

Lakenheath recorders Diary for 2021

It's a new year and we're back in lockdown. Even in dark times such as these, the countryside can lift our spirits. As a village many more are walking daily thankful that we live in a rural setting with plenty of green spaces around us to walk and try to connect with nature. We are certainly as a community more aware of the benefits of countryside living. We all appreciate nature's small joys, wherever you can find them, it certainly can lift your spirits at times like these.

January 2021.

The mini-Juniors section at Lakenheath Bowls club recently doubled in size to four. Pictured are front row Alfia and 'Saxon Palmer while at the back is Layla Palmer and Elliott Parsfield , the youngest member aged only 6.



1.1.2021

The Scout leader provided the community with an update following the arson attack to the Mutford Green Phone Box. The box on high street has now been cleared and new books/DVD's added. The box at Mutford Green is waiting for shelving but in the meantime, The Scouts have put a box of books and DVD's on the floor.

4.1.2021

The Lakenheath post mistress has shown that she can rock with the best of them after her band released their debut album. Lisa Skinner, lead singer with melodic power metal outfit Sorceress of Sin, has run the Lakenheath High Street Post office for seven years and said the release of Mirrored Revenge was a bit of a surprise to some of her customers.

She said: "Some only know me for singing opera around here for a lot of charity events, so they had no idea I do this. "They were a bit shocked but have also been so supportive in buying copies, though

I have had to tell a few to be careful of their ears. Some in the village, who I had no idea were into this type of music, have also contacted us out of the blue to say they really liked it.”

Having sung and played in cover bands previously Lisa and her husband Paul, who is the drummer and helps in the post office, had wanted to start a band for a while. This has taken many Zoom chats, said Lisa, and recorded their own parts before bringing it all together.

The 10-track piece has already been praised in Italian, Belgium and Portuguese metal magazines as well as selling copies as far away as Australia. Lisa said: “We, as a band, are so grateful and amazed by the response so far, with those magazines even asking us when we would be coming over to play.

“It has been quite sweet that the album has gone out that far, from a little village like this. We really could not have done it though without so many supportive people here who it is impossible to thank enough and as much as we would like.”



Boris Johnson announced new lockdown conditions to take effect from Midnight 5th January till the 15th February 2021.

West Suffolk Hospital today launched their staff COVID-19 vaccination program. However, they still warned that although the vaccinations are a great symbol of hope, they still need our community to help them prevent the spread of coronavirus by following the latest guidance.

At a Parish Council meeting it was reported that

1. the Amazon Locker placed without consent on the pavement outside Co-Op premises is being dealt with by West Suffolk Enforcement. It is agreed by all that the placing of the box is inappropriate.
2. The Lakenheath Heritage group reported to the Parish Council that they were pursuing the installation of Interpretive panels at strategic places around the village. The first due in

March. The panel will include limited information but there will be a QR Facility providing a link to further information on the internet.

3. Commander Turnbull (RAF Lakenheath reported that the Covid vaccination programme is being rolled out at RAF Lakenheath. He also advised that the plans for the arrival of the F35's is moving swiftly with the first jets due in November. The US are investing \$2.8 billion on infrastructure across RAF Lakenheath and RAF Mildenhall in the next 15 years.
4. Lakenheath Playing fields had applied for a grant towards running costs. Following discussion it was agreed to award £1000.

5 January 2021

New lockdowns begin in England and Scotland as both nations face increased restrictions to help control the spread of COVID-19. This decision follows a rapid rise in infections, hospital admissions and case rates across the country. Deaths are lower than have been as the medical professionals keep learning how to treat patients with a need.

As of today, you should only leave your home for the following reasons:

1. To shop for basic necessities, for you or a vulnerable person;
2. Go to work, or provide voluntary or charitable services, if you cannot reasonably do so from home;
3. Exercise with your household (or support bubble) or one other person, this should be limited to once per day, and you should not travel outside your local area;
4. Meet your support bubble or childcare bubble where necessary, but only if you are legally permitted to form one;
5. Attend education or childcare - for those eligible; and/or
6. Seek medical assistance or avoid injury, illness or risk of harm (including domestic abuse).

All primary schools, secondary schools and colleges have now moved to remote learning, except for the children of key workers and vulnerable children.

08.01.21

Confirmed Covid positive cases for Lakenheath for the week ended 8 January is 22. Up 2 from last week.

11.1.21

It was announced that the Covid 19 vaccination programme will begin on Friday 15th January at the Jubilee Centre in Mildenhall. Surgeries are in the process of contacting eligible patients by telephone with details of their appointment according to the strict criteria set out in the national guidance. THEY HAVE REQUESTED THAT PATIENTS DO NOT RING THE SURGERY OR THE JUBILEE CENTRE ENQUIRING ABOUT A COVID VACCINATION - THEY WILL CONTACT YOU WHEN IT IS YOUR TURN THEY SAY.

14.1.21

The surgery confirmed that the first Pfizer coronavirus vaccine clinic will be taking place starting early tomorrow (Friday) morning at the Jubilee Centre, Mildenhall. All appointments for this clinic have been filled with eligible patients who have already been telephoned with their appointment details.

15.1.21

Lakenheath Community Primary School can't say thank you enough to CJs Sandwich Bar, Tony Parr, Greenheath and Steve Henery for significant donations to the school for IT equipment to help children access their remote learning. This should help with the aim to create equal opportunities for all our pupils, regardless of economic background. This is to assist pupils with their home learning now that schools are closed except for key workers children.



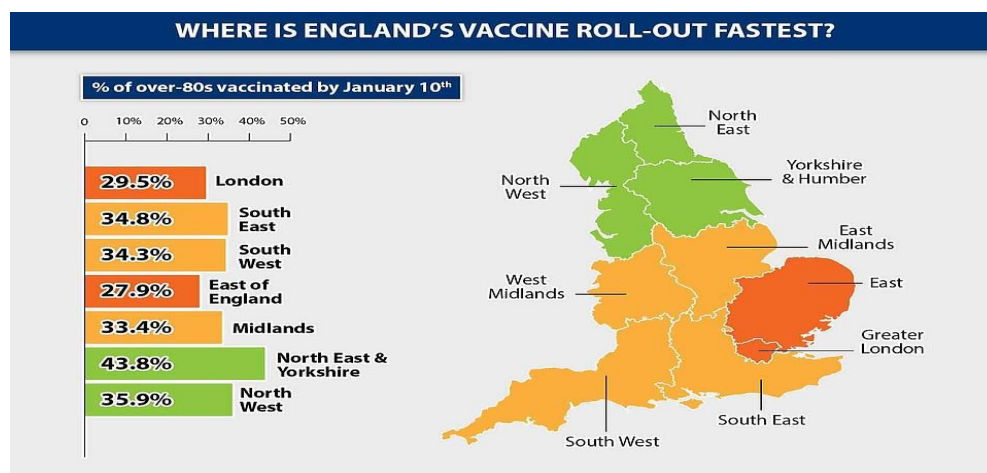
15.1.21

The Jubilee Centre in Mildenhall is the medical hub to be used for the Covid vaccine covering the area Newmarket to Brandon to Mildenhall and all Villages in between. First vaccines were given today. The centre will be operating on a 12-hour day. The designated first date for Lakenheath over 90's and vulnerable over 80's is Wednesday the 20th January. A nurse from Lakenheath surgery will be administering the vaccines.

Confirmed Lakenheath Covid positive cases for week ended 15 January is 12. Down 10 from last week.

16.1.21

Official data provided to the public to show where the vaccine roll out is occurring.



17.1.21

Lakenheath Beavers announced the Book Swap outside the library in the High Street that the door was very stiff to open if left to 'slam' shut. They have taken a bit off the door and added a new handle which makes it easier to open.

In addition, The Mutford Green phone box following the arson attack last year has now been re shelved, and proves far more user friendly. The Beavers thanked the Parish Council for their funding and support to complete this project.

It has been re stocked with a great selection of children's and adult books as well as DVD's. Enid Blyton, Wilbur Smith, Cecelia Ahern and many more.

A request was made to only take 1 or 2 DVDs at a time and return when finished. This was because the Beavers had put a whole box in there which was taken (including the box)!



Box outside the Library.

Box refurbished near Mutford Green.

7 local families received a hamper this weekend. Sunday Suppers will be doing these again over the coming weekends until schools re-open and lockdown ends. They asked the community If you would like to receive one or can donate towards them to please contact Wendy Clare Barnes.



19.1.21

More hampers delivered today to those in need in the Village.



22.1.21

Covid positive results for Lakenheath week ending 22.1.21 were 8, down 4 from last week.

23.1.21

Scouts have today re designed the book exchange telephone box outside the library to make it far more user friendly. This was because it is such a popular asset to the village and well supported.



27.1.2021

Government today announced an extension to current lockdown provisions till 8th March earliest. They hope that schools will be able to reopen on this date too.

29.1.21

Number of new covid positive cases in Lakenheath week ended 29.1.21 was 6

30.1.21

Fire crews were called to a large fire at the tyre recycling centre at Murfitts near Lakenheath railway station after 150 tonnes of shredded tyres and metal caught fire at around 8.45 am. No casualties



February edition of Lakenheath Times informs:

1. Lakenheath Parish Council have adopted a Local Emergency Plan for Lakenheath Village. A number of councillors have formed a communications Committee to meet and coordinate information during an emergency. First contacts will be Jenny Hastings, Peta Gyte, Roy Norman, Alan Gyte, Judy Cahill, Gerald Kelly and Stephen Palmer. In all circumstances the elderly, young and vulnerable take priority. People were given the opportunity to notify the Volunteer group that they would like to be contacted as they may require assistance.
2. Because of a change in Police Policy it is no longer possible to employ a PCSO to patrol the village with particular attention to parking and anti-social behaviour. The Parish Council have decided with the funds that had been allocated will now be used towards upgrading the Play Park.
3. Notice of vacancy for Sedge Fen on the Parish Council by way of co-option. Applications should be made via the Parish Clerk.
4. Services at the Methodist Church are still suspended till the end of February to allow for the refurbishment works to complete. This is thanks to the bequests left to them from Mr Sydney Raven and Mrs Maisie Morley

4.2.21

Number of new covid positive cases in Lakenheath week ended 4.2.21 was 3

6.2.21

The Prime Minister announced that he will unveil a roadmap out of lockdown on the 22nd February. Elections will continue to take place 5th May.

7.2.21

First snow of the year arrived in Lakenheath, 2 or 3 inches.

8.2.21

Lakenheath Community Primary School has been forced in line with all other Suffolk County Primary Schools to close today, after heavy snow fell over the weekend. Treacherous conditions have seen schools unable to open to vulnerable children and those of key workers, who would otherwise have attended today.

Today the Minister for Health, Matthew Hancock MP urged all people over the age of 70 who have not yet received an appointment for the Covid 19 vaccination to contact their GP's.

The owners of The Dog Shack put out a request for any information relating to a car hitting the front of their shop and causing this damage. It was thought that a car lost control, drove on the pavement hitting the shop which is quite a distance from the pavement edge.



9.2.21

Today the local GP surgery has started on group 5, all those over the age of 65 years of age and over to be called for their covid19 vaccines. The UK's vaccination roll-out continues apace, with more than 12 million people now having received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.

10.2.21

Boris Johnson has urged the remaining eligible individuals, those over 70, who are yet to receive a coronavirus vaccine to come forward as the Government closes in on its target of 15 million first doses by February 15.

11.2.21

It has been announced that a COVID 19 Rapid testing centre at The Pavilion, Recreation Way Mildenhall is due to open on Wednesday 17th February. It is stated that the tests are for people who do not have symptoms of coronavirus and cannot work from home.

12.2.21

Louise Marston owner of CJ's offered cream teams to the village for pick up or delivery for Valentine's day. She opened Sunday specially to provide a fresh service for those that were interested. Here is a copy of the menu.



Sally's floral flowers had a pop-up shop on the forecourt of CJ'S sandwich shop 12th, 13th and 14th February for Valentines. She was so popular that she sold out of flowers each day.

14.2.21

The government announced today that it had hit its target of 15 million people being vaccinated by today.

16.2.21

Suffolk County Council today advised that Lakenheath Library will reopen on Tuesday 23rd of February for Select and Collect, reservation collections and returns only. There will currently be no internet/computer access or bookings or browsing, at this time.

17.2.21

Lakenheath Beavers put out a notice to say not to use the book swap in the High Street. Regrettably some kind soul has urinated in it so it needs to be deep cleaned, books disposed of and replaced with fresh one.

The following day it was duly cleaned with hot bleach water and then lots (nearly a whole bottle) of antibacterial spray. The books were removed and burned. The box then restocked with new ones.

Today, Lakenheath Parish Council (Corona Virus action Group), Lakenheath Good neighbours and Lakenheath Food Bank all received a letter and certificate of recognition. This came from the Lord Lieutenant for Suffolk with the High Sheriff for the good works carried out over the last year. All three groups had been nominated by West Suffolk Council for providing support to those in need during the past few months.

18.2.21

As part of Random Act of Kindness week, Lakenheath Beavers left little parcels around the village for people to find and take home. Picture below.



19.2.21

Late afternoon some teenagers just set fire to the old barn at Sharps Corner.

New Covid positive cases for Lakenheath week ending 19th February 2021 was 3

20.2.21

A couple whose business outgrew their home during lockdown are opening a village farm shop. Tina and Craig Mullins live in Feltwell but seized their chance to take over the former Matthew's Nursery site building in Lakenheath - where they plan to open 3rd March 2021 under the name Tina's Country Kitchen. They plan to sell cakes, breads, pastries and condiments together with fruits and vegetables from local farmers.



22.2.21

Lakenheath surgery are now calling for vaccines all those 60 years of age and over.

Boris Johnson announced a phased gradual return to normality and lifting of some lockdown conditions due to the success of the vaccine rollout.

Under the first easing of restrictions, from March 8:

Schools and colleges will open to all students

People can meet and exercise with their household or one person from another household outdoors

The 'stay at home' order will remain in place

Funerals can have up to 30 people attend

Weddings can resume with up to six people

Every care home resident in England will be able to nominate a single named visitor who can come in for a regular visit

And from March 29:

Two households or people following the rule of six can meet outdoors. There will still be no mixing indoors.

Outdoor sport and leisure facilities will resume.

Organised sport for children and adults will resume.

People will be encouraged to minimise travel and not take holidays.
People can meet in groups of parents and children up to 15 people.
The stay-at-home order will be lifted

The second stage - April 12

This will occur at least five weeks after step one but no earlier than April 12.

Indoor leisure, including gyms, will open for use individually or within household groups
Rule of six or two households meeting outdoors will remain in place. There will still be no mixing indoors

Outdoor attractions including zoos, theme parks and drive-in cinemas can reopen, along with libraries and community centres

Personal care premises, including hairdressers and barbers, can reopen

All retail, including that which has been deemed non-essential, can reopen

Pubs and bars will be able to serve customers outdoors

All children's activities will resume

Domestic overnight stays - staycations - will be allowed, but only with your household

But only self-contained accommodation providers will be allowed to reopen to you and your household

Funerals will be able to have 30 attendees, and weddings, with receptions, will have 15 people

People will be encouraged to minimise travel and holidays abroad will still be prohibited

Event pilots will begin

People should continue to work from home where they can

Care home residents will be able to have two named visitors

Parent and children groups of up to 15 can restart indoors

The third stage - May 17

This will happen no earlier than May 17.

Indoor entertainment and attractions can reopen

People can meet in groups of up to 30 outdoors

The rule of six or two households will remain in place indoors, though the government says this is subject to review

Domestic overnight stays will still be allowed

Organised indoor adult sport can resume

Hospitality businesses will be able to serve customers indoors

Most significant life events, including weddings and funerals, can have 30 people attend

Remaining outdoor entertainment, including performances, can resume

All other accommodation providers can reopen

Some large events will resume: indoor events can be up to 1,000 people or 50pc of a venue's capacity, outdoor events can be 4,000 or 50pc and outdoor seated events can be 10,000 or 25pc

International travel will be allowed - but the government has warned this will also be subject to review

26.2.21

Lakenheath Youth FC announced that with the government news on the restart of outdoor sport allowed at the end of March they are just awaiting the details from the FA of any additional

precautions. That said they aim to restart as soon as possible under the government guidelines and it will be great to get football back for the children of the village.

28.2.21

The Department of Health announced that thanks to everyone working on the #COVID19 vaccination programme and everyone who has come forward to have the jab that more than 20 million people in the UK have now received their first dose of the vaccine.

The Fish and chip shop on the corner of Wings Road and High Street went Under new management and now offering a home delivery service.



In the March edition of the Lakenheath Times the village was informed:

1. Lakenheath Parish Council are to initiate a Neighbourhood plan for Lakenheath. This is a way to influence the planning authorities as to the village wishes and requirements. The first part is to have a survey of the Villagers thoughts. 1st March 2021 a survey document for completion was delivered to the better part of the village. The whole parish will receive this document by the end of the week. It is to be completed ideally on line or the document can be sent to the Parish Council Office.
2. Notice of Parish Council vacancy for Sedge Fen was again advertised.
3. New equipment for the Play Park has been purchased and due to be installed during March. As a result, the Park will be closed for 2 weeks whilst the play equipment is replaced and the park given a general face lift to make it a better and safer area for the children that make use of it.

