

LAKENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Lakenheath Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 6th September 2021.
Held at Lakenheath Methodist Chapel commencing at 7:00pm

Present

Councillors: E Morley (Chairman), R Norman, J Cahill, I Frost, J Gentle, A Gyte, P Gyte, J Hastings, G Kelly, W Overy, S Palmer, M Flint (Clerk) Cllr C Noble (West Suffolk) 1 member of the public

1 Apologies for Absence

Cllr S Frost (District) Squadron Leader: Stew Geary . Apologies accepted by all.

2 Declarations of Interest

Cllr: A Gyte-Lakenheath Football Club

Cllr: P Gyte- Lakenheath Good Neighbours

Cllr: J Hastings-Lakenheath Keep Fit, Curling Club

Cllr: Overy- Keith Overy Commercials, Tina's Country Kitchen, Fenland Flowers

Cllr: Norman. Village Hall and Goward Evans Charity

Cllr: I Frost. Friends of Lakenheath Library

3 Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on July 2nd August 2021

It was proposed and seconded that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 2nd August 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 two youth kicking a hedgehog on North Road. Police are looking for the boys to interview re incident. The hedgehog was rescued and is now recovering, police have yet to make arrests.

Another dog attack in village GSD attacked woman's two dogs whilst she was walking with her toddler son. The police have interviewed the owner.

A woman under the influence of Drink and Drugs has been jailed for 10 months after she led police on an 8 mile pursuit between Lakenheath and Mildenhall 25th July 2020.

Police investigations into a serious road traffic collision near Lakenheath are continuing. It happened at about 1.10pm on Sunday 29 August and involved a single vehicle at Burnt Fen on the A1101. The male driver of the Porche Boxster was in his 60s and has sadly passed away. The road was closed while initial investigations into the circumstances got underway. It re-opened about 24 hours later following repairs to the carriageway. There have been 4 fatal crashes near RAF bases since 2007 caused by American personnel driving on the wrong side of the road resulting in the death of 5 people. It has been reported American Airmen Julious Hawkins, John Biram, and Hunter Davis and two British Citizens David Rolfe and Harry Dunn have lost their lives in road traffic accidents and this has resulted in the County coroner writing to US air force chiefs warning them to learn lessons.

There was a burglary on the 31st August in the Avenue, an IMAC, iPad , Purse and Cash was stolen this happened between 6.15-6.45am

Cllr: S Palmer reported that there was a break in at the property that he previously owned , the police attended and fingerprints were identified and the culprits were on day release from prison.

a)RAF Commander Lakenheath-

Nothing to report

(b) West Suffolk District Council

See below

c) Suffolk County Council

Cllr: C Noble confirmed that as he was also a district Councillor so he could report on both. Local plan is going through the process and please feel free to look at that and comment if you want to feed into the process. Lots of signage and wastage left on the side of the roads from contractors and we are asking them to clean up their act. It's not only on sides of road there is also rubble left by the road sign at Springfield Drive. If you see this on the side of the road and do nothing about it, it's like you are giving people permission to add more. Councillor: Noble will follow up on this

Looking at the budget setting process, budgets look terrible. Covid has wiped out most of the cash. District is looking slightly better, County has to spend a huge amount on Social Care and dealing with things. Cuts to public spending are coming as there are no other ways to manage the budget.

Remembrance Sunday, there will be a shorter march. If you need any help with road closures. Clerk reported that this was already in hand and the road closure had been agreed by West Suffolk.

Cllr: Norman related his question to the A1101 there has been a fatality on the road last week and the accident happened where the road is very badly repaired, he had attended the scene shortly after the accident happened and it is his opinion that the vehicle left the road after hitting the dip, took off and landed upside down in a ditch. Cllr: Norman had reported this road for the first time in 2017 and was told that A roads are a priority with almost immediate action. He then reported the same road again in 2020 and again April 2021 and May 2021 and I asked you for an update as to why the road from Eriswell and Beck Row was prioritized before the A1101. Cllr Noble reported that the particular stretch of Eriswell was certainly the worse in the West of Suffolk for a long time with more accidents. Cllr Norman pushed further by reminding Cllr: Noble that he had agreed to get back to the Parish Council with a response and he hadn't. Cllr Norman Commented that if that road had been repaired then the person who sadly died last week would likely still have been alive. Cllr: Noble reported that the stretch of road has been repaired several times but keeps opening up due to it being a fen road. Cllr Noble reported that the budget for Highways being only 30million a year compared with adult social care which is 300 million a year and all roads could do with more money spent on them. There is only so much money to go around.

