

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF FOWLMERE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT ST MARY'S CHURCH (DOROTHY PLUCK ROOM) ON TUESDAY 8TH MAY 2018, AT 7:30 PM**

PRESENT: Cllr L Wragg - Chairman, Cllr T Bearpark, Cllr D Roberts, Cllr M Sunderland, Cllr P Burge

IN ATTENDANCE Ms K Byrne (Clerk), Mr P Atkin (Headteacher, Fowlmere School), Mrs D Woods (Chair of the Fowlmere Village Hall Management Committee), Pat Flynn, Richard Pile, Colleen Humphrey, Sue Jones

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr M Vinton, Mr S Mulholland, Cllr C Howe, County Councillor P Topping, S Kennedy & J Lynch (PCSOs)

2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF 9TH MAY 2017

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

3. FOWLMERE PRIMARY SCHOOL– Mr P Atkin, Headteacher

Philip Atkin attended the meeting and gave the following report:

“Report for the Fowlmere Annual Parish Meeting

Tuesday 8th May 2018, 7.30pm

Since the last Annual Parish Meeting, our biggest news is the outcome from our inspection in November 2017. We had a two-day inspection from an Ofsted inspector, who was shadowed for quality assurance purposes by one of Her Majesty's Inspectors – something which, reassuringly, happens periodically to ensure that judgements are consistent. After a very thorough inspection, we were delighted that our inspector recognised that we met the criteria for a “Good” school. This acknowledged the hard work undertaken by staff and governors, past and present, to transform the school over the preceding two years.

I started in my role as headteacher in September following a summer holiday in which staff planned, organised, designed and even decorated: you should see our space-themed entrance for Early Years!

We worked with staff, governors, pupils and families to establish a common understanding of what we want for Fowlmere Primary School over the next five years and the outcome of this work is on our website for all to see. Without fail, all groups were ambitious for the school: we all want to make sure that Fowlmere School provides the very best educational experiences for the children of the parishes of Fowlmere, Great & Little Chishill, Heydon and Chrishall Grange.

Looking towards the best schools from across the country, we introduced a set of clear values which are designed to underpin everything we do:

- Care
- Ambition
- Determination
- Teamwork
- Confidence

and set about embedding these throughout our community. In the Spring Term, we took a whole week to explore what we meant by each of these values – experiencing teamwork activities through drumming, care through first aid training and confidence through dance, amongst many others.

We invited parents into school to talk about their careers, not just for our oldest pupils, but with everyone from 4-year-olds upwards, and, in a recent assembly led by Rev. Angie children talked candidly about wanting to become scientists and designers and engineers and even teachers!

We marked National Science Week in March, and received the support of the University of Cambridge (more than once), IonScience, Melbourn Village College, Sawston Village College and yet another group of parents and carers in engaging all pupils in the huge diversity that is science.

We have continued to provide teams for the local football league, rugby tournaments and cross country competitions. Children in Early Years and Key Stage 1 (4 – 7 year olds) performed in a joint Christmas Play and Nativity in December and children in Key Stage 2 (7 – 11 year olds) will be performing soon in a concert

in Royston and their own end-of-year production in July. Britten Sinfonia provided a fantastic performance and workshop based on Alice through the Looking Glass – funded by an instrumental concert held by pupils just before Christmas.

Our PTFA continues to provide events for parents, carers and the wider community, and in doing so raises much needed funds for those little extras which make school special. Most recently, the committee of hard-working volunteers have contributed to the school's IT provision, library and Early Years as well as providing ongoing support for sports and extra-curricular activities at the school. Their contribution is highly valued by everyone at Fowlmere School.

A major change came in September as we set up our own After-School Childcare, following the decision by Thriplow Primary to end the joint provision hosted there. Our After-School Club provides childcare for around 18 pupils per day whose parents work. It runs from the end of the school day to 6pm and is staffed by a dedicated team of play workers. Currently the provision is based in the school hall, which, whilst fine for the club, is not ideal for the school as it limits the number of other extra-curricular activities we can offer the whole school. In reality, the club needs its own space, but funding is very limited and as yet this is something that we simply can't afford.

