

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FOWLMERE PARISH COUNCIL HELD
IN SCHOOL ROOM, UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
21st APRIL 2009 AT 7.30 PM**

PRESENT: Cllr M Bates (Chairman), Cllr P Flynn, Cllr W Kohler,
Cllr P Cook, Cllr A Eades, Mrs J Fletcher (Clerk)

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr T Stone

	Cllr Bates asked all members present to stand for one minute of silence in respect of a former member of the Council, Mrs Dallas Roberts, who has passed away.	Actions
	Cllr Bates welcomed Mrs Jackie Wright the Clerk-designate.	
1.	APOLOGIES – Apologies were received from Cllr D Woods and Cllr D Roberts.	
2.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
	Cllr Kohler declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 12(a) – Youth Project. As there would not be a discussion on this item, Cllr Kohler will not leave the meeting at this point - he will be providing an up-to-date report on the project.	
3.	MINUTES OF MEETING OF 17 March 2009 - The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.	
4.	MATTERS ARISING	
	<p><u>Crows' Parlour</u> MB has been unable to contact David Kenney of English Heritage and will continue to do so.</p> <p><u>Village Hall Request</u> With regard to the inclusion of the basketball court under the PC insurance policy, MB advised that the assets of a Charity cannot be passed to a third party: the Village Hall is a charity and the PC would be a third party, therefore, nothing further can be done.</p>	Cllr Bates
5.	COUNTY COUNCIL AFFAIRS	
	<p>The following report was presented by Cllr Stone</p> <p>Hanley Grange The Joint Cambridgeshire Regional Spatial Strategy Review Panel (CRoSSP) met again on 7th April. I could not be there but at a meeting of the Cambridgeshire Economic Workshop in Wisbech on 27th March I did get some useful figures which I passed on to Lydia Macpherson, Chairman of Babraham Parish Council, who spoke on behalf of the Joint Action Group. The county was unsure whether to propose an additional 15,000 houses beyond the 75,000 planned until 2021 to take the 2031 figure to 90,000 or try to brazen it out by declining to increase the numbers beyond the 2021 figure. Lydia's presentation was well received and, although there can be no guarantees at present, it certainly appears that the planners are not looking to create any more new satellite towns around Cambridge. Meanwhile there is a County questionnaire on the County's website. It is open until 23rd April.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Panel I discovered at the Neighbourhood Panel yesterday that Bassingbourn, Great Chishill and Whaddon have gone active with Speedwatch.</p> <p>Also at the Panel Meeting there were a number of remarks about changing personnel. Rachel Mallender is a new PC. PC Andy Bates is moving on.</p>	

	<p>A good number of high-profile roadside events (Operation Blackwall) have caught many motorists (39 out of 654) with a variety of misdemeanours.</p> <p>South Cambridgeshire District Council came in for criticism because the police believe they have a statutory duty to provide a dog warden. The police aren't entirely sure about that and will investigate.</p> <p>Highways A Parish Warden meeting took place on 14th April with a tour of Whittlesford Highways depot. This is a trial within Duxford Division to see if it would help to give selected parish councillors extra insights into the activities of Cambridgeshire Highways and Access. I am quite encouraged that the experiment will work.</p> <p>Meanwhile I have been critical at the way the Minor Highways Improvement scheme has been changed without consultation with parishes. I'm also trying to get a simpler format for letting parishes know about highways works being done locally. A number have been scrapped, delayed or introduced without warning. The main one affecting Fowlmere is the renewed delay of the improvements at Flint Cross.</p> <p>Councillor Training It's taken four years but we now seem to be moving on getting better trained County Councillors. When I was first elected I was surprised to find that there were no job descriptions and no format for developing councillors' skills. Training, which is very good, is on facts and procedures rather than skills and activities. I have been active on a Member Development Panel trying to produce a framework for professional councillors.</p> <p>I hope that the next batch of county councillors will have less trouble in getting equipped to do the job better.</p> <p>Councillor Stone left the meeting at this point.</p>	
6.	PLANNING – There had been no planning meetings in the month	
7.	AFFORDABLE HOUSING	
	The Parish Council is awaiting a street scene sketch of the preferred scheme.	
8.	BURIAL BOARD	
	<p>With regard to the request to refund payment for a previously purchased plot (£120.00) the meeting unanimously agreed that 50% (£60) should be offered.</p> <p>A Burial Board meeting will be arranged to discuss future action should a similar request arise.</p>	Clerk
11.	TREES, GRASS AND HEDGES	
	<p>Cllrs Bates, Woods and Roberts are still to visit the cemetery to look at possible hedging.</p> <p>The tree in Jackson's Way has been trimmed.</p>	Cllrs Bares, Woods and Roberts
12.	FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES	
	<p>The URC room hire invoice for 2008/09 has been received and information provided that the charge was increased in September 2008 from £15 to £20. As a gesture of goodwill, the URC has not applied this increase to the invoice.</p> <p>Although an alternative venue at the Chapel in the cemetery could be used, the PC is very keen to support all organisations in the village.</p>	

	This will be an agenda item for the 16 th June 2009 meeting.	Clerk
	<p>Cheques signed since January 2009 meeting</p> <p>Mrs J Fletcher March salary £ 404.64 SeniorLink Monitoring £ 66.52 SeniorLink Monitoring Care for Trees</p>	
13.	CORRESPONDENCE	
	<p>Play Space Funding – a request will be made for funding criteria.</p> <p>Various items of correspondence were clarified for Councillors – there was nothing to be discussed.</p>	Clerk
14.	OTHER MATTERS	
	<p><u>Youth Project</u></p> <p>Cllr Kohler provided the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmation on who owns the bus shelter – MB advised this is the PC. • Planning will not be a problem providing the PC has agreed to support the project. • Cllr Kohler will be attending the next meeting with Kirsten Bicknell and the School. • Woodworm treatment will be carried out prior to any decoration and the possible replacement of panels will be considered • Tiles will be mounted on boards and erected inside the bus shelter <p>Kirsten Bicknell will be invited to the PC June meeting.</p> <p><u>Clerk Vacancy</u> Mrs Jackie Wright has been appointed as the new Clerk and Proper Officer and will take up her position at the beginning of May.</p> <p>Mrs Fletcher advised that the existing BT line has been cancelled from 5th May as 14 day's notice is required by BT. Mrs Wright will pursue alternatives for emails, Broadband connection and telephone connection as a BT service is not connected in her home.</p> <p>The Parish Council documents and equipment will have to be moved before the end of April.</p> <p><u>Councillors</u> Cllr Hawkins had submitted his resignation from the Council with immediate effect. This has brought the vacancies to a total of two Councillors.</p> <p>MB will write and thank Barrie for his work on the Council.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk-designate</p> <p>Cllr Bates</p> <p>Cllr Bates</p>
15.	CONFIRM DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS	
	<p style="text-align: center;">Annual Parish meeting Tuesday, 5th May 2009 PC Annual meeting Tuesday, 19th May 2009 PC Meeting Tuesday, 16th June 2009</p>	
	The meeting closed at 8.30 pm	
	Clerk to the Parish Council: Julie Fletcher, 21 Ryecroft Lane, Fowlmere, SG8 7TT	