

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**  
**held in the Pavilion Room, Fowlmere Village Hall on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at 7:30pm**  
**hosted by Fowlmere Parish Council**

**PRESENT:** Cllr L Wragg - Chairman, Cllr D Roberts, Cllr P Burge, Cllr C Howe and Cllr P Collinson

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Ms K Byrne (Clerk), Cllr P Topping (County Councillor) Mr P Atkin (Headteacher, Fowlmere School), Mrs D Woods (Chair of the Fowlmere Village Hall Management Committee), and 14 members of the public

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr S Mulholland, Cllr M Sunderland, Cllr T Bearpark, Cllr M Vinton and S Kennedy & J Lynch (PCSOs)

**2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> MAY 2018**

The minutes were reviewed, and all agreed to accept them as a complete and accurate record of the meeting.

**3. Chairman of the Parish Council**

Cllr Wragg said that this year we would try to keep the reports short (to 5 minutes) to keep the meeting brief. Cllr Wragg reported on the year:

*I am delighted to say the Council now has 9 members: Peter Collinson joined last year (in October 2018), giving the PC a better age balance. Our new Clerk Kerry has completed her first year, and has become indispensable to the PC.*

*It has been a busy year, with the PC having held 12 PC meetings, 14 Planning meetings, 5 Finance meetings and 3 Burial Board meetings. In addition, there have been several planning inquiries / appeals. Fowlmere PC has also liaised closely with Foxton PC over the proposed grain store on the road to Foxton ("Fowlmere Road"). Planning matters continue to take up a lot of councillors' time.*

*Regarding the care and maintenance of trees in the village, the PC has speeded up the 3-year plan for safety reasons, commissioning work to take down and prune numerous trees; we are grateful to tree surgeon Rob Watkins for this work.*

*Another major concern has been road safety and Speedwatch. The PC has finally installed the mobile speed-indicating unit, which is moved around village monthly. The PC has also organised a village-wide consultation on the best ways to reduce speeding. Cllr Howe will report on this later.*

*The PC has liaised closely with the organisers of Thriplow Daffodil Weekend to improve their traffic arrangements, and reduce the inconvenience to Fowlmere residents. I am grateful to them for their cooperation.*

*Regarding the Cemetery, Cllr Mulholland has organised clear-up weekends, which enjoyed excellent participation. And the PC commissioned repair and restoration work to the chapel windows.*

*The Thriplow Road bus shelter has also been repaired.*

*Using Section 106 money, adult outdoor gym equipment has been installed at the Village Hall.*

*The Memorial Well water pump enclosure has been restored. And the PC are taking steps to organise the restoration of St Mary's wall next to Savile Way.*

*We continue to attend the Imperial War Museum Neighbours Forum, and I am grateful to Cllr Vinton for taking this on.*

*Discussions and negotiations about creating a Community Orchard on the land owned by CCC close to Fowlmere Primary School continue.*

*Over the year, Cllrs and the Clerk have attended a variety of training events organised by SCDC and CAPALC.*

*As with any organisation, much goes on behind the scenes: GDPR; Risk Assessment; Code of Conduct; Asset Register; Standing Orders; Financial Regulations; all have to be reviewed, updated, and approved. Many thanks to Cllr Burge and the Clerk for their work on these documents.*

*One bit of disappointing news is that the PC is likely to lose Cllr Sunderland in the next few months. We shall be very sorry to see him go. I want to thank him for his (unfinished) contribution - but it will mean that there will be a vacancy on the Council. Anyone who is interested, please get in touch.*

*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*

*14 May 2019*

Cllr Roberts thanked Cllr Wragg for his report.

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

There were no questions.

