

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at the Village Hall, Lakenheath Monday 16th March 2015 at 7.00pm.

Present: - Cllr Gathercole (Chairman), 7 members of the Parish Council and 8 members of the public were present.

The Chairman, David Gathercole, welcomed all to the meeting and introduced the new Clerk of the Council, Clare Shimmon.

Apologies – Cllr Chambers.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th April 2014 were available to all present. The Chairman allowed, those present, time to read the minutes which were confirmed as correct and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING

There were none.

POLICE MATTERS

Mr Rolph raised the issue of the hire van parked outside the garage, blocking the view from the Doctor's Surgery car park. At the Annual Meeting in 2014, PCSO Chittock had said that he would look into it but it has not been moved.

PAROCHIAL CHARITIES

The Clerk to the Parochial Charities, Mrs Rissen, gave the report for the year:

"282 eligible applications were received for the annual distribution in December 2014, 27 of whom were over 90 years of age. After considering the applications, the Trustees agreed that each applicant would receive £40 with those over 90 receiving £45. Making a total of £11,455 distributed.

The age of eligibility for the 2015 distribution will be 68.

As Lakenheath no longer has a residential care home, residents having to leave the village for residential or nursing care will continue to be eligible for the annual distribution."

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

The item was tabled in case Cllr Noble arrived later.

ANNUAL REPORT

Copies of the Annual Report were available to all present. There were no matters arising.

PARISHIONERS' ISSUES

Mr Brooks asked where the information regarding the new aircraft noise came from.

The Chairman confirmed that it had been received from the base and that the new ones would be noisier than those already here.

Mr Gurney said that information was also available on the internet and asked would the MOD be tackling those properties without triple glazing.

Mr Brooks said that he understood that there was nothing the Parish Council could do but asked if it came under planning at FHDC.

The Chairman said that the last noise study was carried out in 1996 and that another is now being done to bring it up to date. No planning application will be determined prior to the report.

Mr Brooks asked if Cllr Noble had got anywhere of taking this forward.

The Chairman said that he didn't have this information.

Mr Gurney said that the rumour was that a barrister was acting on behalf of the Parish Council.

The Chairman said that this is confirmed in the Annual Report. The Parish Council are not qualified in the subject and that a barrister acted on their behalf.

Mrs Webb said that the Parish Council should state what the Parish Council have paid.

Mr Gurney asked if the District Council should take it up.

The Chairman said that the Parish Council works for the village while FHDC work for the whole district.

Mr Brooks asked if the Parish Council were pursuing a Judicial Review.

The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council would discuss it if needed.

Mr Gurney asked what it would cost.

The Chairman said that it would only be pursued if push came to shove and that it may not come to it. He went on to say that the planning applicants have legal representation and it was either a case of roll over & die or fight for the sake of the village. It is the view of the Parish Council and the stance they are proceeding with. At the moment only professional advice has been taken and that there is no need for judicial review yet.

Mr Gurney asked who's decision it was to hold up all of the planning applications.

The Chairman asked if he meant the first applications after Tesco.

Mr Gurney confirmed the applications received after the Tesco store and houses.

The Chairman said that three applications went before planning, Eriswell Road, Middle Covert and Briscoe Way and all were passed subject to S106. Highways want the developers' to pay for a survey and it is the reason that no agreement has been met and there is the hold up. Until the survey is completed, no determinations will be issued.

Mr Gurney asked why barristers had been involved.

The Chairman said that a further three applications had come in and that it was time someone stood back and looked at the whole picture, which wasn't being done.

Mr Durrant asked what monies had been spent so far.

The clerk said that the last out-turn report in October gave a figure of £14,346.18 for village facilities which included the legal costs but also a £10,000 grant to the People's Project.

Mr Durrant asked about payments made in March.

The clerk confirmed that £6546.54 net of VAT was paid in March.

Mr Gurney asked what contingency had been put aside.

The Chairman advised that the professional fees figure budgeted for 2015/16 is £17,324.

Mr Brooks asked if this was to challenge FHDC.

The Chairman said that it was to look at the infrastructure. The head teacher gave good objections as to why the applications should be looked at under the National Planning Framework, to go through they must be sustainable, including schools, roads and doctors. This was not looked at and the original 3 applications were passed and another 3 followed. The Parish Council are not dinosaurs and recognise that there must be development in the village, however it must be structured, controlled and not developer led.

Mr Brooks said that he was sympathetic but asked why it was necessary to fight FHDC.

The Chairman explained that FHDC are the planning authority and have their hands tied behind their backs by central government and the NPPF.

Mr Gurney asked if it was because FHDC did not get their 5 year plan in on time.

The Chairman said that it had to be re-written after it was overturned in the High Courts. The horse community didn't want the Hatchfield Farm development, took it to the High Courts and won on one particular point – site allocation and numbers. FHDC have been over the same old ground for the past 4 years.

Mr Gurney said that surely it doesn't take four years when only one point was not right.

The Chairman said that FHDC want to make sure everything is spot on. They do not want another judicial challenge.

Mrs Brown said that FHDC are told by Central Government how many houses have to be built. They want the houses built, so do not worry about looking elsewhere. She added that a good job had been done of resurfacing the High Street but a few areas remain outstanding. Cllr Noble has been advised but nothing has been done 5-6 months later. As there were so many objections from residents, emails were sent individually rather than by the PC. She has copies of the emails that have been sent and asked who will now pay to put it right.

Mr Gurney asked when Wangford Road would be resurfaced.

Mr Durrant said that the proposed works seemed to have been confused with Wangford Road near Lowestoft.

Mr Gurney said that the work needs to be done before there is a serious accident.

The clerk advised that notification had been received to say that work had been rescheduled for the summer.

Mr Brooks said that it wasn't right. It is a heavily used road and undoubtedly there would be accidents possibly fatal.

Mr Gurney said that heavy traffic uses the road.

The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council will continue to raise the issue.

Mr Brooks said that in certain areas, pavements are being used for parking. There are a large number of cars on the pavement which shouldn't be permitted, even if a pushchair can get through.

The Chairman confirmed that this is what the Police say but that it would be discussed again at the next PC meeting.

Mr Durrant said that PCSO Chittock has confirmed that law states if a mobility scooter can get through it is permitted.

Mr Rolph said that there were overgrown hedges in Wings Road. With cars also parked on the path it was difficult to walk down the path.

Mr Durrant said that the PC will tackle problems if they are reported.

The Chairman asked Mr Durrant to determine which property.

Mr Brooks asked about the waste bin on the pavement outside Lloyds Bank.

Mrs Brown said they have no room at the rear to store it.

Mr Brooks suggested a smaller bin.

The Chairman said not to blame the PC if the bank closes.

Mr Gurney asked about the work being carried out on the Tesco development site.

The Chairman said that they are acting lawfully. Planning permission was granted to February 2015 and the roadway secures it.

Mr Brooks asked about the planning for 13 properties on the site.

The Chairman said that planning permission was granted in 2010 and that the new application was for reserved matters not a revised scheme.

Mr Morley asked to remind the Cemetery Sub Committee of their rescheduled meeting on 28th March.

In closing, the Chairman thanked all who had taken the time to attend the meeting.

The meeting closed at 7:50pm.