

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF FOWLMERE PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD AT ST MARY'S CHURCH DOROTHY PLUCK ROOM ON TUESDAY 1ST MAY 2012, AT 7:30 PM**

**PRESENT:** Cllr D Roberts – Chairman, Cllr T Bearpark, Cllr J Bottrill, Cllr P Flynn, Cllr E O'Regan, Cllr J Peacock, Cllr M Sunderland, Cllr L Wragg  
Councillor T Stone – Cambridge County Council, Mrs H Mephram – Headteacher, Fowlmere School, PCSO Lindsay Gardiner, Mr M Bates, Chair of the Fowlmere Village Hall Management Committee  
Mrs J Wright – Parish Council Clerk

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Cllr Tim Stone, Lindsay Gardiner - PCSO, Mrs Heather Mephram - Headteacher and several members of the public.

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllr N Webb

**2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF 3RD MAY 2011**

The minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**3. REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL – Cllr Roberts**

As the parish council monthly meetings are very well minuted for the public's ongoing perusal on the village notice boards I have decided this year to try to keep this report short and succinct. We are now, thanks to the willingness of John Bottrill and Tony Bearpark to offer their services for the first time and the return of Pat Flynn, up to complement of required councillors. This really does help to make the task of running the council so much easier and my thanks to all three for volunteering.

The committee chairmanships remain the same as last years and both Finance and Planning Committees have worked hard on the tasks before them over the past year. In the case of Finance this has included having to try to judge with ever changing national and local climate what the parish council might find itself needing to take on board , this is not an easy task especially with the Localism Bill still or its implications not yet being clear. The Planning Comm. has once again been required to have very regular meetings and the members are to be thanked for their willingness to put in much time on this committee. Again they will be required to take on board new rules on the planning front and this task will require attention to the requirements of the Localism Bill as well as supporting local frameworks and policies.

**The Village Hall**

The Village Hall have now called in and received the £2,000 that had been precepted to help with the replacement of its windows. The PC felt this was a much needed updating especially as it will do much to stop the loss of expensive heating as well as the hall being much more pleasant to use.

**The Cemetery**

This continues to seemingly be the main choice for our residents at times of bereavement and I'm sure that this is down to the well maintained nature of the area overseen by the parish council. With the new land purchased and its hedges now getting established we should just remind residents that they can pre- purchase plots and that to do so they should contact our clerk Mrs Jackie Wright who will be happy to explain the costs etc.

**Play Area**

This has seen the purchase and installation of a mini roundabout. I understand this piece of equipment is proving very popular with our younger residents. Due to vandalism we also had to have the triangle seat replaced and the stepping stones mended. It is very disappointing when these sorts of mindless acts take place but hopefully this will not happen again. The Parish Council would ask residents to be vigilant and always report any concerns they see in the village to the police and parish council immediately.

**Money to outside bodies.**

The parish council continues to financially pay the running costs of the villages Senior Link Scheme and any resident who feels they might benefit from having this emergency alarm system should contact the clerk Mrs Wright. Fowlmere Friendship Club received the cost of its annual Christmas lunch after assurances that it would continue to try to bring the club to the attention of all the villages eligible residents. The parish council also continues in its strong regard for the work of the Royal British Legion by the purchase of a wreath on

Remembrance Day and the laying of the same at the official ceremony held at the Fowlmere War Memorial.

### **Postal Services**

Though as yet we still have no service available in the village the parish council is continuing to work with the Postal Service to try to get a part time service reinstated, to this end we are still looking at the possibility of using St Mary's Church and are grateful for its willingness to consider this issue.

### **Buses**

I will leave this area to our County Councillor Tim Stone but would like to thank him for his sterling efforts on this problem to go on record, Tim has put in much time on this difficult situation and it is appreciated by myself and my colleagues.