#### **4. Fowlmere Primary School**

Philip Atkin attended the meeting and gave the following report:

##### ***“Report for the Fowlmere Annual Parish Meeting***

*It barely seems a year since the last Annual Parish Meeting – time flies so quickly.*

*During the year, we have continued to work hard at making sure that outcomes for pupils (fancy speak for the achievements that children make by the end of their primary years) are as good as they can be. This is a challenging task; the expectations of what 11 year-olds can do are high and apply to everyone – not just those who in the past would have been perceived as “academic”. We track pupils’ attainment rigorously and try to push children as hard as we can to do their best. At the moment, it is SATs week (national testing for 11 year-olds) and so we await the results of our efforts with baited breath.*

*Alongside all this work on pupil outcomes, we try to make school as broad and as enjoyable as possible.*

*With music, we have worked with other local schools and choirs to present a performance of Bob Chilcott’s *The Voyage*, raising over £1,200 for that charity Age UK. We have experienced Samba drumming through workshops and have been lucky enough to have live musicians in school to present concerts and workshops. In January, almost the whole of Key Stage 2 went to Birmingham to take part in the Young Voices concert there. We have taken part in competitions across the county in athletics, football, rugby, cross-country, swimming and cricket. We are not always successful in the traditional sense – though we do have some very good cross-country runners: our Year 5/6 team came first and our Year 3/4 team came 3rd in a recent countywide competition for smaller schools. Nevertheless, our teams represent the school well and enjoy the element of competition.*

*We made a special effort for science week in March – with each class enjoying a trip outside of the school on a science themed topic with museums and businesses around Cambridge playing host to all of our children in one way or another. Class 1 visited the bird reserve here in Fowlmere, and profited so much from their visit that I have set a challenge to all teachers to take their classes to the reserve before the summer is out!*

*A whole range of other activities happen in school from castles days, to visits to the raptor foundation, Antarctic visitors to Christmas productions – and even a visiting horse so that children were better able to visualise the remarkable characters of War Horse. We are holding Open Mornings each term, advertised in Fowlmere and Thriplow News, and any one of you would be most welcome to call in at these times to see what our children are doing. Just make yourself known to a member of staff.*

*Children marked the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War, by carrying out independent research into the names of the Fowlmere and Great Chishill memorials. Working in small groups they used ancestry sites, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and battalion websites to research their “name” – presenting their findings to the community and moving a once-distant name into a real person in the minds of our children. We are delighted that there is an entire cohort of children in the school who can put some history to names which adorn the war memorial in the centre of the village.*

*We worked closely this year with our partner school – Ecole Victor Hugo – in Notre-Dame-de-Bondeville, a small town near Rouen, in Normandy. They visited us in March and spent the day together exploring Fowlmere school and Cambridge City. If any Fowlmere resident was interested in taking this partnership outside of school, I’m sure the French community would be very keen.*

*When I stood before you 12 months ago – we had 100 pupils on roll and I warned that this was an unsustainable number for the school. We currently have 106 pupils on roll and this has meant that we have been able to postpone some of the harshest changes but we continue to teeter on the edge. We do still need our villages to attract young families so that the school can continue to grow and thrive. Anything which the Parish Council can do to support a steady stream of new children into the school is vital. 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. I spoke last time also, about our after-school childcare. This continues but does still meet in our school hall. 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. Again, anything that the Parish Council can do by way of support for a new building would be greatly appreciated.*

*I hope that we can continue to count on the support and encouragement of the Parish Council in the forthcoming months and years.*

Cllr Wragg thanked Mr Atkin for his report.

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

There were no questions.

#### **5. County Councillor**

Cllr Topping attended the meeting and gave his report:

#### **County Annual report for 2018-19 to Fowlmere Parish Council**

##### **Cllr Peter Topping**

*The funding for school is calculated through numbers. Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) had been using an old plan of the school and now has the modern plan with respect to S106 money (which will now go to Fowlmere instead of Thriplow).*

*CCC Highways have a new team at Whittlesford, and Cllr Topping goes round with them to look at things that are amiss rather than emailing about matters.*

*Regarding caravan trespassing on the A505 near the pet crematorium, this took a long time to move them on. As a result of this Cllr Topping had a detailed meeting with the police to find out what can and cannot be done in these situations.*

CCC did put up its budget. Band D house went up £1.85 per week, this is because most of the money is spent on social services such as care for elderly, foster care etc. which are expensive. It has set aside £30M for repairs on the road. The road repair team are doing a better job now and he has had fewer complaints than last year.

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

Cllr Wragg thanked Cllr Topping for his report.

