



Lakenheath Parish Council

The Parish Office

98 High Street, Lakenheath IP27 9EW

Telephone: 01842 860598

Email: lakenheathparish@gmail.com

MINUTES of the LAKENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 5th June 2023

Present:

Cllr G Kelly (Chairman)

Cllr J Hastings (Vice Chairman)

Cllr P Gyte

Cllr A Gyte

Cllr N Smith

Cllr M Hugo

Cllr J Cahill

Cllr W Overy

In attendance: D/Cllr G Kelly, N Glading Parish clerk, and one member of the public

2023/33 Chairman's welcome and confirmation of recording

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and confirmed that the clerk will record the meeting, for minutes only.

2023/34 Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from C/Cllr C Noble and D/Cllr Whitehand.

2023/35 Public Participation: Representations from Members of the Public

None

2023/36 Reports & Questions

(a) Update from Sqn Leader S Geary: Hosted an American football team, three games were played, the US team beat the UK team 2-1. Sqn Leader Geary attended the Men's Shed breakfast, which was a pleasure. On 20th May 2023 there was an anti-nuclear protest at Gate One.

Attended Cambs Cemetery Memorial service, at which there was a flypast.

Attended the Suffolk Show with about 100 people, this was incredibly busy: a capability demonstration was given.

Joint Light Tactical vehicles are soon to be delivered, these are a replacement for the original High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle and will be coming in on low loaders.

There are plans to attend the Royal Norfolk Show.

Sqn Leader Geary has a cheque for £453.54 (split between 5 parish councils) This money is to be used to make life better for the community, will send onto clerk.

Q Will the new High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled (Humvee) vehicles go through the village?

A. Not sure of delivery route

Q. Digging up roads although it is now known that this is not happening this year- is Sqn Ldr the contact?

A. Yes

Q. Please could we see the Activity Report

A. These figures will be available later in the month, will send numbers to clerk.

Q. Planes flying low over village are coming straight over, made my neighbour feel ill she phoned to report but Base did not get back to her.

A. Need date, location (street) and time (direction if possible) and who she telephoned, I can then track back. Clerk to send Cllr Cahill Sqn Ldr contact details, he offered to will the neighbour. Air crews are very aware of impact, encourage residents to report, with specific details.

Sqn Leader Geary is aware of the Scouts and that the leader (James) is looking for volunteering opportunities for the visitors.

(b) Update from West Suffolk District Councillor D/Cllr G Kelly:

The composition of West Suffolk Council is changed: there are 26 Conservative Members, the West Suffolk Working Partnership number considerably more. No party politics, allocations are on a best man for job/ merit. There is a great deal to catch up on. The whole of `Forest Heath` is now Independent.

We are here to do a job with no `posturing`. Exciting times.

(c) Update from Suffolk County Councillor: not present

(d) Sedge Fen Village Hall conversion: update from Mrs W Barnes: Cllr A Gyte has not heard from Mrs Barnes.

2023/37 Confirmation of accuracy of Minutes of the Meetings held on 15th May 2023

The Minutes of the Annual General and the First Ordinary meeting were unanimously **AGREED**

2023/38 Update on co-option of additional members

The clerk has heard from two applicants (eligibility has been confirmed) : 3rd July 2023 meeting. Each candidate to give a brief outline of "Why I want to be a Parish Councillor"

2023/39 Payment of Accounts

The RFO is on holiday, details will be available on her return.

