

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LAKENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL

HELD AT THE METHODIST CHURCH CHAPEL ON MONDAY 7<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2016.

Present: - Messrs E Morley (Chairman)

D Durrant	Mrs Brown
J Gentle	Mrs Gyte
I Frost	

Sqdn Ldr Neild and 3 members of the public were also present.

The Chairman opened the meeting and asked for the agenda to be varied. All agreed.

### 6. Reports & Questions:-

#### (a) RAF Commander Lakenheath

Sqdn Ldr Neild said that he had been away on leave for the last meeting. He added that night flying would continue for 3 days this week but be more intensive next week. He said that there were no other concerns for the moment.

Cllr Brown said that there were rumours that a squadron of A10s was arriving at the end of the year, with their families.

Sqdn Ldr Neild said that he hadn't heard this rumour.

Cllr Brown said that the school had been asked for spaces for the children.

Cllr Gentle asked if the authorities take notice of service personnel's vehicles.

Sqdn Ldr Neild said that it was not in their interest to not tax vehicles as the cost can be claimed back. He said that he would investigate and ask for more focus.

Cllr Durrant asked about flightpaths. He said that it was quicker to say what angles the planes weren't flying at. He asked if there were still specific flight paths.

Cllr Brown said that it was a regular occurrence to see aircraft over the village.

Sqdn Ldr Neild said that he would speak with OSS. There had been no official change. He added that the noise survey was being updated. He gave apologies for December's meeting.

#### 1. Apologies for Absence

Councillors Gathercole, Lucas, Whitehand and Norman.

#### 2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Gyte - Lakenheath Good Neighbours and Lakenheath Consolidated Charities.

Cllr Frost - Friends of Lakenheath Library

Cllr Durrant - James Waters Ltd

Cllr Brown - Treasurer Lakenheath Youth FC and Volunteer, Peace Memorial Village Hall

### **3. Police Matters**

There were none.

### **4. Confirmation of Minutes of Meetings held on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2016**

It was proposed to accept minutes. All agreed.

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

There were none.

### **6. Reports & Questions:-**

#### **(a) Forest Heath District Council to include**

##### **i. Dog Waste Bin – Roebuck Drive**

Cllr Marston was not present at the meeting to discuss. Item to be added to December agenda.

##### **ii. Litter Bins**

The clerk advised that a final litter bin survey had been carried out in conjunction with officers from FHDC. She went through the proposed changes. The final quotation received was split evenly between the Parish Council and FHDC at £2190.75 (exc VAT) each.

Cllr Brown said that she was concerned that a bin should be closer to the bench on the village green.

The clerk said that the new bin would be closer to the bench than the existing one.

Cllr Frost proposed to accept the final survey and quotation, seconded by Cllr Brown and all agreed.

***Resolution – Final litter bin survey accepted with quotation of £2190.75 (exc VAT).***

##### **iii. Celtic Cross**

Cllr Brown gave her report:

You will have read in the Lakenheath times but I am pleased to report that after extensive enquiries the Parish have successfully located and have placed in safe storage, the stainless-steel plates which made up the Celtic Cross, placed on stone and flint benches on Maidscross Hill. You may recall that this was vandalised and as a result removed by Forest Heath District Council for safe keeping several years ago. Together with the Parks Operation Manager, John Smithson, at West Suffolk and the help of the Parishioner who spoke last month on the subject and is keen to see our heritage restored, we are investigating the reinstatement of all pieces.

To give you a bit of the history the original site on Maidscross Hill was chosen for visual purposes and the fact that it was near to the area of the village burial barrow (a mound of earth and stones raised over a grave or graves) many moons ago. The whole village once used to gather at 'Friday Hill' as it was then known as a paganistic place to worship the sun. The area was used particularly to watch the sun rise.

Maidscross Hill as you know is now a Local Nature Reserve, a remnant of Brecks Heathland. Its 50 hectares were opened in July 2004, with the help of lottery and other partnership funding under the management of FHDC.

The forming of the Celtic Cross was a symbolic reference to Celtic history, and followed the Nature Reserve improvements. The siting of the seating with the centre plate, designed by artist and sculptor Anita Rivera, represents the Celtic Cross. The central circle denotes the sun and is inscribed with directional information.

