

LAKENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Lakenheath Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 5th March 2018
at the Methodist Church Chapel commencing at 7:00pm

Present

Councillors E Morley (Chairman), P Gyte (Vice-Chair), I Frost, W Newman, J Hastings, C Lucas, T Whitehand, Clare Shimmon (Clerk) and 3 members of the public.

1 Apologies for Absence

Sqdn Ldr Neild and Cllrs Norman, Brown and Gentle.
Members accepted the apologies for absence.

2 Declaration of Interest

Cllr Gyte - Lakenheath Good Neighbours and Lakenheath Consolidated Charities
Cllr Frost - Trustee, Friends of Lakenheath Library.
Cllr Newman - Lakenheath News
Cllr Hastings - Lakenheath Keep Fit & Curling Clubs
Cllr Lucas - Sutton Services Ltd & Lakenheath Playingfield Committee (Elveden Farms)
Cllr Whitehand - Lakenheath Junior Youth Club, Lakenheath Carnival and Lakenheath Playingfield Assoc.

3 Police Matters

There were none.

The Chairman proposed to vary the agenda. All agreed.

6 Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association to include presentation from Bob Gooch

Mr Gooch had agreed to attend after a request was sent to the Parish Council asking for donations to the County Association. He explained that income was needed to keep the Association going. The County Association holds an annual AGM in Woolpit. Although there had been no recent communication to the members, Mr Gooch confirmed that it was down to individuals to reinstate NW locally. Signs could be provided but SCC permission was needed to put up on street furniture, however they can be displayed on private land with no permission required.

4 Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 5th February 2018

After amendment it was proposed and seconded that the Minutes of the Council meeting on 8th February 2018 were signed as an accurate record of the meeting. All agreed.

5 Representations from Members of the Public

A resident raised the issue of the recent press article regarding MP George Freeman and Lakenheath New Town. He said that it was strange for a Norfolk MP to bring this up and although better placed for infrastructure it seemed that he didn't want it on his own doorstep in Wymondham. He was disappointed that local Councillors jumped on the band wagon when they should be supporting their own parishioners. Stating that access would be available to jobs in Cambridge, isn't there already thousands of homes in Cambridge with more local residents wanting work there. The resident went on to congratulate Cllr Brown on her planning work.

A resident complained about potholes around the village and illegal parking on the zig-zag lines in the High Street. He said it wouldn't be long before an accident occurred due to the parking and that there was no police presence. Although residents keep paying for a police service the PCSO has gone and no attempt is made to improve the safety of parishioners. He asked if the Speedwatch volunteers could do anything about the illegal parking.

7 Reports & Questions-
(a) RAF Commander Lakenheath

There were none.

(b) Forest Heath District Council

The issue of worsening dog fouling around the village was discussed.

Prices are to be obtained for additional signage and to write an article for the Lakenheath Times asking dog owners to be more responsible and advising residents how to report dog fouling to the local authority, who have the power to prosecute.

(c) Suffolk County Council to include Street Lighting in Avenue Road

A complaint had been received from a resident in Avenue Road regarding street lighting shining directly into their bedrooms. SCC had been contacted to ask if anything could be done but unfortunately not all questions had been answered. It was felt that turning lights off would be dangerous and that one of the units in question was originally put in to stop youths hanging around the footpath area. The footpath already has a big problem with dog fouling which could be made worse. It was agreed to discuss again next month when all facts are available.

The Rural Parish Alliance have made contact with SCC regarding the terrible state of the highways. It was agreed that the potholes in the village are getting worse along with white lines disappearing at junctions, making it dangerous for motorists. Cllr Gyte proposed and Cllr Frost seconded joining the RPA in their campaign to improve the roads by writing to the CEO of SCC. All agreed. Cllr Frost agreed to take the issue up at the next County Council meeting.

8 Planning Matters:-

(a) To receive report from Planning Committee

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

Representations made in support by the planning sub-committee:

1. DC/18/0326/HH - Householder Planning Application - Single story side and rear extension (following demolition of existing rear extension) - 3 Highfields Lakenheath
2. DC/17/2454/FUL – Planning application – 2 no. dwellings land to rear of 41 and 43 Mill Road – A re-consultation following the planning officer’s request that the roof line be lowered on the dwelling closest to Mill Road so as to reduce overlooking adjoining property. Certain points were conceded such as making up the access road as third party owned.

Representations made to object by the planning sub-committee:

1. DC/18/2046/FUL - Planning Application - New access road for proposed Primary School - Land off Station Road Station Road Lakenheath IP27 9JL for various reasons the first being that it is premature bearing in mind that there is not yet consent for the school. As a standalone application insufficient information provided. Concern is if the major cases are not eventually granted permission and the road way is provided, it will look very strange in the context of agricultural fields.