Minutes of Lakenheath Parish Council remote meeting held 1.3.2021 reports:

1. West Suffolk Council reported that there will be an increase in precept that had been agreed by WSC.

2. WSC are still in negotiation with Amazon for the removal or site change for the box too close to the zebra crossing and in the conservation area.
3. Suffolk CC reported that they have raised the council tax by 2% for general council tax and the adult social care precept. It was added that services continue as normal even if it is at a closer pace due to the extra demands of Covid-19.
4. A member of the public asked that the cemetery committee reported to the village in relation to their monthly inspection on the geology of the cemetery as various rumours abound the village. This could be via the Lakenheath Times.
5. As it appeared that dog fouling around the village is increasing that a message for improvement is included in the Lakenheath Times.
6. It was agreed following a request from Beck Row Parish Council to join a local alliance with regards to local matters. This could be planning, Highways or litter clearing.
7. It was reported that the refurbishment of the play area started 1.3.2021. In the meantime, a letter of gratitude is to be sent to the Village keeper in relation to the work he has carried out to the benches in the play area. A good job done.
8. Lakenheath Peace Memorial Hall had applied for a S137 grant of £4000 towards the cost of a new kitchen. The budget for the year had only allowed for £1000 towards the village hall. After debate it was agreed to grant £3000.
9. A grant of £2000 was awarded to Lakenheath Beavers and scouts.
10. A grant of £225 was awarded to Suffolk Accident and Rescue service and £250 to West Suffolk Citizens Advice Centre.
11. The lease for the Parish Office expires April 2021. A new 12-year lease has been offered at an annual rent of £2600, a £200 on the previous arrangement. This was accepted and it was agreed that Cllr. Morley as Chair would be a key holder. It was further agreed that there is a large amount of storage items that SALC be contacted for confirmation of what should be kept and what can be disposed of.
12. Cllr. Kelly gave an update on the Neighbourhood plan situation. Namely
 - a. Thanks to volunteers for the delivery of the village survey
 - b. The Housing Needs Assessment is in the process of being provided
 - c. The website is now live
 - d. The group have had confirmation of a grant to be received but it is yet to materialise. Consent was sought for the Parish Council to meet the bills on the understanding that the money will be forthcoming. This was agreed.
13. Following a request by a resident for a grit bin in Caudle Avenue it was agreed that as West Suffolk had removed several from the village that it be checked that on Health and Safety grounds it is acceptable to have a bin at this location. One should then be purchased.
14. The Clerk reported that SALC had confirmed that there were no plans to extend the legislation brought in last April that has enabled the holding of virtual meetings and for annual meeting to be delayed or cancelled. Therefore, these should be scheduled in the normal way. The annual meeting should take place between the 1st March and 6th May. After debate it was agreed that regular meetings revert back to monthly.
15. The cemetery committee reported that
 - a. front railings and gates require painting. The Clerk will source quotes for the work.
 - b. The walled garden borders are a little bare and should be filled with bedding plants.
 - c. It was reported that many graves have sunk. 25 of them had sunk at least 12 inches and require urgent attention. The village keeper is attending to this.
 - d. The mole population has drastically reduced thanks to the work of the mole catcher and the village keeper.
 - e. A piece is to be put into the Lakenheath Times asking for xmas wreaths to be removed.
 - f. A budget of £100 was agreed for the purchase of plants.

16. It was reported that the Chair had produced a map detailing the location of plot number 805 to 1323 and gifted same to the Parish Council. It was agreed that the rest of the cemetery should also be mapped at the cost of the PC rather than the Chair.
17. The Clerk reported that there has been one application for co-option to the Parish Council representing the Sedge Fen ward. An interview will be arranged via a zoom meeting.

5.3.21

Lakenheath Youth FC announced that those teams involved in Cup competitions have been given fixtures which is great, thanks to NCYFL for this.

All other teams the Club will be getting as much football for them as possible, leagues may have finished but there is still plenty of opportunity to play games.

Practice will return in week commencing 29th March but players were asked to check with their coaches for dates and times.

It was announced that vaccines for Covid are now available in our area for over 55's.

8.3.21

Children returned to school very happily.

It was announced that vaccines for Covid are now available in our area for the over 50's

11.3.21



Excitement in the village as a sheep goes on a walk about. Started in Sandy Drove seen next at the bottom of Maids Cross Way then made its way into Breckland Avenue, Wingfield Avenue, Wingfield Road and finally Mayfields where it was collected by its owner.

It was announced that the NHS are opening a further Covid-19 Vaccination Centre tomorrow in Mildenhall at the Former Forest Heath Offices, College Heath Road. This is to increase the rate of vaccines given. The centre will be open 7 days a week from 8am to 8pm.

12.3.21

New Covid positive cases for Lakenheath week ending 12th March 2021 was 0

14.3.21

Police are concerned for the welfare of a Lakenheath man who has been reported missing. Daryl Coleman, 54, was last seen in at his home in Wingfield Road at around 7pm on Thursday 11th March.

16.3.21

The Hunt for Daryl Coleman continues today with the use of drones and help of Suffolk Lowland Search and Rescue team continued to search for him in wooded areas around Brandon, Wangford and Lakenheath. He was finally located by the Suffolk Lowland Search and Rescue team this afternoon, Tuesday 16th March, at around 3.45pm in the Brandon area.

Little Fishes announced that it was with much sadness, that they arrived at Lakenheath Little Fishes building this morning to find that someone / a group of people had been in their garden over the weekend and not only had fun moving the equipment around, they have thrown tyres ready for the children to plant up, over the riverbank and destroyed parts of the safety fence, thus risking the safety of the children. This meant that they had to concentrate on making the area safe instead of engaging with the children. We have caught some on cctv but would appreciate information from anyone walking past who might have seen anyone in the garden. This selfish and dangerous behaviour only results in the children's enjoyment of the garden and their learning through play being diminished.

They added that they would like to thank everyone for their kind offers of help and support. After a walk along the riverbank, they retrieved the missing tyres. They will be assessing what needs doing and how to organise the work safely under COVID restrictions and with minimal disruption to the children.

Lakenheath Youth FC put out a reminder of their foreseeable diary.



The Government announced that they are now expanding the rollout and inviting those aged 50 and over to book their Covid 19 Vaccination.

18.3.21

Week ending 18 March no new coronavirus positive cases in Lakenheath.

19.3.21

The oldest resident of Lakenheath, Graeme Cook, celebrated his 103rd birthday.



23.3.21

Firefighters were sent to tackle a fire following a break in at Centra Garage, High Street, Lakenheath. Appliances from Brandon and Mildenhall were mobilised to the incident just after 8.15pm. On arrival they discovered a fire in one of the ground floor offices of the building. Firefighters used two sets of breathing apparatus and one hose reel jet to extinguish the blaze. A stop to the incident was called just after 9pm.

24.3.21

A teenager car driver has been arrested following a police pursuit in the village of Lakenheath earlier today. Officers from Mildenhall Police tried to pass the vehicle whilst responding to another incident when the driver decided to make off.

Checks on the vehicle identified it as being stolen and officers from the Roads and Armed Policing team were called in to assist with stopping the vehicle. The car was pursued for a short distance before the driver collided with a telegraph pole.

After a short foot chase the driver was detained by officers. He was subsequently arrested by police on suspicion of a number of offences.

28.3.21

Lakenheath Cricket Club announced that with the Junior Cricket at Lakenheath Cricket Club They are starting the All Stars and Dynamos Cricket programs for Juniors, open to all abilities and skill levels from ages 5 to 11years!
Starting 14th May 2021

All Stars - 5 to 8 years - 5:30 to 6:15pm
Dynamos - 8 to 11years - 6:30 to 7:30pm

The scout's leaders have arranged an Easter Egg Hunt around the village. They have put printed eggs in windows, some with letters. Follow the clue to find the egg, write down the place and letter then re arrange to find the word. Once complete, send a picture to Wendy Barnes to be entered into the prize draw. Entries must be in by 11am Saturday 3rd April Draw will be made around 2pm and the prize delivered in time for Easter.

April Lakenheath Times informs the community that

1. The new Parish Councillor for the Sedge Fen ward is Cllr. Wendy Overy.
2. Thursday May 6th we have the County Council election and West Suffolk District Council by election. Cllr. Colin Noble is standing for both positions.
3. Sunset Barn Care Farm announced that as soon as Government Covid restrictions are lifted that they will be starting a care café at the newly refurbished Lakenheath Methodist Church.

2.4.21

The Children's re vamped playground opened today to great applause from the youngsters of the community who are now enjoying the new pieces of equipment.

Lakenheath Cricket Club reiterated that this summer they will be running the All Stars and Dynamo Cricket programme. These provide a fantastic first experience for all children aged 5-11 years old where they're guaranteed 8 weeks of jam-packed fun, activity and skills development. Starting 14th May 2021 - All Stars - 5 to 8 years - 5:30 to 6:15pm and Dynamos - 8 to 11years - 6:30 to 7:30pm

3.4.21

Another arson attack tonight at Central Garage, High Street Lakenheath. According to the fire brigade a second incident in less than two weeks. On this occasion there were two seats in the office area on fire this time

5.4.21

Tim Stevens, owner of Central Garage, gave out this message to the community: Dear all – as you know, we had another arson attack; almost exactly the same as the last one, but with a very different outcome. The police have pushed this situation up their list. Thank you so much for your kind comments and support, both on Facebook and personally; it is very welcome and fully appreciated. We will be open as usual on Tuesday and hope you can continue to support us as you have in the past for which I thank you in advance.

Elaine is taking a few days off so please be patient with my poor running of the reception!! If anyone hears anything to do with this situation, please call Suffolk Police / let us know. If anyone has a complaint about anything we do/have done, please bring it direct to us; we can deal with it.

Thank you and best regards
Tim

7.4.21

Central garage gave out a further message following the second recent arson attack to their premises: Thank you so much for your support, it really is appreciated.

We fully appreciate that there is the question about the safety of vehicles while with us; we are increasing the security of the yard (again), more CCTV cameras and a regular “drive by” from a security firm.

More importantly, we will do our utmost to get your vehicle back to you the same day it is dropped off; for smaller works / MOTS, we can supply tea or coffee “while you wait” and as usual, we can do local pick up and drop off.

12.4.2021

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held via Zoom advised

1. One minutes silence was held in respect of the passing of HRH Prince Phillip
2. Cllr. Overy was introduced to the Council.
3. A Work tower has been purchased to enable the Parish Keeper to cut the hedges to an acceptable level. He has received the necessary tuition to raise the tower. To deal with the large patches of Moss at the cemetery it was agreed the parish keeper would rake the effected areas best he could and reseed with grass but one job at a time.
4. Cllr. Hastings reported that the chapel at the cemetery needs repainting but as it is not open at the moment this item can wait for the time being.
5. Cllr. Kelly reported that in relation to the Neighbourhood plan 661 surveys have been returned. He continued that the draft housing needs assessment was now back from Aecom. This reinforces that there are no social housing and the only thing that has been tendered over the last 10 years or more is affordable house and as the report suggests that developers when it come forward can suggest that there are not affordable to provide. Headline figures the reasons that people like living in Lakenheath are access to the countryside and the sense of community in the village. The downside is clearly the state of the roads, litter, and dog fouling. At the end of the meeting a raffle was drawn and 5 prize winners chosen at random for the return of the survey document.
6. Cllr. P Gyte advised that when the first lockdown hit the world the Parish Council created a group to offer support to vulnerable residents of the village. This was in conjunction with The Good Neighbours team and Lakenheath Food Bank. The type of help given was shopping, collecting of prescriptions and paying bills. Last month out of the blue all three organisations received a letter from the Lord Lieutenant with a certificate and the acknowledgement that we were a shining example of all that is good in the county.
7. Mrs Gwen Warby, a resident, was to turn 100 on the 26th April. It was agreed that she be provided a token gift in the form of a card, flowers and voucher for a cream tea provided by either CJs Sandwich Bar or the newly opened village farm shop delivered by the Chairman.
8. A S137 grant of £100 was agreed to be paid to Fresh-Start – New Beginning who support children in Norfolk and Suffolk who have been the victim of sexual abuse.
9. Cllr. Gyte gave a report on the play area and repairs to the toilet block. The reopening of the park was delayed by the weather and finally achieved on the 1st April. Councillors had spread a top up of the bark chippings. The Clerk reported that 2 quotes, keenly priced, had been received for the work to the toilet block. Using delegated powers a plumber had been engaged to carry out the work required. A debate was held in relation to the opening and closing the toilets. It was agreed that the Parish Keeper be asked to undertake the task being paid overtime for the weekend times. Paramount they are locked at night to deter vandalism.

10. Cllr. Frost reported that the Great British Spring Clean is planned in West Suffolk for 28th May to 13th June. It was not his intention to arrange a litter pick rather than he will go out with a friend or two to do a litter pick then promote it on social media and the Lakenheath Times to encourage others in the village to pick up litter.
11. There was discussion around the annual Parish meeting date. It was agreed that this is to be arranged with detail cascaded to Councillors.

16.4.21

Lakenheath Football Club could be in for promotion next season.

19.4.21

Lakenheath Post Office announced now that Covid conditions are relaxing that they will now be opening from 9am until 2pm Monday to Friday and 9am until 12pm on Saturdays...They have re-stocked and hope this is the start of some normality returning.

23.4.21

Lakenheath FC confirmed that they have taken up the opportunity to take promotion for their club in a non-league re-organisation next season. A great award in a difficult season.

24.4.21

Lakenheath Football Club In the next stage of the senior cup beat Haughley 3-1 after a penalty shoot out to win their place in the quarter final.

27.4.21

The NHS announced if you're aged 42 or over, or if you'll turn 42 before 1 July 2021, you can now book your first Covid-19 vaccine. In addition, they are now providing the second Jab to over 70's. The GP service is booking in these appointments.

The May edition of the Lakenheath Times advised:

1. The annual General Meeting of the Parish Council will be held at the Peace Memorial Hall at 7 pm on 17th May, 2021.
2. Parish Council reminded the community that dogs are not allowed in the park and children should be always supervised.
3. Parish Council advertised for a part time Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer to work 15 hours per week with the current clerk with a view to taking over the role at the end of July 2021 when hours will increase to 30 per week. It included a list of expected duties.
4. Lakenheath Parish Council have a supply of wheelie bin speed sign stickers. These will be issued to homes in Station Road and Eriswell Road where residents are encouraged to display them on their bins.
5. Neighbourhood Plan. Over six hundred responses received. The results analysed and then published on the website lakenheath.org.

5.5.2021

Lakenheath Parish Council held their monthly meeting remotely via zoom . The minutes advised:

1. Planning Matters:
 - a. A new application is being considered by the District Council in relation to Rabbithill Covert. When Cllr Stephen Frost joined the meeting he reported that at delegation it was agreed that the case should be brought to the Planning Committee for consideration rather than agreed with delegated powers. This is due 22nd June.
 - b. A new case is expected from Persimmon Homes relating to Land West of Eriswell Road. A meeting with the developer and Lakenheath Parish Council scheduled for the following day has now been postponed
 - c. Neighbourhood Plan. There is now a draft Housing Needs Assessment in place. Following a meeting with Aecom a copy will be distributed to Councillors for general discussion.
2. Enforcement:
 - a. Little progress with the unofficial development at Sharpers Corner
 - b. Problem at Caudle Avenue with a fence and extension that was started prior to seeking planning permission.
 - c. Maids Cross Hill is still an ongoing situation with random equipment in the fields.
3. Lakenheath Cemetery report some of the items are now being dealt with following a meeting with the Parish keeper:
 - a. Gates still require attention.
 - b. Bench at the entrance has a plank missing, is dirty and needs painting. This has been replaced and painted.
 - c. Other benches and bird bath were dirty. The bird bath has since been cleaned.
 - d. There are 8 sunken graves of which 7 have now been dealt with and the grass between graves requires cutting which has now been done.
 - e. Toilets are OK but smell of damp.
 - f. Chapel requires decoration
 - g. The No dog's signs need to be more prominent.
 - h. Currently there are no mole hills.
 - i. Consideration must be given as to how the Parish Keeper divides his time as grass cutting at this time of year is time consuming,
 - j. 2 quotes have been received for the decoration of the Chapel. That from Dyers was accepted.
 - k. Further quotes are to be sought for the painting of the railings.
4. Dates for the Great British Spring Clean are set for 28th May to the 13th June 2021.
5. Play Park Update. The Clerk is to arrange for age related signs to be put onto the gates.

7.5.21

The Local elections. It was announced by Suffolk County Council that Colin Lawrence Bennett Noble is duly elected as the Conservative County Councillor with 1620 votes. There was a turnout to vote of 29.56% of those entitled to vote.

The Bury Free Press announced that Lisa Skinner, Lakenheath Post Mistress, is set to fulfil her dream by going on stage at the UK largest independent metal festival with her band. A huge achievement for the village.



8.5.21

Lakenheath Football Club beat Beccles 4 -2 to secure their place in the CNet Training Suffolk Senior Cup semi-finals. They will be playing First Division North side Framlingham Town at AFC Sudbury on 22nd May.

10.5.21

West Suffolk District Council election results published to fill the vacant seat following the death of the late Cllr. David Gathercole. New councillor for Lakenheath is the conservative member, Colin Lawrence Bennett Noble with 573 votes. A close second was the independent member, Gerald Adrian Kelly with 434 votes.

12.5.21

The NHS announced that if you are aged 38 to 42 you can now book your first Covid vaccination.

17.5.21

The easing of Covid Lockdown restrictions continues. Here's a list of the Step 3 changes, which will be no earlier than May 17.

- Indoor entertainment and indoor attractions can open.
- The 30 persons limit outdoors. Rule of 6 or two households indoors (subject to review).
- Domestic overnight stays allowed.
- Organised indoor adult sport back.
- Most significant life events, 30 people can attend.
- The cap on the number of funeral mourners lifted.
- Remaining outdoor entertainment (including performances) allowed.

Remaining accommodation can open.
Some large events (expect for pilots) – capacity limits apply.
Indoor events: 1,000 or 50%.
Outdoor other events: 4,000 or 50%.
Outdoor seated events: 10,000 or 25%.
International travel – subject to review.