### **The Round Moat.**

We had hoped that the hard work put in by our former colleague Michael Bates on trying to get a good amount of grant aid from the Stewardship Scheme would have paid dividends. The Moat is a national monument overseen by English Heritage and as such should receive outside help. By its nature it is a very serious challenge to the village in its upkeep. Unfortunately at the end of much deliberation the amount offered was to say the very least small for the task required. However, as the figure was all that was available in the present national financial climate the parish council took the offer. This will now mean that any future work especially with regard to trees in the moat will have to be strictly on priority.

### **Grass Cutting**

This continues to be done by our local contractor and we are very pleased both with the quality of the work done and that we can support a local business. With the amount of rain we are now receiving from the heavens the work looks to be very ongoing this year!

### **Queens Jubilee**

It is very much hoped that Fowlmere will play its part in this very special occasion and it would be wonderful if once again we see the village dressed up and in party mood. To that end we are going to have a best decorated house prize of a bottle of champagne for the winner and a second prize of wine for the runner up. Jackie has flagged this up in the village magazine so please all councillors take a lead on this in the days before and get out the bunting!

### **Tidy Village**

As ever great thanks to Pat Rowley for his continued and dedicated efforts as our very own village Womble. Pats tidying of the village roads and lanes help us all to enjoy this villages environment.

### **Colleagues.**

My thanks to Tim Stone for all his attendances at our meetings and the efforts he puts in, often against the odds at the County Council. My thanks also to all my colleagues who put so much of their time and efforts (all unpaid) into working on the parish council to improve and maintain the village for the benefit of all our residents. A special work of thanks must go to our clerk Jackie. Jackie is invaluable to myself as chairman. Always there at the end of the phone or happy to have me pop round to ask for info, advice or to get something sorted she really does make my life so much easier as chairman. Jackie is also that rare creature, someone who never seems fazed by anything and is always able to keep a cool head and a pleasant manner, these are talents greatly to be admired in a clerk. My thanks also to her for now producing the parish news in the village magazine, what a star.

Can I just at the end of this report this report encourage residents from time to time to come along to our meetings. They will be given a warm welcome and as we have an open session their views and idea on all aspects of village life will be listened to and considered .

A question was asked about if the Post Office was a definite go-ahead and Cllr Roberts replied that it is hopeful that it will progress but nothing has been finalised. It is unfortunate that an interview on Cambridge radio may have given that impression.

## **4. COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT – Cllr T Stone**

### **The Budget**

I reported last year that life is getting very difficult for the County's finances. There is the double whammy of less money coming from Westminster and increasing demand for social services. People are living to a greater age while needing support. Children, who not very long ago would have died at or shortly after birth are now living much longer, but a proportion of them, sadly, with disabilities which can cost council taxpayers over £250,000 a year for each one. In the face of that, and despite heroic efforts to cut out waste and re-design services, things are going to continue to be tough.

While each of us borrows an extra £2 a day just to pay the interest on government debt, there is no chance that the budget squeeze will not continue. Hot pasties and the Granny Tax are the least of our worries.

Meanwhile the County has managed to balance its books for the year just ended. That is no small achievement. In this year it has to find another £42 million in savings out of a total non-school budget of about £400 million.

### **Highways and Lighting**

The change in our streetlights ownership and operation has now settled down. The County has agreed a Private Finance Initiative with Balfour Beatty so that lights intended to light the highway will be up-graded and maintained by Balfour Beatty. In order to unlock a government payment, the County had to agree to reduce the number of lamp standards by 10%. New lighting is more efficient than the older stock, so in lighting terms that may make little difference. It will still be worth paying attention to exactly where lights are to be placed once it's Fowlmere's turn to be up-graded. The District Council has taken over maintaining lights from the parish council, but the parish council has to pay for the electricity.

### **Protected Road Verges**

Your parish council has been most helpful in trying to look after the village's protected road verges. The County has decided to save £26,000 a year by failing to give any protection to designated road verges across the County. I expect that the County Council's cabinet may have decided that there is no political mileage in looking after these bits of our environment. Fortunately your parish council is not so philistine.