All the plates are showing various signs of wear and tear and will require some refurbishment work before being re-instated.

The Benches on which the plates sat are in disrepair and will only get worse over time if not refurbished.

There are two main options that the Parish Council have to consider for returning the sculpture to its original condition –

- (a) Refurbish and re-instate in its current position on Maidscross Hill or
- (b) Find a new, more central location in Lakenheath for the whole sculpture.

The first option will likely be the least expensive, meet the original aspirations for the chosen location and have existing consent to be sited in the current location.

However, the second option will have greater exposure to the community and be more closely associated with the village. The inscriptions are poems written by village people. But if the sculpture is relocated to Parish Land on completion of the refurbishment work, it will become the future responsibility of the Parish.

A decision has to be made as to which option will be taken. If the first, as it was originally a FHDC project they would be responsible for any remedial and reinstatement work. If the second option is chosen, we need to select an alternative location for the sculpture. This would probably be to land currently owned by the Parish Council such as the Green at Sharpes Corner, behind the War Memorial or by the village sign. It has to be a large area as the radius of the sculpture in its current location is 5 metres. FHDC would have to assess the suitability of the space using appropriate criteria – e.g. Access, juxtaposition to other landscape features, proportionate to the size of the open space, tree cover, prone to vandalism etc. It would have to be borne in mind that if this option is chosen there is a need:

1. To consult all interested parties (particularly anyone who was involved in original project).
2. To consider funding – There is no current budget set aside for the project from either District or Parish. Further research would be required on likely costs and possible funding such as Heritage Lottery, Arts Council, locality budgets or S106 monies.

Any new site will bring the sculpture securely back into the public domain. The whole village can then enjoy the poems written by local authors inscribed within the plates.

I have to remind Councillors that Parish Council will only get involved if the Council resolve to do so. I would suggest that this should include the formation of either:

- a committee with delegated powers or;
- a working group who report back to the full council (who then make the decision relating to the discharge of their functions).

I would also suggest that any working party includes John Smithson as the FHDC representation (he is happy to be a part of the project) 3 Councillors from the Parish and a couple of local residents, both Dave Jones and Jeffrey Flint who initiated the project are happy to join.

For either of these options we have to decide on the action to take. I therefore propose that for the future history of the village that option 2 should be adopted namely bringing the sculpture to an area where more people can enjoy it. Cllr Brown proposed to support the scheme, Cllr Frost seconded.

Cllr Durrant asked where they would be positioned.

Cllr Brown said that for preservation they needed to be positioned at an angle.

The Chairman suggested putting an article in the Lakenheath Times.

Cllr Brown said that she had included detail within her report in this month's Lakenheath Times. FHDC suggested that they will restore them but that they would then become the responsibility of the PC. She added that she was surprised about that many people in the village didn't know about them.

Cllr Gyte suggested contact with authors of the poems.

Cllr Brown said that she had spoken to 3.

Cllr Durrant suggested placing them at the front of the Brendan Fulham Centre.

Cllr Brown said that the Village Hall Committee were keen to have them located on the site but not on the green, as this is to be used as a children's play area. The patio was an option but it would take up the whole area.

Cllr Gyte said that it was not very accessible.

Cllr Durrant said that the green would be perfect.

Cllr Brown said that no funding had been agreed but that FHDC would help to find the funding required.

Cllr Brown proposed locating them somewhere within the Pilgrims Way. Cllr Gyte seconded and all agreed.

Cllr Brown proposed a working group, seconded by Cllr Gyte and all agreed.

Cllr Brown asked who wanted to be part of this group. She added that she was happy to continue with the project, having arranged most of the background work.

Cllr Frost volunteered.

Cllr Gyte said that a Woodlands parishioner had complained about the footpath between Woodlands and Mayfields. Motorbikes are using it along with horse riders, signs had been removed prohibiting their use.

Cllr Durrant said that bollards had been removed for mobility scooter access.

The clerk said that she had noticed poles at each end of the alleyway which looked new.

Cllr Gyte asked the clerk to approach FHDC regarding the posts and signs.

