

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF FOWLMERE PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD AT ST MARY'S CHURCH (DOROTHY PLUCK ROOM) ON TUESDAY 9TH MAY 2017, AT 7:30 PM**

**PRESENT:** Cllr L Wragg - Chairman, Cllr T Bearpark, Cllr C Howe, Cllr D Roberts, Cllr M Sunderland, Cllr S Wells and Mrs J Wright – Parish Council Clerk

**IN ATTENDANCE** Mrs H Mepham – Headteacher, Fowlmere School, Mrs D Woods - Chair of the Fowlmere Village Hall Management Committee, County Councillor P Topping, Mr P Burge, Mr M Bates, Mrs J Fletcher, Mrs J Grisoni, Mrs R Collins, Mr P Rowley, Mrs S Gilpin, Mr R Pile, Mr J Hunt, Mr J Cosley, Mr and Mrs K & R Benson, Mr and Mrs J & M Barker, Mrs and Mrs R & J Dring, Mr J Bottrill, Mr P Hayhow.

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllr M Vinton and Mr S Mulholland

**2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF 10TH MAY 2016**

Mrs Dorothy Woods Proposed, Cllr Roberts seconded and all agreed to accept them as a full and complete record of the meeting.

Cllr Wragg asked for Cllr Topping to be able to present his report now as he also had to be at the Whittlesford Annual meeting later on this evening. Cllr Topping gave the following report:

*"I continue to work with the parish council under the chairmanship of Cllr Lawrence Wragg, and district councillor Deborah Roberts, on local issues that affect residents of the village, and to lobby and represent residents' views at county, and to keep people informed of what is happening.*

*County Council elections were held on May 4th. There are now 61 county councillors, down from 69 before the election, because of boundary changes prescribed by the Electoral Commission in London.*

*I am grateful to the residents of Fowlmere for voting to re-elect me: turnout in the Duxford division was 46%, one of the highest in the county. The division is now a very large rural division of some 12 villages, ranging from Shepreth in the west to Pampisford in the east, and extending as far south as Ickleton and the Chishills. There are considerable infrastructure challenges given the potential economic growth in the area. I made this point to the Chief Secretary to the Treasury during a recent visit he made to the Wellcome Trust's Sanger Institute at Hinxton.*

**Speeding and road safety**

*I have backed the parish council's bid to improve signage and safety along Long Lane and was pleased that funding has been secured from the county council's Minor Highways Initiative. I am conscious that the main route through Fowlmere is a back-run for people heading into Cambridge when the A10 is blocked. If Long Lane and other main routes through the village are to be made safer, this will require the parish council to carry out an overall assessment with highways officers and demonstrate that there is community backing for the next set of proposals to be submitted.*

*I am also preparing an infrastructure bid to go into the new combined authority and government because I am arguing that the whole of the A505 can no longer cope with the volume of traffic on it. This has county council support and the engagement of our MP Heidi Allen.*

*Last summer I made sure that the county cut back the grass at the junctions after complaints from people trying to get onto the A505. Staying with the A505 for a second longer, I was pleased that the injunction we secured in 2009 on the land near the PetCrem to prevent unlawful trespass came in handy in December when nine caravans occupied the land, and were moved on without having to get the bailiffs in.*

*The Full County Council meeting in December agreed to reverse the decision to reduce gritting routes. This was universally welcomed. The original gritting cuts were part of a package of measures to save money, and avoid putting up the county precept. But clearly the gritting work is a key frontline service. All routes have been reinstated and there are sufficient crews to grit as required.*

**Rural crime**

*On the back of complaints to me from local farmers, I have met the Cambridgeshire police rural crime unit inspector following a significant increase in hare coursing in the area, and related rural crime. I am arranging for our PCSO to have some training with the unit and would also encourage the reporting of suspicious activity to the police such as vans and cars parked up in fields, or lights seen in fields at night, using 999. The police are very keen to re-iterate that rural crime is higher on their agenda than perhaps it was some years ago.*

**Flytipping near the village school**

*During last year we negotiated with the county council to clear the materials that had been appearing in larger and larger amounts on this land. The main risk was its proximity to the village school, and the nature of some of the materials left there, such as deep zinc containers. After due notice was given, the land was cleared earlier in the year. The next step will be to decide what the land could be used for, and I want to give this my attention in the next few months.*

### **County Council**

*This year financial pressures on councils continue, with the government continuing to reduce the amount of funding made available over the next few years, notably the new homes bonus money paid to the district council. There will be no business rate support in two years' time and South Cambs will instead have to pay the government a proportion of the local business rates raised locally.*