The Annual Parish Meeting was held at the Peace Memorial Hall, Lakenheath
Monday 17th May 2021 at 7pm. These are the minutes:

Present Cllr: Edward Morley (Chairman) 9 Members of the Parish Council Cllr: Colin Noble and 7 members of the Public were present.
Apologies Cllr: John Gentle

The Annual Parish Meeting is an opportunity for the Parish Council to let Parishioners know all of the work they carry out and to allow the residents an opportunity to air their views.

West Suffolk Council

Cllr Colin Noble reported on the West Suffolk Council budget for the coming year was in the order of £550M. He also explained to the meeting the areas of responsibility for the Council. Adult Social Care being the biggest spend, then Children discreet protection services and Schooling. Then came highways with a smaller budget.

He explained that in his role as County Councillor he had an annual locality budget of about £8,000 for the Row Heath Division with a Highways budget of about the same. As a District councillor he and Cllr Frost both had an annual budget of £3,000 each for the Lakenheath Ward including the villages of Eriswell and Elveden.

He is aware that there are lots of concerns in regards to speeding through the village but feels that extra signage and more speed reduction methods are not always the solution. Cllr Noble feels that everyone should be aware that if you are in a village the speed limit is 30 miles an hour and it is up to motorists to show respect as to why we have lower speed limits in our villages or simply obey the law. He commented that a lot of the traffic volume is due to base personnel despite our roads not be classified as major a point he regularly stresses to Highways officers.

Cllr Noble reminded the meeting that he had helped the Parish Council fund the SIDs (Speed Indicator device) machines in the village and as they are moved around regularly this is a speed deterrent in itself. And that he also helped with funding for the Speed Watch Volunteer programme. He commented that he also used his locality funding to support other community projects such as the Good Neighbour's scheme where he provided Locality budget for the insurance premium for the first year of its existence.

At the invitation of the meetings Chairman Cllr. Noble then took questions from the floor to discuss matters of concern with those present at the meeting.

Can you explain why the blue recycling bins do not accept glass or plastic?

Lakenheath has a recycling plant and if you wish to dispose of glass, you can also do this at the recycling bins in the wing's Road carpark, you can also book a slot to take bigger items to the tip.

Can you explain how the highways team prioritise the workload as it appears that jobs that do not appear urgent are sometime put in place before more important jobs, an example being this week 6 men crew working on white lines in Maids Cross, when the junction of Highlands and cemetery lane is so much more dangerous and this work has not been completed?

The work is allocated as the need arises and it could be that the work you saw was on the books for sometime and there for has been allocated before something that was reported later.

Can you give us an update on Sedge Fen pipeline in regards to white lines and also Farthing Drove

which is in a dreadful state?

I am aware and the work is in progress. In regards to Farthing Drove, unfortunately that is what happens with fen roads

As speeding is such a big problem in the village is it not possible to have sleeping policemen installed as they are in Wing's Road and Briscoe Way?

No, this is not an option it is not West Suffolk Council policy to install Sleeping Policemen as it causes issues for the residents living in the road with noise as the traffic pass over them. We live in a village and everyone knows that the speed limit in the village is 30 miles an hour its up to individuals to follow the rules.

Can you explain why the safety road signage has been allowed to get into such a sorry state and what is West Suffolk doing to ensure that the villagers are safe, particularly as there is such an issue with speeding in the village?

I am aware of the signage and have already arranged for it to be replaced if you wish to report any other signs please do so to highways and send me the reference number and I will chase the reports up.

In regards to the Sleeping Policemen mentioned earlier, is this an actual West Suffolk policy to no longer install these? Or is it just your view that they are ineffective?

It is West Suffolk Policy to no longer install Sleeping Policemen due to the noise nuisance created for the residents of the roads.

Cllr: Noble left the meeting at 7.45pm

Lakenheath Emergency Action Group

Report by Cllr: Hastings

Given the past year with COVID the country and the village have gone through difficult and sad times. You could probably be forgiven for thinking the village Emergency Planning team had been inundated with calls and issues during this time. Thankfully this has not been the case. Apart from the odd short term power failure during lock down we have only been called on at times to keep contact with our vulnerable residents ensuring they are ok and that they had immediate help if required. We have liaised with the other voluntary groups in the village and between us all have come through this.

As we now return to normal and restrictions ease completely, we will be reviewing our procedures on handling incidents in the future. If anything, this year has taught us it is now to prepare for the unexpected and look more closely at how we can help one another. The friendship and community spirit shown by everyone in the village has built a better bond between families, friends and neighbours. But now we look forward to a lovely warm summer where we can all relax a while and try to regain our normal lives.

If anyone is interested in joining the group, please contact the Parish Clerk.

Lakenheath Parish Football Club

Report by Ben Cowling for Lakenheath Football Club

The past year has been very challenging for all of us, on every level. With particular regards to the club multiple lockdowns have affected income and the ability to compete, finding our second consecutive season curtailed. The club has been very proactive in seeking funding support and grants at both a national and local scale to help us overcome these challenges and allow the club to continue to grow.

We have continued to improve the facilities at the club and the projects completed or underway at this stage includes the following:

- i. Purchase of a new tractor and tools to improve the maintenance of the playing surface at the ground.
- ii. Renovation of the main stand, to include rendering and instillation of seats.
- iii. Completion of our kitchen area

iv. Significant investment in improving the playing surface at the club.

v. Purchase of a Veo Camera to enable us to film all our matches to help our social media presence and training of players.

The club would like to thank the local community for their support and in particular The Parish Council and The Christian Enterprise Foundation, without whom we could not achieve what we are setting out to do.

The club intends on fielding an U16 side on the main pitch next season, this has been made possible due to the improvements we have been able to make to the playing surface. This side will support our U18 side and continue the pathway of players into our Reserves and first team.

We have forged a link with West Suffolk College and have been giving work experience to 7 students in the field of Social Media, Commercial and Website design, indeed our new website should be ready to launch by the end of the month.

Most exciting of all is that the FA have decided to continue with the planned re-structure of nonleague football at our level. Due to our on-field efforts over the past 2 curtailed seasons we look set to be elevated to 'Step 5' of the pyramid this summer. This will mean the club will be competing against market towns such as Newmarket, Mildenhall, Thetford, Haverhill and Swaffham amongst other. Indeed, Lakenheath will be one of the smallest conurbations playing at this level in East Anglia next season so it is a wonderful achievement.

The promotion will then set in play our next stage of stadium improvements which will include a new covered accommodation for 100 people and hard standing installed all around the pitch. A summer of hard works looks to be ahead of us as we look forward to competitive football returning in late July.

Lakenheath Good Neighbours

Report by Cllr P Gyte

During the past year Lakenheath Good Neighbours, like so many village organisations, has been quite severely restricted by Covid 19. Most of our work involves transport to hospitals, Drs, etc and this was not possible for many weeks in 2020 because of lockdown. However, we kept the phonenumber open and collected prescriptions and did shopping within the village when asked.

Many of our volunteers were isolating as they were over 70yrs old, but those who were able, joined the Parish Council Action group and helped out there.

As things eased in the summer the PC helpline was phased out and requests directed to Good Neighbours. We were able to do transport requests again following strict Covid safe guidelines, and so our service was able to function more or less normally for the rest of the year.

So far this year we have continued to help the village community throughout the recent lockdown and look forward to having our first face to face meeting in over a year now that restrictions have eased again. In closing I should like to thank The Christian Enterprise Trust who kindly gave us a donation to help with our running costs, and also put on record my thanks to all the Good Neighbours' volunteers who work so tirelessly and cheerfully for those who need us. It is 15 years this year since Good Neighbours began and we look forward to hopefully an uninterrupted year of continuing to help those in our community who needs it.

RAF Commander Lakenheath

It was reported the RAF Commander Jamie Turnbull was leaving RAF Lakenheath on behalf of the Council the Chairman thanked him for his support in the local community and looked forward to meeting and working with his replacement.

Suffolk Constabulary

Clerk Reported

Parking and speeding are still issues in the village. The Clerk reported that she had been in touch with Mildenhall police in regards to a possible mobile presence in the village. The parish council are

piloting speed stickers for the wheelie bins at both ends of the village and we have SIDs in place the information is currently downloaded fortnightly.

Heritage Group

Clerk read a report on behalf of the heritage group (David Jones, Chair)

The Village Heritage Trail was ready only a few weeks before the first lock-down. Despite this a good number of Trail Booklets were distributed at several places in the village and were very well received. The trail is also available on the Parish web site. Progress has continued on the Heritage Pages of the village web site with more photographs being added to the Historic Photographs section and the Timeline has now reached 1948, with two stories already included in addition to the time line detail. Both stories have had significant contributions from resident's past and present. The inclusion of the Timeline in The Lakenheath Times has also been appreciated. Hermione Brown continues her work as Village Recorder for the Suffolk Local History Council. No doubt the magnificent effort of the village volunteers during the pandemic will find its way into the county archives. A story from Timeline 5, 'Tom Rolph. Mechanical engineer and shop keeper', led to a donation of a very old scrapbook, begun well before WW1. (It contained a newspaper report announcing the relief of Mafeking in the Boer War). The scrap book contained a very damaged early photo of a house which appeared to be unlike any other in the village. After some work on the photograph, what was quite a large timber framed wattle and daub building was identifiable and this could be accurately positioned in the village. Matthew Champion, a well-known expert on ancient buildings, was consulted, and from our map and photographic evidence, together with his own further checking, suggested a date between 1450-1580, (the late medieval period); making this by some distance the earliest domestic building, had it survived, in the village. We think the building was demolished shortly before WW1. The site is now registered by Suffolk County Archaeology. More about this later we hope. I have been asked a few times, "What was it like here before?" Information Panels. Some time ago we decided to look into the possibility of positioning information panels at various points in the village to show the development of that particular place through time. ("What was the Green like in before WW1"?). Getting the various permissions necessary for the location of the panels is proving to be rather more complicated than we envisaged and will take some time. Many thanks to the steadily increasing number of local contributors to our work.

Lakenheath Cemetery

Report from Cllr Hastings

The Parish Council and residents of Lakenheath take a pride in our cemetery and we do our utmost to keep it in good appearance and repair. However, this year we have experienced a number of issues with regards to maintenance and upkeep.

Sunken Graves

Over the past six months we have had in the region of 45 graves that have sunk down due to dry summer then wet winter. We have managed to level these graves and re-turf where necessary. However, there are still a few outstanding and we hope to have these all addressed in the coming weeks.

Floral Tributes

For those of you that regularly visit the cemetery you will have noticed that at times some of the floral tributes seem in disarray. Whilst of course sometimes this is due to windy weather we are also aware that we have been visited by a number of deer's which take a delight in eating the tops off the fresh flowers and then to leave just the stalks behind.

Unfortunately, we could do little about this but they now seem to have moved on to another area. I can only add that it is the fresh flowers that they seem to love because they do not touch the silk flowers.

Moles

This winter the moles proved a serious issue for us and anyone visiting in January will have seen

more than 50 Mounds across the cemetery. Apart from looking unsightly, caused distress and upset to families. Since employing a local retired mole catcher this all now seems to be under control. We are keen to keep our cemetery to the best possible standard and with this in mind we are undertaking the re-painting of the boundary gates and railings as well as decorating the inside of the Chapel which will then be opened daily for visitors. We are also decorating the public toilet in the cemetery.

We have planted the flower beds at the entrance to the cemetery and also currently cutting the boundary hedges.

Benches

There are a number of benches in the cemetery which over many years have been gifted to the village and we are in the process of inspecting them, checking condition and re painting where possible.

We would like to assure all residents that the Cemetery Committee work tirelessly on this work and if any residents have issues or concerns in this connection, please contact the parish clerk.

Undley Road Play Area

Report given by Cllr: P Gyte

The play park in Undley Road re-opened for business on Friday April 2nd and the children in the village were quick to try out the new equipment. The Parish Council hope that it will be well used and enjoyed for many years to come. The refurbishment did take longer than anticipated so thank you for your patience. As soon as Covid restrictions are lifted the two missing swings will be fitted. Please, may we politely remind you that dogs are not allowed in the park and children should be supervised at all times.

Coronavirus Action Group

Report by Clerk

Three organisations in Lakenheath who came together in 2020 to support anyone needing help have been recognised by the Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk. Lakenheath Parish Council, Lakenheath Foodbank and Lakenheath Good Neighbours have each received a certificate and a letter commending them for their work throughout last year.

When the first lockdown was announced in March 2020, these three organisations joined together to form The Coronavirus Action Group to support anyone who needed assistance with shopping, errands, prescriptions etc. 2,300 leaflets were distributed offering support and 35 volunteers worked tirelessly to answer requests for help. Between 26th March and 7th July 190 calls were received, 105 prescriptions collected and 26 households shopped for on a regular basis.

The Foodbank was also working hard, increasing its service to 12 weekly clients. They received donations from local organisations and individuals and delivered to anywhere between Methwold and Newmarket. They also provided Xmas presents for 78 households in the Lakenheath area. The Action Group met fortnightly via Zoom to monitor how the scheme was working and high light any concerns. As things eased in the Summer the Helpline was phased out and the requests returned to Good Neighbours. They were by then able to resume transport requests following Covid safe guidelines.

All three organisations were surprised and delighted to receive recognition for the way the village was supported throughout most of 2020. To quote the letter from the Lord lieutenant 'we are a shining example of all that is best in this county.' I'm sure all the organisations concerned would say we did it because we wanted to help and were grateful, we were in a position to do so.

Great British Litter Pick 2021

Cllr Judy Cahill reported

I joined the Parish Council last year and proud to be a member. I have been asked to organise the 'Great British Spring Clean' for our village. This is a national initiative scheduled to run between May

28th and June 13th 2021. This is going to take place in our village on June 4th - 6th June. We will be starting at 10.00 and will stop at about 12.00. Meeting initially at the Village Green (opposite the Parish Office) so that volunteers can be delegated to places that are in the most need of clearing up. Please let either me or the Parish Clerk if are aware of anywhere in the village that you think needs attention so it can be added to the 'list'. Where possible we will try and delegate you to near to your home. The more people we have the better our village is going to look so please come along if you can. There will be 'High Vis' jackets available, 'litter picking sticks' and refuse bags available, and these will need to be returned to the Parish Office at the end of each pick. All are welcome. Current COVID rules will be in place. Thank you in advance for your help.

The Precept

This year's Parish Council Precept maintained a 0% increase and the Parish Council received £150,320. This money will be used throughout the year to Maintain services and support the local community.

S.137 Grants

This is money granted by the Parish Council to organisations which are considered to directly benefit at least some of the inhabitants of the Parish. Generally, to Community and Voluntary organisations for which the Council has no specific authority. The beneficiaries this year were:

Suffolk Accident Rescue £225

Lakenheath Methodist Church £360.

Lakenheath Football Club £300

EACH £225

RBLI £250

East Anglian Air Ambulance £225

Marie Curie £225

If your Organisation or Charity would like to apply for a grant, please put your request in writing giving full details of your activities and the amount requested to Maggie, Clerk to the Council. You can also support your request face to face with the Council, by participating in monthly meetings, where a section is given to representations from the public.

S19 Grants

Lakenheath Methodist Church £360.

Lakenheath Playing Fields Association £4000

Lakenheath Football Club £9000

Lakenheath Playing Field £3000

Lakenheath Cricket Club £3000

Lakenheath Library

Report by Jean Reynolds

Lakenheath Library is open for browsing. We currently have limited opening hours and have limits on the number of people who can be in the library at any time.

Suffolk Libraries has a plan for reintroducing all services by the end of June 2021. We will be returning to the 27 hours per week that the library was open before Covid changes, but we are happy to consider any changes to opening hours in light of the changes to other services in the village. If there are no changes to the Government's plans, we hope to welcome groups (reading group, knit and natter etc) back by the end of June but there will be reduced numbers of people in the library at any time.

We are hopeful that the easing of restrictions will allow us to run this year's Summer Reading Challenge for young people with face-to-face contacts and we look forward to seeing young people back in the library.

In the meantime, we have Lateral Flow Testing kits available from the library during opening hours

There were no Parishioner's issues other than those expressed to Councillor Noble.

The Chairman thanked all organisations and councillors that had taken the time to attend the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.27 pm

18.5.21

Lakenheath FC learned of their promotion to Step 5 for the first time ever as part of the Football Association's non-league restructure. It's the continuation of an impressive rise in recent years, with Lakenheath having been a Kershaw Premier Division outfit only as recently as 2017/18. This is a huge promotion for the Club.

20.5.21

34- and 35-year-olds are now able to book Covid vaccinations as announced by the Health Minister, Matthew Hancock MP.

22.5.21

Lakenheath Football Club capped a memorable week in the club's history by reaching the final of the Suffolk Senior Cup this afternoon at the expense of Framlingham Town beating them 4 – 1 at the MEL Group Stadium – home of AFC Sudbury – to seal themselves a shot at silverware at Haverhill Rovers' New Croft facility on Monday, May 31.

Framlingham players: Cummings, McCausland (Knights 62'), Seaber, Crisp, Thorpe, J Mayhew, Dan Smith (Sprague 51'), Tysoe (O Mayhew 72'), Danny Smith, Berry, Ling

Lakenheath Players: Beckwith, Logan, McIntosh (McCabe 73'), Hawley, Callaghan, Underwood, Weaver (Enaro 64'), Clarke, Avis, Thurlborn, Manels

26.5.21

Over 30's can now book their Covid Vaccinations in Suffolk

31.5.2021

Lakenheath Football Club manager Ben Cowling was both relieved and delighted to see his side end the season with their hands on the CNet Training Suffolk Senior Cup having won 4 – 0.

The Heath had rained in shots on lower-league Bideston Rangers' goal throughout the final at The New Croft, home of Haverhill Rovers but found goalkeeper Charlie de Lara-Bell in great form.