#### **6. Local Police**

PCSO Samuel Kennedy / PCSO James Lynch were unable to attend but PCSO James Lynch sent the report below. Cllr Wragg summarised the report orally.

*"First of all apologies that I couldn't attend the meeting tonight.*

##### **Movements**

*There have been a few movements in your neighbourhood Policing Team but not too drastic.*

*First of all Jon Capes who is my Sgt has moved into a new role in the force, Phil Priestley is the new Sgt mostly working out of Cambourne. Phil will work alongside Emma Hilson who is the neighbourhood Sgt based at Sawston.*

*We now have a neighbourhood police officer in Chris Smith, he has been a police officer for a good 10 years and used to work in neighbourhoods when he first started the job, he knows South Cambs pretty well, please keep in mind that he will be helping the Sawston/Histon and Cambourne sector. He likes to get stuck in so if you do have any intelligence for your village (Drugs) please let us know.*

##### **OP ASTRAGAL**

*Op Astragal was carried out last year which was a day of action regarding road offences and road safety.*

*We are looking at doing 1 day of road enforcement per sector per month.*

*You are more likely to get a visit to your village if you 1. Have a speed watch team, 2. Let me know what streets are the issues.*

##### **Burglaries**

*There has only been one burglary reported in Fowlmere since the start of the year up until the date I wrote this report. This is very good for a South Cambs village but please still keep your wits about you, further down I have attached some security advice.*

##### **Ways we communicate**

*The 'eagle eyed' among you will have no doubt noticed a recent shift in our ecops correspondence.*

*Traditionally we would circulate (often lengthy) messages detailing the daily reported crime and ASB that has occurred in South Cambs.*

*The time taken to read the investigation notes, liaise with the investigating officers to ascertain what could/couldn't be shared with the public and then type up and disseminate the information could, on occasion, take up to 2 hours a day!*

*I would rather the PCSOs were out in the communities, engaging with you, than in the station behind a computer typing up reports.*

*Whilst I wholly recognise that these crime reports are helpful and informative and some people. Sadly we received very little information back from the public in response to our daily updates.*

*I personally found that these crime reports somewhat alarmist, rarely proving details of the good work that we do in your communities and giving very little insight into the very varied role that our neighbourhoods team play in your communities. They were essentially lists and I have no doubt that it was 'just another daily email in your inbox', a bit like the groupon emails you once subscribed to and just delete?*

*The previous lists of crimes portray a very negative view of South Cambridgeshire when in fact it is a beautiful, safe, place to live, work, visit or be educated and the team work hard with your communities to keep it that way.*

### *The new style ecops messaging*

*The new monthly blogs give the team a platform to tell you about the good work they do in your villages. It also gives them an avenue to reference the other 'hidden' work we do on a daily basis such as liaising with our partners agencies about how best to keep a vulnerable person safe, providing personal safety inputs to children, reassuring victims of crime and holding information events and neighbourhood watch networking events to prevent crime. Looking for missing people and saving people's lives.*

*Regarding your communities, rather than focussing on individual crimes that have occurred in the past 24hr we will now be focussing on crime trends and we will seek to evidence how we are tackling these trends in our weekly and monthly updates.*

*The communication you can expect from us from now on comprises:*

- Weekly updates highlighting current series and the associated prevention advice that you can take.*
- Regular updates from the local PCSOs for the areas that they cover*
- A Monthly Sgts Summary.*
- Prevention advice based around current and upcoming crime trends.*

*I am pleased to report that since changing our communication style just before Christmas we have seen over a 30% increase in our monthly engagement levels and a large increase in the number of people encouraging others to subscribe. So thank you.*

*For those of you that wish to obtain more localised information the [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk) website provides a brief summary of the crimes that have been reported street by street on a month by month basis.*

*I recognise that police.uk reports do not always fulfil the needs of some of our communities so I would like to fill our local stations with 'community experts'.*

*There is no doubt that the residents know their communities best.*

*You know the cheeky children that might need a word in their parent's ear.*

*You know the old boy that leaves the pub car park after having one too many to drive. You know the publican that serves him every night and watches him drive off.*

*You know the couple that have regular disagreements which can sometimes turn violent.*