*I have continued to serve on three county committees: the audit committee and the health and well-being board and the health committee. We have been challenging the Sustainability & Transformation Plan being put together by the Cambridgeshire health commissioning group. Savings of between 10-12% need to be achieved over the next 5 years, and the committee's role is to scrutinize this work on behalf of residents who access health services. The Chief Exec of Addenbrookes has attended and we have checked with him the hospital's improvements since being put in special measures 18 months ago. I have also met with the chair of Addenbrookes. If residents have concerns about health care services then please feel free to contact me as first-hand accounts of health services is important as evidence.*

### **And finally, ...**

*I am also now leader of South Cambridgeshire District Council, but have taken a form of retirement to be able to devote more time to serving the communities I am proud to represent.*

*If you need to contact me, please use my email [peterwwtopping@gmail.com](mailto:peterwwtopping@gmail.com) or call 07825 876582. You can see what I have been doing by visiting my blog [www.councillortopping.com](http://www.councillortopping.com)."*

Mr Pile asked why Fowlmere can't have speed bumps like Newton. Cllr Howe – speed bumps are not recommended for several reasons: people just speed up afterwards; there is more pollution which increase emissions and they are not ideal with the emergency services.

Mrs Gilpin says the speed along Long Lane is above 30mph and there are large vehicles coming through the village, especially the large tractors.

Mrs Collins asked the latest on the Gravel Pit turning from the A505 into Thriplow – improved signage is a possibility.

Land at the back of Apple-acre – is the land to be built upon? Cllr Roberts will cover this in her part of the meeting.

### **3. FOWLMERE SCHOOL - Mrs H Mepham, Headteacher**

Heather Mepham attended the meeting and gave the following report:

*"This is my final annual report as headteacher at Fowlmere Primary School, as I retire from my post at the end of this academic year.*

*As a 'local girl', Fowlmere school has been central to my family. I began my association with the school in 1960, as a pupil, following the footsteps of my sisters, mother and grandfather. My father was a school manager (governor) and played a key role in building the original school swimming pool. I went on to the Grammar School for Girls in Cambridge, during which time I returned to Fowlmere school for work experience. After teacher training, I taught at Morley Memorial Primary School in Cambridge for three years then returned to Fowlmere as a teacher from 1981-1984. I then taught at King's Hedges Infant School in Cambridge from 1984 – 1990, and returned to Fowlmere again from 1993 – 2001. I managed a splattering of supply work between 1990 -1993, during a period of having my own three children who also attended Fowlmere school as pupils. It had been my ambition to lead the school as headteacher and, following a ten-year period as a Local Authority Adviser to Primary Schools, I achieved this in 2011. Now, having reached the age of retirement, I leave to pursue the many interests that have been difficult to follow whilst dedicated to a career in education. It has been a great privilege to teach, develop and 'grow' both children and teachers across Cambridgeshire, and I will cherish many happy memories from the last 39 years.*

*Fowlmere Primary School continues to serve the Parishes of Fowlmere, Great Chishill, Chrishall Grange and Heydon. We also attract some families living out of catchment from Foxton, Whittlesford and Melbourn. The current roll is 100 pupils. 13 children will be leaving at the end of July to attend secondary schools at Melbourn*

Village College, Sawston Village College and St Bede's Inter-Church School. The intake for the Reception year in September 2017 is expected to be 14, therefore the school roll will remain steady.

The end of Key Stage results for the academic year 2015/16 resulted in good outcomes across EYFS (5 year olds), KS1 (7 year olds) and KS2 (11 year olds). A new national assessment system proved a challenge to all schools, but we fared well and were pleased with both our attainment and progress data.

Our priorities have focused on the report from the 2015 Ofsted Inspection, and we have made good progress across the areas that were identified. We re-structured the school and appointed an Early Years Foundation Stage Leader from January 2017. We have already seen the benefits of this appointment. The assistant headteacher moved from a class teacher role to one where he taught science across the school, which was another of our focus areas. We had an HMI visit at the beginning of the Summer term 2016 which confirmed that we were making good progress against the inspection report. Our next Ofsted inspection is due in the Autumn term 2017.

The children have had opportunities to participate in a wide variety of sporting activities in addition to the school PE curriculum, including:

Netball, Table tennis, Multi-sports, Football, and Rugby clubs;  
and competitions, including:

Tag rugby, Football league, 7 a-side football, Kwik cricket, Netball/High 5's, Quadkids athletics, Y1 multi-sports, Y4 mini-olympics, Cross country and the MVC swimming gala.