We currently have 100 pupils on roll which is a steady increase on our numbers in September. The reality for us is that this is not a sustainable roll for the school. Changes to the funding formula brought in over the last year have meant that small schools, such as ours, have been the net losers. In the longer term, we need more pupils on roll than we have currently: at least 105. Everyone at the school is working hard on getting the message out there about what a great school Fowlmere is – I'm sure you will all have seen our regular articles in Fowlmere and Thriplow News for a start – and we believe we have all the children of Fowlmere signed up for September's new intake. But, we need the support of the respective Parish Councils. We do need our villages to attract young families so that the school can continue to grow and thrive. We have a school with so much potential it would be a shame not to be able to see it through simply because of insufficient funding.

The risks in the current business-centric climate to small schools are great. I think I would be negligent in my role if I did not ask that, over the forthcoming months and years, the Parish Council sees its way to adopting a vision and a set of policies which encourage families into the village and continues its excellent support for the school which I have seen over the last few months.

Mr Philip Atkin Headteacher."

Questions/Comments from parishioners:

Cllr Wragg thanked Mr Atkin for his report, and for attending the meeting. Cllr Roberts said that as a district and parish councillor, and also as a grandparent of children at Fowlmere school, she (and others) are very impressed and happy with progress at the school with its good, fresh ideas. Also, that it is very important to the village that the school continues to exist and continues to improve.

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

Cllr Wragg reported on the year:

Fowlmere Parish Annual Meeting - 8 May 2018

Fowlmere Parish Council - Report of the Chairman

Council now has 8 members. No other candidates stood at last week's election, so members were returned unopposed. There is one vacancy to fill.

We lost our excellent Clerk - Jackie Wright, who had served for 8 years. We are delighted to have been able to recruit Kerry, who also lives in village.

It has been a very active year, particularly in relation to Planning. Finance and Planning will be reported separately by their respective Chairmen.

I want to pay tribute to the cooperation between Foxton, Thriplow and Fowlmere Parish Council in working together to oppose massive grain store on edge of the Parish. I hope to see similar cooperation in future.

Turning to aspects of the Council's activities:

Cemetery

New trees have planted along Shepreth Road and chestnut palings used in the gaps.

"Clear up Days" (organised by Cllr Mulholland) were well attended and were a great success. More will be organised this year. The misuse of the water supply has been dealt with. Repair work done on Chapel.

Trees, Grass & Hedges

Further phases of planned maintenance work carried out. A fallen tree was removed from the Round Moat. The contract to cut protected verges was renewed. To save cost it was decided not to have strimming.

Traffic

A new traffic survey in village was organised. Fowlmere still has considerable problem of speeding vehicles. We are awaiting delivery from CCC of flashing sign displaying vehicle speed. The sign is mobile, and will be moved between different locations.

Community Speedwatch, led Cllr Howe, was active. We participated in Speedwatch Week last month, and were visited by one of the policemen organising it. Fowlmere has a high incidence of speeding (25% well above county average (4%-7%).

We are looking at possible HGV restrictions.

Playground equipment

The swings on the Butts were replaced. New play equipment was installed at the Village Hall.

Village School

Cambridgeshire County Council had proposed to use s106 money from housing development in Fowlmere to fund expansion of Thriplow School, not Fowlmere School, to take the extra pupils expected from the new housing. The Council joined the School Governors, District Cllr and County Cllr in protesting. I heard today that CCC has changed its mind, and that it will now designate Fowlmere School to expand to take the extra pupils.

Land near the School

The land is owned by Cambridgeshire County Council, and we are still trying to negotiate possibility of planting a Community Orchard on the site.

Village Hall

The Council will contribute to assist with rebuilding of changing rooms, and is working with VH committee to achieve further improvements to building.

The Council paid for new play equipment, will share cost of installing two new "Dog bins" near Village Hall.

Fire Engine Shed (Butts Lane)

This is adjacent to the new Ion Science building site. During year, it showed considerable cracking, and seemed in risk of collapse. Emergency repairs were successfully carried out.

Thriplow Daffodil Weekend

The Council held two meetings with organiser to try to resolve problems arising from last year.

Training

Councillors have attended a number of training events for Parish Councillors at Sawston and at SCDC offices.

Other bodies

I (or a colleague) continue to attend the Imperial War Museum's Neighbours' Forum twice a year on behalf of the Council.