Cllr Brown continued with her FHDC report:

Please can I ask our representative to engage with the Planning department and ensure that WE are included in re-consultations. We again had a situation this week of a case where an applicant amended his plans. The Planning officer sent the items to the adjoining neighbours but not to us. We found out because one of the neighbours contacted me. Our Clerk contacted the relevant officer 26<sup>th</sup> October with a follow up email on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> as the promised information still had not been provided. There was a mention that the next Planning Sub-Committee meeting was on 3<sup>rd</sup> November. A response was finally received 28<sup>th</sup> October. The advice from the planning officer was that the recommendation is now for approval subject to conditions. She continued that the application will be considered at delegation panel on 2nd November. However, given how controversial this application is she expected it to be referred to committee and the PC comments, if submitted on 3rd November could be included for committee consideration. Having received the delegation panel results it was noted that Cllr Noble had requested that the case be set before committee yet the result of the discussion was approval subject to conditions. Our additional comments on the amendments were not received in time. We should have been properly informed of the amendments at the same time as other consultees.

Cllr Brown asked the clerk to contact the District Representative and to send a strong letter to the head of planning asking why the PC had not been consulted on this planning amendment.

The clerk read a letter from Planning Enforcement regarding business use at 70 Woodlands. There seemed to be no breach of planning control and the case was to be closed.

Cllr Gentle said that there was a Chinese Takeaway van stored at the address along with a Citroen van which was used as a Sushi Bar on base. He added that other vehicles were not being repaired, that they sat in the garden with no work carried out on them.

Cllr Gyte said that there was no evidence of a business being run from the address.

Cllr Gentle said that previously a license was required to park commercial vehicles at a residential address.

Cllr Gyte asked if the resident was doing anything illegal.

Cllr Gentle said that it was just the quantity of vehicles and it was not pleasant for neighbours.

Cllr Durant said that he would take a look but it is unlikely that there is any power to pursue.

The clerk said that she had written to Cllr Marston about the commercial ventures in Newmarket and although acknowledged was yet to receive a reply.

***Resolution – Celtic Cross to be located somewhere within the Pilgrims way.***

***Resolution – Celtic Cross Working Group formed and to include Cllrs Brown and Frost.***

***Action Point – Clerk to contact FHDC regarding signs and posts at alleyway between Woodlands and Mayfields.***

***Action Point – Clerk to contact District Representative and to send a strong letter to the head of planning asking why the PC had not been consulted on planning re-consultation.***

#### **(c) Suffolk County Council**

There was nothing.

#### **7. Suffolk County Council – Transport Presentation from Cllr Noble**

The Executive Assistant to the Leader of the Council had emailed to apologise. Unfortunately Cllr Noble could no longer attend as he had been asked to chair a workshop at the County Council Network Conference. He sends his sincere apologies for such late notice but said that he could present at the December meeting.

#### **8. Matters Arising from Minutes not elsewhere on the Agenda**

Cllr Gyte asked if the toilet window had been replaced in the toilets at the children's play area.

The clerk said that she had asked for it to be done but would chase.

Cllr Gyte said that she was dismayed at the state of the toilets, one on the play area and another on Wings Road Car Park. The one at the children's play area had been completely blocked and the one on Wings Road smeared with excrement. She proposed putting an article in the Lakenheath Times. All agreed.

***Resolution – Cllr Gyte to write an article for the Lakenheath Times regarding the state of the toilets.***

#### **9. Planning Matters:-**

**(a) To receive report from Planning Committee**

**(b) To consider any other outstanding applications and matters including Lakenheath Hall**

Cllr Brown gave her report:

**Applications Supported**

1. Tree preservation order for 5 Scots Pines at 37 Eriswell Road, Lakenheath
2. SCC/0220/16 consultation on planning application which will be determined by Suffolk County Council – Lakenheath recycling centre, Brandon Road owned by Elveden Estates. Retrospective permission for the laying of an area of concrete hardstanding associated with the use of the site as a recycling facility.
3. DC/16/2080/TPO - TPO 141 (1970) - Tree Preservation Order - 1no Beech Tree (T1 on plan within area A1 of order) 20% crown reduction, (ii) Crown lift to 6metres and (iii) Crown thin up to 20% - 19 Meadow Drive Lakenheath
4. DC/16/1820/FUL - Change of use of existing Barn/workshop to residential dwelling (C3) Open for Comment Rear Of 29 High Street Lakenheath Suffolk IP27 9JS
5. DC/16/2343/TCA | Trees in a Conservation Area Notification - 1no. Horse Chestnut (T01 on plan) fell | 7 Shakespeare Lodge Back Street Lakenheath Suffolk IP27 9HF. The tree has bleeding Canker. We requested that a suitable replacement be provided as it is in the conservation area.