Enforcement

The enforcement team have been advised that an illuminated sign has appeared outside the new takeaway at 62 High Street without consent as it is in the conservation area. Enforcement are also urgently requested to act in relation to the inappropriate signage at 74 High Street, the takeaway opposite the Church as this has now been ongoing for nearly 2 years.

Major developments

Formal approval notices are still awaited where the Planners are mindful of granting consent. The Parish Council have now received a very well written report from an acoustics specialist which was forwarded to the local planning authority on 14th February. Planners have responded that the District Council is in the process of consulting on the document with the applicants, the DIO and internal partners and will respond in due course. Via Solicitors, questions have been raised as it is not evident what is meant in terms of ‘consulting’. Is it a formal consultation with the relevant listed parties, or an informal consultation?

How long will the consultation period be? Timescales and procedure information would be useful to gauge how seriously they are now taking this latest representation and evidence from the Parish Council. Time will tell.

Tesco Site

No further news at present merely awaiting a new planning application. In the meantime, the owner continues to tidy the site. Several complaints were received in the early days of mud on the road but after contacting the owner the situation did improve when he employed a road sweeper at the end of each working day.

Lakenheath Hall

The first house is now on the market.

Single Issue Review

As you read in the Bury Free Press the District Council have now agreed to a redistribution of housing needs across the district, following concerns by the Planning Inspectors to what they considered was an unsound local plan. The result is an extra 450 dwellings earmarked for Newmarket, where there should be growth, resulting in 165 less for Lakenheath and 50 less for Red Lodge. This should now trigger a further consultation period but in the meantime leave the district without a local plan potentially allowing for further speculative applications by developers. For Lakenheath it is a step in the right direction but not enough to create a sustainable development.

Proposed new primary school earmarked for Station Road

Following the pre-application consultation, the full planning application is awaited. If Suffolk County Council want this built by September 2019 it will be provided shortly.

UK Power Networks

The Parish Council have been advised that there will be a new cable installed running from Burwell to RAF Lakenheath near to Gate 1. The overall route will run from a grid at Burwell through Fordham, Freckenham, Worlington and Mildenhall to allow the establishment of a new primary substation on the A1065. This will facilitate the electrical power to serve the new infrastructure currently in the process of development on the Base. UK Power Networks are now developing a program with Suffolk County Council Highways to commence the cable laying in June 2018 for completion by December 2019. Somewhere within this timescale the A1065 will be affected. The Parish Council will be informed nearer the time of the intended works. Lakenheath itself should not be affected by the work but there will always be those wanting to avoid possible traffic lights therefore higher levels of traffic will be experienced when the time arrives.

9 Lakenheath Cemetery

(a) To receive a Cemetery Report

It was confirmed that the cemetery was looking good with only the odd Christmas decoration remaining. It was also pleasing to see that the memorials in the Garden of Rest were also settling after the removal of several trees.

(b) To Confirm Grant of Exclusive Right of Burial

There were none.

(c) Noticeboard

Quotes had been received from Harry Stebbing Workshop for a noticeboard to match the newer ones in the village. A drop down door holding 10 A4 sheets = £1001.50 & a side opening door holding 12 A4 sheets = £1071.50, both hand carved with Lakenheath.

Cllr Whitehand proposed purchasing the side hinged door and was seconded by Cllr Lucas. All agreed.

10 Financial Matters including:-

(a) Payments of Accounts

It was proposed and seconded to authorise the signing of cheques for payments previously agreed. All agreed.

Cheque	Payee	Description of supply	Amount
D/D + 3861 to 3864	Staff	February Salaries, Income Tax, NI & Pension	£3,913.91
3865	Suffolk Association of Local Councils	Planning Publications	£32.50
3866	Bussens & Parkin (2015) Ltd	Toilet Seat (cemetery) & Paint (play area)	£78.56
3867	Eaton & Associates Ltd	Planning Services	£397.00
3868	BT Payment Services	Parish Office Broadband & Telephone	£69.12
3869	Clarke Saunders Associates	Planning Services	£2,190.00
3870	Suffolk Accident Rescue Service	S137 Grant	£250.00
3871	Information Commissioner	Data Protection Registration	£35.00
3872	Lakenheath Playingfields Association	SALC Area Meeting - Pavilion Hire	£60.00
3873	Suffolk County Council	Annual Street Lighting - Maintenance & Energy	£17,041.55
3874	Sunrise Services (East Anglia) Ltd	Cleaning Public Toilets - December 2017	£216.00
3875	Lakenheath Methodist Church	Annual Donation (£30 x 13 Meetings)	£390.00

(b) Bank Reconciliation

A bank reconciliation for 31st January 2018 was presented. It was proposed and seconded to accept. All agreed.