The breakthrough eventually came in the 89th minute though as Tom Thulborn for Lakenheath FC glanced in a header from substitute Kelvin Enaro's cross, with the latter wrapping things up with a cool finish in the fifth minute of stoppage time. A deserved win as they had dominated the game from start to finish.



With promotion to Eastern Counties Premier League, Legion cup winners, and now Suffolk Senior cup winners it's not been a bad season in the end. The Club were proud of what the players have achieved over the years, with the support of the committee, volunteers and a special thank you must go out to everybody who sponsors the club well done all. However, there is no time for a rest because it all starts again in four weeks' time with new challenges.

The June edition of the Lakenheath Times reported:

1. Village award from the Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk. Three organisations were recognised in the support provided in 2020 to the local community. Lakenheath Parish Council, Lakenheath Good Neighbours and Lakenheath Food Bank. All three were a part of the Lakenheath Coronavirus Action Group providing support as required with shopping, errands, prescriptions etc.
2. Lakenheath village Great British Spring clean will take place over 3 days on the 4th to 6th June.
3. Undley Road Play area. There is an age restriction in place, 12 and under due to Health and Safety.
4. Lakenheath Methodist Church, Back Street reported that 2020 was the completion of the total refurbishment. This included:
 - a. New kitchen and toilets
 - b. New heating and lighting to bring the building up to date.
 - c. A wonderful sound system and screen projection for services.
 - d. More space as more people were supporting the Church and other activities.
 - e. An easier entrance for undertakers during funerals.
 - f. The church had been left £200,000 in bequest from Mr Sydney Raven to use in maintain the building
 - g. There is still solar panels to be obtained.
 - h. In 1835 the Methodist Church was built at the cost of £120. This refurbishment with all the regulations and drawing and fire and alarm systems cost over £200,000.
5. A new club for the village. The Lakenheath Friendship Club. This is for everyone who wants to make new friends and see old ones. The Club will run fortnightly starting Thursday July 15th from 2 – 4 pm. To be held in the Methodist Church Hall with a cost of £2 per person to cover costs.
6. Scrabble Club will restart Friday 9th July 2022 in St Marys Church following the closure with Covid restrictions.

1.6.2021

The Bury Free press informed the community that Persimmon Homes have purchased a 13.4-acre site, in Eriswell Road, for development to bring 140 new homes to Lakenheath. The land already has outline building consent. Their project will include 42 affordable homes and areas of public open space with walking routes. It will also generate financial contributions of £975,000 to support local infrastructure, through a section 106 agreement.

Lakenheath Parish Council held their June meeting in the Methodist Church. The Minutes reported:

1. Re-election of Cllr Edward Morley as Chair to the Parish Council. Cllr. Roy Norman was re-elected as vice chair.
2. It was reported that the RAF Base Commander would be leaving at the end of June. A card and small gift is to be sent to him in gratitude of past support.
3. Planning. Cllr. Gerald Kelly reported that there was nothing major currently being considered except that Rabbit Hill Covert is to be considered by Development and Control this month. He added that for the Neighbourhood Plan the Housing needs assessment will be uploaded to both the Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Plan websites and is worthy of a read. It stresses the genuine need for proper affordable homes in the village. Finally, he confirmed that news is still awaited on the High Street Regeneration Grant.
4. Cemetery report.
 - a. Toilet window has been replaced but still no hand towels available.
 - b. Newly planted flower beds need a weed.
 - c. All benches now cleaned and slowly are receiving a coat of paint.
 - d. Tap boxing needs replacement in the new cemetery and the gates inside require a paint.
 - e. Finally, it was confirmed that all the current members of the cemetery committee will remain in place for a further year.
5. In the review of Policies and Procedures it was agreed by all members to adopt :
 - a. Standing Orders
 - b. Financial Regulations
 - c. Freedom of Information Policy
 - d. Complaints Policy
 - e. Data Protection Policy
 - f. Code of Conduct
 - g. Media Policy and
 - h. Health and Safety policy.
6. Cllr. Noble presented his report
 - a. He had won both the places on the District and the County Council merely by leaflets distributed. He spoke with some residents but this was very restricted as a result of the Covid regulations.
 - b. Main issues in the village appear to be related to speeding and Parking particularly on the zebra crossing zigzag lines. He will ask the civil department to come out and slap a few tickets on cars.
 - c. Signage which he will raise with the Highways team.
 - d. Provision of a Crossing near the play park will not happen. The thought is it is safer to cross the road where there are no markings as cars must slow down to think therefore it has been proven there are fewer accidents.
 - e. Another concern is the village growth and pressure that will place on the Doctors serving the village.

- f. Rabbit Hill covert will be owned by a conglomerate made up of 4 different Housing Associations. The development will bring forward affordable homes very much wanted in the village.
- 7. The clerk is to investigate the details of planting a tree for the Queens Platinum Jubilee.
- 8. Speed-watch are concerned over speeding in the village, people do not follow the restrictions that they should. If Highways do not support anymore the traffic calming methods the Parish Council should lobby a bit harder starting with a letter to our MP. In addition, an article will be placed in the next Lakenheath Times.
- 9. It was agreed that a notice board be provided for Sedge Fen. It was also agreed that the boards are regularly checked to see that notices are relevant and appropriate. Old ones being removed.

04.06.2021

The Parish Council headed by Cllr Judy Cahill arranged a litter pick round the village for three days starting today. Here is a picture of the volunteers who took part today with the result of their efforts.



7.6.21

The Government in trying to get the nation vaccinated against the Covid announced today that the over 25's can now book in for their vaccinations.

14.6.21

The Government announced a delay on the easing of lockdown restrictions from the 21st June to the 19th July to allow more people to be properly vaccinated. In addition, the decision was also due to the rampant spread of the latest variant of the Covid-19 virus.

15.6.21

The Public Health Agency today announced that all over 18's are now eligible for the Covid-19 Vaccination.

18.6.21

Public Health England today announced the weekly COVID-19 variant cases data show that numbers of the Delta (VOC-21APR-02) variant in the UK have risen by 33,630 since last week to a total of 75,953. The most recent data show 99% of sequenced and genotyped cases across the country are the Delta variant

19.6.21

Suffolk Libraries announced that they are re-introducing fines and charges from Mon 21 June. Loan periods will return to 3 weeks from 6 weeks from Mon 21 June (with the normal exceptions) Libraries and mobile libraries are open but some restrictions remain

28.6.21

St Mary's Church. New Church Warden Derek Bennet who is 75 years old is sworn in.

The July edition of the Lakenheath Times informs the community that:

1. The Parish Office will now be open to the public Monday to Friday from 10am to 12 noon except bank holidays. However, it will be closed for one week commencing 5th July.
2. Undley Road Play area. Any damage to any signage or equipment in the play park will be treated as criminal damage and reported as such.
3. A new advert looking for a Parish Clerk and responsible Finance Officer was included.
4. Cllr. Noble reported that as a result of delivering services, helping residents and businesses through the pandemic has come at a considerable cost. Despite grants and Government funding there has been a £1.36m impact on West Suffolk Councils finances.
5. Cllr Noble also confirmed that the West Suffolk Local Plan is preparing evidence to inform the choices made about where development should go in West Suffolk as well as the policies required to deliver their approach for the area.
6. News from St Marys Church:
 - a. Various attempts have been made to repair and reinstate the flagpole at the top of the church tower. Each attempt shows new problems which must be overcome. For now, no flag flies.
 - b. The long running magazine, Lakenheath Life, fell victim to the pandemic. Following Government guidelines it was not possible for the elderly vulnerable volunteers to deliver this hence production ceased. For various reasons printing would not be restarted in the foreseeable future.
 - c. Rev. Paul held services when possible throughout this difficult time with social distancing observed, communion without wine, masks worn and no singing. The church opened for private prayer at least once a week.
 - d. Now that restrictions are being relaxed church bell ringing has restarted. One person per rope in the tower wearing masks (hard to breathe when ringing) and all doors open for ventilation.
7. Scrabble Club will be re-opening with the first session Friday 30th July.

5.7.21

Lakenheath Football Club announced that in its preparation for a first ever season at Step 5 have started to gather pace with the arrival of three players from a fellow Thurlow Nunn League Premier Division side, Walsham Le Willows. Former Bury Town and Mildenhall Town player Craig Nurse is one of those to arrive, along with fellow midfielder Lee Hammond and full-back Sam Peters.

Earlier today the newly-promoted club also announced the arrival of the experienced defender-turned-striker Tom Debenham, who is manager Ben Cowling's second addition of the summer after securing the services of youngster Brandon Morris from Newmarket Town.

Now that the club has risen to a higher level many players want to join in.

Lakenheath Parish Council held their monthly meeting at the Methodist Church. Items reported in the minutes were:

1. A Parishioner asked for the SIDs used for drivers' speed alert be replaced for a more modern version.
2. A Parishioner requested a grant for a first responder to be based in Lakenheath in the same way as there was one in Mildenhall.
3. Squadron Leader Stewart Geary introduced himself as the replacement RAF Commander at Lakenheath and gave a brief overview of his background with the RAF. His main function is to embed the new F35's. The infrastructure programme is well under way with buildings rapidly built. The first aircraft are expected at the end of the year.
4. Planning. Cllr Kelly reported:
 - a. For the Neighbourhood plan the Housing Needs Assessment is available on all relevant websites. A grant for this year has been agreed but awaited.
 - b. For the neighbourhood plan research has been divided between the group each person working towards their own strength. The leads are,
 - i. Environment - Cllr J Cahill to include the Great British Spring Clean. There is great interest in 'rewilding' and looking after the environment.
 - ii. Business issues – Cllr. W Overy to include things like a farmers market. Feedback from several businesses is that a problem is the businesses don't talk to each other.
 - iii. Highways and traffic – Cllr P Gyte
 - iv. Sport and Leisure – Cllr A Gyte
 - c. Sedge Fen wish to change the Baptist Church into a Community Hall.
 - d. The Peace Memorial Hall are keen to start a drop in coffee shop. Football Club want to start an open door arrangement too. The farm shop already has a tea/breakfast shop.
 - e. From the survey (Neighbourhood Plan) it is clear some things can be arranged by residents of the village. A request for more shops. Parish Council cannot influence this. In the past there has been a more diverse High Street
 - f. On the planning side
 - i. Lakenheath Heritage Group have applied for permission for illustrative panels supported by LPC.
 - ii. LPC have supported Lakenheath Football Clubs planning application for a new stand.
 - iii. Rabbit Hill Covert is still pending now to be included in the August meeting for Development and Control at West Suffolk.
 - iv. A letter has been sent to SCC in relation to the proposed new school on two fronts. First is the school to be provided followed by the residential

development or the other way round. Secondly to seek assurance on the design of the new school. Namely, as a result of Covid recommendations in school is for ventilation. With the current design of the new school the windows are sealed units which cannot be opened relying on mechanical ventilation. Is this still appropriate.

- g. Street Lighting. Units in Caudle Avenue are of the old-style lanterns. It has been agreed in the past as these stopped working replacements would be provided as LED lamps. The Clerk is instructed to source a quote for the work.
- h. Lakenheath Litter Pick. It was reported that Friday there were approx. 20 volunteers and Saturday 12 with 8 on Sunday and a huge pile of litter cleared. Fly tipping was also found and the site reported to Suffolk County Council. The next Litter pick is to be arranged for January 2023. The emphasis is to cover hedge rows which should by then have died back to make for easier access.
- i. Sedge Fen carried out their own Litter pick of the hamlet and were very surprised at what was collected.
- j. There is an issue of weeds growing in the gutter throughout the village. Many complaints received in relation to the state of verges too. West Suffolk have said they are putting in extra resources to address these matters.
- k. Lakenheath Cemetery. It was reported that:
 - i. Railings still need cleaning and repainting.
 - ii. Chapel is now redecorated.
 - iii. The Old cemetery is looking clean and tidy, grass nicely trimmed back.
 - iv. There is a hedge growing out across the pathway down near the corner requires attention.
 - v. New Cemetery is neat and tidy but the gates require cleaning and painting. Same with the memorial benches.
 - vi. It was agreed to adopt a form for people that wish to supply memorial benches. In short, a description of what will be allowed, where and how it is to be installed. Responsibility for maintenance will also be clearly shown.
 - vii. Quote from Dyers was accepted to proceed with the painting of the gates and railings at the front, namely from Maids Cross Way to the end of the village keeper's cottage.
- l. Queens Jubilee. It was noted that the last jubilee coins for the children were provided. Although it cost a lot of money it will never be repeated in anyone's lifetime. The woodland Trust are giving away trees as part of the platinum celebrations. It was proposed that a tree be planted for the Queen remembering that there is already a proposal to plant daffodils along the grass verge of Eriswell Road if permission can be obtained.
- m. It is understood that next year the Peace Memorial Hall is 100 years old and it is hoped that there will be celebrations there as a result.
- n. Sedge Fen will have a notice board this month. Application had been made to District and County Council for some locality budget to help with the cost but none was available.

Cllr Kelly reported that as far as the Baptist Church is concerned there is no planning application as such. The church has not functioned since 2018. It currently has a 'valued community asset order' over it which basically means the community have identified a possible use for it and that when it does come up for sale it must be offered to the community for 6 months. Only after that can it be sold. Ownership is the main issue as the trustees were American Airmen who are now scattered about the US so tracking them down to sign papers is proving problematic.

Lastly it was reported that the Neighbourhood Plan will have a stall at the village Fete.

8.7.21

The Deputy Head Master, Mr Tingey, at Lakenheath Community Primary School would like to say a special thanks to RAF Lakenheath BAC for their generous donation to the Y6 leavers' celebrations. Children in Y6 will now enjoy Dominoes Pizzas at their party this week. He also thanked them for their previous donation for D&T equipment earlier this year!

19.7.21

From today (Monday 19 July) almost all legal restrictions relating to Covid on social contact have been removed. This is what that means:

Social distancing Rules have been dropped completely, meaning no more 'rule of six' for meeting inside, and no 'one-metre plus requirement for spacing between patrons at pubs, restaurants and other venues. Some establishments may choose to keep these rules in place for the safety of customers and staff.

Masks and face coverings. The law no longer requires people to wear face coverings in shops or on public transport, but government guidance says people are still 'expected' to wear them in crowded indoor spaces. This has caused confusion, and it means people will have to check themselves whether businesses and service providers are continuing to require masks. London Mayor Sadiq Khan has said masks will still be required on TfL services, including the underground. Some supermarkets and retailers have said they will encourage customers to continue wearing masks. Venue reopenings Nightclubs, which have been closed since March 2020, can now reopen. The prime minister has said nightclubs and other venues hosting crowds should encourage visitors to show so-called 'vaccine passports' when they arrive, but there is no legal requirement for them to do this at present. Venues can now operate at full capacity, and measures such as table service are no longer required.

Working from home, the previous requirement to work from home where possible has been removed. However, ministers are encouraging the return to offices to be gradual. Self-isolation. One of the only legal restrictions left is the requirement to self-isolate if you contract Covid-19. You will also have to self-isolate if you have come into contact with someone who has tested positive for the virus.

30.7.21

Scrabble and games club restarts today following the end of lockdown in St. Mary's Church fortnightly.

2.8.2021

Lakenheath Parish Council held their monthly meeting. The minutes reported:

1. Suffolk County Council are now holding live meeting face to face. Cllr. Noble will chase up road works required on the A1101 where there are dips in the road. In addition he will chase up the clean up required at Sharpes Corner as a result of fly tipping several months previously.
2. Planning. The following was reported:

- a. Neighbourhood planning grant support is expected shortly. The first purchase will be Parish Online which is a mapping tool which will allow production of maps using official information.
 - b. The development at Rabbit Hill Covert comes before development and control on Wednesday. Sadly, little information on Social Housing so badly required in the village.
 - c. The other planning case considered by the Planning sub committee was the conversion of the hairdressers opposite the Co-Op being converted to a tattoo artists studio, the third in the village. The owner had tried to obtain other interest but failed to do so. This is a better alternative to an empty shop.
3. St Mary 's Church. A request was considered received from Rev Tams of the adoption of the Church yard and Parish Council become responsible for the general maintenance. It was agreed to wait for a meeting when more councillors were present to ensure a fair vote. It was further reported that the troublesome Horse Chestnut has been reduced to a stump. Tom continues with the rebuilding of the surrounding clunch church wall.
 4. Street Lighting. It was reported that 7 lamps all in Caudle Avenue required attention. 6 could possibly get away with merely lantern updates but at least one required a full renewal. The work was agreed to be carried out by Suffolk County Council at an expected cost of £5614.83 plus VAT. This cost could increase if further lamp posts are found to require renewal.
 5. Notice Boards. Discussion was had as to ongoing maintenance to include sanding and oiling the existing boards. It was decided however, to do nothing but allow the boards to age naturally as eventually they will take on a lovely silvery sheen of old oak.

3.8.2021

Lakenheath FC start their next season as the promoted side with their first game against 4-3 victory at March Town United.

4.8.2021

West Suffolk today granted planning approval for the final matters of an 81-home development in Station Road, Lakenheath. This included the access, layout, scale, appearance and landscaping for land off Rabbit Hill Covert. The site was among a handful to be embroiled in a 2017 call in by the then Local Government Secretary Sajid Javid which delayed proceedings.

Outline permission for the greenfield agricultural land was granted in September 2018 with final matters being approved by 14 votes with one abstention today. The plans have been developed by Evera (a partnership of four housing associations) which on its website says it aims to have the 8.6 acre site ready for occupation next summer.

7.8.2021

Today Lakenheath Playing Fields presented the annual village fete comprising Bouncy castle, food and drinks, including donuts, stalls and many games. There was a car show and much more.



Today Lakenheath FC host their first ever FA Cup match. Ben Cowlings side will have the home advantage for their extra preliminary round tie against fellow newly promoted Thurlow Nunn League Premier Division outfit Mulbarton Wanderers. The game ended in a draw forcing a replay.

