

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FOWLMERE PARISH COUNCIL HELD
IN THE SCHOOL ROOM, UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, CHAPEL LANE
19TH JANUARY 2010 AT 7.30 PM**

PRESENT: Cllr D Roberts (Chairman), Cllr P Cook, Cllr W Kohler, Cllr E O'Regan, Cllr Schonken, Cllr D Woods, Mrs J Wright (Clerk)

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs Jelley, Mr Lester, Mrs Wooldridge, Ms Grisoni, Ms Thomas, Ms Goodfellow

		Actions
1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies were received from Cllr Bates, Cllr Eades, Cllr Flynn and Cllr Stone	
2.	DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN AGENDA ITEMS: No items were declared	
3.	MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF 15TH DECEMBER 2009: The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.	
4.	<p>MATTERS ARISING:</p> <p>Item 4/12 - Fowlmere Joinery to commence work soon on the Fire Engine shed door</p> <p>Item 5 – The salt bins in the village have been filled. Clerk to chase up the order for the new ones.</p> <p>Item 8 – The Burial Board met earlier (19/01/10), with Cllr Woods as the Chair. The Board made some recommendations for fee increases which will be brought to the next PC Meeting in February. This follows several years where no increases have been implemented and focuses more on burials for people from outside of the village.</p> <p>Item 4/10 - Content of the web-site. Cllr Schonken and Cllr O'Regan have made good progress with taking the web-site in-house and it looks very bright and fresh. Cllr Schonken requested all Councillors write a two sentence profile of themselves and to think of anything else of interest to go on the web that describes the function of the PC and also some photos of the village, incl the cemetery (Cllr O'Regan can provide).</p> <p>Item 12a - Village Hall. Cllr Roberts requested permission to change the order of the meeting and bring the Village Hall item to item 4. All councillors agreed.</p> <p>Cllr Roberts welcomed Ms Grisoni, Ms Goodfellow and Ms Thomas and asked them to please explain to the PC where matters were regarding the Village Hall and the current financial situation?</p> <p>Ms Goodfellow explained that for the last 18 months, the VH committee have been monitoring finances – costs are increasing and income declining. There are currently four main streams of income – a) Community user groups, b) Commercial user groups, many have declined in past year, c) Weddings, big functions and parties, which have also declined dramatically and d) Football and cricket groups (and caravan clubs). The general economic situation has had an effect, as has competition from other local halls, - ours is looking very tired compared to others. Two years ago they achieved lottery funding (for disabled access and toilets), but they have not advertised the financial situation previously but now they have to ask the village what needs to be done. May is the cut off point as two large bills for insurance and grass-cutting need to be paid in June so time is tight. The existing committee is a management committee, rather than a fundraising committee, so they</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>All</p>

are asking for fundraising support from the village. Active marketing and a real grip on fundraising is needed but it needs to be what the village *wants and can commit to*. The VH Committee have asked the PC if they could support the VH but they haven't been able to.

Ms Grisoni added that she felt it was the responsible thing to do, to set a limit of £5000 and that they shouldn't go below it as even if the VH closes, there will still be costs in maintaining and securing a closed building. Currently, the VH is used primarily Mon-Fri and there aren't many additional spaces during the week. The rates have not increased for 2 years, as it was feared user-groups may close. It was hoped the PC could support the VH to provide the 'jam on the bread' which would have historically come from weekend bookings, which are not happening.

Cllr Roberts recounted how she had previously been on the VH committee and had prior knowledge of some of the problems, mainly the issue that it is a huge hall which isn't being used for large functions anymore, which requires huge maintenance costs. There were conversations 5 years ago to change the internal structure to make it more usable which never came to anything. Other wedding venues are available which are more suitable and the competition is more up to date, smaller and easier to maintain ie Foxton, Thriplow and Newton. The VH windows need replacing too, and the quality looks poor in comparison to others.

Ms Goodfellow agreed and said £150,000 could easily be spent on bringing it up to date, if the finances were available.

Cllr Roberts said that unless the problems are resolved, the issue won't go away as won't it appeal to the wider audience and Ms Goodfellow agreed that there is no point in limping on.