**Applications not supported:**

1. DC/16/2265/FUL - 8no. dwellings with associated garages, parking and access (demolition of existing dwelling) Pleasant View 27 Eriswell Road Lakenheath IP27 9AF
2. DC/16/1233/FUL – 37 Eriswell Road, Lakenheath 1 no dwelling with detached garage and associated vehicular access. At the beginning of the month we agreed with the tree preservation order already mentioned. Having put this in place the applicant applied to lift and move 4 scots pines to enable a back-land development in his garden to proceed. We objected on the basis of losing the historic lines already prevalent thorough out the Village but more importantly the visual implications for occupiers from Eriswell Drive who would be able to see across to Windmill Close with the trees moved.

**Applications in circulation:**

None.

Now onto the **major developments** – There is again very little to report. We still await the advice of the NPCU as to whether all cases can be called in, and together. In the meantime, there is still no Aecom report as yet so nothing has moved further forward. Suffolk CC are still negotiating prices on land at Station Road North. When this is completed it can then be decided how all the developers can contribute towards the total cost of school provision.

Again, until the Aecom report is to hand there can be no S106 agreement as the two items go hand in hand.

It is hoped that the information will conclude matters sufficiently to bring the cases (the three where there is a resolution to approve) back to committee for December or possibly January. It could include the Pigeon site too as there may have to be a reduction in number of houses dependent on the Aecom advice. The committee have also to be mindful that since the resolution to approve in September 2014 planning concerns have changed and applications for consideration have also changed. Gareth is of the opinion that they will have to be considered under the new guidelines.

As far as the school is concerned -Suffolk CC will be the determining body on the case. West Suffolk will merely be a consultee as will the Parish. Their letter to Concertus of 11 July 2016 (a scoping request) merely informs on the information to accompany any application when submitted, there will be no reply until the application for the school is received.

On the Maids Cross Hill to Broom Road site, there remains one technical matter to be resolved relating to a land owner not wanting to be a part of the agreement. His particular part of the scheme is integral to the access to part of the proposed estate and this needs clarification before bringing that case to committee.

**Sharpes Corner:** Works now seems to be progressing on this site.

**Lakenheath Hall:** Work here too now seems to be progressing albeit slower than I think we would like to see but it is moving in the right direction.

**The Tesco Site:** Nothing further to report at this time.

**Professional fees:** This year to date a total of £16,629.30 has been spent against a budget of £17,117. Full council approval has now to be sought before any further work is instructed as we are so close to budget. All fees are paid to date but we do await a Barristers opinion as to how successful a Judicial Review at this stage would be. There is a Professional Fees Reserve of £6800 but any additional costs in excess of this would have to come out of general reserve. Can I propose approval please of further expenditure which will become likely once the traffic assessment is received from FHDC and the major cases are brought back to committee.

Councillor Gentle seconded. Voting 4 in favour and 1 abstain.

Cllr Durrant said that the right thing to do was to get village opinion as a Judicial Review will be a lot of money.

Cllr Gyte agreed if the Parish Council were to go to Judicial Review.

Cllr Durrant said that £17,000 had already been spent since April.

Cllr Brown said that this included all professional fees including a traffic report.

Cllr Durrant said that he preferred to go back to the village.

Cllr Gyte said that she preferred the decision to be made by a full council.

The chairman said that although a full council may be appropriate, a mandate had been given by the Parish Council. The situation had been put to poll and the village were in favour, he added that the Parish Council had been given a mandate from the village.