10.8.2021

Lakenheath FC exit the Emirates FA Cup after a defeat in the replay at Mulbarton after losing 3-1. Lakenheath took the lead through Kelvin Enaro but ended up bowing out of the competition they were appearing in for the first time.

13.8.21



Lakenheath indoor bowls club announced that it will be holding open coaching sessions for anyone that would like to learn how to play bowls. This session this is for beginners only and will run for three weeks.

16.8.21

The Government announced that the Covid rules have changed. Now if you are double-vaccinated, or under 18, you don't need to self-isolate for 10 days if you are in contact with someone with Covid or pinged by Track & Trace. Instead, they will be advised by the NHS Covid-19 app to take a free PCR test. If the result is positive, they will have to quarantine at home for ten days.

This exemption applies to those who received their second dose at least 14 days before coming into contact with a positive case.

Additionally, fully vaccinated adults who were recently 'pinged' can leave isolation early today.

19.8.21

16 and 17-year-olds can now get their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. They will be contacted and invited by the NHS but cannot book online.

In addition, it was announced that if you've been fully vaccinated in the UK, US or most of Europe you do not need to quarantine or take a day 8 test when returning from amber list countries.

21.8.2021

Lakenheath FC returned to Thurlow Nunn League Premier action today after a break due to Covid-19. They suffered a 4-0 home defeat at the hands of table topping Wroxham.

The September edition of the Lakenheath Times informed the community:

1. As a result of the village survey in relation to the Neighbourhood Plan the group are looking into the feasibility of including an outdoor gym, a Farmers Market, improvement to footpaths and the village environment generally. In addition because of the survey the Parish Council are now engaging in meaningful discussion with both Suffolk and West Suffolk Councils. About issues which are their responsibility and beyond both the Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Plan. Work on the Neighbourhood plan is proceeding as it should. The next big is a design scoping ie what new houses should look like. The website is being kept up to date.
2. A new Group called UTTER is starting up with a monthly meeting from 24th September in the Methodist Church Hall. In short this is a Poetry / Creative writing group calling all wordsmiths, poets and budding creatives.
3. Sunset Barn Care Farm confirmed that the Care Café has finally started at the Methodist Church. Members of the Church serving up teas, coffees and much more every Tuesday 10 am to 2 pm. The group are supported by the Co-Op who are providing tea and coffee and have helped with sourcing cutlery and many other items to get the group started. They will try to use as much of their own produce as possible and have a sales table with seasonal produce and plants available to buy. All are welcome to join. Meet old friends and make new ones.

3.9.21

A massive fire occurred Just off Station Rd, Lakenheath. In attendance were a fire crew from Brandon, Mildenhall, Methwold, Thetford and a relief crew from Bury St Edmunds.

Time of call: 07:13 and Stop Time: 09:17

Multiple crews were mobilised to a House Fire. Upon arrival crews were met with a well-developed fire and used 3X 45mm Jets, Small hand tools and Thermal Imaging Cameras to extinguish the fire. ALL PERSONS WERE ACCOUNTED FOR but were conveyed to Hospital for a check over. A fire investigation is underway to work out the cause.



6.9.2022

The Lakenheath Parish Council held their meeting. The Minutes reported the following:

1. Police Matters:
 - a. The Clerk reported that two boys were caught kicking a hedgehog on North Road. Police are looking for the boys but meanwhile the hedgehog was rescued and is now recovering.
 - b. Another dog attack in the village. A German Shepherd Dog attacked a woman's two dogs whilst she was walking with her toddler son. Police have interviewed the owner.
 - c. Police are investigating a serious road traffic collision near Lakenheath. It happened at about 1.10 pm 29th August and involved a single vehicle at Burnt Fen, A1101. The male driver of the Porche Boxster was in his 60's and sadly passed away. The road was closed for 24 hours whilst repairs were completed.
 - d. A burglary on the 31st August in The Avenue where an IMAC, Ipad, purse and cash was stolen.
 - e. Cllr. Palmer reported that there had been a break in at a home he previously occupied. Police attended and fingerprints were identified and the culprits were on day release from prison.
2. Cemetery.
 - a. Spring bulbs and winter plants have been planted to brighten the area.
 - b. Railings and gates are still waiting to be painted but this should happen soon.
 - c. Sunken graves now appear to be holding steady
 - d. Chapel needs cleaning and the floor is to be polished once more.
 - e. Currently there are no moles and the deer have moved on so flowers are again flourishing.
 - f. Security is a concern. Since the Parish Keeper was asked to remove his dog there have been several incidents of intruders. Security of the tool shed has been increased and it was agreed that security lights would be considered.
3. Planning:
 - a. PC have until Friday to put in their observations on the Eriswell Road proposed development. As it is known that the plans are to be altered the response will be that The Parish Council planning subcommittee are not able to respond. Persimmon have asked for a meeting yet to be arranged. It must be remembered that 30% of the site is prone to flooding.
 - b. The neighbourhood plan design scope has started and a draft expected mid to late September. A meeting has been arranged with West Suffolk to talk about their Local Plan as any Neighbourhood Plan has to fit within the Local Plan.
 - c. Comment was made that with the new developments none had solar panels yet as a country we are moving away from fossil fuel and going electric.
 - d. In relation to the proposed outdoor gym grants towards the £15,000 cost are being sought.
4. St Marys Church. Following on from last month's meeting the Parish Council have agreed after debate to the adoption of the Churchyard.
5. All Parish Councillors are to receive their own professional email facility for Parish Council work.
6. Queens Platinum Jubilee and Plant a tree. This was discussed and decided to consider further next month.

7. Discussion on the SIDs (Speed Indicator units) took place as the current ones are old and inaccurate. It was agreed that as there is no budget for renewal this year it would be delayed to next year and considered with other speed reducing measures for the village.
8. Lakenheath Heritage Group wish to place an illustrative panel on land near the village sign. Consent confirmed.

11.9.21

Lakenheath Football Club presented The Dementia UK with a cheque for £1505 the total raised was £1561.00 at a football Memorial game in honour of Gene Fincham (Sybil's late husband).



From Left to right: Travis Wright (Football clubs 'media man'), Les Thulbourn, Sue Fincham, Kevin Fincham, Ian Kennedy, Gary Fletcher, Sybil Fincham, Kieran Wootton, Lady from Dementia UK Ade Wootan, Gareth Fincham, David Flack, Kevin Flack, Jenny Curtis

14.9.21

Lakenheath FC played away tonight to Newmarket Town. Having not won in any competition since the second game of the season they came away with a 6-0 win. This was thanks to goals from Tom Thulborn (2), Nick Castellan, Brandon Morris, Lee Hammond and Shaun Avis.

18.9.2021

Lakenheath FC secured a 2-2 draw with newly promoted Fakenham Town.

20.9.21

It is today announced that the vaccine booster programme is being rolled out to the same priority groups as in the first round of COVID-19 vaccinations. This means that care home residents; health and social care workers; people aged over 50; those aged 16 to 49 years with underlying health conditions that put them at higher risk of severe COVID-19; adult carers; and adult household contacts of immunosuppressed individuals, will be prioritised for boosters. The NHS will contact eligible individuals directly. Those eligible will receive their booster no earlier than 6 months after their second dose.

Today is also the start of vaccinating 11- to 16-year-old via their school halls. The NHS will administer the vaccines the schools merely providing the premises to enable this to happen.

Today it was further announced that from Monday 4 October the 'red, amber, green' list for international travel will change. There will only be a red list, and any country not on that list should enjoy relaxed travel restrictions.

Holidaymakers returning to England from a red list country must:

- ✓ Take a pre-departure Covid-19 test within three days of your return to England.
- ✓ Quarantine in a managed hotel for 10 days and take two Covid-19 tests while you're there.
- ✓ Complete a passenger locator form within 48 hours of coming back.

The green and amber lists have merged into one. If you are returning from a country not on the red list, what you do depends on whether you are fully vaccinated against Covid-19.

If you are fully vaccinated, you must:

- ✓ Take a Covid-19 test on or before your second day back in England.
- ✓ Complete a passenger locator form within 48 hours of coming back.
- If you are not fully vaccinated, you must:
 - ✓ Take a pre-departure Covid-19 test within three days of your return to England.
 - ✓ Take a Covid-19 test on your second and eighth day back in England.
 - ✓ Complete a passenger locator form within 48 hours of coming back.
 - ✓ Quarantine at home for 10 days.

Finally, it was announced that there is to be a new way to collect your rapid Covid-19 tests. From October they will have to be ordered on line when a collect code will be given which will have to be presented when collecting a kit. Codes can be obtained online at gov.uk/get=-collect-cpde. By scanning a QR code at various supply outlets or by calling 119.

21.9.2021

Lakenheath FC enjoyed a 3-0 home victory at the expense of Swaffham Town.

25.9.2021

Lakenheath FC had a 3-0 victory in the FA Vase over Downham Town,

The October edition of Lakenheath Times informed the community:

1. Remembrance parade will take place at 14.30 pm Sunday 14th November. It will start from the vicinity of The Brewers Tap and be led by The Silver Band with those marching and wreath layers following.
2. A village litter pick has been arranged for Sunday 31st October starting from the War Memorial.
3. Christian Enterprise Foundation announced that over the last 6 years they have provided the village with £120,000 on helping meet the needs of the Lakenheath community. Details

were provided to enable people or groups to apply for funds. They confirmed that they will continue to make grants available to Organisations and groups operating in the Lakenheath area where there is a demonstrable benefit to local people.

4. Tinas Country Kitchen announced that it has linked up with the Meet up Mondays to launch regular coffee mornings at the Farm Shop in the High Street. This will occur Tuesdays 9 am to 11 am. In short if you are feeling on your own and a bit fed up or are new to the village and want to make friends join in for a free cuppa and friendly chat. This is another great initiative for the village and a way for everyone to connect and make new friends as well as renew old friendships.
5. Lakenheath Library have reintroduced their book group. The next read is The killings at Kingfisher Hill for discussion October 27th.
6. It was reported that sadly the old Victorian signal box was removed from Lakenheath Station by British Rail. The history of the building was given which can be found on Lakenheath Heritage Group website.
7. Local Hero. A grateful resident suggested that it would be nice to recognize special people that have gone that bit further to make daily lives better during difficult times. They want to nominate starting in the centre of the village where most of us visit at some time or another. Our Post Office. It really is the village hub even with shortened opening hours our Postmistress, Lisa Skinner and her husband Paul stand out. Paul mans the front desk. No-one is rushed and he is always very pleasant, patient, and helpful even when long queues build up. Meanwhile Lisa, whilst also working behind the desk has had a very difficult and demanding job keeping the Post Office open for us all to ensure that this valuable service is not lost to the village. The Postal service is not Lisa's responsibility even though the post room is in the building but if there are problems, she is always the first to step in and try to help. You will also see her out and about helping the postal service deliver our mail and parcels. Lisa has always worked hard to help us all even when the Post Office is closed, she can still be contacted and if someone needs to send an item or collect an item out of the opening hours, she will arrange a suitable time and open up to help them. Lisa is a mother to a young daughter and has the same commitments most mums have; she also used to run dance classes for your children before the pandemic stopped that. Lisa has a second career writing great lyrics for songs for the band that she and Paul are part of. They have managed to produce 2 albums to date and added to that she has taken part in 2 local shows to my knowledge recently. Lisa you are amazing thank you for all you do for us, you are a local hero.

1.10.21

Mark Skinner Funeral Services announced that they are excited to officially announce that they have taken over from the Co-op Funeral Service in Lakenheath. They confirmed that Pauline Wickham has remained in post and become a part of their team. Pauline has cared for many Lakenheath families and they are delighted to have her working with them.

4.10.21

Lakenheath Parish Council met today and the minutes reported:

1. Police Matters. Police appealed for information after cars in Eriswell Drive were broken into on Sunday 12th September. The Police are also to support a week of road safety initiatives which aim to highlight the dangers faced by vulnerable road users and reduce fatal and serious collisions.
2. RAF Commander Lakenheath. Squadron Leader Stewart Geary reported that in August the station was awarded the Commander in Chief Award, to celebrate the best station in the

whole of the US Airforce for 2020. In September the station declared Initial Operating Capability for ACE. The Jets can be flushed from the station, lift, shift, to operate from different locations around the UK. During August 20 jets were flushed from Lakenheath. RAF Lakenheath was involved in the repatriation of individuals from Afghanistan, 70 medics were sent to Germany to support the repatriation at very short notice. In September Squadron Leader Geary attended the 9-11 Memorial, 20 years service. Holkwold Parish Council had invited Squadron Leader Geary to speak to them about the Armed Forces Covenant, there is a requirement for Parish Councils to discuss the Covenant and to sign up to the Covenant Pledge. Squadron Leader Geary is happy to attend a future meeting to give more details of the Covenant. In short, the Armed Forces Covenant was a scheme set up to ensure that Armed Forces personnel were not disadvantaged because of their service.

The meeting was advised that F35's are due to arrive before the end of the year and the F15's will start to be drawn down and should all be gone before the end of the financial year.

3. Cemetery. It was reported that the cemetery railings were looking good, Chapel is looking good and floor has just been cleaned and sealed. The notice boards is relevant and tidy, the inner gates could do with refurbishing. Clerk explained that these would not be decorated now as the Council had previously voted not to do them at this time. Grass is tidy, there is a slightly untidy hedge half way down the old section. The benches look neat and tidy and there is soap and paper in the public toilet. There is a gap in the hedge at the end of the cemetery. There are whips in place and they just need to grow.
4. Cemetery security. The Village Keeper has reported no further incidents since he has started padlocking the gates. For the security of his family the village keeper sought consent to fix cameras to his cottage. After discussion this was refused. The item will be considered more fully next month after the Clerk has obtained some prices and advice for installing cameras to the shed where equipment is stored.
5. Cemetery Fee Annual Review. The Councillors considered the annual review and a 10% rise and round up to nearest pound.
6. Planning matters:
 - a. an application received by the Planning Sub- Committee today is for 7 houses behind St Mary's Court which he trusts will not be allowed as the application for one property in the past have been rejected.
 - b. Land West of Eriswell Road has gone out for consultation but there has been no date that he is aware of set for consultation.
 - c. Lots of applications for removing trees and reducing trees.
 - d. Neighbourhood Plan update: It was reported that the Neighbourhood Plan will not be sub-ordinate to the Local District Plan, not in any English law. The Local Plan must be aware of and take account of the District Plan and the District Plan has to take note of the Local Plan. West Suffolk do not currently have a Local Plan, it is in preparation. Lakenheath does not have a Neighbourhood Plan as that is also in preparation. Last week Cllrs: Kelly and Norman attended a meeting and it was decided that the sensible thing is to develop both plans together except for one minor thing which is the target for next year (February) for the NP is no longer realistic as the next part of the local plan will not be available until Dec 2021.
7. It was reported that the development of the gym facility could be hosted by the Playing Fields Association, the cost would be in the region of 16k and now that could be raised by grants, but that the short fall may be between 4-6k which could be granted by the Parish Council. The playing fields would need to apply for a grant from the Parish Council. Cllr: A Gyte mentioned that every year the PC gives the playing field Association 4k. The clerk pointed out that under S.19 the Playing Field Association can apply for a grant from the Parish Council but no figure is guaranteed.

8. Highways. An email from Highways states that as Eriswell and Station Road are B class roads they would expect then to be used by HGV 's and therefore vertical traffic calming treatments would not be encouraged due to the noise and vibration issues. However, things that can be considered are entry treatments/gateways, carriageway speed limit roundels except in 30mph street lit areas. Road narrowing, priority systems, general signing and road markings and SIDs. So contrary to what was reported to the PC in May 2021 it seems that SCC does have a traffic calming system in place. Hepworth Town Council is currently in the process of putting together a plan for traffic calming and their County Councillor Joanne Spicer is spearheading the project and it has been implied that without the backing of our County Councillor Colin Noble it will be very hard for Lakenheath to get this up and running.
9. Business Forum. There will be a meeting with local business leaders to push ahead with plans to form a group and also to look at a farmers market for Lakenheath. There will be an article for the Lakenheath Times to inform parishioners about this and invite them to take part.
10. Environmental issues: It was reported that there had been a meeting with West Suffolk Council which was very useful. They are going to be looking at various things that can be fixed on the warren such as signs. The WS tree man says that it may be possible to put a tree on Briscoe Way but that the tree must conform to the size that they require and cannot be a whip.
11. Litter picks. Following discussion, it was agreed that Cllr: Cahill has permission to arrange 4 litter picks a year as and when she feels the need is there.
12. Remembrance Day Parade. The parade will take place this year on the 14th November and it has been agreed that the band will march from the Brewers Tap to the War Memorial followed by an outdoor service at 2.30pm. The War Memorial is 100 years old this year so it is felt that it would be a great idea to hold the service at the memorial.
13. War Memorial. A quote is waited for the cleaning of the war memorial. It was agreed that if reasonable the work is instructed in the hope that it is completed before the Remembrance Parade.
14. Saint Mary's Church Wall update. Work has started on St Mary's Church wall and Tom Rought has completed a 3-metre stretch. This work should be completed in the next couple of weeks including the replacement of the buttresses.
15. Update on Play Park Fencing. There is a gap in the fencing at the play park and this could be a safety issue if children were able to get through and could end up on the road. This has been rectified by installing two posts and some fencing.
16. Assistant Clerk. The post has now been filled

7.10.21

CJ's sandwich bar announced that due to several requests that they have arranged for a fruit and vegetable stall, this time partnering with Haylock's, to return to their forecourt on Fridays. This will focus on the local providing fresh provisions especially potatoes and eggs. The start date is yet to be confirmed.