Finally I want to give our thanks to people we greatly depend on:

Dave Salmons; and Hardy Landscapes, who both do a great job in maintaining village to high standards;

Our Parish Councillors;

Our District Councillor;

Our County Councillor; and

Our Parish Clerk (without whom it would all fall apart).

Lawrence Wragg

8 May 2018

Questions/Comments from parishioners:

Regarding speeding vehicles in the village, Mr Atkin wondered if the FPC and the school can get together to arrange something so that children can safely walk to and from school, although he didn't have anything specific in mind at this stage. Cllr Wragg thanked Mr Atkin and commented that children have the power to influence their parents' behaviour. Mrs Woods commented that Fowlmere used to have a walk to school initiative (walking bus) that may be revisited.

Mr Pile asked whether Fowlmere could have speed bumps like Newton. Cllr Wragg said that FPC have explored this and found that they are not recommended as drivers just speed up afterwards increasing emissions and pollution, also emergency service vehicles have difficulties negotiating the humps. However, a speed gun with recognition camera might be useful in dealing with speeding vehicles, although the police are less keen as this increases their workload.

5. COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT – Cllr Peter Topping

Cllr Topping was not able to attend the meeting but he sent his report, which is as follows:

“County Annual report for 2017-18 to Fowlmere Parish Council

Cllr Peter Topping

I continue to work with Lawrence and the parish council on local issues that affect residents of the village, and to represent the concerns of Fowlmere to the County Council.

One of those has been the treatment of the village school by the county education department. I have met with the chair of Governors Sarah and new head teacher Philip, and I think the dedication and sense of purpose imbued in the school is palpable. I chased up the county council to explain why they were depicting Fowlmere as a school with no room for expansion, which led the council to take the view that the section 106 money from new developments in Fowlmere should be diverted to proposals in other nearby village schools. I have experience of a similar issue in Whittlesford where development money was earmarked to go Sawston, but we got that stopped. Both the county council and the district council have a role to play here and I will work with your newly re-elected district councillor Deborah Roberts on this.

A related issue is the community green space proposals for the land near the school. The county council is in principle agreeing to place the land on a long lease to the village so that it can be turned into and managed as a “wild space” and the school is supportive of this approach. This matter now has to be agreed by a council assets committee, and the delays in taking this forward are because the county surveyor has been off work sick for a few months, but it is now back on track.

The other major issue was the proposed relocation of the grain store to land between Foxton and Fowlmere, which although is a district council planning matter, has seen the parishes of Thriplow, Foxton and Fowlmere working to a common aim. I spoke against the Thriplow housing proposals at the planning committee, which I hoped would provide support for Foxton and Fowlmere opposing the grain store application. I believe the application will come back in the future.

I have reported the potholes in and around the village especially London Road and at the war memorial and I am monitoring their progress and will keep them at the top for the tarmac teams to-do list. I kept the highways people engaged on fixing speeding signs and bollards and clearing the ditches to prevent flooding on roads in and around the village. The main roads – the A505 and the A10 are being resurfaced this spring and I am working to make sure this does not create diversions through Fowlmere.

I want to mention the Combined Authority in the context of housing developments. I supported a bid for the Authority to put in a bid to Govt for some £197m to move the water treatment site at Milton, freeing up the brownfield sites around Cambridge North Station for the building of homes. 1,500 of those homes will be in South Cambs and so therefore will COUNT against the targets set by government to be built in this district. This means that there will be less pressure on villages in South Cambs. This bid is going forward to government as the priority for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough and stands a very good chance of securing the money and I spoke to the Housing Minister about it last month.

Once again, the injunction that we secured almost ten years ago in 2009 on the field next to the PetCrem on the A505 to prevent unlawful trespass came in useful over the summer, and again in the early part of this year and most recently in April. I had to persuade the police that they had a duty to enforce this, and support the council's bailiffs. I have had the district council serve enforcement notices because of the fly tipping that has now started on that site.

I met with the new police chief supt. before Christmas to discuss rural crime including illegal hare coursing. The police have increased their new task force set up specifically to tackle this, with aerial surveillance and specialist off-road vehicles.

I serve on two county committees: the constitution committee and the health committee, and I chair the Health and Wellbeing Board for Cambridgeshire. I have retired 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 or call 07825 876582. You can see what I have been doing by visiting my blog councillortopping.com or you can follow me on twitter @petertopping.