(c) Appointment of Internal Auditor

It was proposed to instruct Steve Hills as in previous years. All agreed.

(d) Pension Contributions

Minimum contributions to a stakeholder pension are to rise to 5% from 6th April 2018. Cllr Lucas proposed and Cllr Frost seconded the Parish Council continues to pay the minimum which will increase to 2%. All agreed.

11 Co-option

Three applications had been received for consideration. Cllr Lucas proposed and Cllr Frost seconded deferring consideration until April's meeting as some households had yet to receive their copy of the Lakenheath Times. All agreed.

12 Response to Mid Norfolk MP George Freeman - Lakenheath New Town

Councillors were appalled by the comments made by George Freeman MP calling for Lakenheath to be a new town and felt them to be offensive, rude, highhanded, arrogant and overall inaccurate. Cllr Lucas and Cllr Frost proposed writing to Mr Freeman pointing out the inaccuracies and asking for an explanation, to be copied to Matthew Hancock MP, County Councillor Colin Noble, and the local press. All agreed.

13 General Data Protection Regulation

Further information relating to the GDPR had been released from the National Association of Local Councils and it was agreed the clerk would report back at April's meeting.

14 Village Centenarians

There was lengthy discussion as to how the Parish Council could, in line with the celebrations for the end of WWI, help commemorate village centenarians.

Cllr Whitehand proposed and Cllr Gyte seconded after speaking with the family, to present the resident celebrating their 100th birthday in March with a card and gifts totalling £50.

It was also agreed to publish an article in the LT asking for friends and family to advise the Parish Council of any upcoming centenarians, so that all future village centenarians can be similarly congratulated.

15 Village Spring Clean

Cllr Frost will organise a Village Litter Pick for either the 14th or 21st of April. Volunteers will meet at 10am outside the Abundant Life Church on Back Street and areas of the village will be cleared depending on numbers.

Cllr Frost proposed and Cllr Gyte seconded publishing an article to the LT asking for volunteers and to invite along the Scouts, Beavers, Brownies, Nurseries and the School. All agreed.

16	<p>Speed Indicator Device (SID) A quotation of £3,050 had been received from Westcotec for a second SID matching the existing unit. Cllr Noble had agreed to assist with funding but no amount had been finalised. It was agreed to postpone the decision until April when exact figures were known.</p>
17	<p>St Mary's Churchyard The PCC in conjunction with Suffolk Wildlife Trust had presented proposals to change maintenance in the churchyard to encourage wildlife. It was proposed and seconded to adopt the proposals. All agreed.</p>
18	<p>Play Area and Skate Park/MUGA Inspections West Suffolk currently carry out both the monthly and annual inspections of the Children's Play Area, Skate Park and MUGA. Their quotation for the year ahead is £25 for the monthly inspections and £52.08 for the annual inspections, for each of the two areas. Cllr Gyte proposed and Cllr Lucas seconded instructing West Suffolk to continue with the inspections. All agreed.</p>
19	<p>Consultation – Suffolk Highways Community Self Help All questions were discussed and responses proposed and seconded. All agreed.</p>
20	<p>Battle's Over – A Nation's Tribute 11th November 2018 Cllr Gyte confirmed that she was meeting with the Primary School Head-teacher on Wednesday 14th March to discuss the activities planned for Remembrance Day 2018. The Playingfield Association are also to be approached about erecting a Beacon to be used for this and future events of this type.</p>
21	<p>Items for Future Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press Officer • General Data Protection Regulation • SID • Co-option • Neighbourhood Watch • Dog Fouling Campaign • Highway White Lines in High Street • Village Spring Clean • Street Lighting in Avenue Road • Emergency Planning Update • UK Power Networks
22	<p>Such other business which, in the opinion of the Chairman, should be considered as a matter of urgency It was reported that UK Power Networks were investigating issues with power cuts in the north of Lakenheath and would reply as soon as possible.</p>
23	<p>To note date of next Meeting – Monday 9th April 2018 <i>Members of the public were asked to leave the meeting.</i></p>
24	<p>Village Keeper* Twenty five applications have been received for the role of Village Keeper. The cemetery sub-committee have met and selected six applicants to interview on Thursday 22nd March 2018. There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:00pm.</p>