### **Superfast Broadband**

The County has decided to borrow up to £20 million to invest in superfast broadband across Cambridgeshire. The local project is in partnership with Peterborough and there is £6.75 million of government money available to help. Superfast broadband achieves speeds in excess of 25Mbps. Compared with other parishes in the Duxford County Division Fowlmere does very well, so may not be a priority.

The County is launching a website on 8<sup>th</sup> May called Connecting Cambridgeshire. Anyone interested in superfast broadband should certainly log on. The initial intention is to encourage people to register interest. Then that will be passed to commercial operators to see where they are prepared to provide superfast broadband commercially. If there remain holes in the network then the County can decide where to deploy the money at its disposal.

This is very important for our part of the world, where a good proportion of people either run businesses or just work from home. So please note 8<sup>th</sup> May in your diaries.

### **Buses**

The County's decision to remove bus subsidies has gone through many changes since it was made in 2011 – and vigorously opposed by Liberal Democrats. Threatened with a judicial review, the County decided to undertake some consultation. This year's budget contained the same proposal, mitigated by a promise of £1.5 million to provide essential transport where people would have been marooned.

Subsidy on the 31 is due to go in September 2013, so in theory it is safe until then. In the Duxford Division the main activity is focused on the Citi 7, where Hinxton will have no bus from 10<sup>th</sup> June and Whittlesford and Heathfield will have one a day in each direction. So we'll sort that one first before getting on to the 31.

### **Councillor Allowances**

During the course of the year County Councillors awarded themselves a 25% pay rise. In a free vote all but four of the Conservatives voted for and all but one Liberal Democrat voted against. It was then discovered that the independent panel making the recommendation had been wrongly constituted. The next panel proposed no increase, so that was all right then.

One small "victory". Under the old rules, County Councillors were expected to attend parish council meetings but charging mileage was specifically banned. That was a nonsense, particularly for councillors serving rural areas, some with as many as 12 parishes. I campaigned for the rules to be changed one way or the other. So now we get mileage - and I shall be charging for coming to Fowlmere.

### **And now the commercial....**

My first job is to make sure that your voice is heard at the County Council. You can contact me with your concerns on 01223 836527, e-mail at [timothy.stone1@virgin.net](mailto:timothy.stone1@virgin.net) or write to me at 4 Church Lane, Whittlesford, Cambridge CB22 4NX. My website is at [www.timstone.mycouncillor.org.uk/](http://www.timstone.mycouncillor.org.uk/)

Cllr Roberts thanked Tim for his sterling work during the year. He always attends the meetings and takes away the concerns of Fowlmere residents and always seeks a solution. His help is very much appreciated.

## **5 LOCAL POLICE REPORT – Lindsay Gardiner PCSO**

Since January there have been a total of seven incidents in Fowlmere:

### **09/02/12 13:45**

Two males attempting to sell items from the back of a van in Long Lane. Both with Irish accents. Males were challenged by the informant the males then left sharply after being questioned.

### **22/03/12**

Fowlmere Nature Reserve had litter left overnight. Patrols have been carried out though the night to find people responsible and advise anyone seen in the carpark late at night about littering.

### **24/03/12**

High street, car parked on the pavement. Car was advised and apologised for causing any disruption. Can I please remind the public that it is an offence to park on the pavement and as a result you could be issued with a fixed penalty notice for thirty pounds.

### **28/03/12**

Pumping station, Chishall rd. A safe was found at the location, this was linked to a burglary at Wood Green Animal Shelter. Due to weather conditions there was no evidence for CSI.

### **02/04/12 22:19**

Burglary business at the Butts Business Centre. Broken into and snap on tools were taken. Some of the tools were found in Hastlingfield at a later date. These were then recovered back to the owner.

