

## LAKENHEATH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Lakenheath Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2019  
at the Methodist Church commencing at 7:00pm

### **Present**

Councillors E Morley (Chairman), J Hastings, S Palmer, W Newman, P Gyte, A Gyte, I Frost, G Kelly, Clare Shimmon (Clerk), Sqdn Ldr Turnbull, Cllr Stephen Frost and 6 members of the public.

### **1 Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Norman and Cllr Noble.

### **2 Declaration of Interest**

Cllr A Gyte - Lakenheath Football Club Trustee and Assistant Manager

Cllr P Gyte - Lakenheath Good Neighbours and Lakenheath Community SpeedWatch

Cllr Hastings - Lakenheath Keep Fit & Curling Clubs

Cllr Frost - Friends of Lakenheath Library Trustee

Cllr Kelly - Lakenheath Heritage Group Member

### **Disclosable Pecuniary Interest**

Cllr Palmer - Ownership of land at Briscoe Way

### **3 Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019**

It was proposed and seconded the Minutes of the Council meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> July were signed as an accurate record of the meeting. All agreed.

The clerk apologised for an error made in the June minutes, thanking Sqdn Ldr Neild for his attendance, not Sqdn Ldr Turnbull.

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

Mrs Brown gave her concerns regarding the amendment to planning conditions for Land off Briscoe Way. She said this is not unexpected with developers tending to cut corners to save on cost. The concern is if relaxed, it will set a precedent for the future. This will then allow for other developments, including the potential school, to request the same withdrawal. Future noise will not be less than now. When the DIO became involved they stated that the F15c squadron was to be retired. This has now been cancelled and they will remain in operation. The F35s when they arrive, will be in addition to what there is today.

Her view is that the developer is trying to knock these conditions because they will find it difficult and costly to achieve the ultimate test results as per the planning approval requirements. These were imposed as a result of BS8233 to ensure full compliance with the NPPF and WHO at the insistence of the DIO.

She urged the Parish Council to make strong representation to West Suffolk planning not to relax these conditions and to stand firm on this. They were put there for a purpose - to safeguard future residents - especially children from sudden and adverse noise. It was originally written into the statement of common ground prepared for the SIR and signed by both the DIO and FHDC.

Future USAF operations cannot be predicted. Military operations by their nature are unpredictable and override everything in terms of defence. Therefore, the highest standards of Environmental Protection must be retained.

She asked that the PC supports the existing planning conditions and object to any attempt to put aside these important environmental protection planning conditions. This has to be a red line and totally inexcusable.

### **5 Police Matters including Parking & PCSO/Private Security**

Cllr Kelly reported on the group's findings comparing PCSO, Special Constables and Private Security.

There had still been no response from the Police. One option was to get together with other local parishes to share the resource and cost. Interest had been confirmed by Mildenhall and Brandon.

Cllr Hastings asked how the work would be monitored and what statistics would be provided.

Cllr Kelly confirmed that if the resource was shared, the cost would be on a pro rata basis and monitored with regular meetings.

Cllr Hastings agreed to speak with the owners of Lakenheath Garage regarding the large van that has reappeared, 2 weeks after it was removed, blocking the view for vehicles using the surgery car park.