We have also offered clubs for chess, art, drama, Harry Potter and the Hobbit.

Children have the opportunity to learn musical instruments through Cambridge music, and we currently have lessons for the piano and guitar.

We once again took part in the Year 5 maths challenge and the Year 6 English event, both organised by the Local Authority for schools across the county.

We took the KS2 children again to one of the Young Voices events at the Genting Arena in Birmingham.

Singing in a choir of 6,000 children is a memorable experience.

Year 6 pupils undertook the Bikeability cycle proficiency training programme.

Our Community involvement includes:

Assemblies led by Revd. Angie Melaniphy, (Anglican) and Mrs Tess Maddin, (Methodist).

We have raised funds for a number of charities including Jimmy's Nightshelter, Children in Need, Macmillan, Red, White and Blue Day for Armed Services charities, Save the Children Fund and Red Nose Day.

The children have enjoyed all sorts of activities including Mothers' Day lunch, Fathers' Day lunch, an Easter egg hunt, Sports Day, Christmas crafts with parents, Christmas Nativity and pantomime, Class Christmas parties and school discos to name but a few. Children represented the school at the Remembrance at Fowlmere war memorial and we opened our doors to the community for our school assembly on Remembrance Day.

We have run workshops for parents in mathematics and phonics.

We planned a number of enrichment opportunities with visitors from 'History off the Page'.

They have been on a range of school visits including St Mary's Church, Flag Fen, Bury Lane, Careers convention, Archaeology and Anthropology museum, Duxford IWM, Tesco, Computer museum, and forthcoming visits to Linton zoo, the Botanic gardens, and a residential trip to Eaton Vale in Norwich.

Madame Veronique Sanders from Melbourn Village College has continued to teach French throughout the school.

Our new rising 5s will be visiting the school during the course of this term. The teacher also visits the pre-school providers and makes home visits to ensure a smooth transition for the children into school in September.

We are extremely fortunate to benefit from the fund-raising efforts of the PTFA (Parent, Teacher & Friends Association). They raise an extraordinary amount each year to benefit the children at Fowlmere School providing enrichment activities and resources. They are currently planning a ball for the Autumn term 2017.

Finally, I wish the incoming headteacher every good wish for their future career at Fowlmere Primary School."

**Questions/Comments from parishioners:**

Cllr Wragg thanked Mrs Mepham for attending the meeting and also passed on his gratitude on behalf of the village for all she has done over so many years for our vital village school and wished her a very happy retirement.

#### **4. REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL – Cllr Lawrence Wragg**

Cllr Wragg reported on the year:

*“Fowlmere now has 9 members, as 2 stood down during the year. Two excellent candidates to replace them came forward (Cllrs Peter Burge & Steve Mulholland).*

- *It has been a very active year – particularly with Planning. Finance and Planning will be reported separately by their respective Chairmen.*
- Cemetery:
  - *We have concluded a review of rules following a 30-day consultation with village where we received submissions. In the course of this we visited many local cemeteries, to bring Fowlmere in line with best practice.*
  - *One suggestion from the review was to form a ‘Friends of Fowlmere Cemetery’ group, to enable residents to work together on maintaining the cemetery and Cllr Vinton will lead on this.*
  - *We have arranged to plant new trees along the Shepreth Road, in the autumn and preparatory work is now underway.*
- Trees, Grass & Hedges:
  - *Following last year’s survey the first phase of work carried out with more to come next year.*
  - *A new contract is in place to maintain planting in the Savile Way area.*
  - *Protected verges continue to be cut by PC, with special attention given.*
- Sustainable Parish Energy Partnership:
  - *We organised a very successful event in conjunction with SCDC in the autumn at the URC, with displays of energy saving bulbs etc. There was a good attendance and some villagers were able to book out and borrow a thermal camera to see where heat was lost from their houses.*
- Traffic:
  - *We have sadly had the tragedy of a motorcyclist being killed in a collision in Long Lane.*
  - *FPC has analysed the data from the traffic survey commissioned in the village. We discovered that over 12,000 vehicles committed prosecutable speeding offences in a single week. If this was repeated over a full year then that figure rises to around 630,000.*
  - *FPC applied for third time to CCC Local Highway Improvements Committee for flashing signs that display vehicle speed. This time the bid was successful (we were the most highly scored - our traffic data probably helped.) The sign is mobile, and will be moved between different locations once we have received it.*
  - *We have had an excellent response to the proposal to set out a Community Speedwatch, with 20 volunteers (“Phenomenal” – was the response from PC Jenkins who led the training session). Cllr Howe has been overseeing this initiative and has had a meeting with PC Jenkins to propose sites, which are now agreed. The initial training has been completed and we are now just waiting for the equipment.*
  - *A lorry attempting to deliver to the Ion Science building site damaged the War Memorial in June. Residents recorded the event, enabling FPC to contact the company concerned. The result was that the Memorial was fully repaired, and a damaged planter replaced, entirely at company’s expense. Thanks to all who helped, especially as the driver did not stop.*
  - *The PC has also been investigating an innovative device used in a village in Gloucestershire to record vehicle speeds and their registrations. This means that the Police can follow up persistent offenders with a graduated response. Prosecution is not used, so the device is not a money-maker. It has been in use for just over a year – with excellent results in changed behaviour.*
  - *FPC has been in extensive correspondence with Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Cambridge*