9.10.2021

Lakenheath FC were forced to settle for a 1-1 draw from their home encounter with Hadleigh United.

12.10.2021

Lakenheath FC gained the away victory against Ely City with a 3-0 win. They have now moved into the top half of the Thurlow Nunn League Premier Division table after picking up four points from the last six available. Ninth placed Lakenheath will play host to Kirkley and Pakefield tomorrow.

15.10.21

The Pumpkin patch at Undley is open for its 22nd year. It will be open at weekends and every day during the half term break. Visits must be prebooked because of the covid regulations. They will have 25 varieties of pumpkins and gourds. The farm will again host its popular maize maze and many inflatables.

The first week that the greengrocer stall opened to the public on the forecourt of CJs sandwich bar. It is hoped that if successful this will be a regular Friday community facility.



Tinas Country Kitchen announced that they will have different craft stalls selling their homemade crafts during November and December. They will provide for a late-night shopping on a Friday (5 pm to 9 pm). Each week they will have a special menu available in their café with food available on the late-night shopping Friday.

23.10.2022

Lakenheath Football Club played Mildenhall Town away in the Buildbase FA Vase winning 2 – 1.

26.10.21

An awesome sight of the 494th squadron of F-15's returning home from deployment.



The November edition of the Lakenheath Times reported:

- a. An update for the Neighbourhood plan in line with the information included in the Parish Council minutes for October.
- b. Business in Lakenheath. There is an aim to connect local businesses to support one another network, collaborate and share ideas to provide sustainable growth for everyone in the community. To start this off all local business and shop owners are invited to join the first Lakenheath Business Forum meeting at Lakenheath Pavilion, 11th November at 7pm.
- c. Litter pick around the village arranged for Sunday 31st October.
- d. New assistant Parish Clerk, Christine Mason, is welcomed working twice a week. This will enable the Parish Office to open to the public Monday to Friday 9 am to 12 noon.
- e. A new Rainbows unit is to open in January 2022. Rainbows is for girls aged 5 to 7. They take part in various activities, fun games and crafts with other girls which help them make new friends and develop self-confidence.
- f. Parish Councillors were out in force to help the village keeper with the spreading of the woodchip on the new play area. An annual task.

Lakenheath Parish Council held their monthly meeting of which these are the minutes:

Present

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

Apologies for Absence

Cllr: I Frost, Cllr: S Palmer, Lakenheath Squadron Leader: S Geary, Assistant Clerk C Mason,

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

Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 4th October 2021 Cllr: Overy noted that the date of the next meeting was recorded as 4th November which was incorrect and Clerk offered apologies and agreed to the amendment. It was agreed that the minutes were a true record of accounts and it was proposed and seconded that these should be signed as such. All agreed.

Representations from Members of the Public A parishioner raised her concerns in regards to Footpaths 4 and 5 to the east of Stallode Bank, access and maintenance of footpaths and adoption

on the definitive map. As County Cllr: Noble had not yet arrived but District Cllr: S Frost was in attendance the Chairman Cllr: Morley suggested that contact details were exchanged and this could be passed on to Cllr: Noble to follow up as this was deemed beyond the remit of the Parish Council. Parishoner left the meeting at 7.16pm,

Introducing Christine Mason - Assistant Clerk. As Clerk Mason had offered her apologies, this item was deferred to the next parish meeting.

Reports and Questions (a)Police Matters Police- A silver BMW travelling towards Brandon-on-Brandon Road, Eriswell, left the carriageway just before 5am Sunday 17 October and collided with trees.

It has been reported to police that rabbits are being shot using a rifle, rather than a shotgun on Lakenheath Warren, it seems that these incidents are taking place under the cover of darkness and the carcasses are being left in situ. To date 3 rabbits have been found.

LAKENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL

Sometime between 6.30pm Saturday 23 and 7.30am Monday 25 October entry was gained to a white Ford Transit van via unknown means. Damage was caused under the driver's dash panel and racking in the rear of the vehicle. A quantity of power tools was stolen.

On Friday 29th October two cars were hit by a speeding car on High Street Lakenheath outside Goward House. The number plate and details were taken by a witness and these have been passed onto police, who are continuing with their enquires.

Cllr Noble arrived at the meeting 7.22pm

Reports & Questions: (a)RAF Commander Lakenheath. As the Squadron leader was unable to attend the meeting the Clerk read the report sent.

Operations 48 Fighter Wing Medical Group personnel have returned from Ramstein.

494th Fighter Squadron have returned from Operations.

48 Fighter Wing participated in a successful aircraft crash exercise on 7 October 2021. The simulated F35 crash was also attended by personnel from Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Emergency Services, Environmental Agency, RAF Marham and RAF Honington.

Community Engagement Suffolk and Norfolk High Sheriffs and Deputy Lieutenants from Suffolk, Cambridge and Norfolk visited RAF Lakenheath on 21 October 2021.

I met with 48 Fighter Wing Public Affairs and HQ Air Media and Communications teams on 22 October 2021 to discuss arrangements for the arrival of the F35A aircraft and the planned F35A community engagement event. I hope to have a date for the community engagement event very soon.

RAF Lakenheath will be supporting more than 20 Remembrance events around the County this month. Squadron Leader Geary will be attending the Lakenheath Remembrance Event on 14 November 2021.

SL: Geary has raised the Parish Council concerns about F15s overflying Lakenheath village with our Ops Team and they have confirmed that all aircrew have been reminded about the requirement to avoid overflying the village.

Questions asked by Councillors Cllr: Morley asked that the Clerk send back to the Squadron Leader that he felt that it would have been appropriate for a representative from Parish Council to have been invited to the aircraft crash exercise. Cllr: Kelly explained that as he had attended many such event in his professional life it would not have been appropriate and was a training exercise for the emergency services.

Cllr:Hastings is there a time that they can start flying as a parishoner had raised concerns that the flights were getting earlier and earlier. Cllrs discussed this and it was agreed that the planes needed to fly in all conditions and that wars were not 9am-5pm.

c) Suffolk County Council Cllr: Noble apologised for his late arrival and asked the Clerk if there were any groups in the village that were specifically for registered blind people. The Clerk was not aware of any and Cllr:Noble said he would forward the parishioner's email to the clerk to respond to.

Cllr: P Gyte said that if the parishioner needed any help then the Good Neighbours team could offer support.

Cllr: Hasting said they would welcome the parishioner in any of the groups in the village.

Nov 2021

Cllr: noble reported that the County Council are currently going through the budget setting process but there is no money. The Government delivered the budget last week but County Council will not know how much money is available until mid-December, but what has been said is that Adult Social Care will be capped at 1% before you have to go to referendum and Council Tax will be capped at 2% before you have to have a referendum. Lots of challenging things coming for Local Government.

Cllr: Noble asked for questions from the Councillors.

Cllr: P Gyte explained that the Clerk had forwarded to her an email trail from a resident in regards to speeding and parking in the village and that she had some questions in regards to Cllr: Noble's response to this resident. She asked for details of when the new development came to Station Road that there was traffic calming proposed in line with the development, can Cllr: Noble give details of what the calming measures may be?

Cllr: Noble said that he would ask the District Council (as it is a S:106 matter) and he will ask them to comment. There are a raft within the S:106 agreement for traffic calming measures such as the new pedestrian crossing on the Eriswell Road, so that people on the new estate can walk down towards the village and there will be some stuff relating to the school. Unfortunately the school will now not be built until the houses are completed as that was a lot of money that we had allocated a long time ago and for various reasons we all know that has now passed and the school will not now come until the numbers of children in the village require for the school to be built. The infrastructure including roads system have to be established first and there will be some calming measures around that as well.

Cllr Noble suggested that the Clerk write to him and he would then contact district to try to get some answers on that.

Cllr: Gyte commented that with respect a couple of zebra crossing are not permanent calming measures as they will only slow the traffic when someone is crossing on them. Cllr: Gyte is much more interested in and focusing on permanent traffic calming in the village, now that the 30-mph sign has been put out further on Station Road there are no repeaters out there and that stretch is used like a formula one race track coming into the village. And similarly coming in from the other end of the village.

Cllr: A Gyte explained that she has had a reply from Highways and they have said that there are certain types of traffic calming which they may or may not consider and she is now in the process of looking at a link for safety and speed management on Suffolk Highways website, she has asked if there can be some sort of discussion on the issues facing Lakenheath and asks if Cllr: Noble will be supportive of that meeting? Cllr: Noble said maybe it could link into the Lakenheath Neighbourhood plan and Cllr: Gyte reminded him that the concerns from the village have come from the survey. To the elected representatives it is important that we are seen to be doing something about the issues that was the number one concern for the parishioners.

Cllr; Noble stated that he was not quite sure but that it is now higher on the agenda than it was pre-covid across the villages, he would also say it is now the number one issue that people are raising with him and the reality is there are some things that can be done but the main solution would be for the motorist to slow down, you know you're in a village and it is a personal decision for a lot of people that it doesn't matter and they will speed through. He regularly follows people coming into Lakenheath who are doing 50mph way past the village sign. The problem is that when the police do enforce that majority of the people that they catch are villagers there are certain things you can do but you can't solve it all. We know there are issues with the Americans and the predominately young

men from the base who drive like they are on a race track and we do speak to the base in regards to this. Cllr; Gyte said this is why it is vital that there is a permanent way of physically slowing them down surely Cllr: Noble should be in support of this. Such as road narrowing and priority systems. Cllr Noble reported that although this is favoured in Cambridgeshire it is not favoured in Suffolk and that if you had road narrowing in Lakenheath you would have queues of traffic miles long, due to the volume of traffic flowing through Lakenheath. He believes that the queues would be three to four miles long. Cllr: P Gyte finished by asking Cllr: Noble that if she could arrange a meeting with him to discuss what may or may not be possible would he be happy to attend, Cllr: Noble replied that he would but it would depend on the availability in his diary.

Clerk reported to Cllr Noble that although he was not in the meeting for the police report that there had been an incident with a speeding car that had hit two park cars in the High Street.

Cllr: Overy thanked Cllr: Noble for his help with the painting of the white lines at Farthing Drove.

Cllr Norman pointed out to Cllr: Noble that there was a pedestrian crossing alongside traffic calming in Brandon at Rattlers Road and that this was the sort of crossing that he believed was needed in Lakenheath. Cllr: Noble stated that these are no longer being installed due to the noise issues for the residents living adjacent to the traffic calming.

(b) West Suffolk District Council Cllr: S Frost reported that the budgets were under discussion for District and that finances were still recovering from last year. He also reported that he is seeing more planning consultation comments from Lakenheath. It's been a quiet month for district.

Cllr: Morley asked about Remembrance Day and Cllr: Frost confirmed that the service was taking place at the war memorial and that the RBL had arranged for refreshments in the village hall after the service.

Cllr: Kelly asked that apart from car park charges another source of revenue for the district is parking enforcement offences. We did see the parking enforcement officers on a couple of occasions and on both occasions, it has been at about 10am as he came in this evening there was a lorry and a car on the zebra crossing zigzags and this happens regularly at this time. This is a criminal offence, we asked West Suffolk police back when we lost the possibility of a PCSO in the village to please talk to us as if it was a case of hiring somebody part time and were not interested in making a fortune out of it and that Suffolk could keep the funds, we were told at that point that it would be sorted out and that West Suffolk Council would get back to us but nobody ever has.

Cllr; Kelly asked for Councillor Frost's help with bringing this back to the table. Cllr: Frost and Cllr: Noble left the meeting at 7.44pm

Financial Matters including: - (a) Payments of Accounts. It was agreed that the payments were an accurate account and it was proposed and seconded to pay the accounts as stated. This was agreed by all. (b) Bank Reconciliation for September It was accepted that an accurate record of accounts and it was proposed and seconded that this be accepted as an accurate record of accounts. All agreed. (c) Proposed Budget to review and discuss. The draft budget was presented to the Council and it was discussed in detail. It was agreed that Street Lighting proposed budget should be higher and it was proposed and agreed that the proposed budget for this item be increased by an extra £5,000 to £23,000. The reserve on this item will remain at £57,000. The Clerk itemised each item and the reason that she had set the figure for expenditure next year. The Council confirmed that they were happy with the draft budget and the Clerk will bring it back to the table in December for final sign off before applying for next year's precept. The Council asked the Clerk to get a quote for the tarmac at the playpark before the next meeting.

Planning Matters - To consider all outstanding Planning Applications and if necessary, any applications received after preparation of the agenda:

Cllr: Kelly reported as far as general planning is concerned there was an application from Persimmon to have the sound proofing measures removed because that was what happened on the Bennett's site at Briscoe Way. The Planning Sub- Committee will make a forthright objection to this as the new development is only approximately 600 meters from the runway and if the RAF are doing their reduced Curves and the flights go up in numbers this will be a major problem for residents. There has been an application for 7 houses behind the old Cromwell Inn. We will not be supporting this, as the previous application was for just one house and that was rejected so we are unsure of the logic of asking for seven houses to be erected at the same spot. Eriswell Road overall reserved matters will be coming up in early December.

Neighbourhood Plan update:

The litter pick took place yesterday, it felt lighter than previously but it was noted that although there were less face masks and more surgical gloves picked up. The Lakenheath Times featured an update in regards to the progress of the plan and details of the Business Network meeting which is taking place this month.

Cllr: Gyte reported an update on the adult gym. He has spoken to the Pavilion and there is still 14 years on their lease, but until it is decided who is paying for the adult gym he can move no further, if the parish pay for it will cost approximately £15k if the playing fields pay for it the cost will be higher for them as they are not VAT registered and they cannot claim back the VAT but they will receive the grant from the Christian Enterprise. The Clerk reminded Cllr: Gyte that the playing fields Association would need to apply for a grant from the Parish Council under S:19 and Cllr: Gyte stated that they are aware of the procedure.

Cllr: Kelly reported that the Planning Sub-Committee would be holding a planning committee meeting on the 6th December at the Methodist Chapel and this would take place directly before the next parish council meeting at 6pm.

Cllr: Hasting asked what the aim of the Business Network Group was? Cllr: Overy reported that the aim was to bring together businesses to support a farmers' market and encourage the residents to use the local shops and businesses. To bring together the businesses to work in a more collaborative way.

Cllr: Hasting mentioned that there was an issue with parking outside the Peace Memorial Hall and that this was an issue with the elderly users of the clubs. Cllr: Overy said that if this was brought up in the meeting there may be another business that could offer parking to Central Garage and it was this type of ethos that they were trying to promote. She also reminded the meeting that there were no parking restrictions outside the hall. The Clerk mentioned that whenever the garage was asked to move vehicles, they are very obliging and quite respectful, she feels that they do try to adapt.

Cllr: Norman asked about planning permission for 27 Meadow Drive where a number of trees are to be felled, what is the outcome. Cllr: Kelly said that although there was no response from the Parish Council Planning Sub- Committee they did not make a comment as he had sight of a letter from the tree officer saying to the residents if you apply for this you will get it.

Remembrance Day Parade: The Clerk reported that the parade will take place this year on the 14th November at 2.30pm. It has been agreed that the band will march from the Brewers Tap to the War Memorial and there will then be an outdoor service at 2.30pm. The War Memorial is 100 years old this year so it is felt that it would be a great idea to hold the service at the memorial. The wreath was ordered.

War Memorial: The clerk reported Birtton Wood and Son quoted for the cleaning of the War memorial and the quote was accepted by the Chair and herself under delegated powers. The work was carried out last week and the memorial is looking good. They have assessed any work that is needed for the lettering and will send a quote for that, but would recommend that this is not done until the Spring.

Adoption of the Heritage Trail Panels – to consider the adoption of the Heritage Panels.

Councillors considered the adoption and asked the clerk to confirm with the Insurance Company the financial impact on the Parish Insurance policy. The clerk was asked to report back at the next meeting and it was proposed that the decision was deferred until more information has been gathered. This was seconded and agreed by all. It was asked who had offered the Village Keepers services to the Heritage Trail and the clerk reported that having had email contact with Mrs Clare Shimon it was confirmed that when the Village Keeper helped erect the panel in the Wing's Road Car Park he had been thanked and at that point stated that he was always willing to help. The Councillors proposed that due to current issues, the Village Keeper could if he wanted to volunteer to help the Heritage Trail Group but this would need to be in his own time and with no financial payment from the Council, the Clerk should also point out to the keeper that he would not be insured by the Council if he decided to do this work in his own time and it will be classed as voluntary work.

Lakenheath Cemetery:

(a) To receive a Cemetery Report Cllr: Hastings gave a cemetery report. General appearance is good and the gates and railing have smartened up the entrance way. The graves appear to be stable and there is little sinkage currently, there has been a wasp's nest and that was dealt with, within an hour of the Keeper reporting it to the clerk and there was one mole in the cemetery which has been dispatched by the mole catcher. The hedges need to be straightened and she asked the clerk to task the keeper with straightening it up. She also mentioned that the leaves are blowing into the chapel and this could be a slip hazard the village keeper should be instructed to sweep the chapel twice a day as needed to ensure that the wind blow is kept under control. It was suggested that this could be done when the keeper returns to the cottage before his lunch and before he closes the chapel for the evening. Clerk has agreed to instruct the keeper about the hedge and the sweeping of the chapel.

(b) To confirm Grant of Exclusive Rights of Burial: There were none

(c) Security at cemetery: The Clerk has received a quote from force 8 and this is for the lesser cost of having the equipment in a locked box in the chapel. The quote is for £958.20 inclusive of VAT. It was proposed and seconded that the quote was accepted and the Clerk was instructed to arrange for the installation of the cameras. This was agreed by all.