### **12/04/12**

Computer fraud via phone call. The caller stated that she was calling regarding issues with her Microsoft. She then said that she would need to give the informant instructions to allow an anti-virus software to be downloaded to prevent any virus. The victim has then done as this lady has asked and without realising has granted access to the computer. The caller has then charged £89:99 plus vat a total of £101:58 for the service. The victim has then given the caller bank details to pay for the service. The victim has then called an IT expert who has said that this is unusual practise. The victim has then reported it to the bank.

Speeding was set as a panel priority for the next quarter. A speed check has already taken place on the 25<sup>th</sup> April at 0800 at Pipers close, one car was caught speeding nine were checked.

It was agreed that the Clerk could report on these to alert the public, prior to the minutes being made public.

Cllr Roberts thanked Lindsay for her attendance during the year, it really is greatly appreciated.

## **6 DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT – Cllr D Roberts**

Good evening everyone. I intend to try to keep this report brief and as I attend all of Fowlmere's monthly meetings where I update and take away the local concerns, so I will attempt to keep to what I see as the major points to be aware of regarding South Cambridgeshire District Council activities.

The Localism Bill is I believe something that we must all pay strong attention to in the coming year especially in regard to its possible effects on planning issues. Certainly there was great concern nationally and from some serious players such as the National Trust when the bill was first drafted as it seemed to show that first and foremost the move was such that it was in danger of covering the countryside with bricks and mortar. Seemingly this was taken on board by the government and changes were made. However, there still remains in place in the Bill the phrase "a presumption for sustainable development". What exactly does that mean? Well I fear it can and will mean anything to anyone fighting for or against development. And none more so that the would be developers and their army of highly paid consultants and lawyers.

There are legal challenges expected as the Bill comes into actual effect and all of us will I'm sure be watching these matters carefully as we try to retain the character of our villages whilst at the same time accepting that carefully thought out change will always happen.

At Cambourne we are due to have workshops and training events on the Bill and I will be attending these as well as being a member of the Planning Committee that will no doubt see the Bill in action.

The other great challenge will be in the field of social housing which of course also marries into the Localism Bill. Here in South Cambridgeshire we have seen the huge growth of market housing schemes, but this has not meant a lowering of house prices as more homes have become available, indeed the opposite has occurred and we now have a situation that all though life in South Cambridgeshire is flagged up as the "best

you can get" by the Conservative leader of SCDC it is far from such for many average families in this area who simply cannot get on the mortgage ladder.

The real need is not for more and more five bed luxury houses but for fair rented homes that those not on six figure incomes can afford to live in.

A little more than two years ago the Conservatives in control at SCDC spent more than £1.4 million on trying to get rid of all its housing stock. This was done against all the previous evidence that the tenants would not go along with such a move. Now the government has changed the rules and will now allow councils to retain all the revenue / rent as some of us had predicted would happen.

The council has had to borrow £200 million to be allowed to do so but as the money has been borrowed on very good terms from the governments own credit agency rather than some high street bank the terms are such that there will still be enough to more than cover the interest payments and indeed build up surpluses.

This should now mean that rather than having to sell off the family silver the council will be in a position to start building council homes again though as yet the controlling group have not explained where they will find land at a reasonable cost on which to do so. Again I'm sure we will all be watching this situation with interest.

Two last pieces of SCDC news, in these difficult financial times the auditors are in general positive regarding the councils finances and the councillors for the fourth year running are not taking a hike in their own allowances, as the chancellor would say "we are all in this together" though I can assure you I am not yet a millionaire!

My thanks to all my colleagues on the parish council for their help and support as ever this is greatly appreciated and to villagers who make the job so interesting and varied.

A resident asked about the possibility of large-scale building happening in Fowlmere. Cllr Roberts explained that seven areas have been offered to be included in the next village plan and it will be considered at SCDC and consultation will take place. Fowlmere is rather under-utilised with regards to facilities and service and as such would not be able to withstand any large increase in new-builds.