Peter”

Questions/Comments from parishioners:

As Cllr Topping was not present there were no questions or comments from parishioners.

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; they said the website www.police.uk can be used to look up crimes that have occurred in the time period.

7 DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT – Cllr Deborah Roberts

Cllr Roberts spoke about the year:

“The recent District council elections have kept me very busy!

We were informed by the electoral commission that the number of district councillors has gone from 57 to 45 meaning that the wards have got bigger. My ward now encompasses Fowlmere, Foxton, Heydon, Great Chishill and Little Chishill. I have visited and spoken to the people at Heydon and the Chishills and they have many concerns in common with us such as the A505 (getting across it).

We have a very good working relationship with Foxton, and there is strength in parish councils working together such as with regard to the Grain Store planning application; we worked together with Phillip Kratz, who spoke for Foxton at the planning meeting, and Thriplow who were represented by their vice-chair and a planning consultant. Cllr Wragg spoke eloquently at the meeting on behalf of Fowlmere. The outcome was that 9 voted to refuse the application and 2 supported, which was a very good outcome for the parishes working together.

Planning has been a big issue recently, with the Local Plan having gone 2 years over deadline. This has meant that many speculative applications have been submitted but because the Local plan has not been in place the planners have had a bit of an open door.

I am on 4 committees at SCDC, and I have 100% record for meetings to which I have been invited, so it has been busy working as a district councillor and it is going to get busier! But I hope that we have been delivering for our local communities.”

Questions/Comments from parishioners:

Cllr Wragg thanked Cllr Roberts for her report.

8. CHAIRMAN OF PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE – Cllr Deborah Roberts

Cllr Roberts spoke about the year:

“We have had many planning applications in the last year some of them large and complex and some involving a simple extension, but we give all applications the same consideration. However, there have been 3 or 4 large applications such as the Welding Alloys application.

Cllr Wragg and I have had many meetings as to what the approach should be before going back to the FPC to ask for their opinions on the applications. I thank Cllr Wragg for his considerable efforts and work on the planning committee, along with my other colleagues on the planning committee, particularly Cllr Wragg Burge and Cllr Mulholland who are much better with technology. The planning committee are not intent on stopping all applications, as we need the village to grow, but it needs to grow in a careful manner; we cannot let developers do whatever they want, it has to be policy lead.”

Questions/Comments from parishioners:

Ms Colleen Humphrey, who moved in to Ryecroft lane recently, asked if the FPC have any idea when the Local Plan will be in place. Cllr Roberts said that the inspector has to look at the plan, and we are expecting the decision to be sometime in July. Cllr Roberts does not expect that the inspector will have a problem with

Fowlmere, Foxton and the Chishills, as these villages did not require many changes. When the inspector passes the Local Plan, it will still need to be signed off by the district council. Fowlmere does not have a 5-year land supply, but if we use the Liverpool method of calculation we do have a 5-year land supply.

Cllr Wragg added that if an application is turned down and went to appeal, this could take 6 months, which would take us past the July date.

9. CHAIRMAN OF PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE REPORT – Cllr Mike Sunderland (outgoing) / Cllr Peter Burge (New Chair of Finance)

Cllr Burge handed out copies of the Financial Report for FPC and gave the following report:

“Provisional accounts have been distributed, but these figures go to internal and external audit before they are finalised.

We have dipped slightly into our reserves this year, having paid for exceptional items such as the Village Sign (£1,368), Fire engine shed repairs (£2,000), bus shelter repairs (£680), and tree maintenance for which we have a managed programme over the coming years, the first phase cost (£4,390). Also, we have paid for repairs to the Chapel (£1,940), repairs to hedges around cemetery (£680), cemetery noticeboard (£129) and tap adaption (£222). Other expenditure includes donation to church lighting (£1,150).

We have used Section 106 money (from new developments) to support outdoor space, such as purchase of new swings on the Butts (£4,606) and new play equipment at the Village Hall (£14,260). There is about £24,600 left, which will be used for upgrading the village hall changing rooms, and purchasing outdoor gym equipment. We will need to spend it within a certain time limit.