<b>6</b>	<p><b>Reports &amp; Questions:-</b></p> <p><b>(a) RAF Commander Lakenheath</b></p> <p>Sqdn Ldr Turnbull confirmed that the Groundbreaking event had taken place in July marking the start of work for the arrival of the F35s. 40% of the supply chain for the £1bn work would be provided by local suppliers, supporting the local community.</p> <p>He advised that a squadron had recently returned from the Middle East.</p> <p>He confirmed from the last minutes that aircraft had been using an alternative runway and taking off between Lakenheath and Feltwell. He also reiterated that the F15cs would officially retire in November 2021.</p> <p><i>The Chairman thanked Sqdn Ldr Turnbull.</i></p> <p><b>(b) West Suffolk District Council to include Families and Communities - Working Together across West Suffolk</b></p> <p>Cllr Frost reported that WS are creating a new task force to tackle rural issues, looking at all opportunities and issues by contacting local businesses, groups and Parish Councils. It would investigate how the District Council can help, covering a whole host of issues, helping to take WS forward.</p> <p>The next full Council meeting would take place in September when a climate change task force would be established, looking at all climate related issues.</p> <p>The Families and Communities approach is to support families to be healthy, active and resilient. EPIC Dads was started in Lakenheath in 2018. A copy of Priority Actions for 2018-2020 was provided for each Member.</p> <p>The portfolio holder for Families and Communities had asked for feedback and Members were asked to consider for the September meeting.</p> <p><i>The Chairman thanked Cllr Frost.</i></p> <p><b>(c) Suffolk County Council to include Farthing Drove &amp; Bus Timetables</b></p> <p>Members bemoaned the state of Farthing Drove with the road repairs making the road surface worse than it was before.</p> <p>Cllr Kelly reported that the Icklingham road after recent work, was also similar.</p> <p>There was lengthy discussion regarding SCC no longer updating bus timetables at bus stops.</p> <p>It was proposed and seconded to contact SCC to establish who the local bus operators are, as it is in their interest to produce and install their own publicity.</p>
<b>7</b>	<p><b>Planning Matters:-</b></p> <p><b>(a) To consider all outstanding Planning Applications and if necessary, any applications received after preparation of the agenda:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>West Suffolk Affordable Housing Supplementary Document (SPD) 2019 Consultation</b> It was proposed and seconded to make no comment. All agreed.</li> <li>• <b>Untidy Sites</b> Correspondence from a local resident had been circulated regarding the untidy state of the site adjacent to Anchor Lane. As the overgrowth does not encroach on public footpath or highway, neither the Parish nor District Council have enforcement powers but it was proposed and seconded to contact the landowner, politely asking for the site to be tidied. All agreed.  Following complaints, Openreach have been contacted about their site on High Street and Planning Enforcement about the overgrown site opposite St Mary's church.  It was also agreed to contact the owner of the property between Wings and Mill Road.  Growth had been reported to Cllr Palmer on Undley Road but he had investigated and could not pinpoint the problem. If he was contacted again he would ask the exact location and either the Playingfields Association would be contacted or the Village Keeper attend.</li> <li>• <b>DC/19/1240/FUL - 1no. dwelling with garage, Land Rear of 12 Mill Road</b> It was proposed and seconded to object on the grounds of insufficient access. Access is shown as a 5 metre opening but the site seems to only accommodate 6ft. All agreed.</li> </ul> <p><i>Cllr Palmer left the meeting.</i></p>

- **DC/19/1392/VAR – Amendment to planning conditions on Land off Briscoe Way**

Cllr Hastings said the Parish Council could not support the adjustments.

Cllr Kelly asked how it was possible for the DIO to agree to the amendments when it was their original agreement with FHDC.

Cllr P Gyte said that the PC should absolutely object to any changes.

It was proposed and seconded to object strongly using arguments put forward by Mrs Brown. All agreed.

*Cllr Palmer re-joined the meeting.*

- **DC/19/1331/FUL - (i) New door & Window to front elevation (ii) Installation of shutters - 65A High Street**

- **DC/19/1332/ADV - Application for Advertisement Consent - (i) 1no internally illuminated fascia sign and (ii) 1no internally illuminated projection sign - 65A High Street**

Cllr P Gyte said that the proposal was not suitable for the conservation area or being situated next to the War Memorial.

Cllr Newman objected to the shutters, as not suitable for the village.

It was proposed and seconded to support the door and window. Voting 4 in favour, 3 against.

It was proposed and seconded to object to the shutters with all other proposals for change to be toned down, bearing in mind it is next to the War Memorial and within the Conservation Area. All agreed.

- **Proposed Solar Farms south of Worlington & Chippenham**

After discussion it was proposed and seconded to support the Rural Parish Alliance's objection to the development, empathising with all previously submitted comments. Voting 5 in favour and 2 abstain.