## **7. PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE – Cllr D Roberts**

Cllr Roberts explained that the committee meet very regularly. Generally most applications are fairly straightforward. Two applications have been quite challenging, one being housing being built on the edge of the Welding Alloys land and FPC opposed this application. The other contentious one was to change the agricultural use of Deans Farm and again FPC opposed this, as there are other similar businesses nearby and the PC cannot set a precedent to change what exists outside of the village envelope. FPC must stick to policy and views each application professionally and not with individuals in mind.

The affordable housing at the Thriplow Triangle have not yet started, due to a delay caused by a change in builder / Housing Association. A new one is now on-board and hoping to start building in June - the PC will be keeping a close eye on progression and development, especially with regards to the exception site criteria being adhered to.

A resident asked if the rental properties will stay as rental. Cllr Roberts said that unfortunately this could change with a political change but at present, that is the case.

## **8. PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE REPORT – Cllr E O'Regan**

Good Evening everyone, Once again I am pleased to announce that we achieved our budget goals for the last financial year.

Our largest outgoings included Grass Cutting, Tree Pruning, General Maintenance and Clerk's salary, and along with the usual village running cost that occur each year, the total cost was more than £13,000.

The Clerk has been provided with a laptop for Parish Council Business, and the provision for miscellaneous expenditure has been reduced by just over £100 to compensate partly for this.

This year's precept, we have requested and been awarded an increase of 10% on last year's figures (30,098.00) to (33,000). (Last year's increase was 15%) This is purely a 3% inflational increase on all items but has become 10% because of extra responsibilities the PC has had to take on i.e. cutting the protected verges, which SCDC used to do (i.e. B1368 past the Caravan Park and Mill lane towards Melbourn).

The PC has also contributed towards the new windows at the Village Hall and is starting to set aside money for a new Bus Shelter which will be needed in due course. The Parish Council intends to continue its support to the Village Hall, to build on the excellent efforts in raising funds and reducing operating expenditure undertaken by its committee, and has budgeted for a grant of £2575. We have been given extra responsibility with street light maintenance. We are continuing to provide Senior Link personal alarms for the vulnerable residents free of charge.

We finalised a project this year enhancing the children's play area even more by providing a new roundabout with the help received from Capital Grants that we applied for, and received £1,200 towards the £5,888 needed.

For 2012 we will be happy to take villagers ideas for any future expenditure towards projects within the village that will enhance even further! Fowlmere Parish Council will be working hard to ensure that Fowlmere is kept in a good state of repair making it a pleasant place in which to live.

## **9. FOWLMERE SCHOOL - Mrs H Mepham, Headteacher**

It is a pleasure to be here to report on the developments at our village school. I was appointed to the post of Headteacher from September 2011, following the retirement of Richard Elcock. My association with Fowlmere school spans 1/3 of the schools history, as a pupil; twice as a teacher; three times as a parent; and now the position I have always dreamed, Headteacher. I am passionate about the development of Fowlmere school, and believe that as a Fowlmere resident, I am well-placed to further the growth of the school, and its role in the wider community.

In September, the Governing Body met to reevaluate our vision for the school. Our mission is that

'We exist to inspire children to love learning and achieve excellence in all they do within our caring village school'. Our school motto is 'love learning, achieve excellence'.

'We believe that literacy and mathematical skills are the fundamental building blocks to wider learning. We believe that an enriched curriculum provides our children with real and meaningful learning opportunities, using diverse resources within the local and global environment. By creating an open, stimulating, challenging environment, children will leave the school as well rounded individuals, prepared for the next steps of their lives'.

We continue to serve the Parishes of Fowlmere, Great Chishill, Chrishall Grange and Heydon. Those living out of catchment are from Foxton, Duxford, Royston and Shepreth. The current roll is 111, a slight increase on last year. The intake for the Reception class in September 2012 is expected to be 12, which will maintain the roll at 110.