about the potential use of this device in Fowlmere. There has been no offer of financial help from the PCC, and not much with Police Force. It is hoped the PCC may finally accept invitation to speak in Fowlmere.

- Playground equipment:
  - The swings on the Butts were inspected by RoSPA this week, and were unfortunately condemned and cannot be repaired. FPC will consider replacements at its next meeting.
- Queen's Head Public House:
  - After consultation with CAMRA, FPC successfully applied to SCDC to have the pub listed as an Asset of Community Value. However, there were few positive response from the village in terms of resources or manpower to acquire it and run it as a village enterprise.
- HM Queen's 90th Birthday:
  - FPC gave modest financial contribution towards the village celebration which was a great success.
- Land near the School:
  - The land is owned by CCC, who have now finally cleared rubbish dumped on it (some of which was dangerous). There is the possibility of planting a Community Orchard on the site.
- Village Hall:
  - FPC are committed to supporting the Village Hall refurbishment plans and are considering their financial donation to assist with rebuilding of changing rooms.
- Butts Lane:
  - This was dug up by the contractors working on the Ion Science building site. Ownership of the road is uncertain, and it may belong to the Parish. The PC deeds have been examined in detail, and the Inclosure award of 1845 has been copied and transcribed to look for evidence.
- Fire Engine Shed (Butts Lane):
  - This is adjacent to the Ion Science building site, and may have been adversely affected by the work there. It is in need of considerable restoration, and the PC is getting estimates for the necessary work."

Cllr Wragg paid thanks to all the people FPC depends on, which include the Parish Councillors, District Councillor, County Councillor and our wonderful Clerk (without whom it would all fall apart)

#### **Questions/Comments from parishioners:**

Mr Bottrill mentioned that the planting in Savile Way needed some further attention.

Mrs Grisoni asked if anything could be done to improve signage at Butts, which Cllr Topping was asked to take on. He mentioned that by asking Ion Science to put the directions on all their written correspondence with contractors, that could have a positive effect as he had encountered a similar problem in Hinxton.

Mrs Collins asked about the broken swings and Cllr Wragg explained about a hopeful replacement.

#### **5. COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT – Cllr Peter Topping**

This was covered earlier in the agenda and Cllr Wragg thanked Cllr Topping for coming.

#### **6. LOCAL POLICE REPORT – PCSO Samuel Kennedy & PCSO James Lynch**

PCSO Samuel Kennedy / PCSO James Lynch were unable to attend and declined to send in a report saying all matters in Fowlmere are covered in the ecops bulletins.

#### **7 DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT – Cllr Deborah Roberts**

Cllr Roberts spoke about the year:

*"It's hard to remember every detail however it's been a very busy year, especially in Planning. I sit on Planning Committee, Main Council, Civic Affairs and Licensing and I chair some of the tribunals for Licensing. Planning has been the most challenging due to the abeyance of the Local Plan which means the village envelopes are not formally in place. FPC supported the SCDC plans for the village – it's a 'Group' village which means strict limitations on development. The 7 potential development sites submitted for the previous Local Plan in Fowlmere were not accepted. There are many speculative applications being submitted across SCDC and growth (19,000 houses required) was to be allocated to villages such as Cottenham, Melbourn, which have facilities, good transport links etc. The excess applications puts enormous pressure on the Planning Officers*

at SCDC which causes concern from Members. Meetings are difficult and pressured. The Local Plan enquiry has now started again but is moving slowly. Fowlmere is on the agenda for 13<sup>th</sup> June. Cllr Wragg, Cllr Bearpark and I will be going, and will be taking advice from a Planning Consultant. Cllr Wragg and I also attended a meeting at SCDC recently following applications which we have asked to be referred to the Planning Committee but this hasn't been followed, and more will be reported on this at the next PC Meeting. If an application goes to Planning Committee, you feel the application has had a full 'say'. FPC are pressing for this process to be properly adhered to.