2023/40 **Parish Report**: Chairman/ Clerk on recent and forthcoming issues/ topics

- (a) Update on BT site: Cllr Kelly signed the Licence from BT at the 2023 Annual Assembly. There is further progress in that a group of potters from Ely have agreed to assist with the school project. Planning permission may be required.
- (b) Annual Assembly 2023: This was a useful event, with an emphasis on charities based in Lakenheath. Good networking opportunity.
Groups to do a little article for Lakenheath Times.
Groups in receipt of PC grants in the preceding year should give a presentation at the Annual Assembly, or a written report on how the grant helped. Clerk to ensure that this requirement is included on the LPC Grant Application form.
Clerk to pass her list of community groups/ charities on to Cllr Hugo, who offered to obtain articles for the LPC Facebook page.
The clerk thanked Cllrs Gyte and Cllr Cahill for their help with setting up the Assembly.
- (c) The clerk reminded all members who had not done so to complete and return their Register of Interests form.
- (d) Update on purchase of SID: being delivered this week
- (e) The SID Report was **RECEIVED**: this is the raw data from which specific statistics times, dates, speeds volumes can be extrapolated by the Speedwatch Team. Only a quarter of people are abiding by the limit
- (f) New School consultation: Thursday 8th June at 3.30pm at the School, the first two hours are reserved for parents, the general public are asked to attend from 5pm to 7pm. The Bill for new School is now topping £15million.

2023/41 **Report from the Planning Sub Committee of the meeting held on 26th May 2023**

- (a) The report from the planning subcommittee was **RECEIVED** (Appendix A)
Other concerns were raised, particularly the large extension being built on the back of the ex-farm Shop, no planning permission has been sought and the Chairman has had a meeting with the owner to address this.
Additionally, at No. 18 High Street, the ancient chalk wall between the house and Indian restaurant has been demolished: (18 Annexe now appears occupied;) this has all been reported to the West Suffolk Council enforcement officers.

NOTED: Design Guide and Housing Needs Assessment is available at lakenheath.org
Idea: Link person in Planning department?

2023/42 **Lakenheath Parish Councillor Reports**

To receive reports from

- (a) Neighbourhood Planning Group including High Street Regeneration Scheme (Cllr G Kelly)

Last Thursday the village had a visit from Suffolk County Council Highways personnel, traffic design consultant and Sheils Flynn, our Consultants.

There were pertinent and productive discussions around:

- (i) Wings Road, too narrow for traffic lights: these would have to be on Back Street.
- (ii) Widening narrow roads to provide parking.
- (iii) Keen on experimental layouts: can get on with fairly quickly.
- (iv) SCC were not aware of the development behind the ex-farm shop
- (v) Any 20-mph limit would be imposed on a zone basis, details to be confirmed (potentially the middle of the village) County Council has to approve of the final plan. Heartening progress has been made.

(b) Business forum (Cllr W Overy): The business forum are in discussion with Football Club: "Business Breakfasts" led by the Central Garage proprietor are planned. Cllr Hugo will contact the owner for a Facebook statement.

(c) Environmental update (Cllr J Cahill): awaiting digger in Hall Drive.

Hall Drive belongs to Yellow Door properties.

At the Litter pick on Saturday, eleven people turned up.

Marabella Way dog bin: suggestion: use an unused brown bin?

Neighbours are watering plants at the Triangle.

(d) Mobile network infrastructure (Cllr Frost): contacted William Gomery at 3 – village needs more than one big mast provider, will keep on nudging. Street masts cost around £175,000 (there are some in Ely). Cllr Frost has informed other providers that we are in discussion with their rivals.

(e) Speedwatch team (Cllr P Gyte): mostly out twice a week out (usually 8am) thinking about a 'coming home' session. The team have been given permission to meet in the centre of the village to raise awareness (without a speed gun)

It was confirmed that SCC Highways will be putting down monitoring loops.

(f) Lakenheath Streetlights (Cllr I Frost)

There are some lights that have been out for some time (one over a year) SCC say that they are demobilising current contractors, changeover to new contractor.

Clerk to investigate alternate providers of streetlight maintenance.

(g) Review of the LPC Emergency Plan: Cllr Hastings reported that there is no basic change, just an update of the people involved. It was thought that all councillors should be involved. Advise people of the new siren phone warning system

2023/43 **Matters relating to Lakenheath Cemetery/ Yard**

- (a) Cemetery Committee Report: Cllr A Gyte reported that the Cemetery is looking neat and tidy. Birds have not finished nesting, therefore no hedge cutting. The stalls are overflowing.
- (b) Removal of chalk and wood from the Cemetery stalls (Cllr Hugo) A `one off ` contract For £500 - man and machine one day to clear was **AGREED**. Cllr Hugo will contact the contractor.