*You know the new arrivals in the village and the 'visitors' that come and go from next door all night.*

*You know the house with the odd smell emanating from it.*

*You are often able to make the links and spots the trends a lot earlier than we can because you are well informed.*

*For those of you that would like more detailed information and are willing to act as ambassadors for your villages. I invite you to apply to become a Police Support Volunteer.*

*We are looking to recruit volunteers to be based at Sawston, Histon and Cambourne police station to work alongside our neighbourhoods team officers.*

*We are looking for people with:*

- A genuine interest in policing local communities*
- Excellent communication skills*
- Excellent social media skills*
- The ability to disseminate information accurately*
- Ability to work as part of a team*
- Confidentiality*
- Diligence*

*If you are genuinely interested in this role please register your interest please contact [psv@cambs.pnn.police.uk](mailto:psv@cambs.pnn.police.uk) Quoting reference PSVECOPS*

*Full training and ongoing support will be provided.*

*All applicants will be required to complete security vetting procedures.*

A similar scheme has been trialled in Huntingdon with positive feedback from the community, the volunteers and the officers. We are keen to roll it out across the area.

We will be running 3 information events across the district to advertise the posts. Please watch this space.

In the meantime I will be shortly sending out a survey to find out your views on South Cambridgeshire policing. Please take the time to complete the survey. Your honest feedback matters to us.

I look forward to working with you all.

### **Home security Advice Shed break in's**

The Neighbourhood Policing Team would like to take this opportunity to offer some security advice to assist residents in keeping their personal items safe and secure where possible;

Garages and shed are often full of expensive tools, which are ideal for breaking into your homes.

Never leave any outbuildings unlocked, especially if it is a connecting door to the home, whereby a burglar can get in and not be seen.

Fit additional strong locks/ padlocks and make sure doors are strong enough not to be kicked in. ensure any ladders are locked away and not left lying around or down the side of the main home. Ensure brackets are internal and not exposed bolts or screws that can easily be undone. Consider use of a steel box fitted to the floor of to secure larger tools.

Side gates and excess points are locked and secured.

Boundaries of your property have strong fences or plant some thorny hedges to the front, (but don't let them grow too high 1-1.5mtr in height) so passers-by can see the front of your home but not inside your property.

Alarms are useful and more residents seem to be installing these alongside CCTV cameras, most new ones can be viewed on your mobile devices.

Some other links to security measures can be found on the following;

[www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com) / [www.creproducts.co.uk](http://www.creproducts.co.uk) / [www.smartwater.com](http://www.smartwater.com) /

[www.crimereduction.gov.uk/publicity\\_catalogue](http://www.crimereduction.gov.uk/publicity_catalogue) Plus look at your local Neighbourhood watch scheme's which you can find through your local parish council or online at [www.neighbourhoodwatch.uk.com](http://www.neighbourhoodwatch.uk.com).

**Regarding the above we did hold a police event one evening in Steeple Morden which was quite well attended. These type of events consist of security device demonstrations and crime prevention advice from our Community safety officer, we are going to try and start rolling this out for NHW to do in the near future it may be beneficial for myself to attend a NHW meeting in the near future**

**It will be a case of getting everyone under one roof to look at our existing communication methods, identify areas in the village that are not currently covered, touch on emerging crime trends and put a face to name**  
**☑.If you would like this please email some dates which I can try and match up with my diary.**

### **County Lines**

You might have heard the term 'county lines' but wondered what it is, so below I will just explain a bit about it.

**This campaign aims to raise awareness of a criminal activity called county lines. County lines is when criminals from major cities such as Liverpool, Manchester, London and Birmingham expand their drug networks to other areas of the country. This activity brings violence, exploitation and abuse to rural communities.**

**The crime is called county lines because a single telephone number is used to order drugs, operated from outside the area.**

**County line networks are having a massive impact on rural counties. Vulnerable children and adults are being recruited in our large cities to transport cash and drugs all over the country. This keeps the true criminals behind it detached from the act and less likely to be detected or caught.**

**These gangs often set up a base in a rural area for a short time, taking over the home of a vulnerable person (also known as 'cuckooing'). They then use adults and children to act as drug runners.**

