

## LAKENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Lakenheath Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2019  
at the Methodist Church Chapel commencing at 7:00pm

### **Present**

Councillors E Morley (Chairman), H Brown, J Hastings, R Norman, J Gentle, W Newman, Clare Shimmon (Clerk) and 12 members of the public.

### **1 Apologies for Absence**

Cllrs Lucas, Frost and Kelly and Sqdn Ldr Neild.

### **2 Declaration of Interest**

Cllr Hastings - Lakenheath Keep Fit & Curling Clubs

Cllr Brown - Lakenheath Heritage Group Recorder & Christian Enterprise Foundation Trustee

Cllr Norman - Village Hall

Cllr Newman - Lakenheath News

### **3 Election of Vice Chairman**

Cllr Gentle nominated and Cllr Newman seconded Cllr Norman for the position of Vice Chairman. All agreed.

### **4 Confirmation of Minutes of Meetings held on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

It was proposed and seconded the Minutes of the Council meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> January were signed as an accurate record of the meeting. All agreed.

### **5 Representations from Members of the Public**

Members were asked to consider requesting an extension to the 30mph speed limit on Undley Road. Reasons were given to support the request.

A resident argued that a mandate given via the Lakenheath Times in 2015 does not give the right for the Parish Council to spend money or stop development, the PC have said they support modest growth but have objected to all sites. Although there has been no council tax rise, Lakenheath is the highest in FHDC. He asked that during the noise assessment taken in July 2018, how many planes were recorded over the proposed school site. The previous vice-chairman had called for a public vote and since resigned.

### **6 Reports & Questions:-**

#### **(a) RAF Commander Lakenheath**

There were none.

#### **(b) Forest Heath District Council**

Cllr Noble gave an update on the merge of West Suffolk Councils. The council tax would rise by £5 over the next 7 years to equalise with St Edmundsbury. It is not paying for the merger and had it not taken place, the increase would be more. Lakenheath would continue to be represented by two councillors and the ward would now include Eriswell and Elveden. Mildenhall would continue to have a chamber and front office, transferred to the new hub, when it opens.

#### **(c) Suffolk County Council to include Grit Bins and 30 MPH Speed Limit – Undley**

Cllr Noble reported that Government restrictions mean that the council tax will rise by the maximum 3.99% along with an additional 1% for Adult Social Care. Fairer funding comes into force in 2020. He gave an update on highways issues along with the good news that the village had seen the last of the power cable laying disruptions.

The chairman was assured that issues with the recent road works carried out on the Sedge Fen road would be addressed under guarantee. The raised bar will be entered back into the cycle of works.

Cllr Brown reiterated the concerns raised about the speed limit on Undley Road.

Cllr Noble can support the request but requires information on the level of traffic and evidence of incidents from the Police, which the Clerk agreed to obtain.

Cllr Brown raised concerns about the road surface on the A1065 when turning right from Eriswell.

Cllr Noble advised this stretch of the A1065 would be addressed in the spring.

Cllr Brown asked when the feasibility study for a road crossing, last spoken about in August would be ready.

Cllr Noble reported that with the addition of next year's budget he would have sufficient to pay for a crossing and a feasibility study is programmed.

Cllr Brown asked if it would be a basic or pelican crossing. If placed on the High Street, children would still need to cross Undley Road for the playground.

Cllr Noble agreed that three crossings would be ideal. He has requested a pelican crossing but the feasibility study would determine this.

Cllr Norman gave further information on road issues and asked when the white lines around the existing crossing on the High Street would be improved.

Cllr Noble advised that the white lines in the village would be repainted in the spring. The issue of parking had been raised with the police.

Cllr Noble confirmed that the £40m Mildenhall Hub is being funded from many streams, centrally and locally. The College Heath site will eventually be sold.

Further work is being carried out on Grit Bins and information would be provided when available.

**7 Peace Memorial Hall to include a presentation from Chair Susan Woodhead**

Mrs Woodhead introduced herself as the Chair and gave an update on progress at the Peace Memorial Hall and Community Centre. The new committee had tackled many issues since taking over and work was now proposed to install a disabled toilet and ramp and a feasibility study is planned to join the halls together. A drop in room is also planned and with the support of the community, things would keep moving forward.

**8 Planning Matters:-**

**(a) To receive report from Planning Committee**

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

Representations made in support by the planning sub-committee:

1. DC/18/2442/HH - Householder Planning Application - Single storey side and rear extension (following demolition of existing shed) with a subsequent amendment for a dropped kerb - 7 Breckland Avenue, Lakenheath
2. DC/18/2351/FUL - Planning Application - 1no. Agricultural building - Land Adjacent White Fen, Station Road, Lakenheath
3. DC/19/0068/FUL - proposal Planning Application - (i) 1no dwelling and integral garage, (ii) 1 no single detached garage and (iii) access and parking - Proposed dwelling Dumpling Bridge Lane, Lakenheath. There is already a planning consent for a dwelling on this site this application is merely a larger footprint.
4. APPEAL to a declined Planning Application for (i) 3 no. dwellings; (ii) associated amenity space and access (iii) demolition of dwelling known as Number 6 - Sharpes Corner. As amended by the drawings received 7th February 2018. Land Behind Sharpes Corner Bungalows, Sharpes Corner, Lakenheath

Representations made in support by the planning sub-committee with conditions:

1. DC/18/1492/FUL - RE-CONSULTATION IN RESPECT OF A PLANNING PROPOSAL Planning Application - (i) 31 no. dwellings and (ii) 4 no. commercial units with associated servicing and access, including the conversion of former garden centre (following demolition of existing dwelling and associated outbuildings). As amended by plans received on 22nd January 2019. Land off Dumpling Bridge Lane, Lakenheath

**Major Developments:**

Land north of Station Road still awaits its approval notice.