Cllr Roberts suggested contacting Cambridgeshire ACRE (Phil Peacock), which is a process Ms Thomas had already started. He comes for an initial free visit but then charges for his services (a building and energy audit) at a cost of £100 plus VAT and travel. (*The Parish Council later agreed in the meeting to fund this cost*). Cllr Roberts also said that SCDC have £26,000 left in their budget for such support but it will need to have been applied for by the end of January 2010 and several other village halls will also be applying, so each application will be judged on its merit. She thought that SCDC would not provide money for basic expenses, but it would need to be for a specific project, eg a new boiler.

Ms Grisoni reminded the councillors that they need immediate help with staying open and need funding for that now, as investing in the fabric of the building is the next phase.

Ms Goodfellow said they needed to find out if there is the will and desire to get through the next 12 months from the residents, then this will buy time, to apply for further grants. Cllr Roberts informed her that there would be an additional £150,000 in SCDC's next financial year's budget, so they would need to apply in good time in May – and this would again be for capital projects.

Ms Grisoni explained how marketing the VH is crucial as people really like the venue when they actually see it, which needs to be exploited and more money needs to be earned from the recreation ground.

Cllr Roberts suggested looking at the private sector; barns for wedding facilities etc as a comparison. To which Ms Goodfellow added that the VH is a lot cheaper, so they need to try to get into that market.

Cllr Roberts asked what the VH earned from the Football club? Ms Grisoni reported

	opportunity.	
5.	COUNTY COUNCIL AFFAIRS: Councillor Stone was unable to attend the meeting so no report was tabled.	
6.	PLANNING COMMITTEE: <p style="text-align: center;">MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOWLMERE PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD IN THE SCHOOL ROOM, URC, CHAPEL LANE, ON 15TH DECEMBER 2009 AT 7.20PM</p> <p>PRESENT: Cllr D Roberts (Chair), Cllr A Eades, Cllr P Flynn, Cllr, E O'Regan, Cllr D Woods and Mrs J Wright (Clerk)</p> <p>APOLOGIES: Cllr W Kohler and Cllr Schonken.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Declarations of interest (if any) Before discussion, Cllr Roberts declared that if an application is later placed before South Cambridgeshire District Council she will approach any new information afresh. 2. C/11/17/029/01 Application to undertake work on trees situated within a tree preservation order Brook Farm, Chapel Lane, Fowlmere Mr Nolasco The Council will leave the decision to the Tree Officers at South Cambs District Council. 3. Other Matters and Updates There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7:30pm <p style="text-align: center;">.....</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOWLMERE PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD IN THE DOROTHY PLUCK ROOM, ST MARY'S CHURCH, ON 5TH JANUARY 2010 AT 7.20PM</p> <p>PRESENT: Cllr D Roberts (Chair), Cllr A Eades, Cllr P Flynn, Cllr W Kohler, Cllr, E O'Regan, Cllr N Schonken, Cllr D Woods and Mrs J Wright (Clerk)</p> <p>APOLOGIES: Cllr M Bates</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Declarations of interest (if any) Before discussion, Cllr Roberts declared that if an application is later placed before South Cambridgeshire District Council she will approach any new information afresh. 2. S/2287/07/F Variation of condition 1 of Planning Permission S/2287/07/F to allow for the continued use of the agreed scheduled power operated machines for the already permitted hours of use Welding Alloys Limited, The Way, Fowlmere, SG8 7QS 	