*Housing in Foxton – I was the instigator of the new rented council houses in Foxton, which if there are not people from Foxton who need them, Fowlmere residents would be able to bid for (as well as the current houses in The Triangle.) I am one of the two longest serving members on the Council and am as committed to this village as much as I have ever been. And I am grateful to help from my colleagues on the Parish Council, particularly Cllr Wragg, Cllr Bearpark and the Clerk too.”*

#### **Questions/Comments from parishioners:**

Mr Bates – has street cleaning been ceased by the District Council? Cllr Roberts was not sure but there have been reductions in services recently. She'll ask the question (trees are taking root in the road gutters).

### **8. PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE – Cllr Deborah Roberts**

Cllr Roberts spoke about the year:

*“We meet regularly and have 21 days to get a reply back to SCDC. It can range from a porch to a large application such as the one on the Welding Alloys site. There are concerns within the village. For example Apple-acre, that surveys were intended for the field behind the site. There are other surveys happening in the village where land outside of the village envelope is being brought forward speculatively. No planning applications have been received as of yet and SCDC Planning officers have seemingly not been approached. It's not about stopping things but it's about planning in a proper manner. The Local Plan sets a structure which can be adhered to and should be finalised early next year. We are a small village with very few resources and there will be pressures locally with unplanned expansion; doctors, schools, transport links, shops etc. If people have concerns about what's happening near you, come and see me otherwise I won't know about it and I can go to SCDC. My contact details are on the notice-board. My continued thanks go to my colleagues and the Clerk for all their hard work, Cllr Wragg and I have had many meetings over this, Cllr Bearpark too.”*

### **9. PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE REPORT – Cllr Mike Sunderland**

Cllr Sunderland gave the following report:

*“Welcome to the Finance Report. My name for those who don't know me is Mike Sunderland and I'm chair of Fowlmere Parish Council Finance Committee. All members of the Parish Council are welcome to be members of this committee with meetings usually every 3 months and this meeting usually precedes a full Parish Council meeting.*

*Our task is to oversee the management of funds held by the Parish Council and to make and decide upon proposals for expenditure.*

*Grass cutting around the village is a regular expenditure as is the care of our protected verges. Alongside this we have expenditure on street lighting, senior link and necessities such as insurance.*

*We are looking at new play equipment for the Butts area and at replacing play equipment at the Village Hall. We have a responsibility to ensure that all these “toys” are maintained in a condition of safety, refurbishing and replacing as appropriate. We have given money towards other improvements at the Village Hall.*

*All of the above need to be factored in to the Precept each year and we managed to keep the increase in the proposed Precept to households in Fowlmere at just 1%. Having said that, the fact is that as we are no longer members of CPALC (Communities, Parish and Local Council) and therefore do not pay the relevant subscription, our Precept cost to village homeowners is actually less than last year.*

*Jackie, our excellent Parish Clerk has moved our insurance from Aon to the Zurich where we have made a saving. Not connected of course, but we have met our pension obligations for our Clerk. The chairman has already mentioned a few examples of donations we have made to local organisations.*

*We spent £435 on an Inter-Village Speed Survey and will, as a result, be putting Speedwatch in place in the near future. A contribution was made towards the very successful Q90 event at the village hall last year. We listened to a request for a bench near the village school and we have completed maintenance work on 2 of our bus stops and will be replacing the third.*

*We have an obligation to look after trees within the village and following a survey, we recently had work that needed to be completed within 6 months done on damaged trees in the Moat and Dovehouse Close area at a cost of over £4000. More needed work will be done towards the end of this year.*

*Every year, our accounts have to be audited. The 2015-16 audit was duly completed and the 16-17 audit is currently underway.*

*Let me finish by saying that we were able to remain securely in budget in the Year 2016 – 17 and we fully expect to do so in the current year – a prognosis that I am very happy with.”*

#### **Questions/Comments from parishioners:**

Mr Bottrill asked how much Section 106 money left? The answer being £43,000.00

Mrs Gilpin said the bench in Dovehouse Close faces the wrong way and could it be turned around. Cllr Roberts advised that this was SCDC land but she would pass the concern on.