**Enforcement:** We are still chasing the enforcement department in relation to the garish sign outside the newly opened Pizza shop opposite the church. For now, the enforcement officer has reported that disappointingly there has been no response from the occupier of the premises, despite reminders. I have spoken to him and made it clear that trading is now in place. The Officer added that their options are limited now to prosecution, which really is a last resort. Before they go down that route the Officer will discuss the matter with the Councils Conservation team to check their view. They promise to keep us updated.

Finally, there is a joint West Suffolk Town and Parish Conference on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November. I will attend on behalf of Lakenheath PC albeit late. Items on the agenda include Affordable Housing, Highways and Economic Development and Growth. First one that I have known of to include both FHDC and St Edmundsbury DC.

Cllr Gentle said that Lakenheath Hall is looking very good and that the owners had spent time reinstating the lawn and have found a natural pond at the rear.

The chairman said that it was looking better than it had for a long time.

***Resolution - Further expenditure agreed for when the major cases are brought back to committee.***

## **10. Lakenheath Cemetery**

### **(a) To receive a Cemetery Report**

Cllr Durrant said that he had visited last week and although the bunkers were still full he understood that they had since been emptied. It was tidy and the trees did not look out of place now the work was completed.

The chairman said that the hedges looked good.

### **(b) To confirm Grant of Exclusive Rights of Burial**

There was one; Peter Empson, 51 Warren Close.

### **(c) Apple Trees – New Cemetery Garden of Rest**

The clerk said that she had received an email regarding the apple trees in the new garden of rest. They are overhanging and fruit is dropping onto the memorials. This issue had been discussed in the past and she asked councillors if she should now approach CGM to remove the trees when the hedges are cut.

Cllr Brown asked if they should be replaced.

The clerk said that it had been suggested not to replace them. The garden of rest could then expand if necessary.

Cllr Durrant said that CGM had been the cheapest to quote for other tree work in the cemetery and proposed that they should be instructed to remove the trees, Cllr Gyte seconded and all agreed.

***Resolution – CGM to be instructed to remove apple trees in new garden of rest.***

### **(d) Old Equipment Held in Storage**

The village keeper had reported having old equipment in storage.

Cllr Durrant said that he would meet with the village keeper and report back to the Parish Council.

***Action Point - Cllr Durrant to meet with the village keeper re old equipment in storage and report back to Council.***

### **(e) Cottage Damp**

The clerk said that there had been a damp problem in the cemetery cottage for a number of years which seemed to be getting worse. She had contacted the Public Health and Housing Officer at West Suffolk who said that he sometimes recommends that landlords contact a damp specialist if there is a severe dampness problem. She added that on investigation she had seen advice to steer away from companies that offer damp solutions as they can advise options just to sell their services. She had approached a company offering an Independent Damp Survey who had replied with a standard fee of £350 inclusive.

Cllr Durrant proposed to proceed with the £350 quotation, seconded by Cllr Frost and all agreed.

***Resolution – To accept quotation of £350 from Healthy Abode to carry out an Independent Damp Survey.***

## **11. Financial Matters including:-**

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

It was proposed to accept expenditure as listed (excluding chq 3650) and all agreed.



Chq No.	Payee	Description of Supply	Amount
D/D + 3631 to 3634	Staff	October Salaries, Income Tax, NI & Pension	£3952.70
3635	Community Action Suffolk	One Suffolk Web Hosting	£60.00
3636	Speedar Ltd	Speed Radar Gun	£1194.00
3637	Bussens & Parkin (2015) Ltd	Mortar Mix & Nuts, Bolts and Washers	£14.21
3638	Central Garage	Mower - Remove Sheared Bolt and Replace	£24.00
3639	Richard Buxton Client Account	Housing Growth Legal Advice	£4380.66
3640	Forest Heath District Council	Annual Playground Audit	£62.50
3641	Roughts Building Services	Churchyard Wall	£5200.00
3642	Sunrise Services (East Anglia) Ltd	Clean Public Conveniences (September & Deep Clean)	£192.00
3643	The RBL Poppy Appeal	Poppy Wreath	£25.00
3644	BT Payment Services	Telephone & Broadband	£57.72
3645	A & J Edwards Cleaning Services	Supply & Fit Chimney Cowl to Cemetery Cottage	£65.00
3646	Memorial Benches UK	HM the Queen's 90 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Commemorative Bench	£374.95
3647	The CGM Group (East Anglia) Ltd	Cemetery (Old Section) Tree Work	£5220.00
3648	County Graphics (Norfolk) Ltd	Lakenheath Times (September Edition)	£400.00
3649	Solutions Cleaning Supplies	Bulk Toilet Tissue Pack	£18.00
3650	Lakenheath Parish Council	Transfer of Funds to Cambridge Building Society	£50000.00

### **(b) Bank Reconciliation**

A bank reconciliation for 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016 was presented. It was proposed to accept and all agreed.

