

MINUTES OF THE **MEETING OF FOWLMERE PARISH COUNCIL HELD**
IN THE PAVILION ROOM, VILLAGE HALL, FOWLMERE
TUESDAY 19th NOVEMBER 2019 AT 7:30 PM

PRESENT: Cllr L Wragg, Cllr D Roberts, Cllr C Howe, Cllr S Mulholland, Cllr P Burge, Cllr P Collinson and Cllr R Lennon

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms K Byrne (Clerk) and Mrs Woods

Actions

1 Apologies for Absence

There were apologies for absence from Cllr T Bearpark and Cllr M Vinton.

2 Declaration of Interest in agenda items

None were declared.

3 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 15th October 2019

The minutes were agreed as a true record, and were signed by Cllr Wragg.

4 Matters Arising not covered in the agenda (for information only)

Cllr Burge said he has purchased the fixing kit for the bench donated by a parishioner, and he will let the donor know. The bench will be put in the round moat. Cllr Burge

5 Village Hall

a) Changing Room Refurbishment

Mrs Woods has passed the quotes to Cllr Burge. The Village Hall Management Committee has discussed these. Cllr Burge will look at the details of the quotes and circulate an email to the PC putting forward a motion for the next PC meeting. Cllr Burge

6 County Council Matters

Cllr Topping did not attend the meeting; later he submitted a report – see Annex A.

7 District Council Update

Cllr Roberts said regarding the local plan, planning officers were required to re-check the 5 year land supply. It is now 5.3 years (down from 5.8 years) which doesn't give much leeway. Application appeals are coming in that challenge whether the 5-year land supply is robust. Cllr Burge asked whether delivery is being reported back. Cllr Roberts said officers say they have little control over delivery as it is up to the developers when they carry out the builds. One recent appeal against the 5-year land supply did not succeed but if the supply slips below 5 years then many more applications and appeals will start to come in.

The meeting was opened for urgent questions from members of the public and press.

Mrs Woods asked whether something can be done about the tree on Jacksons Way at the rear of her property, where the branches are over the road to Jacksons Way and touching

the lamp, therefore obscuring the light. Cllr Collinson said that this will be addressed in the tree survey. Cllr Wragg said this tree will be added to a list of trees requiring special attention during the survey.

The meeting was then closed to members of the public and press.

8 Reports from Meetings Attended

Cllrs Burge and Roberts had attended the meeting at SCDC regarding Appleacre. Cllr Roberts expressed thanks to Cllr Burge for his excellent presentation; Cllr Wragg endorsed the thanks on behalf of the whole PC. No other meetings were attended by councillors.

9 Burial Board

Cllr Mulholland and the Clerk had attended the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM) training day on 29 October. Cllr Mulholland said one outcome from this is that Fowlmere PC should consider preparing a protocol for grave diggers to follow and sign, also asking them to state the depth of the grave that has been dug. Before the meeting, Cllr Mulholland and the Clerk had compared Fowlmere cemetery charges with other local cemetery rates and found that Fowlmere are undercharging. This to be addressed next year.

Cllr Mulholland said that the Newlings grave digger had done a good job on Mrs Lake's grave and this should be reported back. Cllr Mulholland and the Clerk had looked but were not able to locate the grant of deed certificates from before 1970. Cllr Burge confirmed that these are not on the list of documents held by the solicitors. Clerk to check the SCDC archives at Ely. Clerk

The cemetery tidy-up day date was moved to Sunday 8 December, in the morning.

a) Cemetery jobs

The graves have been levelled and seeded, the trees have been pollarded, and the spoil has been removed by Hardys. Cllr Wragg expressed thanks to the Clerk for organising this.

10 Planning Committee

a) Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Roberts said she will execute her actions on this shortly.

11 Repairs to St Mary's wall

No progress – Glen Johnson still to submit the drawings. Clerk to phone and ask him for these. Clerk

12 Parish Council Assets

Registration of the cemetery and Butts recreation land will be a project for the next Financial Year. Clerk to remove this item from the agenda until April 2020.

13 Street Lighting Parish Energy Handover

Changeover to Opus is almost complete, however the Clerk is still to receive paperwork.

14 Operation London Bridge

Fowlmere PC have no plans to develop a protocol for the death of the sovereign.