Cllr: Overy said that she was very concerned about the Farthing Drove as the road is breaking up, there are no white lines, when she last emailed Cllr: Noble he responded that the white lines could not be painted because of the frost and now that we are almost in Autumn the lines have still not been painted. Cllr: Noble said he had twice emailed Highways to follow up on this matter. He has not had a response and he does not understand why it hasn't been done but he will follow up. Cllr: Norman asked Cllr: Noble to use his influence to get the road repaired, Cllr: Noble all that he can do is try to keep on top of it.

Cllr C Noble left the meeting 7.16pm

6 Financial Matters including: -

- (a) Payments of Accounts for August : It was proposed that these were signed off as a true record of payments, this was seconded and all agreed
- (b) Bank Reconciliation for July: 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.

7 Lakenheath Cemetery

(a) To receive a Cemetery Report

Cllr: Hastings reported

The flower beds at the moment look a little dull but this is probably due to the lack of sunshine and autumn approaching. It is understood Cllr Cahill is looking at planting bulbs for next spring so this will make a welcome sight in spring.

8	<p>The railings and gates are still waiting to be painted but it is understood this is will happen very soon. Most of the cemetery benches look ok but the one near the bird bath is still in a rubbed down condition and needs painting</p> <p>Sunken graves now appear to be holding steady. However having had a number of funerals lately there seems to be a variation as to how the graves are filled and the depth depending on the funeral company and grave diggers used. One in particular in the newest part of the cemetery front row nearest to the roadway is 12 inches higher than most others and doesn't appear to be settling at all.All grass areas had recently been cut and look neat and tidy.</p> <p>The toilets look good and were equipped with soap/paper etc.The chapel needs cleaning Cllr: Hastings will clean this week well as applying another coat of polish to the floor.A reminder please to the Village Keeper to ensure the Chapel door is open daily and the sign placed outside it to allow a good flow of air and allow visitors to browse and sit if required. If this is not done,come the winter there will be condensation issues.Notcieboard are all good and relevant. There are currently no moles in the cemetery and the deer seem to have moved on for a while so flowers are in tact.</p> <p>Cllr: Cahill reported that she spent 8 hours planting bulbs and winter flowering plants the past weekend. Clerk reported that she has asked the village keeper to open the chapel daily and that there is now a sign stating the opening times, if the weather is bad the chapel will still be opened but the door will remain closed to protect the floor. The village keeper has been tasked with watering the newly planted area twice a week and also deadheading once a week . In regards to the raised grave the keeper is aware and will lower the soil this week. The railings were started this week. The bench is being saved for a raining day.</p> <p>(b) To confirm Exculsive Right of Burial.</p> <p>There were two this month.</p> <p>(c)Security at the Cemetery</p> <p>Clerk reported that since the dog left the cemetery the Keeper has reported possible intruders in the cemetery grounds and asked if the Council would consider the return of the dog. It was explained to the Keeper by the Chairman that due to Parish the Standing Orders once a item has been voted on it cannot be brought back to the table for 6 months. The Clerk has instructed the keeper to lock the gates at 7pm using a chain and padlock and he has now been doing this but reported another intruder this week. The Clerk has discussed various options with the Keeper, camera's and also security lighting. Village Keeper metioned that he felt that camera's would interfere with his privacy but he was happy to accept a security light system. It was voted that the Clerk would engage a company to quote for security camera's and security lights. Cllr: Kelly will offer a contact that he has used before to do the survey. This was voted 9-1 and was carried.</p> <p>Planning Matters: - To receive report from Planning Committee</p> <p>Cllr: Kelly reported that Planning applications were very quiet in August. Land West of Eriswell Road the PC have until Friday to put in a response, unfortunately the plans are to be changed again so the response will be that The PCPSC are not currently in a position to respond as they are aware that changes will be made to the application. Perissimon have asked to talk to the Parish Council and a meeting will be arranged.In regards to the plans for Eriswell Road at least 30% is prone to flooding.