### **(c) Bank Accounts**

The clerk advised that with receipt of the final precept payment, monies should be transferred to an alternative bank for protection under the FCSC Scheme. She had looked into alternative providers and had found that The Cambridge Building Society offer a specialist Easy Access Council Saver.

It was proposed to transfer £50,000 to a new account, having the same signatories as the other savings accounts, Cllrs Gathercole and Lucas. All agreed. Cheque 3650 was duly signed.

***Resolution – Open new Easy Access Council Saver Account with Cambridge Building Society and transfer £50,000.***

### **12. S137 Applications – Including St Marys Church**

The clerk read a grant request from Lakenheath PCC to assist with the cost of the Lakenheath Life Magazine.

It was proposed to fund £180 as in previous years. All agreed

***Resolution – S137 grant of £180 agreed to Lakenheath PCC.***

### **13. Future Grant Funding Requests – Adult Gym Area**

The clerk gave Councillors details of a gym package put together for £9,999 by Play & Leisure to fit with the funding from the Big Lottery Fund.

Cllr Gentle said that Quayside Court had been previously mentioned as a venue.

Cllr Brown suggested making contact with Big Lottery as the Peace Memorial Hall had tried to apply for funding but had been advised grants were dependant on postcode. She added that John Smithson, Parks Operations Manager at FHDC should be contacted re venue.

Cllr Morley asked if an article should be published in the Lakenheath Times.

***Action Point – Clerk to contact Big Lottery regarding funding to postcode.***

**Action Point – Clerk to Contact John Smithson, Parks Operations Manager at FHDC re venue for adult gym area.**

*Cllr Gentle left the meeting.*

#### **14. Remembrance Day Parade**

The clerk advised Councillors of details of the Remembrance Day Parade published in the Lakenheath Times. Inspector Shipton had responded that he is unable to attend as he had already agreed to attend the Newmarket service. He will pass on the information to the local SNT Sergeant and if staffing levels permit, then he may be able to attend in his place. Cllr Gathercole will lay the wreath on behalf of the Parish Council.

#### **15. Speed Indicator Device**

The clerk advised that SCC had authorised three sites for a mobile Speed Indicator Device, Station Road, Undley Road and Eriswell Road. She had contacted Radarlux who were SCC's approved manufacturer. Since the process was started in June they have closed their operation in the UK but will supply direct from the HQ in Germany. There is a question over VAT which is not charged if a VAT number can be given. The PC does not have a VAT number but claims back any VAT paid. The clerk said that she is investigating how to proceed. A quotation of €3224.90 had been received which equates to approximately £2880 and includes VAT of €514.90 (£460). Cllr Noble has committed to match fund, leaving the PC a maximum of £1440 to fund.

Cllr Durrant proposed to proceed with the purchase, seconded by Cllr Frost. All agreed.

**Resolution – Order Radarlux Tempodis 230SI direct from Radarlux in Germany at a maximum cost of £2880 (dependant on euro rate).**

#### **16. Consultations:-**

##### **(a) SALC – Awards (Village of the Year)**

Each councillor had been provided with a copy of the consultation. All 24 questions were discussed and it was proposed to respond accordingly. All agreed.

**Resolution – Response to be given to SALC Awards (Village of the Year) consultation.**

##### **(b) West Suffolk – Sex Establishment Licensing Policy**

Each councillor had been provided with a copy of the consultation. It was proposed to make no comment. All agreed.

**Resolution – No comment to be given in response to the West Suffolk – Sex Establishment Licensing Policy Consultation.**

#### **17. Internal Audit Review**

All councillors were provided with a review of the Internal Audit. It was proposed that the review was sufficient and that no further action was required. All agreed.