15 Road Safety

a) LHI Application Update

Cllr Howe said that 213 households replied to the traffic calming survey – 82% were in favour of the scheme, 14% against and 4% undecided, demonstrating clear evidence of support. Just before the survey ended, Cambridgeshire County Council Highways officers contacted the PC with some changes to the plan, including: in 3 locations on Long Lane speed cushions recommended rather than speed humps; on the High St, 1 set of speed cushions to be removed due to a culvert; the proposed pedestrian refuge island to be replaced with 3 additional sets of speed cushions (which would cost an additional £3,700) or a 1m hatched central area to be painted on the road around the bend on the High Street. The PC considered the suggested changes. Cllr Howe proposed that the PC ask Highways for speed humps in Long Lane rather than speed cushions, and replace the refuge island with the painted hatched area. The comments from the survey will also be sent to highways, including the information that a lot of people didn't like the proposed speed cushions, nor the number of 20mph signs. Cllr Burge said that the survey results show a strong mandate to go ahead with the scheme as it is. Cllr Wragg thanked Cllr Howe for his hard work on this.

Cllr Howe

b) Speedwatch Update

Cllr Howe said there had been 2 recent Speedwatch sessions; drivers on the B1368 behaved much better than normal, however on the Cambridge Road there were the usual speeders. More dates may be arranged in December.

c) Casualty Reduction Support Fund

Nothing to report.

d) HGVs in village

Clerk to remove this item until the traffic calming scheme has been completed.

Clerk

Cllr Wragg said he had moved the Mind Your Speed Indicator at the weekend and had got some data from it – Cllrs Wragg and Howe to review these data.

Cllrs Wragg and Howe

16 Trees, Grass and Hedges

a) Round Moat

The PC will engage Shires on the day-rate to take care of the dangerous-looking trees in the Round Moat. Clerk to arrange this.

Clerk

b) Tree Survey

The tree survey to be carried out in April 2020.

c) Traffic Mirrors – Chapel Lane & Lynch Lane

A request had been received about possibly having a traffic mirror opposite the exit to Lynch Lane, as well as Chapel Lane. Clerk to hear from Cllr Topping whether the PC need permission to put up traffic mirrors. Then the location of the mirrors will need to be discussed.

d) Community Orchard

The Clerk has reported to Cllr Topping about the asbestos on the land, and is awaiting a response.

17 Finance & General Purposes

a) Precept Budget

Cllr Burge had prepared a written synopsis of the outcomes from the Finance Committee meeting on 6 November, which he summarised verbally to the PC. Cllr Burge put forward the following motions for the PC to consider:

- 1) To increase the precept for 2020/2021 by 7.9% to £41,880.
- 2) To have the Finance Committee retender core supplier contracts for 2020/2021.
- 3) To invest in capital projects as appropriate, but
 - a. maintain a minimum reserves policy and hold the equivalent of no less than 6 months of precept as general reserves, and
 - b. seek over the mid-term to build the council's reserves back up to a level equivalent to 12 months of precept to allow for periodic replacement of assets.

Following discussion, Cllr Roberts proposed to accept all 3 motions, this was seconded by Cllr Howe, and all were in favour.

b) New contracts – Grass-cutting / Gardening

Contracts to be reviewed and approved in the next meeting.

c) Capital Projects for 2020-2021

Anticipated capital projects for 2020-2021 are: replacement of the cemetery shed; registration of Butts recreation ground land; registration of the cemetery land.

d) Remembrance Sunday Wreath / British Legion donation

Cheque for £50 to the Royal British Legion was prepared and signed.

e) RoSPA repairs update

Clerk had approached Ian Wilkins about getting a quote for the work.

f) Bills to be paid

- Seniorlink Eldercare - Oct 2019, £80.66
- Hardy Landscapes - Grasscutting (Oct), £762.00
- D R A MacDonald (Cambridge Stained Glass), £407.86
- Glasdon UK Limited, £272.64
- Ryecroft Data (Traffic Consultation Leaflets), £250.00
- Fowlmere Friendship Club, £250.00
- CAPALC - ICCM Training (S Mulholland & K Byrne), £240.00
- Hardy Landscapes - Cemetery work, £1,026.00
- Fowlmere Village Hall - Pavilion Room Hire, £24.00
- Royal British Legion, £50.00
- P Burge - refund (Swing Chains for village hall), £64.80

P Burge - refund (Tam Clips for fixing Dog Poo Bin), £16.06
P Burge - refund (SurveyMonkey, 1 month upgrade), £99.00
P Burge - refund (Picnic bench fixing kit), £70.36

Income

Fowlmere Parish Council (from Santander Savings), £209.00
Fee for purchase of burial plot 486 & interment, £175.00
Fee for purchase of burial plot 500 & interment, £175

Bills already approved / DD

K Byrne – Salary (Confidential)
K Byrne – NEST (refund), £49.21

18 Correspondence

a) Correspondence List – November 2019

The PC noted the correspondence.