Statutory Assessments are made for all children at the end of Key Stage 1 (children aged 7) and at the end of Key Stage 2 (children aged 11). The results for the academic year 2010/11 showed a slight increase on the previous year at KS1. Attainment is close to the National averages in reading, writing and mathematics, and it is our aim to increase our performance against the national figures. At KS2, results dipped slightly on the previous year, but were again in line with National averages. Again, our aim is to raise our standards further.

Our focus for school improvement is on high quality learning and teaching across the curriculum. We recognise that if all children are to love learning and achieve excellence, their curriculum and learning experiences must be highly motivating. Real learning happens when children are actively involved, and can see the relevance of their learning. Using local contexts is key to this, and you will see the children making greater use of the rich learning environment in which we live, and members of our community to support them.

We are one of few primary schools that still provides voluntarily run after-school clubs. The clubs are organised by the teachers, parents and community members, and include a wide range of sports, cross-stitch, games, stamp club, French, gardening and choir. The children also take part in inter-school and inter-house competitions. We also benefit from in-school support from parents, grandparents, and members of the community.

Cambridgeshire Music currently provides piano, flute and violin tuition to a small number of children. As part of the Governments Wider Opportunities music initiative, children in Years 4, 5 and 6 receive pocket brass tuition. We await a new National Curriculum, postponed until 2013/14; but a new curriculum for the Early Years & Foundation Stage, which includes our Reception-aged children, will be introduced this September. Our key priority for curriculum development is ICT, in particular building the hardware stock to enable our children the opportunities to learn using a range of current technologies. This will have quite an impact on our

diminishing resources, particularly as our Capital funding was cut by 80% last financial year, bringing the previous income of £25,000 down to £5,000. The forthcoming year will see a similar budget income which has an impact on our ability to maintain the Victorian building, which suffers particularly from rising damp.

We are, however extremely fortunate to benefit from the fund-raising efforts of the PTFA and particularly the hardworking committee. They organised a successful ball to celebrate 150 years of Fowlmere school, raising a substantial sum to support ICT development. They also continue to organise a number of activities for the children as well as fund-raising events. We are also most indebted to the members of the Village Hall Social Club who held a celebration event for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary and raised over £2,000 for school funds.

So, we are celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> Year of Fowlmere school. It is a privilege for me to be leading the school, and I look forward to strengthening relationships between the community groups in Fowlmere and the surrounding catchment, and the school. We work closely with St Mary's Church and the United Reformed Church, and I hope too that the Parish Council will play an active role in the life of the school.

Cllr Flynn added that the school is a wonderful place to be and the children are fantastic. They recently had a talent show where the children all supported each other, it was lovely. Cllr Roberts said the PC was very pleased that Heather has the position of Headteacher, the school-children are delightful and her enthusiasm and dedication will be a huge asset to the development of the school and its future.

#### **10. VILLAGE HALL REPORT – by Mr M Bates, Chair of the Fowlmere Village Hall and Recreation Ground Committee**

Since the last Annual Parish Meeting in 2011 changes took place to the Village Hall Management Committee at the AGM held in October with Tamsin Goodfellow standing down as Chair. Thanks are extended to Tamsin for her leadership and energy in the role.

The Hall is used for a series of community activities run by volunteers and for all age groups ranging from Mothers and Toddlers, Brownies for girls, and through to Senior Citizens for the over 65's. In addition there are a number of leisure activity groups ranging from Aerobics to Badminton, to Bowls, to Dance, to Mini Tennis, to Music for Fun, to Rosemary Conley Fitness etc. Groups such as the Women's Section of the Royal British Legion and the Fowlmere and Thriplow Gardening Club hold their regular meetings and there are organised play activities known as Kreepie Krawlies for pre-school children. There are three football clubs based at the hall and using the facilities, Fowlmere Football Club, Fowlmere Metals Football Club and Fowlmere Bostocks Football Club and it is pleasing to record that cricket is once again played at Fowlmere with a team from Thriplow Cricket Club involving younger players. The current programme of activities is posted on the village hall notice board for all to see. In addition Fowlmere Sports Group operates the multi-use games area and Fowlmere Sports and Social Club utilise the remaining facilities, both contribute to running costs.