**Whilst significant arrests have been made, we need the help of the public to disrupt these criminal networks and to stop the misery they cause their victims. Reporting suspicious activity will help to safeguard many vulnerable individuals who have been coerced into these networks.**

*A POLICING team acting on intelligence provided by the public has made more than 150 arrests and seized cash and drugs worth more than £100,000 – all less than a year after being set up.*

*The force's Southern Impact Team carry out planned policing operations – including warrants and arrests - across the south of the county. There is also a Northern Impact Team carrying out similar work in the north of the county.*

*The proactive policing teams were set up in May 2018 and act on intelligence reported to the force from a variety of different sources, including 101 calls and reports made through the force website.*

*Chief Inspector Nick Skipworth said: "Since May 2018 when the Southern Impact Team was formed we have arrested 154 people - the majority of these being County Lines drug dealers - and have a combined cash and drugs total seizure figure of more than £100,000.*

*"This work carried out by this team will have caused a significant dent in pockets of those involved in organised crime, and county lines dealing.*

*"Work from this team of officers has also resulted in the courts handing out prison sentences totalling 63 years and seven months.*

*"I have no doubt that these impressive results will continue to climb – but we couldn't do it alone.*

*"These results are a brilliant example of how reporting information to us makes a difference and also the work our officers do off the back of that information.*

*"I am incredibly proud of my team, and I know how hard they work on a daily basis to bring offenders to justice."*

***Hope the above is useful and thanks for your continued support.***

***James***

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

Mr Atkin said that the residents of Fowlmere should be aware that county lines are active in Fowlmere, coming from London, and that villagers need to be vigilant. Cllr Wragg thanked Mr Atkin and said that any suspicious activity should be reported.

#### **7. District Councillor**

Cllr Roberts spoke about the year as District councillor:

It has been an interesting year and Cllr Roberts has been busy, she is still on the 4 committees she was on last year, including planning and licensing committees as well as full council. Cllr Roberts has a 100% attendance record at these meetings.

Regarding licensing – this is challenging and satisfying work. The committee have to make sure that the public is protected with regards to clubs, gaming, public houses, and taxis the licensing for which Cllr Roberts has got a lot more involved recently. The potential taxi driver has to report to the District Council and a detailed police check will be carried out on them, which then comes back to the District Council. Anything suspicious at all will mean that the licence is refused. But the driver can appeal and ask for his case to be considered by a committee comprising a 3-person panel. The decisions are made to keep the public safe. The driver can, if refused again, take his case to the magistrate's court. Regarding the planning committee, this has been busy again this year but with the Local Plan having been published late last year this has relieved some of the pressure on the applications process. A fortnight ago a piece of land on Long Lane development was refused as it was against the Local Plan. The Local Plan lasts until 2031, however, there has already been a call for land for development after 2031, and there has been a huge response with lots of land being put forward but Cllr Roberts does not yet know which land has been put forward.

Cllr Roberts thanked Cllr Wragg for his excellent and hard work this year in response to planning applications, and she thanked all her colleagues on the PC and the Clerk for their hard work.

Cllr Wragg thanked Cllr Roberts for her report.

## Questions/Comments from parishioners:

A member of public asked what can be done about the poor state of the footpaths in Fowlmere. Cllr Roberts said that is a County Council matter, but the resident should let the PC / Clerk know of any specific examples and we will pass the matter on to Cllr Topping.

### 8. Village Hall

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 2019**

*“Fowlmere Village Hall has already received Hallmark 1 Accreditation (received for being a well run and well managed village hall). We are hoping to achieve Hallmark 2 and 3 within the next couple of months. Hallmark 2 concentrates on Health and Safety and Hallmark 3 on Committee and communications/publicity at the hall.*

*The hall continues to be well used on a daily basis by many groups. We are taking bookings well into 2020 and even have one for 2021. Two new regular user groups started during the last year - Relaxology on Friday evening and Indoor Kurling on Monday afternoon. Unfortunately due to poor attendance Relaxology ended in April. We have also negotiated with the NHS and now have 3 sessions booked for blood donor sessions this year and have secured a booking for a further 6 sessions in 2020. We also have Caravan Clubs booked (many of them returning from the previous years). The hall is also well used for children’s parties, Christenings, weddings, engagement parties, flower arranging groups, Quiz nights and Homestart recently held a fundraising ball at the hall. It is quite disappointing having to turn down bookings because the hall is already booked. The successful Farmer’s Market continues to be run by our team of fund raisers as well as an annual jumble sale. Illyria is back again this year with Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves on 31 May.*