	<p>Welding Alloys Ltd The Council have no objections to this application in its present form and as to date, the Council is not aware of any complaints associated with it from local residents.</p> <p>3. S/1791/09/F Extensions St Marys Prospect, Rectory Lane, Fowlmere, SG8 7TL Mr & Mrs Chris and Jennifer Neild The Council recommend approval for this application as it won't adversely affect any neighbouring properties, as there is more than adequate space for an extended family home.</p> <p>4. Other Matters and Updates There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7:30pm</p> <p>The meeting was then opened to members of the public and press.</p>	
7.	<p>BURIAL BOARD: Cllr Roberts reported that a meeting of the Burial Board had been held (7:00pm 19th January 2010) and a new schedule of charges had been proposed, which will be taken to the February PC Meeting for discussion and agreement.</p>	Clerk
8.	<p>TREES, GRASS AND HEDGES: a) Update on the Moat: Cllr Kohler reported that there was nothing further from English Heritage, despite a slot in early January being mentioned for the survey to take place. The Clerk to take the details from Cllr Kohler and chase progress and ask for a definite date.</p>	Clerk / Cllr Kohler
9.	<p>FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES: a) Minutes of Finance Meeting 5th January 2010</p> <p>Minutes of the meeting of Fowlmere Parish Council Finance and General Purposes Committee held at the Dorothy Pluck Room, St Mary's Church, Fowlmere, Tuesday 5th January 2010 at 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Present: Cllr D Woods (Chairman Finance), Cllr P Cook, Cllr P Flynn, Cllr W Kohler, Cllr O'Regan, Cllr N Schonken, Cllr D Roberts and Mrs J Wright (Clerk).</p> <p>1. Apologies for Absence: Cllr M Bates</p> <p>2. Minutes of the previous meeting / Matters Arising The minutes of the previous meeting had already been ratified at the November 2009 Parish Council Meeting. There were no matters arising, which would not be addressed in the agenda.</p> <p>3. Review of Income and Expenditure Councillor Woods reported that whilst the budget runs for another couple of months it is well on target with £4359 currently under-spent. There have been slight increases in a couple of budgeted items (Clerk's salary, insurance premium, play equipment repairs) but it balances out with areas which have not cost as much as expected. Cllr Woods added that if the Council need to pay up-front for the tree survey work,</p>	

	<p>there is the required funds to do so (£1250)</p> <p>4. Precept Cllr Woods was pleased to announce that the Council would be able to keep the precept as last year and talked the Councillors through the details. Cllr Kohler checked that money was included for the Bus Shelter project. Cllr Schonken asked if legal fees could be covered by paying a monthly insurance premium but this was not felt to be necessary. The Council agreed that a gate for the cemetery extension should be purchased.</p> <p>5. Trees and Grass Cllr Woods has received the quote from Hardy's for grass cutting for 2010/2011 which is acceptable. It was agreed that if they felt they needed to go over budget, they must check with the Council first.</p> <p>6. Future Projects Additional play equipment has been included as a future project and Cllr Woods has applied for funding which could see up to 25% of the cost reimbursed if the application is successful – this will be known in March.</p> <p>7. Other matters As it was agreed that a gate is needed for the cemetery extension, a quote had been received from Chris Wall for a suitable metal gate (£532.60) and it was agreed that he be asked to purchase and fit it as soon as possible, as vandals in the area are becoming a real problem. Cllr Woods to ask Chris Wall It was agreed that £200 be put aside for 2 new salt bins to be purchased – one at the end of the Butts by the school (by the new bench) and one at the mouth of Cassander Close. The Clerk to progress once Cllr Roberts has asked the resident at the end of Cassander Close for permission to site the bin. It was also agreed that there should be no expense associated with the moving of the web-site in-house.</p> <p>8. Date of next meeting – Tuesday 20th April 2010 The Meeting Closed at 7:50pm</p> <p>.....</p> <p>b) Precept Cllr Woods asked the Councillors for agreement on the 2010-2011 precept – all present agreed.</p> <p>Matters arising: Following damage to the new cemetery hedging from tractor work in the adjoining field, the Clerk to send a letter of complaint to Mr Martin Sheldrick at the Old Manor House.</p> <p>The Clerk to chase the order for the new salt bins. The existing bins have been filled up with grit.</p> <p>Bus Shelter – Cllr Kohler reported there is no progress to date and he will chase it up and report back at the next meeting.</p>	<p>Cllr Woods</p> <p>Cllr Roberts and Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Kohler</p>
10.	<p>CORRESPONDENCE: It was agreed that we were not in a financial position to support the Royston</p>	

