

MINUTES OF THE **MEETING OF FOWLMERE PARISH COUNCIL** HELD
IN THE DOROTHY PLUCK ROOM, ST MARY'S CHURCH
5TH OCTOBER 2011 AT 7.30 PM

PRESENT: Cllr D Roberts (Chairman), Cllr J Bottrill, Cllr P Flynn, Cllr J Peacock, Cllr E O'Regan, Cllr M Sunderland, Cllr N Webb, Cllr L Wragg and Mrs J Wright (Clerk)

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Jackson, resident

		Actions
1.	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: There were no apologies.</p>	
2.	<p>DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN AGENDA ITEMS: No items were declared.</p>	
3.	<p>STRATEGIC HOUSING LAND AVAILABILITY ASSESSMENT; <i>A number of sites in Fowlmere have recently been put forward to the District Council for consideration regarding future development - 7 in total. The meeting is being called to give the PC an opportunity to have an initial briefing regarding this matter and to understand how SCDC will embark upon in its selection process. Members of the public should note that these are not planning applications as such</i></p> <p>Cllr Roberts said that this meeting has been called because the information mentioned above from SCDC is now in the public eye. Landowners have been invited to put forward pieces of land to be possibly included in formation of the next Local Plan – SCDC are obliged to do this. There have been 7 sites put forward in Fowlmere and if all were to be agreed it would have a huge impact on the village. However, SCDC have said that there have been an excessive number of applications and they will be undertaking a sifting process to see which fulfil their requirements. Cllr Roberts has requested a briefing from SCDC next week, to find out the criteria that they are assessing the applications on. The Parish Council needs to decide how to provide information to the village, without causing undue panic.</p> <p>Cllr Wragg added that as of yet, none of the sites have been assessed yet by SCDC. There are a huge number of houses in the make-up of the applications, an average of 30 houses per hectare. This would double the size of the village. He added it is nothing to do with the current planning system, it is about the aspiration of landowners.</p> <p>Cllr Roberts said sustainability would be a major issue, Fowlmere doesn't have a train service, has only a meagre and threatened bus service, no Post Office and the sewerage system is full to capacity to name a few constraints. Cllr Wragg added that unfortunately Strategic Planners will say that rural planning will not be as sustainable, as employment will not be alongside residential areas.</p> <p>The sites in Fowlmere are:</p> <p>Site 051 Manufacturing Site & Turnbrook (62 dwellings with public open space) Site 077 Appleacre Park (12-15 park homes) Site 106 Land North of London Road (225 dwellings with public open space) Site 107 Land West of High Street (93 dwellings with public open space) Site 122 Land at Top Close (unspecified number of residential dwellings) Site 218 Land at Triangle Farm (45 dwellings with public open space) Site 229 Land opposite 30 Pipers Close (17-20 dwellings with public open space and potential for an orchard)</p> <p>At this stage, there should be no discussions 'for' and 'against' the individual sites. We need a clearer idea of the filtering and selection process from SCDC. Fowlmere Parish Council</p>	

	<p>cannot comment until the formal consultation comes in. It was agreed that a public meeting may cause more worry than is necessary and the minutes from this meeting should be enough to inform the public. It was suggested that a letter should go to every household – the information in the local papers didn't specify details about the sites in Fowlmere. A brief letter to every household to say this happens every few years, to fulfil planning requirements, name the areas and the number of dwellings and explain there will be an extensive consultation process which Fowlmere Parish Council will take part in. What has been received is currently far in excess of current needs for SCDC.</p> <p>Cllr Roberts asked if the Councillors were in agreement to inform public but not to cause scaremongering. It was also suggested that a link is put in the letter to the web-site and put it also in the Fowlmere and Thriplow News. All Cllr's agreed to the suggested way forward.</p>	
4.	<p>OTHER MATTERS (FOR INFORMATION ONLY): The land at the end of Chapel Lane (Crow's Parlour) has been used again, Cllr Peacock reported. Further investigation required.</p> <p>The meeting finished at 19:55</p>	