**Resolution – Internal Audit Review requires no further action at this time**

#### **18. Risk Assessment Review**

All councillors were provided with a review of the Risk Assessment and Financial Management. It was proposed that the review was sufficient and that no further action was required. All agreed.

## ***Resolution – Risk Assessment Review requires no further action at this time***

Councillor Gyte thanked the clerk for her work on items 17 and 18.

### **19. Parking Enforcement**

Cllr Brown gave her report:

Suffolk Police have indicated they would like to decriminalise parking therefore as a parish we need to start thinking about what this could mean for us. In addition, we need to look at avenues that can assist in overcoming current parking issues which is the item on which I receive the most community complaints. In short, currently parking enforcement should be dealt with by the police but they no longer have the resources. These are diverted to new threats – online scams, people trafficking and other forms of organised crime that there is scant time devoted to parking problems. This is creating a serious concern for residents' safety and their wellbeing as they live out their day to day lives. It is not only the High Street that suffers the obstacles but many of the secondary streets too.

In part the problem has been driven by the rise in car ownership and lack of public transport. This will only increase if forecasts of population and housing growth are realised. It is causing dangerous situations outside schools, I have seen parents dropping or collecting children parked on the double yellow lines and worse still on the corner of Mill Road and Cemetery Road. It is effecting local businesses who cannot receive deliveries and in some cases obstructing residents getting into their own driveways. Worse still parking on the zig zag lines approaching the zebra crossing while the occupants pop into the Post Office or the Co-op.

The Police would like to pass this liability on to either the District or County Council who quite honestly do not wish to tackle the problem. It could end up with Private Contractors who charge the earth to take on the endemic issue. There will be in due course a consultation from the District Council basically asking what involvement do Parishes want in relation to the problem which could become an income stream. Currently, Police penalties go to The Treasury whereas fines raised by the County Council or District Council, if they employ a Traffic Enforcement Officer, would be payable to them direct.

For now, there is no immediate resolution to the Parking problems. I would suggest therefore that we should initially take the friendly approach. Perhaps when we see a car inappropriately parked pop a letter under a window wiper. This should ask drivers to park sensibly and considerately. Cllr Brown gave Councillors a copy of her suggestion.

Cllr Gyte said that when she attended the PCC Forum that the Chief Constable had touched on the subject. He said that Suffolk Constabulary were still responsible but had staff shortages and funds went direct to Government. Suffolk are one of the last County Councils to take on the responsibility and that they would be able to keep the fines.

Cllr Durrant said that the Parish had been offered the opportunity to employ a PCSO.

Cllr Brown said that although the Parish Council would pay, they could be deployed to other areas.

Cllr Gyte said that they would never have been exclusive to Lakenheath.

Cllr Durrant said that with no parking enforcement, offences were seen all over the village.

Cllr Gyte said that the Police need to be told of the problem but they will prioritise.

Cllr Frost said that he had been out on patrol with PCSO Chittock a number of times. He has seen a truck left outside the co-op completely covering the pavement. The driver's excuse was that he was just popping in the shop. He added that he liked the idea that local councils can keep the proceeds.

Cllr Durrant said that he preferred an article in the Lakenheath Times. It was less confrontational and the PC shouldn't take the law into its own hands.

The chairman agreed that the Lakenheath Times should be the first recourse.

Cllr Durrant proposed that the clerk drafts an article to be put in the LT. All agreed.

***Resolution – Clerk to draft an article for the LT re parking.***

## **20. Village Sign**

The clerk said that she had written to the owners of the adjacent property to the village sign regarding boundaries but had not received a reply. She had received an estimate for works from Mr Flack totalling £1100.

Cllr Brown proposed a land registry search to confirm ownership. All agreed.

***Resolution - Land registry search to confirm boundaries of the village sign green.***

## **21. Items for Future Meetings**

- FHDC – Dog Waste Bin –Roebuck Drive
- Village Sign
- Parking Enforcement article
- Old Equipment
- Transport Presentation – Cllr Colin Noble
- Street Lighting / Concrete Columns

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

There was none.

## **23. To note date of next Meeting – Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2016**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:45 pm.