(d) Cottage Inspection: Cllr: Norman reported on the recent Cemetery inspection. Cllrs: Morley and Norman attended the Cemetery cottage for the annual inspection and it was found to be very clean and tidy, the outside areas were neat and the lawn well cut. The cottage from the outside looked in good condition the roof looked stable and the gutter is in good condition. Windows and door frames, Scott stated that the windows are drafty and has asked for them to be replaced. Clerk reported that SPA Installations have attended the cottage and they found that the windows are up to current regulation and did not feel that the fitting of the windows was in anyway defective, the hinges were all in good condition and there was no need to replace the windows. Steve Drew the owner of SPA Windows did suggest that if required he could fit retaining safety bars to ensure that the windows did not open fully, these would be in line with fire safety regulations but would ensure that a young child could not open the window and fall out. He would also re-mastic around the frames to tidy them up a bit, but that this was not essential work as it was more about cosmetic appearance rather than any issues with draft, which in his professional opinion was not excessive and well within the current standards for double glazing. The cost of this work would be approximately £100 + Vat. It was proposed that this work was done, seconded and all agreed. Cllr: Overy asked if the cottage has an energy rating certificate? The Clerk said she was not aware of one and Cllr: Overy proposed that one should be sourced as the PC would then have a better understanding of any issues this was seconded and agreed by all. It was further reported that two fence Panels need replacing to the side of the property and the Clerk had sourced a quote for the replacement of the panels which was £380.00. The Clerk reported that the Keeper had requested

that the gates that were originally in place be reinstated as it would make it easier for delivery of fuel to the cottage. The Clerk reported that the quote for this was of a similar amount and would make life easier for the Keeper. This was discussed and it was proposed that due to security issues that had been raised by the Keeper that the fixed panels should be fitted. This was proposed and seconded and agreed by all.

Toilet Opening /Closed. The clerk reported the advert had gone in for a part time opener of the toilets, at Wings Road and the play area. As the Lakenheath Times has only just been delivered there had been no response to date. The Clerk reported that the Chairman had agreed to do this in the interim until a reliable person has been found.

Items for Future meetings

Emergency Action Plan Update

Adoption of the panel from the Heritage Trails

Update on S137/S19 Grants to date:

The Clerk reported that two grants have been received S.19 from the 2nd Lakenheath Rainbow Group which is a new group related to the Brownies for craft items and start up stationary. It was proposed and seconded that the PC grant £100 to the group. S.137 a grant request has been received from Headways. It was proposed and seconded to grant £50.00 all agreed.

The Council may wish to consider excluding members of the public due to the confidential nature of the next item. There were no members of the public present at this time.

The PC agreed to vary the items of the agenda and as suspend Standing Orders due to the time and items still to discuss.

Audit of equipment. This was discussed, and agreed that PAT testing would be carried out on relevant items of equipment and that items that needed servicing should be serviced.

Village keeper and Training Needs: This was discussed and agreed that the training needs should be met.

External HR Support This was discussed, proposed, seconded and all agreed that the Parish Council should engage an external HR Company.

Such other business which, in the opinion of the Chairman, should be considered as a matter of urgency: There was none

To note date of next Meetings - Monday 6th December 2021 There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.51pm

12.11.2022

The Bury Free Press reported that a part time gamekeeper has been handed a community order and ordered to pay £200 in costs after admitting to six charges relating to pesticide and firearms offences.

Shane Leech 33 of Maids Cross Hill, Lakenheath was sentenced at Suffolk Magistrates Court in Ipswich on Monday.

He was handed a community order of 80 hours unpaid work, ordered to pay £105 in costs and a £95 victim surcharge.

The court heard that in September 2020 a dead buzzard and wood Pigeon carcass were found on farmland near Lakenheath. Leech runs a pheasant shoot nearby. Toxicology tests confirmed the buzzard had been illegally poisoned by the pesticide Bendiocarb having fed on the pigeon which had been laced with the same toxic substance.

Police discovered in an unlocked outbuilding two tubs of the pesticide Ficam D of which the active ingredient of which is Bendiocarb. These were forfeited and destroyed. They seized a number of firearms which were not stored securely. A number of agricultural pesticides were found in inappropriate storage conditions.

Leech was originally charged with additional offences relating to the poisoning of the buzzard but these were later discontinued after pleas had been entered to six other charges.

16.11.21

Parents are being warned home schooling could be back if there are serious outbreaks of Covid in Suffolk this winter.

As part of a new three-tier system being introduced across the county, schools will be asked to introduce varying measures depending on the number of cases they have reported.

The new school protocol, developed by Suffolk County Council's children's services and public health teams, comes into effect from this week.

The teams stress the strategy "advice and cannot be mandated", but contains recommended actions.

Level one is the base level, and is applied to all schools with minimal or no cases. The measures include allowing only essential visitors into school, and the use of face coverings by students and staff in between classes at secondary schools.

Level two recommends school leaders consider re-introducing bubble arrangements, staggered start and end times for classes or the school day, internal contact tracing or daily lateral flow testing in secondary schools for a minimum of five days.

Level three says "if chains of transmission are not broken by all above measures, consider attendance restrictions as last resort", meaning "affected class or group move to home learning for as short a period of time as possible, but with on-site provision remaining for vulnerable children and key worker children".

Some measures differ between early years settings, primary schools and secondaries.

The council's protocol says that any measures should "affect the minimum number of children for the shortest time" and added that it was "to ensure face-to-face education is maintained as far as possible across all educational settings and minimise disruption to students' education".

The new protocol is set to be reviewed every two weeks.

The trigger for level two is when 5-14 people likely to have mixed closely test positive within a 10-day period, or if 10-29% of a defined group of students and staff likely to have mixed closely test positive within the same timeframe.

The level three threshold is 15 or more students and staff or 30% or more of a defined group likely to have mixed closely who test positive within a 10-day timeframe.

Mixing closely could be a class, a friendship group or a school club, but the document stressed those thresholds applied to "a defined group that are likely to have mixed closely and not to the whole school".

It means that whole schools returning to bubbles or working from home were unlikely. Schools will only move between tiers if there has been an incident management team meeting or a meeting with the council's Covid support team.

The guidance does not apply to higher education settings as outbreaks at those are managed on a case-by-case basis, the council said.

The protocol states: "The purpose of this document is to provide clear and consistent recommendations for when additional Covid-19 control measures in Suffolk childcare and educational settings should be introduced, stepped-up and stepped-down."

18.11.2021

The East Anglia Daily Times announced that the first F-35A fighter jets are scheduled to arrive at RAF Lakenheath in mid-December after the base was selected to host the first US squadrons in Europe.

RAF Lakenheath was chosen based on close ties with the Royal Air Force, existing infrastructure, and combined training opportunities. The new F-35 squadron will consist of 27 aircraft and the accompanying USAF service men required to keep them flying.

The jets arrive after the 48th Fighter Wing activated the US' 495th Fighter Squadron, nicknamed as the 'Valkyries', 30 years after it was made inactive.

Lt Col Ian D McLaughlin has assumed command as the first since 1991. He said: "The 495th has a proud history and we're excited to take the guide on forward to start building the foundation for first USAF F-35As stationed in Europe."

Today the post box outside the Post Office was hit by a vehicle so hard that it was knocked sideways. Royal Mail have taped it up and taken it out of use until the necessary repairs can be made.



19.11.2021

Lakenheath Pharmacy announced that they only have under 65 years old flu vaccine. They were very apologetic that they did not have any over 65 years old left. They were unable to confirm when new stock would be received.

20.11.2021

Lakenheath FC continued their record run in the Buildbase FA Vase winning 3-0 at an experienced lower league Norwich CBS outfit sent the side through to the third round of the National competition for the first time in the Clubs history.

Lakenheath's reward for the victory is a home tie against another Step 6 club , Shefford Town and Campton who travel to The Pit on December 11.

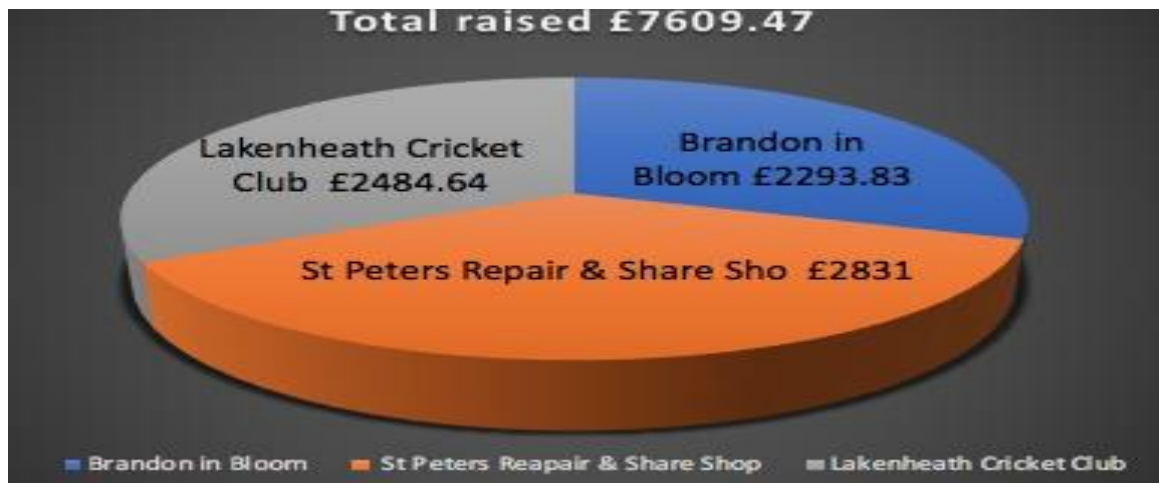
The Thurlow Nunn League Premier Division side not only have a home tie for the last 64 third round proper stage, set to take place on December 11, but will also be taking on a lower-league side. Bedfordshire-based Shefford Town & Campton, who ply their trade in the Spartan South Midlands League Division One will be the visitors

21.11.2021

St Marys Lakenheath advised that today was Shoebox Sunday. They had achieved 110 shoeboxes ready to ship to children less fortunate than our own. A brilliant result all things considered.



The Lakenheath Co-op advised today that they had raised for the Lakenheath Community a total of £7,609.47 this year for these worthy causes @Brandoninbloom Lakenheath Cricket Club & St Peter's Repair & Share. They sought applications from local groups for future funding.



22.11.2021

Covid booster jab will be available to over 40-year-olds as from today.

Lakenheath Pharmacy announced that they now have fresh stocks of the Flu Vaccine for both the over 65's and the under 65's.

Lakenheath Beavers have today lit up the phone box (book exchange) for Christmas. Lights will come on at 5pm and go off automatically at 11pm.



WE NEED YOUR HELP PLEASE...



We are holding our xmas raffle once again this year and are asking for any prize donations. Last year we received many prizes including a hamper, bottles of wine, hair styling voucher etc and we are looking to build on last years success. CJ's Sandwich bar are once again going to help sell tickets on our behalf and their help is brilliant in making this a successful fundraiser for the club.

If you are able to donate any prize please can you contact Richard on 07540201223.

Thanks in advance

23.11.21

Sadly, the lovely lights and lots of the children's art work that had been fixed to the door and windows of the Telephone Box outside the library were stolen. Many of the Beavers were very upset by this. Replacement light were installed 25.11.21 but the box will now be locked between 3 pm and 9 am in the hope that the book exchange can continue in daylight hours and artwork etc will not be removed.

It was today reported that Lakenheath Community Primary School had raised an incredible £2800 for Children in Need.

On Wednesday, the schools 280 children completed a 21-minute sponsored walk/run in aid of the charity that aims to improve the lives of disadvantaged children and young people around the UK.

"We thought about all the families who need the money to help their children because they are not as fortunate as we are," said Ruby Stocker, a year five school councillor.



26.11.21

Lloyds Bank customers in the village received a letter to day to confirm that the temporary arrangement of the Lloyds banking van visiting the village fortnight is now to continue as it has proved to be a popular source of banking.

27.11.2021

The Prime Minister has today confirmed new temporary and precautionary measures following the emergence of the Omicron variant of Covid in the UK. Two cases confirmed today, one in Nottingham and the other in Essex. Both had recently returned from the same place in South Africa. As a result, the Prime Minister confirms new, temporary and precautionary measures following this emergence of the Omicron variant in the UK:

- Face coverings will become compulsory on public transport and in shops. Not including hospitality.
- All international arrivals entering England must take a day 2 PCR test and self-isolate until they receive a negative result.
- All contacts of suspected Omicron cases must self-isolate for 10 days, regardless of their vaccination status. They will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace.

29.11.2021

Covid rules are being strengthened in response to concern over the newly identified Omicron variant. All people aged 18 and over will be offered a Covid-19 booster jab as the government steps up efforts to tackle the new Omicron variant.

Health secretary Sajid Javid said five cases of the new variant of concern have now been identified in the England, along with six in Scotland.

Lakenheath FC put out an advert for a new U18's manager to carry the team forward, currently in the Thurlow Nunn Midweek Floodlit league, to start as soon as is possible.

The December edition of the Lakenheath Times informed the community:

1. Thanks were given by Lakenheath Parish Council to residents who volunteer and help to deliver the Monthly magazine.
2. Toilets at the Undley Road Play Park were refurbished and look much better.
3. The war memorial will be refurbished in the Spring.
4. Spare a thought for neighbours and spare a little time with them if lonely.
5. Following receipt of grant money Lakenheath FC gave an "update on how they are doing; Work recently undertaken on the grounds: We had to totally enclose the ground, so had to fence in along from the main stand to the end of the pitch and in front of the end of bowls club. We have a new covered stand that had to be installed for this level of football, which will hopefully hold more than 100 spectators. There is hard standing that had to encompass the whole pitch, again another requirement at this level. The other projects that money went towards are a PA System, not just to play music but also to make announcements regarding players, raffle winners etc and in emergencies. That was installed mid-way through last season also a requirement. A VEO camera to record matches for club purposes, ie training and to put on YouTube etc so the wider public can view. All this came to over £31,000, most of which came from the football foundation, but the remainder came from your grant, without which we would never be able to achieve these things. So forever grateful for your continued support in helping us make this a 'stadium' the whole village can be proud of.

On the pitch it's been a mixed bag so far following our promotion to step 5 of the football pyramid. It's a very difficult league but we are more than 'holding our own' and currently sit mid-table with some notable victories, like beating Newmarket Town 6 – 0 on their pitch whilst they were 3rd in the league having not lost any of their first 8 matches.

We played in the FA Cup for the 1st time in the clubs' history, unfortunately losing 2 – 1 after a replay and having a player sent off.

In the FA Vase we have been more successful reaching 1st round proper (after 2 qualifying rounds) only to be drawn away to Mildenhall town who have a far bigger squad, of supposedly superior players and a monstrous playing budget to fund their squad. Against all odds we beat them 2 – 1 and making more history are in the 2nd round, away again to Norwich CBS nothing is easy but again we'll give it our best shot. If we are lucky enough to get through, we will be down to the last 64 nationwide (7 more wins and we'll be at Wembley – hey a boy can dream!!!!)."

6. Local Hero. The award for December was given to Bonnie, 6 years old, who turned out in the cold, wet and wind to help with a village litter pick.
7. The various scout groups within the village gave a huge thanks to:
 - a. Scout leaders for adjusting from face to face meetings to zoom meeting and delivering to scouts activity packs. In the last 12 months we had virtual nights away, St Georges Day Celebrations, earned badges and had fun doing it.
 - b. The young people themselves and the parents. They all adapted to online meetings despite being on them most of the day with school but still logged on in the evening to Scout. The parents who supported this and assisted with activities and helped set up camps at home. Without this scouting could not have gone on over the last year.
 - c. This of course came at a cost, as a group we considered the financial impact of Covid to the families in our area we decided to stop charging termly subs. When we re-instated this charge, we did so at a reduction.
 - d. The last but most important thanks therefore are to the local organisations that supported us financially which allowed us to continue to provide scouting by means of activity packs but also to subsidise the cost of termly subs. Lakenheath Parish Council and the Christian Enterprise Foundation both helped us with grants. With this money we paid the annual census fees to insure young people are insured whilst doing scouting activities, purchased items to go into activity packs and when you are

delivering up to 50 of them within the group this gets expensive. We also paid 3rd party activities such as Owl investigation and Painting Passions. To get us back to face to face we have had to meet outside to reduce the spread of covid so we used money to purchase items to help us get back to face to face such as Flood Lights, walkie talkies, he viz vests, 4 man tents fire puts and torches.

8. Lakenheath Consolidated Charities: An application form was included for the annual distribution. Applicants should be over the age of 74 and have been resident in the village for more than ten years. Only those people who are financially needs should apply. Only one application per married couple or individual can be accepted.
9. The next litter pick is to be arranged for Saturday February 12 2022 10.30 am to 12.30 pm.
10. Lakenheath Parish Council wished a happy 100th birthday to Mrs Elizabeth (Betty) Milner due on the 27th December.
11. Fundraising night, thanks were extended to all who attended and donated to a music fund raising night. £1553 was raised for St Nicholas Hospice. In total over the last 6 years the Empson family have donated £6000. The hospice cared for Sheila Empson.

1.12.2021

Lakenheath Beavers are doing a xmas stocking advent around the village. Everyday up until the 24th December, they will hide a daily stocking somewhere in the village for someone to find. It is filled with xmas goodies and a gift donated by a village business. A clue will be posted on Face Book (Lakenheath People and Lakenheath Community) at various times of the day during the day. If found, the finder will keep it. The Lakenheath Beavers just ask that the finder posts on Face Book to say who they are and where it has been found.

3.12.21

Having provided xmas lights to the Lakenheath Book Exchange phone box outside the library, someone has prized the Hasp and Padlock just to steal the lights. All for a £5.99 set of lights!

Lakenheath Pharmacy confirmed today that they have now used up their whole winter allocation of Flu jabs and thanked the local community for using their services.

It was today announced that people can wait as little as 3 months now for their Covid booster jab after their second full dose.