</p> <p>The Neighbour Plan design scope has started and we should have a draft back mid to late of this month. There is a meeting arranged with West Suffolk to talk about their Local Plan as any Neighbourhood Plan has to fit with the Local Plan. Cllr: Norman mentioned that he had noticed that none of the new houses will have solar panels and yet we as a country are moving away form fossil fuel and going electric. In future meetings will the LPCPSC need to look at projects that individual leads have been doing for instance Cllr: Gyte has been looking at the possibility of an adult Gym in the village. The cost will be approximately 15k for the equipment and the Planning Sub-Committee are currently looking at grants for at least part of the cost.</p>
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<p>9</p> <p>10</p> <p>11</p> <p>12</p> <p>13</p>	<p>St Mary's Church request for formal adoption of the disused churchyard</p> <p>Following on from last months meeting the Parish Council have agreed after much debate to agreed to the adoption of St Mary's Churchyard and the Clerk was instructed to inform Rev'd Tams of the decision.</p> <p>Professional Emails for Councillors</p> <p>Cllr: Overy ask the council to consider professional emails for all Councillors, it was decided that this would be a good idea and would promote a more professional image to the public. The Clerk was instructed to contact SALC to find out how other Parish/ Town Councils manage their emails and the cost. Cllr: Kelly also pointed out that we now have Lakenheath.org and that this may be a cost affective way of setting up the emails. This was proposed and seconded and agreed by all</p> <p>Queens Platinum Jubilee and Plant a Tree</p> <p>Cllr: Cahill handed round some information with regards to the Plant a Tree Scheme .The options were discussed and various sites discussed.It was suggest that this was re-tabled for December, when a definite plan was in place. This was proposed Seconded and votes all agreed.</p> <p>Quotes for the Play Park toilets redecoration</p> <p>Votes were taken for all three quotes and the successful quote was for Richard Dyer Decorators . This was agreed by all.</p> <p>SID's Request for renewal of equipment.</p> <p>Clerk reported that a parishioner had asked for consideration for the replacement of the SID's to more up to date equipment. Clerk reported that she had further correspondence from Neil Brook after the July meeting and he asked me to add the following to his original proposal as follows:</p> <p>The indicated cost from the manufacturer is £1900 - £2000 per device, as advised at the meeting. At the meeting I proposed 2 replacement devices and 1 new device for residential areas. However, on reflection my proposal is now: 2 new replacement devices (for use at the three main monitoring sites). Instead of a third new device I propose that one or both of the current SID's be used for locations on residential areas.</p> <p>Clerk explained that this year's budget allowed for £12,000 for village facilities, in the first 5 months of the PC have spent £3,516.00 in total last year £11,536 was spent so the budget is very tight for any extra's. The type of spend that comes under this umbrella is upkeep of village facilitates or other area's owned by PC Electricity for the village toilets, hire of meeting rooms, rent for the office space etc. This may be something to budget for next year alternatively the PC can vote to allow revision of this years budget. The plan currently is to spend £173k throughout the year and last years precept was £151k so the general reserves are already down from last year. The Clerk will be looking at the budget for next year during this month but believe that the council may not be able to maintain the 0% increase that the village has enjoyed for the last 3 years. Particularly as with the increase of squadrons due in the next few months there will be less households paying into the pot.</p> <p>Cllr: Kelly ask for the record to reflect that the Essex Police and Others provide funding to villages for SID's at their expense.Suffolk charge and he does not understand why. Cllr: Kelly also informed the meeting that Cllr: P Gyte has been working with Suffolk CC to bring together a plan of speed reducing in the village and he suggested that although the Council are not adverse to updating the equipment that it would make more sense to renew the equipment when the whole plan was in place. It was proposed and seconded and all agreed that the Clerk would write to parishoner and explain that we will not be renewing the equipment in the financial year but that the PC will be looking at renewal in the foreseeable future when the rest of the plan is in place for permanent traffic calming measures . This was agreed by all.</p>