The Village Hall issues a periodic newsletter distributed to all households giving up to date information about current and forthcoming activities to keep our community aware of what happens.

The hall is run by a Management Committee made up of representatives of user groups and local people elected because of their interest in local community life and keeping the hall and its facilities available for local people. The Committee meets on the first Wednesday of each month to deal with the on-going business with the necessary organisational activities in the meantime carried out by the Elected Officers – Michael Bates – Chair, Jeannie Grisoni - Vice – Chair, Secretary Sylvia Bates, Book-keeper Jane Cryer and Bookings Clerk Amanda Barnes. Thanks go to the Officers and the Management Committee for their work.

The Committee has adopted a development plan with the view to improving the hall which opened in 1982 and now requires modernisation. The Village Hall Development Plan identifies phase two of the replacement of windows and doors programme, new storage at the rear of the stage, decoration of the main hall and improving the hot water supply to the kitchen as priorities over the next twelve months. Such work is expensive and requires the financial means and to that end grateful thanks go to the Fund Raising Group – Chair, Mandy Thornton, Rachel Collins, Christine Lawrence, Carol Sims, Jane Cryer, Pat Flynn, Liz Williams and Lamorna Thomas (and their respective partners where involved). Without their sterling work organising the range of interesting and stimulating community activities, such as Farmers' Markets, Jazz Evening, Ceilidhs, Quiz Nights, Outdoor Theatre Performances, Photographic Exhibitions and more the hall would not be in the healthy position it is today. The finances are dealt with on behalf of the Committee by Book-keeper Jane Cryer and Financial adviser Chris Neild who report to the regular meetings. Car Boot Sales and the like have been held over the year and thanks go to Maureen and Leslie Thurley and their team of behind the scenes helpers for organising these.

The hall has been improved in recent months in order to make the building more comfortable, environmentally friendly and economical to run. Visitors will have noticed the upgrading of the kitchen, made possible by the generous financial support of local company KWS Agriculture from Thriplow to whom we extend very grateful thanks. Further improvements have been the replacement of the ageing central heating boiler and insulation of the loft, both made possible by a grant from the Big Lottery Fund Awards for All programme, to whom a big

thank you. The most recent improvement has been the completion of the first phase of the replacement of the doors and windows programme. This saw the replacement of doors and windows in the main hall, the utility area, the kitchen and the meeting room together with the main entrance door. This was possible due to the general management of the finances, the work of the Fundraising group and the generous support of South Cambridgeshire District Council and our own Fowlmere Parish Council to whom grateful thanks are extended.

The work has eradicated the draughts experienced and should lead to a reduction in the heating costs, which was a primary reason for the improvements.

The hall can only continue to function meeting the needs of the local community if it is used by we the local people and there is space available to accommodate more community activities. User groups would welcome newcomers to their activity and any group wishing to set up a new activity should approach the Bookings Clerk Amanda Barnes on 01763 209174 to make the booking. **Please Please Support your Village Hall**

Cllr Roberts said that Michael will put in a huge commitment as Chair of the Village Hall, please do all try to support the functions that are being held there.

#### **11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

A resident asked can anything be done to keep the Queen's Head open? Cllr Roberts reported on an e-mail about the potential closure of the pub from a concerned resident and the PC responded with a letter to Greene King who responded to say closure was not at all an option and in fact the planning application for work to be done has now been submitted via SCDC, which FPC have now viewed and will support the application. The PC could put something on the noticeboard to this effect.

Mr Bates thanked Cllr Roberts and the Clerk for the conduct of the meeting.

*Everyone was thanked for attending and the meeting closed at 8:50pm.*

**Clerk to the Parish Council: Mrs J Wright  
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