## 8 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	July Salaries, Income Tax, NI & Pension	£4263.43
Lakenheath Silver Band	\$137 Grant	£100.00
Bussens & Parkin (2015) Ltd	Postmix & Compost	£116.28
G & J Peck Ltd	Mower Parts	£127.34
County Graphics (Norfolk) Ltd	Lakenheath Times (June Edition)	£450.00
Suffolk Assoc of Local Councils	Councillor Training	£55.20
British Gas	Electricity - Public Conveniences, Wings Road	£89.75
Multisigns	Litter Campaign Signs	£46.80
Glasdon UK Ltd	Litter Bins	£1378.41
A.P.C.	Cemetery Mole Control	£200.00
Kevin Cooke Plumbing & Heating	Repairs to Wings Road and Play Area Public Conveniences	£102.00
BT Payment Services	Parish Office Telephone & Broadband	£81.13
C W Kirk Lawnmowers Ltd	Mower Service & Repairs	£1270.34
Scott Evans	Reimbursement (plants)	£35.00

### (b) Bank Reconciliation

A bank reconciliation for 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019 was presented. It was proposed and seconded to accept. All agreed.

### (c) Quarterly Outturn Report

The clerk presented the first quarter's outturn report. It was proposed and seconded to accept. All agreed.

## 9 Lakenheath Cemetery

### (a) To receive a Cemetery Report

Cllr A Gyte gave his report, with railings, hand towels and soap dispenser in the toilet and benches to be addressed.

It was agreed that the cemetery looks outstanding.

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

There were three.

**(c) Chapel**

Cllr Hastings confirmed that the chapel was now open during burial services and invited all Councillors to take a look.

**(d) Vehicle / Insurance / Vehicle Livery / Fuel**

Cllr Hastings gave an update on the purchase of a vehicle.

Quotations had been received to purchase a new John Deere Utility Vehicle similar to that recently purchased by Brandon Town Council. They were compared against new prices for pickups.

Cllr Palmer said he had a contact who sold used commercial vehicles.

It was agreed to meet with the Village Keeper again to discuss his requirements and to also arrange a test period for a Utility Vehicle.

**(e) Boiler Flue & Back Door**

The clerk reported, to comply with Health & Safety, a flue had been fitted to the cottage boiler at a cost of £400.

The Village Keeper had also enquired about changing the back door. The boiler is situated just inside and with no ventilation is very hot in the summer. One option was to replace with a UPVC stable door, at a cost of £1,000. It was agreed to speak with a local builder to investigate options

**(f) To discuss/approve cemetery fees**

Details of local cemetery fees had been provided in comparison with existing fees at Lakenheath. It was agreed that Lakenheath fees are incredibly low in comparison and larger increases should be made each year to bring them more in line with others.

It was proposed and seconded to increase fees by 10%, rounded up to the nearest pound. Voting 5 in favour and 2 against.

**(g) Holiday Cover**

Cllr Frost agreed to open and close the cemetery gates, while the keeper is on annual leave.

**(h) Risk Assessments**

Copies of proposed Risk and COSHH Assessments had been provided to Members.

It was proposed and seconded to adopt. All agreed.

**10 Telephone Box**

The clerk reported that the Scout Group were still waiting for shelving to be donated for the telephone box at Mutford Green. The cost of shelving similar to that on High Street is £83.00 inc VAT. It was proposed and seconded to purchase and donate the shelving to the Scout Group to enable them to complete the transition of the book and toy library to Mutford Green. All agreed.

**11 Noticeboards**

Cllr P Gyte reported that she had put up all the litter competition posters but noticed how untidy some of the noticeboards had become, some covered in business adverts.

Cllr Morley said the boards were handy for residents but should not be used for commercial advertising. Cllr Kelly agreed.