Following discussion with the Parish Council's solicitor last month, the grounds seeking permission for JR were:

1. The Council's decision to grant the Planning Permission in circumstances (1) where Suffolk County Council failed to have proper regard to the best interests of the child under Article 3 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and to treat this as a primary consideration; and (2) SCC failed to have regard to, and/or interfered disproportionately with, the rights of future pupils at the New School under Article 8 ECHR.

2. SCC failed to have proper regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty ('PSED') under section 149 of the Equalities Act 2010.
3. SCC breached regulation 3 of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations) in that the ES failed properly to assess the environmental impacts of alternatives in breach of Article 5(3)(a) of Directive 2011/92/EU ('the EIA Directive'), as implemented under the EIA Regulations.

The legal team have been successful on the third ground. Permission is granted to proceed to JR on the EIA grounds. It questions if sufficient data was provided to the planning committee to enable them to consider alternative sites. This has always been one of the Parish Council's arguments. It confirms that it was correct to bring this case forward. This is a technical ground and SCC have to be able to show that the present site is better or more suitable than alternatives. Detailed grounds are required from SCC within 35 days, with the Parish Council then able to respond to any evidence. SCC cannot submit new evidence, not in the original report to committee. The Judge will then look at the facts as to whether the committee had the opportunity to consider all the evidence.

The legal team can run just the one ground but other possible school sites may have the same noise issues. SCC did not ask that question nor provide any analysis or data.

The legal opinion is to run all three grounds again. This can be done by all grounds "rolled up" ie include the two grounds that were refused permission, to provide the explanations to enable them to be reconsidered. The Judge would hear the main ground on which there is permission and then grounds one and two. The Barrister wants to produce this as fundamental to the case as he is adamant that grounds one and two are part of three. He strongly recommends it as an advantage to include them but there is a risk on recoverable costs. If the case is won on one ground but not the other two, the judge may reduce recoverable costs. Any costing order will only apply to the grounds that are won. However, there are other cost savings by running the three grounds together. Balanced against the risk is the benefit of the Barrister verbally making the cases to the Judge.

A cost protection order has been granted, not at the requested level of £10,000 but at £15,000. £15,000 is the maximum, if the case is lost, that has to be paid to SCC. If the case is lost the costs order will merely be £15,000. If the case is won a schedule of costs is presented covering the SCC case only. It has to be remembered that the case is not guaranteed to win and the Judge will take time to deliberate. Whilst awaiting the decision, the solicitors send in the costs schedule and it is at the Judge's discretion as to how he grants the JR and the costs. If the case is won the payment from SCC will be to a maximum of £35,000, Solicitors will deduct any outstanding fees and pay the Parish Council the balance.

With this legal advice, the planning sub-committee unanimously agreed to instruct the legal team to proceed with the renewal grounds, including all three, and papers are to be served. Costs are still within the agreed budget.

#### **Lakenheath Hall:**

Permission has been granted for the last 7 dwellings on the site but it appears that the application, following purchase of the land at the bottom of the drive to demolish the existing dwelling, has been withdrawn.

A planning application is being submitted for a set down area for traffic created specifically for the intensification works at RAF Lakenheath. Kiers, Volte Fitzpatrick the main contractor have explained that an area near the Wangford Road traffic lights will be fenced in to accommodate parking for 364 Cars, 32 Vans, 9 HGV holding bays, 7 commuting buses and 17 portacabins for the site offices and welfare units as well as 2 smoking and vaping shelters.

The parking area will be covered with SMA a porous and quiet material helping to keep mud off the roads and will be surrounded by street lights which shine inwards so as not to distract drivers using Wangford Road. There will be a wide splay from Wangford Road for easy access and egress. On the gravel areas there will be Terrain Fabric. All this will be removed at the end of the works, with land returned to the owners in its original or better condition. The works have been conditioned that no construction traffic to use either Eriswell or Lakenheath.

No more than 20 vehicles will be allowed on the base at any one time. One of the portacabins will be used by security staff to issue passes and checks will be made as operatives board the buses. Gate 8 is to be modified to allow buses to run straight through. All ID checks will be done off site. After HGV drivers are ID checked they will be escorted to Gate 8 for inspection and then onto site. Over the next 6 months there will be surveys and planning consent sought for the set down area. Construction works are to start in earnest middle of the year. An extra set of traffic lights will be installed at Frimstone Quarry near to gate 1.