*No football is being played at the hall at the moment. The VHMC are concentrating on bringing the recreation ground up to a good standard. We have received applications from other football clubs to use our grounds and these will be considered for the next season if renovation of the changing rooms is completed. We also hope to offer our grounds to youth football teams in the area once the changing rooms are refurbished. Cricket continues throughout the summer with teams of all ages including ladies teams using the grounds.*

*Thanks to the Parish Council for providing the new adult gym equipment. This is proving to be a great addition to the facilities at the village hall.*

*Progress on refurbishment of the Changing rooms has been very slow. We met with a builder who was going to quote for the work, only to be informed some weeks later that they had gone into liquidation. However we have now found another builder. Due to the high cost of building a kiosk (which may not be used very often) the VHMC decided to concentrate on refurbishing the actual changing rooms only. This will ensure that toilet and shower facilities are completely separate for sports groups keeping the facilities for other users of the hall separate. We have had a survey of the drains done and also an APP test for dampness in the changing rooms. As soon as quotations are received from builder we will be applying for funding for this project.*

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

- *New curtains in the hall, meeting room and passageways. Plus new carpet in the entrance hall and under the alcove in the main hall*
- *All emergency lighting has been replaced and fire exit signs upgraded*
- *A further 50 new chairs purchase (old chairs stored for outside use if necessary)*
- *New Dog signs and bins, and more signs on the exit road from the hall*
- *New radiators in the main hall*
- *New guttering*



*Work is in hand to replace old fencing with mesh fencing on the exit road and cut back all the shrubbery Also to fit wooden posts in the gap at the entrance to the recreation ground and also infill the gaps in the hedges along the entrance road to the hall.*

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

*Thank you.*

*Dorothy Woods, May 2019”*

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

Cllr Wragg thanked Mrs Woods for her report.

## **9. Speedwatch / Road Safety report – Cllr Howe**

Cllr Howe attended the meeting and gave the following report:

*“Speedwatch has been running for about 18 months, during which time we’ve measured just under one and a half thousand vehicles. 170 of those were reported to police as travelling at 35 mph or more (the speed at which police take action). They get a warning letter from police. We also reported several without tax. That corresponds to about 12% of people speeding, over twice what the police would expect.*

*Having a SpeedWatch allowed us to get support from Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) Local Highway Improvements fund to obtain the speed indicating device which was installed since the last Village Meeting. That has been useful in getting further data on speeding.*

*Data recorded by that and the Speedwatch suggest that when they’re operating the fraction of vehicles speeding is about half what it was when we had silent surveys done a couple of years ago. However, there is still a problem.*

*Noting comments from villagers in favour of installing calming measures, the Parish Council (PC) had a series of meetings with Josh Rutherford, Highways Project Manager with CCC. After reviewing a range of options, he advised a set of speed calming measures, namely 40 mph buffer zones and speed cushions in the village. The PC consulted the village, and there was strong support. Over 180 households responded, with 80% of those in favour. Although we discussed with Josh possible safety measures at the War Memorial specifically, they would be prohibitively expensive, and we hope that by reducing speeds throughout the village the problems at the War Memorial would be reduced.*

*Given that support and funding the PC agreed to commit, the PC this March won additional funding and support to go ahead from CCC. There will be further consultation during this year over more details. The PC are aware of people’s concerns, for example about having speed bumps directly in front of houses. Highways will try to coordinate schemes in other villages to save on costs.*

*At the same time, the PC are investigating the possibility of a weight restriction on Long Lane and Mill Road (into Melbourn).*

*So we’ve had a year of significant improvements to the problem of speeding in the village, and with significant success, and with more to come.*

*The PC are grateful to the SpeedWatch team, and Cllr Wragg for looking after the speed indicating device. If anyone is interested in joining the SpeedWatch team, please let the Parish Clerk, know. There’s a brief training session, and we just ask an hour or so every few weeks.”*

Cllr Wragg thanked Cllr Howe for his report.