2023/44 **Grant Requests**

- (a) Application from Silver Band: the amount required was clarified as £250. **AGREED**.

2023/45 **Items for Future Meetings**

The allotment fence: Cllr Morley had been dealing with this: clerk to contact him to ascertain the identity of the allotment manager.

Discuss specific spending of Sqn Leader Geary's cheque for £453.54.

Business cards to be ordered by Chairman and clerk.

2023/46 **Such other business which, in the opinion of the Chairman,** should be considered as a matter of urgency: None

2023/47 **Information: None**

2023/48 It was **RESOLVED** to **EXCLUDE** the public due to the confidential/ sensitive nature of the next agenda subjects.

Meeting closed 8.50pm

Appendix A

Lakenheath Parish Council Planning Sub Committee

NOTES from the meeting held on FRIDAY 26th MAY 2023 at 5.30 pm. Location: Parish Office, Peace Memorial Hall Lakenheath

(Prior to the Annual Assembly)

Excerpt from Annual Parish Meeting held on 15th May 2023

2023/09 Election of LPC Planning Sub-Committee

2022-2023 The members of the Planning Committee were confirmed as

Cllr W Overy, Cllr A Gyte, Cllr N Smith, Cllr M Hugo and the Chairman, Cllr Kelly.

It was agreed that evening meetings may be more convenient.

In attendance Cllr W Overy, Cllr A Gyte, Cllr M Hugo, Cllr Kelly and the clerk, N Glading

1. Apologies and Declarations of Interest: Apologies had been received from Cllr N Smith

2. Election of Chairman: *Deferred*

3. Members of the public may speak about an item on the agenda (3 minutes limit): none present

4. The Councillors considered the request for consultation:

Source: CONSULTEE IN TRAY AT 24.05.2023

A. Planning Application DC/22/0849/FUL

21 Anchor Lane Lakenheath Suffolk IP27 9DP

Ref. No: DC/22/0849/FUL | Status: Pending

One dwelling and garage

Expiry 6th June 2023 DC/22/0849/FUL | Planning application - one dwelling and garage | 21

Anchor Lane Lakenheath Suffolk IP27 9DP ([westsuffolk.gov.uk](https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk))

OBJECTION:

This appears to be classic `garden grabbing`

Overdevelopment of the site

Anchor Lane is a narrow, single track road, with no pavements, traffic is very tight, councillors have concerns about increasing traffic further.

We believe that, if approved, this will set a precedent for other similar applications from the owners along the lane with large gardens.

The building line is compromised.

This application is in a designated conservation area.

Submitted to Planning via portal 02/06/2023 DC/22/0849/FUL | Planning application - one dwelling and garage | 21 Anchor Lane Lakenheath Suffolk IP27 9DP

§ Your comments have been successfully submitted.

§ Comment document has been successfully uploaded for public viewing.

§ A confirmation email has been sent to the case officer.

5. Date of next meeting TBA

2023/49 **ITEMS TAKEN UNDER EXCLUSION: CONFIDENTIAL**

- a) To consider expenditure options re staffing and accommodation

Cllr Smith read out his report. It was **AGREED** to proceed, with a working group consisting of Cllr Smith, Cllr Hastings, Chairman and the clerk to progress the initiative and meet with the Birkett's solicitor to discuss the legal aspects.

- b) Clerks update on Liability Claim: RSA have asked for sickness records, which the clerk has now provided. The case looks likely to go to Court in the next few weeks.

- c) Civic regalia: It was **RESOLVED** to **AGREE** the purchase of a Chain of Office to be worn at official formal functions. Cllr Kelly has agreed to donate funding to cover the cost.