19 ACTION LIST UPDATE:

The action list was reviewed.

20 Ideas for Improvements to Village Life

Cllr Wragg asked whether the PC wish to discuss the climate emergency? It was thought that the PC's aims to reduce speed in the village, to convert to a 100% renewable electricity supply for the streetlighting, and converting to LED lighting in the near future was a good start.

21 Other Matters (for information only)

Cllr Roberts said that she was dissatisfied with the lack of enforcement action from the SCDC Planning department especially regarding Appleacre, and proposed that the PC writes to SCDC to express this dissatisfaction. Cllrs Wragg, Roberts and Burge to draft a letter for approval from PC.

Cllr Roberts said she will order the PC Christmas tree.

Cllr Burge said that the school now has options for additional play equipment for the Butts, and the children are being consulted.

Cllr Collinson and the Clerk to review the condition of the laptop and backup options for storage of PC files.

Cllrs Wragg,
Roberts
and Burge

The date of the next PC meeting is Tuesday 17th December 2019, 7:30pm in the Pavilion Room, Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 21:25.

Annex A – County Report – from Councillor Peter Topping

County Report to Fowlmere Parish Council - November 2019

From Councillor Peter Topping – I apologise for not being at the meeting.

Local issues

Marshalls Move – The meeting I attended in October that was arranged by Thriplow Parish Council was a bit confusing, but there were 8 parish councils present, including Fowlmere. Following on from that there has been a meeting with Marshalls and also with John Brown, director at the Imperial War Museum. It is clear that Duxford is still in the running for relocation of Marshalls. The main concern voiced by many is what the additional workforce will do to the already overloaded road system – A505 in particular.

Possible asbestos

I have notified the county council regarding the boards as reported following the exploration of the site and asked the county to investigate straightaway.

Traffic mirrors

As a general rule the highways department is not in favour of mirrors at junctions or driveways on the argument that they can cause confusion especially at night. So if a mirror was being sought the highways dept would be the people to seek permission from but it may not be easy. John O'Brien would be the right person to approach. However it is worth noting that if the mirror is on private land there isn't much highway can do - we managed this in Duxford a few years back where a resident kindly agreed to "host" the mirror.

Bus routes

I am investigating a rumour that the 31 route is under threat but nothing concrete yet.

Road and drain work – The list of issues from Foxton is being taken forward by the highways officer who is covering two patches at the moment. I have written to the county council saying they cannot keep stretching out these essential posts. John O'Brien tells me that drain works in Fowlmere are being attended to.

A505 improvement research - This research, funded by the Combined Authority, starts this autumn and will take a year. I have been pressing for this for years and I am pleased this has finally started. It hasn't really got going yet and the county and the district are falling out over its membership which is an encouraging start.

Foxton station hub proposals from the Greater Cambridge Partnership

All the parish councils, including tiny Newton across the fields, have written in to the GCP saying how unimpressed they are with these proposals. The GCP Assembly that was supposed to meet in November has been postponed because of the General Election. I suggest that Foxton and others seeks a meeting with the GCP, in the light of this entirely negative response to their unimaginative efforts to foist a car park on this part of South Cambs. I keep saying that if there was connectivity with Fowlmere via a good cycleway as part of the deal that might help.

Reports on issues further afield

Hinxton and the Wellcome Trust planning application.

I urged the South Cambs Planning Committee not to approve this, but it did so overwhelmingly. But essentially this large development, with no affordable houses other than for people working for Wellcome, is not in the current Local Plan, and Wellcome would not wait to try to get it included in the next Local Plan. It will overwhelm the villages of Hinxton and Ickleton.

Peter Topping – 07825 876582 - peterwwtopping@gmail.com