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14	<p>Community First Responder S.137 Grant request</p> <p>After consideration the Council voted not to offer a grant to the Community First Responder Scheme. This was due to the benefit to the local community being limited. As we already have 4 defibrillators in the village. This was proposed and seconded and voted. The vote was carried 5-4</p>														
15	<p>Emergency Planning Update</p> <p>Cllr: Hastings reported that since the Emergency Action Plan was discussed last discussed the Emergency Plan for Lakenheath we have updated the information on notice boards and in the Lakenheath Times to include the names of the new Councillors on the group.</p> <p>For information They are as follows:</p> <table> <tr> <th>Councillors</th><th>Residents</th></tr> <tr> <td>Jenny Hastings</td><td>Julie Smith</td></tr> <tr> <td>Peta Gyte</td><td>Val and Eric Little</td></tr> <tr> <td>Alan Gyte</td><td>Marion and Phil</td></tr> <tr> <td>Judy Cahill</td><td>Val Francis</td></tr> <tr> <td>Gerald Kelly</td><td>Michael Murfet</td></tr> <tr> <td>Stephen Palmer</td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>Cllr: Hastings has been in regular contact with Vince Williams the Emergency Planning Officer for Suffolk as he tries to encourage all villages and towns to have their own personalised Emergency Plan and is happy to report that Lakenheath is still in the top 4 villages who have complied with this and keep him regularly updated. In February, a small group of the Emergency Planning Volunteers met by zoom and it was from this meeting that the need to increase the number of volunteers was identified. It has been quite a challenge to maintain the group and motivating them as the call on the service is far and few and though the Emergency Action Plan Group did assist during the height of the pandemic there were not any major incidents. With this in mind a meeting will be called sometime in October to update our equipment and procedures and prepare for what is hoped will be a mild winter. After discussion with the Hall Bookings team it has been decided to move the Emergency Planning meeting point from the Community Centre to the Peace Memorial Hall with immediate effect. All of the equipment is now based there in a marked cupboard. There are three members of the group that have keys to the memorial hall that can be called on to open up during an emergency should the need arise.</p> <p>Cllr: Hastings will report back to the Parish Council after the October meeting.</p>	Councillors	Residents	Jenny Hastings	Julie Smith	Peta Gyte	Val and Eric Little	Alan Gyte	Marion and Phil	Judy Cahill	Val Francis	Gerald Kelly	Michael Murfet	Stephen Palmer	
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16	<p>Lakenheath Heritage Group Continuing support</p> <p>Clerk informed the Council of the Heritage Groups request to place a panel on the land near the village sign the Council were happy to confirm their support for this placement.</p>														
17	<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 item on the agenda.</p> <p><i>One member of the public left the meeting</i></p>														
18	<p>Applications for Part Time Clerk/ Interview Panel</p> <p>Clerk updated that one applicant had withdrawn their application and there were now just two applicants. The panel would consist of Cllr: Morley, Cllr: Norman, Cllr: Cahill, and Cllr: Hastings. The interviews will take place on Monday 20th September starting at 10am and the Clerk will book a room in the Methodist Chapel.</p>														

19	<p>Items for Future meetings. Professional emails for Councillors update from Clerk Queens Platinum Jubilee and Plant a Tree, (December)</p>
20	<p>Such other business which, in the opinion of the Chairman, should be considered as a matter of urgency.</p> <p>Red diesel Clerk has been in touch with 3 companies and the cheapest price found on Thursday was £624.75 inclusive of VAT with Watsons. Although an account will be set up the first payment will have to be made by credit card/ Debit card have been told that I will need to pay by debit/ credit card as this falls into the Clerk remit she asked the PC permission to claim her reimbursements as soon as possible after the payment was made rather than wait until the end of the month. This was agreed by all.</p> <p>Wood Chippings for the play park Having received the latest report for the play park the chippings are not deep enough to conform with H&S and 20 cubic metres chippings are needed the cost of these from Suffolk Woodchip will be £620 plus delivery. The Council voted to order the chipping and instructed the Clerk to do so.</p>
21	<p>To note date of next Meetings - Monday 6th September 2021</p> <p>There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.48pm</p> <p>Sign Date</p> <p>CHAIRMAN</p> <p>Signed as confirmation that they are a true record.</p>