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

A member of the public said as the parent of young children he would like to offer a big thank you to Cllr Howe and the PC for all this work. The funding for the project has been approved, what is the

timetable for progress? Cllr Howe said that he has asked Josh Rutherford (Highways Officer) but has not heard back, he thinks it will be within the year.

Another member of the public asked if anything can be done about the large farm vehicles that come through the villages, and at a frighteningly fast speed (even if they are not actually breaking the speed limit)? Cllr Howe said that due to the category of the roads through Fowlmere (B roads), we cannot stop them, but on Long Lane we may have a chance as the lane is narrow in places and a no HGV sign may help in this regard. It was suggested that the PC could just ask the farmers politely to reduce the speed as the vehicles are so big. Cllr Howe said that if we get a list of farms / companies that operate these large vehicles then the PC could send a courteous letter to ask if they could reduce their speed when coming through the village. Please send any such details to the Clerk.

Cllr Burge also explained that the PC has gone to strenuous efforts to stop the grain store being moved to Foxton as this may increase farm vehicles thorough the villages.

#### **10. Ideas for improving village life – ideas from the floor**

Cllr Wragg asked the parishioners what else could be done to improve village life?

One member of the public said that a shop would improve village life. Cllr Wragg said that this cannot happen without somebody providing premises, and the PC is unable to do this.

Mrs Wood asked whether the idea of opening a Post Office in the church was still valid. Rachel Collins said that this is still being debated but the process is extremely slow.

Cllr Roberts said that the Deans family received permission for a shop and a café to be opened on the farm a while ago, but it has not been progressed, perhaps because there are too many other commercial competitors. Opening a shop involves a lot of effort by a group of people or a community.

A member of the public asked about transport links from Fowlmere to Cambridge which do not rely on a car, as the buses are very infrequent. Also, the cycle path is inadequate between Newton and Fowlmere particularly.

Cllr Wragg said that it was possible to use Long Lane towards Shepreth to join the new cycle path along the A10 which goes all the way to Trumpington, but acknowledged that this would involve cycling along Long Lane which can be dangerous during rush hour.

Cllr Topping said that raising enough money to fund the regular buses is a challenge. The greater Cambridge Partnership is looking into this to improve the bus service. Cllr Burge said that at a recent meeting the idea of Foxton becoming a transport hub was discussed; there was further discussion about how to improve transport links between Fowlmere and Foxton. There is a dialogue to improve the links.

A member of the public said that the current arrangement with the buses, having to change at Addenbrooke's and get another ticket into Cambridge, costs a lot for passengers without bus passes. Mrs Wood suggested that the bus could drop off at the Park and Ride and then people could change there for Addenbrooke's or Cambridge.

Mr Rowley asked if the PC could help to publicise the Royston Community Transport scheme, where volunteer drivers just charge a small amount for fuel. Some people are not aware of this service. Mr Rowley said he would send some information to the Clerk to put up on the noticeboard and on the website.

#### **11. Any Other Business – open forum for questions**

One member of the public said that there are lots of cars parking in Dovehouse Close and often the car park is full. Ambulances come down the road and the turning space is taken up with cars parking there. Cllr Roberts said that the car parking was reconfigured in Dovehouse Close a few years ago, but she will contact SCDC about the situation with the turning space to see if some yellow lines can be painted to stop this.

Another member of the public asked if there is scope for more parking spaces to be provided elsewhere in the village? Often cars are parked half on the footpath on the High Street. Cllr Wragg said that this was illegal, so the PC could ask PCSO Lynch to assess it and perhaps give people letters of advice to try to stop it.

Another member of the public asked if there are guidelines about hedgerows encroaching onto footpaths? Cllr Roberts said that the PC can send the occupants a letter and if they do nothing then we can let CCC (Cllr Topping) know.

Cllr Wragg thanked everyone for attending and for their questions.

The meeting closed at 20.56pm.

**Clerk to the Parish Council: Ms K Byrne**

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