It was proposed and seconded that Cllr P Gyte, as she rotated the litter posters around the village, would clear out all commercial advertising from the noticeboards and keep them tidy. The small notice already on the boards would be replaced with one also notifying users that commercial advertising was not permitted. All agreed.

**12 Children's Play Area Toilets**

Following the recent letter in the Lakenheath Times, the clerk had checked the toilets and reported that they were very clean. Vandalism had caused some damage but overall they are in very good order. Unfortunately the paper and soap dispensers are regularly damaged but can be replaced with more durable, vandalism and fire proof versions.

	<p>It was proposed and seconded to replace at a cost of £240. All agreed.</p>
<b>13</b>	<p><b>Heritage Trail / Celtic Cross</b>  Mr Jones, Chairman of Lakenheath Heritage Group gave an update on progress. The Heritage Group are gaining a strong reputation. Their stand at the fete with Suffolk Records Office was well attended and a success.</p> <p>Work on the trail originally established by Roy Silverlock was nearly complete and an updated, improved version would be produced in the next 4-5 weeks, with ambitions to eventually have an electronic version. The group hope to raise £4,000 over the next 12 months and they ask for everyone's support.</p> <p>News on the Celtic Cross was disappointing with promises from West Suffolk Council not fulfilled. The site is now as bad as it was before the renovations.</p> <p>It was proposed and seconded the Parish Council contact the District Council urging them to support the reinstatement of the Celtic Cross. All agreed.</p>
<b>14</b>	<p><b>Street Lighting</b>  Details had been provided from two companies to either replace all street lighting with solar powered units or raise funds from a government backed loan to replace all units with LED. It was proposed and seconded not to proceed with either option. All agreed.</p>
<b>15</b>	<p><b>Remembrance Day Parade</b>  The clerk reported that RBL Members would still like the parade to go ahead and Lakenheath Silver Band are working hard to try and contact other bands in the area to see if they will assist. Sqdn Ldr Turnbull was also investigating whether the USAF could provide a drummer for the parade.</p> <p>It was proposed and seconded to proceed with full road closure as previous years. All agreed.</p>
<b>16</b>	<p><b>WWI &amp; VE Day Commemorations</b>  It was agreed that the WWI memorial on the Playingfields was now looking tired and needed some work.</p> <p>Cllr P Gyte had spoken with Cllr Gathercole who would like another solidier made and a small garden established as a permanent memorial. She agreed to speak with Cllr Gathercole again and ask for all the faded poppies to be removed and to offer help and assistance with his plans.</p> <p>It was agreed to bring ideas for a VE Day Commemoration to the September meeting.</p>
<b>17</b>	<p><b>£137 Grant Applications to include Lakenheath Football Club &amp; Lakenheath Scout Group</b>  It was proposed and seconded to grant £250 to Lakenheath Scout Group. All agreed.</p> <p>It was proposed and seconded to grant £250 to Lakenheath Football Club. All agreed. Cllr A Gyte registered his interest and did not take part in the vote.</p> <p>Both applications would be considered again in February 2020.</p>
<b>18</b>	<p><b>Consultation: Suffolk County Council / Green Access Strategy – Rights of Way Improvement Plan</b>  Each consultation question was taken in turn and a response agreed.</p>
<b>19</b>	<p><b>Items for Future Meetings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Telephone Boxes</li> <li>• Celtic Cross</li> <li>• VE Day Commemorations</li> <li>• Cemetery/Village Keeper Vehicle</li> <li>• Cemetery Cottage Ventilation</li> <li>• Remembrance Day Parade</li> <li>• PCSO / Special Constables / Private Security</li> <li>• Bus Timetables</li> </ul>
<b>20</b>	<p><b>Such other business which, in the opinion of the Chairman, should be considered as a matter of urgency</b>  A reminder that the Parish Office would be closed weeks commencing 19<sup>th</sup> &amp; 26<sup>th</sup> August 2019.</p>

**21 To note date of next Meetings – Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:15pm

Sign .....

Date .....

CHAIRMAN

Signed as confirmation that they are a true record.