Most of our money comes from the precept, for which this year we have had a small increase of 2.1% (£755), reflecting raising costs from suppliers and maintenance contracts, but we have tried to limit that.

We are in a good financial place, with a good balance between the precept increase and keeping the village as it should be and keeping the village assets in good order.”

Questions/Comments from parishioners:

Mr Pile asked how much would speed humps (like Newton's) cost?

Cllr Burge has no idea. Cllr Wragg thought that Newton spent about £12K on a combination of speed humps and rubberised mats.

Mrs Flynn asked about the Butts potholes, Cllr Bearpark said that these have been reported. Cllr Wragg commented that there is a website to report the potholes, this is:

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/roadworks-and-faults/>

Cllr Wragg thanked Cllr Burge for his report. Cllr Wragg also thanked Cllr Sunderland, the outgoing Chair of Finance, for all his hard work serving on the Finance Committee over the years.

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:

“Report from Dorothy Woods, Chairman, Fowlmere Village Hall Management Committee for Fowlmere Annual - Parish meeting - May 2018

The hall continues to be well used with caravan clubs, weddings and parties being booked. There is also a Folk weekend booked for the August Bank holiday this year, plus we already have bookings for 2019 and even a booking for 2020. The hall continues to be used on a daily basis by badminton groups, aerobics, Little Ducklings, Senior and Tuesday evening bowls, Friendship Club, Fowlmere & Thriplow Garden Club, Ceroc, ballroom dancing and a new relaxation class has just started. The successful Farmer's Market continues to be run by our team of very enthusiastic fund raisers as well as an annual jumble sale. Illyria is back again this year (Dr Doolittle). Fowlmere School PFTA held a very successful Ball in September. The hall looked fabulous which just shows what can be done in the hall!

Fowlmere Metals Football no longer play at Fowlmere as they were unable to put a team together. This is sad as they had managed to keep going for 50 years, the last 12 of which they had played at the recreation ground. Foxton Dynamos under 14s and Under 15s Youth teams continue to use the recreation ground for

training and some of their matches and Thriplow Cricket club use the grounds throughout the summer months for both matches and training.

Fowlmere Football Club are not able to play at Fowlmere until we have completed the refurbishment of the changing rooms.

Progress is underway with the refurbishment of the Changing Rooms. We already have planning permission and are awaiting the result of our submission to Building Control for approval. We have builders lined up to quote for the work and once these quotes are received we will be applying for funding for this project. The Parish Council have allocated funds from the 106 money towards this project.

We have made the following improvements at the hall since the last meeting:

- Replacement of the old chairs with new much more comfortable ones and purchase of replacement round tables for the main hall.*
- Provision of new coat rails in each room*
- Marking up of car park spaces and also the speed bumps on the access road plus better signage on the exit road from the hall.*
- Final phase of refurbishment of the Pavilion room serving area.*
- New radiators in the main hall being installed at the end of May (end of term so as not to disrupt users of the hall).*
- Upgrading of outside lights at the hall and exit road - replacing old units with LED lights which will be dark/sensor lights. We chose this option so as not to cause any inconvenience to our neighbours. This work will start at the end of May/early June.*
- As mentioned last year the Parish Council had agreed to provide new play equipment - this is now installed and they are now also looking into putting adult gym equipment at the village hall which would be a very welcome addition to facilities already at the village hall.*

Once again a very big thank you to the Village Hall Management Committee members, Fundraisers, The Parish Council and other volunteers at the Village Hall who have contributed greatly over the last year.

Thank you

Dorothy Woods

May 2018"

Questions/Comments from parishioners:

Cllr Wragg thanked Mrs Woods for her report.

Cllr Roberts thanked Mrs Woods for all the time and effort she has spent in hugely improving the Village Hall.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs Flynn asked whether we are ever likely to have a shop in the village.

Cllr Wragg said that we would need premises and people who want to run it. Cllr Roberts said that there is approval for a shop at Mr Dean's (Farm), but that has not progressed in many months.

Cllr Wragg commented that a benefactor in Ickleton converted a house into the village shop but it then took 18 months to find a family to run it. Fowlmere is unlikely to have a shop unless such a benefactor comes forward.

Cllr Wragg thanked everyone for attending and the meeting which closed at 20:31pm.

Clerk to the Parish Council: Ms K Byrne

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