tidy – the grass is nicely trimmed back; the wildflowers area has been left but there is part of it further down those needs to be trimmed back. The rest of it on the first half has been done but not on the second half. There is a hedge that is growing out that is across the pathway – down near the corner, this needs to be trimmed back. The new cemetery is looking nice and tidy the gates need cleaning and maintenance. The same with the memorial benches – some look untidy and need attention – these are already in hand. Memorials left on graves have been managed and look tidy. No moles or hills at present. Overall, in a good state of upkeep.</p> <p><b>(b) To Confirm Grant of Exclusive Rights of Burial</b><br/>There were none.</p> <p><b>(d) Memorial Bench Form</b> – Cllr: Hastings reported That due to the ongoing issue with the benches and maintenance that there should be a form created for new applications for memorial benches. It explains fully what the responsibilities are for the bench owners. The bench that had collapsed has now been replaced with a new one and bolted down. If a new bench is agreed to then we are responsible for putting in the base we do not want people coming and doing whatever they wanted to do. This sort of cost is something to help us pay towards the cost. It was proposed and seconded to adopt the form. All agreed.</p> <p><b>Cllr A. Gyte left the meeting at 19.35.</b></p> <p><b>(e) Decorating of the Chapel</b> – This has now been completed. A lot of time was spent cleaning it all up after the decorators had gone. It is ready to be opened every day if people needed shelter or wanted to look at the pictures – which are now back on the wall. There is still work to be done on the floor but that is work in progress as it is old quarry tiles that have seen a lot of damage. Part of the arrangement was also painting the public toilets. They have not started the toilets yet. When the Clerk returns, please can this be investigated.</p> <p><b>(f) Refurbishing of the railings.</b> The Chair reported that the Clerk has tried without success to encourage other local companies to quote for the railings, 6 companies have attended the site 3 have refused to quote, 2 have said they will quote and have then not quoted and we are left with a quote from Dyers Decorators Limited they have quoted £1540. + VAT. This has been going on from last year. It does not include the internal gates but included are the larger double gates at the front – village keeper’s gate and the railings from the edge of Maids Cross Way to the end of the Village keeper’s cottage. As we have had experience of Dyers with the chapel, and they have been used before and they are used around the village. Proposed by Cllr J. Hastings. Seconded by Cllr P. Gyte. All agreed.</p> |
| 11 | <p><b>‘Gaitor’ Insurance renewal</b> – It was proposed and seconded to accept the insurance quote for the ‘Gaitor. All agreed.</p>  |
| 12 | <p><b>Queen’s Jubilee</b> – Cllr Norman stated that Last jubilee coins for the children were provided. This cost a lot of money. The Jubilee will never be repeated in anyone’s lifetime. Cllr : Kelly reported that The Woodland Trust are giving away tree as part of the platinum celebrations. Paperwork that came through was about</p>  |

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|    | <p>beacons and are we going to do parties? No problem with beacons as we already have one. Should someone take this under their wing to find out what can and cannot be done in the village? Cllr P Gyte reported that at the last meeting it was agreed that the Clerk would investigate planting of trees – the relevant website has been sent to the Clerk. The school has also been told they can apply for this as well – the school is going to investigate this. The Parish Council could plant a tree for the Queen. Apparently, the Woodland Trust is giving away about 3 million trees! We are also looking into planting daffodils along the grass verge of Eriswell Road if permission can be granted. Cllr: Morley reported that there was an issue with coins some time ago when there was one left over and we want to avoid any issues like this again, if there is anything left over on this occasion. Suggestions for the children included getting them a nice mug – should speak to the head of the school first to see what plans they may have – work with the school. Badges were another idea. Another suggestion was planting a tree near the beacon. Who would we have to contact to get clearance from to plant a tree there? Individuals, schools, councils – anyone can apply for trees. There is another jubilee next year Lakenheath Memorial Hall is 100 years old. The committee is going to try and do some events. Once these are in place we will be informed.</p> |
| 13 | <p><b>Noticeboards Sedge Fen and upkeep of existing</b> Chairman reported that Notice board has now been ordered for Sedge Fen and will be fitted in Oct. Cost was £1780.80 including VAT. Asked District and County Councils for help with the cost but there was no money available. Cllr: G Kelly updated on the Baptist Church – no planning application as such. The church has not functioned as a church since 2018. In the meantime, there was a ‘Valued Community Asset Order’ order put on it which basically means the community have identified a possible use for it, and that if and when it does come up for sale it must be offered to the community for at least 6 months, only after that can it be sold to whoever they like. Ownership is the main issue as the trustees were American Airmen who are now scattered about the United States, so tracking them down to sign papers is proving problematic. So, no it does not function as a church, not it has not been sold but this is the intention once they can get everyone together. Regarding existing noticeboards, Clerk has taken advice and they can be oiled (not Varnished) or they can be left to weather into a lovely silver grey, does the council want them to be oiled? Cost of oiling unknown.</p>  |
| 14 | <p><b>Items for Future Meetings</b><br/> Notice Boards – oiled or left to weather<br/> Queens Platinum Jubilee<br/> Caudle Avenue street lighting<br/> Pledge our ongoing support for the Lakenheath Heritage Group<br/> Community First Responder Grant<br/> St. Mary’s Church wall<br/> Strimmer<br/> New SID’s<br/> Emails for each Parish Councillor so they have professional accounts so do not use their ‘private’ addresses<br/> Some money to plant spring flowering bulbs in the flower beds at the entrance to the cemetery<br/> Emergency planning group – moving the base during an emergency to the Village Hall not the Community Centre.</p>  |
| 15 | <p><b>Any other business</b> – Cllr J Gentle expressed appreciation was extended to people who spent their own time tidying up the village. They did an excellent job. There was a short article about this in the Lakenheath Times – a public thank you.<br/> Neighbourhood Plan have a stall at Lakenheath Fete.<br/> Will be buying a piece of software called ‘Parish Online’. It is ordnance survey maps; all sorts of things can be added to it such as flood risks etc. and access to aerial photos. Once we know how to use it (it was on trial for a month) any councillor will have access to it and in fact once the planning has been done it will become the property of the Parish Council.</p>   |
| 16 | <p><b>Such other business which, in the opinion of the Chairman, should be considered as a matter of urgency</b><br/> None</p>  |
| 17 | <p><b>To note date of next Meeting to be held remotely unless government guidelines change - Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2021 at the Methodist Church, Back Street Lakenheath at 7pm</b></p>   |

There being no further business the meeting closed **at time the meeting closed** 20.05pm

Sign .....

Date .....

CHAIRMAN

Signed as confirmation that they are a true record.

DRAFT