5.12.21

The Pavilion put on a community event (free of charge) to light up their Christmas Tree and introduce Santa to the village. There were photo opportunities with Santa as well as his sleigh and Elsa from frozen who switched on the tree lights. Before hand was the opportunity of fun in the Pavilion for a couple of hours where the children were enthralled by entertainers whilst there was also a tombola, raffle, stalls and refreshments raising money for the Playing Fields as well as independent traders with their various stalls. Everyone said that it was a great event and start to the Christmas season.



6.12.21

Lakenheath Parish Council held their monthly meeting. The minutes report:

Present

Councillors: E Morley (Chairman), R Norman, J Cahill, J Gentle, A Gyte, P Gyte, J Hastings ,G Kelly, W Overy, Cllr: I Frost, Cllr: S Palmer, Lakenheath Squadron Leader: S Geary M Flint (Clerk) Cllr S Frost, District, Cllr: C Noble District and County 4 members of the public.

Apologies for Absence – none

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

Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 6th November 2021.

It was noted that the date of the next meeting was recorded incorrectly Clerk agreed to the amendment. It was agreed that the minutes were a true record of accounts and it was proposed and seconded that these should be signed as such. All agreed.

Representations from Members of the Public.

A parishioner raised concerns in regards to speeding, parking, lack of crossing adjacent to the play area, street lighting and lack of signage to identify the football club.

(a)Police Matters Police-Police have launched 'No excuse' The month-long initiative begins today, Wednesday 1 December, and continues until Saturday 1 January, in conjunction with a UK-wide operation organised by the National Police Chiefs' Council. It will see officers carrying-out roadside checks throughout the day and night - including early morning checks - as well as intelligence-led enforcement activity. Cllr: Norman asked that the minutes reflect our disgust at the recent theft from the village phone box.

Reports & Questions:

(a)RAF Commander Lakenheath.

SL: Geary reflected on last two months activity on the base and then informed the PC that the new aircraft would be arriving middle of December and that an increase of traffic would be noticed as Plane spotters were likely to attend the area in number. Unfortunately, he could not confirm the exact date at this time.

SL: Geary and 1 member of the Public left the meeting at 7.17pm

The Council had received a copy of the newsletter from Cllr: Noble before the meeting.

(b) West Suffolk District Council

In Cllr: S Frost's absence Cllr: Kelly reported that parking wardens had attended the village 12 times in the last month and had issued 5 parking tickets. Thanks to Cllr: S Frost's intervention we would now see more parking wardens in the village.

(c) Suffolk County Council: Council received a copy of the Suffolk County Council newsletter.

1 member of the public returned to the meeting 7.24pm.

Planning Matters - To consider all outstanding Planning Applications and if necessary, any applications received after preparation of the agenda:

Cllr: Kelly reported as far as general planning is concerned there was an application from Persimmon to have the sound proofing measures unchecked. The planning sub-committee will arrange a meeting on site with Persimmon to discuss. A planning application has been received for the erection of a large barn on the field at Maids Cross. Cllr: Kelly has concerns about this. It would be fine if all of the trailer and machinery that are currently on the field were stored in the barn but if not it would just destroy a village amenity.

(b) Neighbourhood Plan update.

It was reported that there was a meeting coming up about the High Street regeneration Scheme and it is believed that the Government is putting further funding into this. Lakenheath have a bid for £15k of funding currently. The design scope work has not yet been received. West Suffolk have not yet put in their housing numbers required.

Lakenheath Cemetery

(a) To receive a Cemetery Report

Cllr: A Gyte reported that the cemetery was looking good, with no moles. There were a couple of issues to report. The toilet door is sticking and not closing properly. Two benches at the far end of the cemetery could do with some care. Clerk said she would ask the Village keeper to look at both issues.

(b) To confirm Grant of Exclusive Rights of Burial - Philip Jackson

(c) Camera installation and other pending works including tree line.

Cameras are installed and working as should be. The clerk has received two quotes for the cutting of the tree line. The first is for £1560. The 2nd is for £1,800 + VAT. Both Quotes will leave the pines in place. The alternative is to leave the trees to grow naturally and not cut them at all. The Council considered both quotes and it was proposed and seconded that the trees were left to grow naturally for another year and then to revisit the levelling of the tree line.

Panels- to further consider the adoption of the Panels. The Clerk has had contact with the insurance company in regards to the adoption of the panels and was told that the cost to the policy would be an extra £412.22 per year, they have suggested that we are aware of the impact that claims will have on the policy and that although it will not affect the no claims, in the incident of multiple claims for the panels or anything else will increase the premium for the next year. The current cost for the annual policy is £2058.72. Clerk then spoke to Mrs Clare Shimmon of the Lakenheath Heritage trail who confirmed that the group would take responsibility for general upkeep eg cleaning and minor repairs, minor damage such as scratched paintwork or minor graffiti. They will carry out a risk assessment (although the insurance company will require the PC to produce their own).

Lakenheath Heritage Group does not currently have any public liability cover. After consideration the Council voted to accept the request to adopt the panels and the clerk was tasked with informing the insurance company and The Heritage Group.

Financial Matters including: -

(a) Payments of Accounts It was agreed that the payments were an accurate account and it was proposed and seconded to pay the accounts as stated. This was agreed by all.

(b) Bank Reconciliation for October

It was accepted that an accurate record of accounts and it was proposed and seconded that this be accepted as an accurate record of accounts. All agreed.

(c) Appointment of Internal Auditor.

It was proposed to appoint Anthony Preece of Anytee Accounting Mildenhall. This was agreed by all

(d) Proposed Budget to review and discuss

The Clerk reported that she had made the adjustment to the proposed budget that had been agreed in the October meeting and presented the new budget for consideration. This was discussed and it was proposed to accept the budget for 2022, this was seconded and agreed by all.

(e) Precept Setting- Discussion

Clerk reported that she had been asked by the Chairman for two calculations for next years' precept. The first is for a precept of £186,400. Which will mean there is no transfer from reserves this will be an increase of 18.69% per household on last year.

Secondly, the precept could be set at 170,400 with a transfer of reserves of £16,000 this would give an increase of approximately 8.50% for each household. This is based on last year's tax base and may be lowered if the number of households in band D increase in line with the new builds in the

village during this tax year. Cllr Gentle expressed concern that by using the reserves it may impact on business continuity. However, it was proposed that the precept was set at £170,400 with £16,000 from reserves due to the concern in regards to the impact on the parishioners after a period of hardship following Coronavirus. This was seconded and the vote was carried 9-2 (two abstained from the vote). The Precept form was then signed and dated by the Chairman in front of the full council and then immediately signed and dated by the Clerk.

Update on tarmac quotes. The Clerk has engaged 3 companies to survey the Play area and quote for the tarmac replacement. One quote has been received £12,049 + VAT. The other two companies have not yet sent in quotes. It was agreed that the clerk would chase the other two companies and report back in the next meeting.

The Council voted to exclude members of the public from the meeting due to the confidential nature of the next items. 4 members of the public left the meeting 7.55pm.

St Mary's Churchyard.

(a) Tree work. The Clerk reported that she had received two quotes for the pollarding of 16 lime trees in the churchyard as these were close to electrical cables. Cllr: Kelly said that he had recently read that this type of work is carried out by the power companies and suggested that the Clerk look into this and report back at the next meeting.

(b) Claim for excess. The Clerk reported that she had received a solicitor's letter for recovery of a claim for damages that was received after damage to a outbuilding roof. This is in the hands of our insurance company and we will wait to hear.

New Staff Handbook. It was agreed that Cllr: Hastings and Cllr: P Gyte would look at the staff handbook and produce a condensed version for consideration at the next meeting.

Items for Future meetings

Lakenheath Times, Staff Handbook, Tree work at St Mary's and Tarmac quotes.

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

Toilet Opening /Closed. The Clerk received an application for the role opening and closing the toilets at the weekend, the clerk has met with her last week and she seem responsible and trustworthy. The role is 2 hours per weekend self-employed. The Council agreed to an hourly rate. And the Clerk was tasked with contacting the applicant and offering her the role.

There followed a discussion on two items that are confidential. The Clerk was tasked to carry out instructions of the Council.

To note date of next Meeting - Monday 10th January 2022

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.25pm

7.12.21

The first case of the Omicron variant has been confirmed today in Suffolk with 16 more cases suspected to be the new strain, public health bosses say. These cases were detected in the county between November 25 and December 5.

8.12.2021

Today it was confirmed that From Friday 10 December, face coverings are mandatory for most indoor public venues including places of worship, theatres, and cinemas - as well as on public transport and in places like shops and hairdressers.

Masks will not be needed in pubs or restaurants, nor in venues like gyms where it's "not practical to wear them".

From Monday 13 December, people should work from home "if they can".

From Wednesday 15 December (subject to parliamentary approval), people will need an NHS Covid Pass - showing their vaccination status or a recent negative lateral flow test - to gain entry to:

Nightclubs

Indoor unseated venues with more than 500 people

Unseated outdoor venues with more than 4,000 people

Any venue with more than 10,000 people

The government also wants people to do a lateral flow test (LFT) before entering "a high-risk setting" - such as a crowded place - "involving people you wouldn't normally come into contact with, or when visiting a vulnerable person".

People who have come into contact with Omicron cases currently have to go into self-isolation for 10 days. Ministers intend to change the rules so they can do daily Covid tests, instead.

9.12.2021

Lakenheath Scout Group announced that they have been approved to open a Squirrels section. This is the newest section and will be for youngsters aged 4-6yrs.

This has been trialled around the UK for some time and approval has now been given to roll it out and as they were lucky enough to find a lovely leader, approval granted.

They asked parents that if your child is aged 4yrs and they are interested in a place (boys and girls) to contact the group so that they can then be invited to an information evening.

10.12.2021

Face masks have also been brought back for many indoor places. They are to be worn from today in most public indoor venues, such as cinemas, theatres and places of worship.

11.12.2021

Lakenheath FC beat Shefford Town and Campton in a dramatic 3-2 score. A Hat trick from Shaun Avis allowed the team to fall within the last 32 of the Buildbase FA Vase a huge achievement for the Club.

13.12.21

Boris Johnson has announced further Plan B measures for England in an attempt to slow the spread of the Omicron variant. The new rules include the reintroduction of working from home and mandatory Covid passports for larger events.

15.12.2021

Today the first consignment of 4 United States Air Force F35's arrived at RAF Lakenheath which welcomed a new generation of aircraft - an arrival six years in the making.

RAF Lakenheath was chosen in 2015 to host the first US F-35A squadrons in Europe based on close ties with the RAF, its infrastructure and training opportunities. The new F-35 squadron will eventually consist of 2 squadrons of 27 aircraft each meaning circa 54 to be delivered in phases.



17.12.21

The NHS with Suffolk County Council confirmed free bus travel will be available for the purpose of getting a booster Covid vaccination. This was to walk in centres at Newmarket and Culford.

The Bury free press today announced that Lakenheath FC is the last representative of Suffolk in the Buildbase FA Vase Cup. They will be travelling to Warwickshire to play Rugby Town on the 15th January 2022, kick off at 3 pm.

20.12.2021

Boris Johnson has held off announcing further Covid restrictions for now despite increasing numbers now testing positive to Covid - although he has hinted that new measures may be announced shortly. In a statement after a cabinet meeting lasting at least two hours, he claimed that the arguments for and against further restrictions - interventions being forcefully demanded by government scientific advisers - were "very, very finely balanced".

22.12.21

Burglars broke into the offices of the RSPB nature reserve today and stole a quad bike, chainsaws, and tools, prompting police to appeal for witnesses.

An alarm was triggered just after 4am, with the quad bike driven off behind another vehicle at about 4.30am.

Padlocks to the premises were cut using a hacksaw, and a quad bike, Stihl brush cutters, Husqvarna chainsaws and multiple hand tools were also taken, which were marked with Smartwater.

As the calendar year closes and the festive period continues, I am completing the diary for the year. In short, 2021 has been another eventful and challenging year with the transition towards normality continuing to be impacted by the emergence of the new Covid-19 variants. But the village history continues as the village is expected to grow next year with several large developments to get underway. Let us all look forward with hope and optimism to a better 2022.

Lakenheath RSPB annual report

2021 at RSPB Lakenheath Fen – the good, the bad and the ugly!

Many positive things happened in 2021 at Lakenheath Fen, and we were trying to bear these in mind when only recently, on the 23rd December, we had been burgled for the second time in two years. It happened on our Site Managers' birthday and on a day when he and many of our hard-working volunteers were looking forward to travelling down the reserve armed with tools for the weekly Thursday work party. The tools that were needed- chainsaws and brush-cutters- had been taken overnight, along with a quadbike and various miscellaneous items like extension leads. At the time of writing, we are waiting for the insurance claim to come through so we can replace the items, but luckily we had more-or-less finished the winter reed and scrub clearance for the year. Very kindly, nearby RSPB reserves at the Ouse and Nene Washes lent us equipment for a few weeks to finish off what we had started. Looking to the future, we will likely be investing in enhanced security measures such as CCTV and physical reinforcements for doors and gates to try to prevent another successful burglary in the future.

The good things we were trying to bear in mind as we moved on from the burglary included many successes for the wildlife on the reserve- including another good breeding season for our common cranes, marsh harriers and bitterns. This year saw two pairs of cranes- 'A2' and 'B2' each produce a healthy fledgling. We know from a photograph taken by a visitor in Spring that B2 started off with two chicks, which is fairly normal- it is usual for cranes families to raise just one fledgling to adulthood, but to begin the breeding season with two eggs. It is thought that aggressive behaviour between the two chicks when young often means that only experienced parents manage to separate the pair of chicks well enough to mitigate this aggression, to feed them well enough to temper the relationship, or perhaps some adult pairs are more likely to produce chicks with docile temperaments that get along just fine. Whatever the reason for the loss of one of B2's chicks, we were pleased and relieved to see that they have successfully raised one to adulthood, particularly as B2's first breeding season with us (2020) resulted in a failure due to predation of the eggs at an early stage. It is likely that their inexperience meant the eggs were laid in a spot too vulnerable to predators or that they were left unattended at times, or both. Pair A2 has bred successfully with us for several years and kept this record up in 2021 with another healthy fledgling. We have our previous Site Manager, Norman Sills, to thank for his tireless efforts spent monitoring them during the breeding season, as well as the rest of the team here for anecdotal reports when out and about.

May and June saw around eleven booming male bitterns, which was a good count and indicates around the same number of territories spread across the reedbeds. Nest monitoring of these and marsh harriers produced promising signs of a good breeding season- 5 active nests for bitterns and 12 for marsh harriers (an active nest is one with adults arriving regularly with food). In December of

2021 we organised the annual haircut for the reedbeds- undertaken by a lovely gentleman from Burnt Fen IDB (Internal Drainage Board) who help us cut reeds in areas where bitterns and egrets might like to forage for food to feed their growing chicks in Spring 2022. Although great white egrets failed to begin nesting with us, we did reach a record high of 13 great white egrets roosting on the reserve on 13 November. It is a real sign of the times that we now have so many in the local area as in the 1990's sightings in the UK were almost unheard of, and they didn't begin to breed in the UK until 2012. Perhaps by this time next year I will be able to write of a successful breeding attempt in 2022!

Other notable wildlife included our first singing male nightingales in several years- we had three altogether, two of which were in West Wood. Over the past few years, much work has been done within West Wood to increase the diversity and quantity of low-growing understorey vegetation, to thicken up the foliage belt growing beneath the lofty poplars. We are hoping the nightingales settled here because the scrub layer in West Wood now suits them, and that it wasn't a fluke- but Spring 2022 should help us to prove that, if the birds return or indeed if we even see more. We also had three grasshopper warblers using the reserve in the spring, and over sixty hobbies were here by the end of May. Hobby numbers build during the Spring migration from just a couple to between 50-60, before the birds begin to disperse to their usual breeding territories across the local area for the summer. A surprise visit from a white-tailed eagle on 4 April which stayed overnight before departing for Kings Lynn was a joy for many visitors and volunteers to see. It was a female bird from the Isle of Wight reintroduction project and was part-way through a voyage across the UK, exploring potential feeding grounds and breeding areas in its adolescent phase. As I write this, she has been seen in recent days near Welney after a jaunt along the east coast of Scotland.

So, whilst the wildlife did what it does best and got on with the important job of breeding and increasing their populations, our Site Manager Dave Rogers was involved in a project to secure the purchase of a large area of new land on Cowles Drove, increasing the size of Lakenheath Fen considerably. A charity, the Esmee Fairburn Trust, has purchased it for us and over the next couple of years we will secure the funds to pay them back, interest-free. The land is much like what the main reserve was before the land was purchased in 1995-97- arable farmland that we intend to manage as wet grassland in order to provide habitat for a wide variety of declining bird species such as redshank and curlew. We may also, in time, increase our capacity for breeding cranes if we can make the new land suitable, and the carbon locked within the peat soil will be kept where it is if we can keep the land moist. A particularly important benefit given the climate crisis we are now living through.

In writing this article, I didn't want it to be dominated by the C-word- COVID-19- but to exclude it from a historical article doesn't seem right either because it has certainly affected us. Several of our volunteers and staff members have contracted it during 2021, luckily none with serious symptoms or permanent illness, and for that we are very grateful. In responding to the risk it posed we have spent a lot of time and effort making changes to the way we operate, work together and welcome visitors, which is time we perhaps might have liked to invest directly in infrastructure and caring for the reserve, but it has been necessarily for our collective safety. We are grateful to all of our supporters through 2021 who have helped us a great deal by visiting us, sharing their sightings, talking about how much the reserve means to them. It has motivated us through the good and the bad and helped to remind us that we are part of a community- both a geographical one and a wildlife-loving one.

Written by Heidi Jones, The Visitor Experience Officer, RSPB Lakenheath Fen.