#### **10. VILLAGE HALL REPORT – by Mrs Dorothy Woods, Chairman of the Fowlmere Village Hall Management Committee**

Mrs Woods attended the meeting and gave the following report:

*“It has been another busy year for the Village Hall.*

*The hall continues to be well used on a daily basis for a wide number of community clubs/activities. This year so far we have 4 caravan rallies booked as well as three weddings plus parties and other events in addition to the ongoing regular monthly and weekly bookings. As we need to ensure that the ground is also available for leisure/sporting activities I have had to turn down further caravan bookings for this year. We already have 4 caravan rallies, one wedding and various other bookings for 2018. In addition we have a Folk weekend booked over 2018 August bank holiday weekend.*

*Fowlmere Metals and Foxton Dynamos Youth team continue to use the grounds and Thriplow Cricket club use the grounds throughout the summer months for both matches and training.*

*Fowlmere Football Club is currently not using the grounds as they were promoted to the Premier League and our changing rooms/toilet facilities are not up to the standard required by the FA. So far they have been unable to put together a Reserve team who would be able to use Fowlmere Recreation ground*

*We are working with the Parish Council (who own the land at the village hall) to address the changing room refurbishment at the Village Hall. The Parish Council have allocated funds from 106 money towards this project. Plans have already been drawn up to include toilets in the changing rooms, a toilet accessible from the field and also a serving kiosk at the back of the changing rooms from which refreshments can be served for any outside event organised at the Hall. I am currently awaiting a response from SCDC as to whether or not this work will require planning permission.*

*The Sports Group now have a new committee as Jane and Keith Goodwin have retired after many years of running this group. All houses in Fowlmere have been leafletted which has proved worthwhile as they now have a number of new memberships*

*We are gradually working through the items on our Development Plan for the hall as funds permit. Since the last annual Parish meeting:*

- *the passageways and meeting room have been decorated.*
- *Undersink water heaters installed in the ladies and gents toilets and also in the kitchen providing instant hot water which saves putting on the boiler during the summer months*
- *Water reducing taps have also been installed in the ladies and gents toilets - this alleviates the problem as on a few occasions the taps had been left running overnight after an evening event*
- *Trees around tennis courts cut back (thank you to the tennis club for donating half the cost for this work). Cutting back hedges and weeding along the exit road from the village hall, cutting down and spraying weeds around the hall*

- *Plus better signs in car park*
- *And thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor we now have a much bigger screen fitted in the village hall*
- *New signs have been put up outside the Hall and Pavilion room entrances.*
- *We now have a noticeboard on the outside of the building - hoping to catch 'passing trade'*
- *Provision of more rubbish bins in the hope that anyone using the village hall grounds will ensure they clear their litter (litter continues to be a problem) as well as minor vandalism about which I am in contact with the police.*
- *Enhancing the ambience of the village hall with pictures of old Fowlmere in the Pavilion room and as they become available along the passageways.*

*We still have a long way to go i.e. replacing the chairs in the main hall etc. etc. and refurbishing the serving area in the Pavilion Room.....the list goes on!*

*Some of the very old play equipment can no longer be used and the Parish Council have agreed to fund replacing this. This is a very welcome upgrade as it will attract more children/families to use the recreation ground. We are very grateful for the support of the Parish Council on this project.*

*We have been invited by ACRE to take part in Hallmark, the village hall accreditation scheme. The benefits being that we ensure the committee has embedded good practice, continued improvement in procedures, gaining recognition for obtaining good standards in management and giving the local community confidence in us. Achieving this will also will be of benefit when seeking funding. We are currently working towards this accreditation.*

*Lastly, a big thank you to the Officers and Management Committee members of the Village Hall.. Also a big thank you to the Fundraisers who organise the Farmer's Market and Jumble sale amongst other things and all other volunteers who have contributed greatly over the last year."*

Cllr Wragg thanked Mrs Woods for her report and Mrs Collins Farmers Market - 9:00 – 11:30am.

#### **11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Mrs Gilpin had a question about Cemetery plot purchases and it was suggested she write a letter to the Burial Board.

Mr Rowley and Mr Pile asked for an update of the possibility of a Village Shop at the Chequers. Mr Pile thinks the project may be further ahead but FPC were not in possession of any facts to suggest one way or another.

Cllr Wragg thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 9:00pm.

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