Further conditions are that no materials will be delivered to the base between 7.00 to 8.30 am nor after 4.00 pm. This will be tightly managed, using the waiting area for HGVs. There will be a restriction of 56 HGVs per day, with an expected average of 30 to bring in steels and aggregates. It is expected that an additional 700 people will be working on the site.

Works comprises of 20 buildings to be demolished and recycled to use for hard-core. Concrete will also be batched, where the golf course it today, to reduce lorries on the road.

All works have to be completed by 21<sup>st</sup> November 2021, the day set for the arrival of the F35s. There will be some local inconvenience but this will be kept to a minimum. The contractors made it clear that they are on target with the proposed program.

**(c) Legal Proceedings – Website**

This item had been requested for discussion by Cllr Kelly who was absent from the meeting. It was agreed to delay until March.

**(d) Forest Heath District Council Single Issue Review / Site Allocations Local Plan**

It is necessary to make a submission updating the SIR Inspectors of changes to the site allocations in Lakenheath. A draft report was circulated with the an addition required to advise of the permitted JR. Cllr Hastings proposed submitting the letter with the relevant correspondence to support the information. All agreed.

**(e) To appoint a new Member to the Planning Sub-Committee**

Cllr Kelly had mentioned an interest in planning matters and is was agreed to delay appointing a new Member until March.

**9 Financial Matters including:**

**(a) Payments of Accounts**

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

Payee	Description of supply	Amount
Staff	January Salaries, Income Tax, NI & Pension and Rent	£4545.50
EDF	Cemetery Chapel Electricity	£36.90
Information Commissioner	Data Protection Fee	£40.00
Sharing Parenting	S137 Grant	£50.00
Lakenheath Peace Memorial Hall	Annual Grant	£1000.00
Lakenheath Whist Club	S137 Grant	£250.00
BT Payment Services	Parish Office Broadband & Telephone	£72.61
Kevin Cooke Plumb & Heating Engineer	Final Payment of work completed on Cemetery Cottage	£2400.00
Lakenheath Peace Memorial Hall	Parish office Rent (October - December 2018)	£696.49
Sunrise Services (East Anglia) Ltd	Cleaning Public Toilets (December)	£216.00
Bussens & Parkin (2015) Ltd	Fertiliser & Padlock	£26.77
Deejays Tanker Service	Septic Tank Emptying	£105.00
British Gas	Public Conveniences Electricity	£94.75
R A Cash	Final Payment - Cemetery Cottage Septic Tank & Well Repairs	£1720.00
Richard Buxton	Planning Services	£2464.80
David Ogilvie Engineering	WWI Commemorative Bench	£1212.60
Forest Heath District Council	Cemetery Cottage - Council Tax	£119.00
C & H Flooring Ltd	Cemetery Cottage - Carpets and Flooring	£2350.00

**(b) Bank Reconciliation**

A bank reconciliation for 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018 was presented. It was proposed and seconded to accept. All agreed.

**(c) Quarterly Out-turn Report**

A quarterly out-turn report was presented. It was proposed and seconded to accept. All agreed.

**(d) Methodist Church Donation**

The clerk advised that in 2018, the donation had been £30 per meeting. Cllr Brown proposed a donation of £360 to the Methodist Chapel. All agreed.

**10 S137 Grant Applications to include:-**

**(a) Lakenheath Indoor Bowls Club Junior Section**

It was proposed and seconded to grant £250 to Lakenheath Indoor Bowls Club Junior Section. All agreed.

**(b) Lakenheath Heritage Group**

It was proposed and seconded to grant £250 to Lakenheath Heritage Group. Voting 6 in favour, as a Member of LHG Cllr Brown abstained.

**11 Lakenheath Cemetery**

**(a) To receive a Cemetery Report**

Cllr Hastings reported that the cemetery was looking very good with no further issues with moles. The toilet is kept to a good standard but she asked the clerk to investigate the cost of adding this to the cleaning of the other public toilets in the village.

The clerk reported two attempted break ins.

*Cllr Noble left the meeting.*

**(b) To Confirm Grant of Exclusive Rights of Burial**

There was one.

**(d) Cottage Refurbishment**

In view of the attempted break ins, it was agreed that security must be improved and the fencing erected as soon as possible.

After discussion and consideration of four quotes, it was proposed to accept the quotation of £5,813.95 from J Peachey Groundworks and Landscaping. All agreed.

**12 Revised Standing Orders – Adoption**

NALC recommended amendments were presented.

It was proposed and seconded to adopt the revised standing orders. All agreed.

**13 Telephone Box - Mutford Green**

A number of suggestions had come forward for use of the telephone box near to Mutford Green.

It was proposed and seconded to accept the kind offer from Lakenheath Scout Group to move the Book and Game swap once the box on High Street is taken on by the Brownies for the next project over Easter. All agreed.

**14 Register of Interests - Reminder to Keep Updated**

Members were reminded to keep their Register of Interest up to date.

**15 Items for Future Meetings**

- Legal Proceedings - Website
- Elections
- Planning Matters - To appoint a new Member to the Planning Sub-Committee

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

There was none.

**17 To note date of next Meeting - Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:10pm.