

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FOWLMERE PARISH COUNCIL HELD
IN THE SCHOOL ROOM, UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, CHAPEL LANE
15TH DECEMBER 2009 AT 7.30 PM**

PRESENT: Cllr D Roberts (Chairman), Cllr M Bates, Cllr P Cook, Cllr A Eades, Cllr P Flynn,
Cllr E O'Regan, Cllr D Woods, Mrs J Wright (Clerk)

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr T Stone, Mrs Jelley, Mr Lester, Mr Price, Mrs Wooldridge

		Actions
1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies were received from Cllr Kohler and Cllr Schonken	
2.	DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN AGENDA ITEMS: No items were declared	
3.	MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF 17TH NOVEMBER 2009: The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.	
4.	<p>MATTERS ARISING:</p> <p>10 – Finance - Website – An e-mail from Cllr Schonken was read out by Cllr Roberts concerning the taking in-house of the web-site. It should take 48 hours to take over and we can have interim measures if needed. The Clerk to thank Tony Peck for his support and to inform him that we will now transfer it all over. All Councillors were in agreement.</p> <p>11 – Correspondence – Representatives meeting – Cllr Schonken and Cllr O'Regan attended and gave us an update re concerns over budget cuts, maintenance cuts, managed council housing and a positive news about a third recycling bin. Cllr Roberts added that an extra bin for smaller properties is an issue and this scheme is very costly and £1.5million could perhaps be better spent.</p> <p>12 – Cllr Woods reported that Fowlmere Joinery have quoted for the damaged fire engine shed door. No new door is needed but it needs repairing and the skirting repaired with a lock with a key, not a padlock – the cost is £60. All councillors agreed to go ahead with these repairs. Cllr Woods to ask Fowlmere Joinery to undertake the work..</p> <p>11 – Correspondence - 1 Ryecroft Lane – Cllr Bates needs to contact the Land Registry as the documentation he has is not clear on this matter.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Woods</p> <p>Cllr Bates</p>
5.	<p>COUNTY COUNCIL AFFAIRS: <i>Cllr Tim Stone gave his report:</i></p> <p>“Guided Busway: <i>Newspaper reports tell us that the guided busway is not running to plan. In fact it's not running at all. I have been invited to join a committee to plot the way forward. The committee held its first meeting this week. It met in secret because of the contractual issues involved. Accepting the invitation was not altogether an easy decision because, being in the opposition, there is a good case for saying, “They got us into this mess so they can get us out of it.” We have no idea when the southern stretch of the guided busway will open.</i></p> <p>Hanley Grange: <i>Thanks to all those who participated in the Hanley Grange consultation. A Conservative County Councillor and I created something of a love-in at full council last Tuesday this week because he represents Mereham, where another large development has been proposed.</i></p>	

These are issues which cross political divides and do demonstrate that we can all work together very effectively. The County, with the support of the five district councils, has written to the East of England Assembly to say that Hanley Grange is not wanted. The County qualified it as “unsustainable and resource hungry.” We’ll see what effect that has, but there will be two more consultations next year just in case the message hasn’t got through.

I also wrote to the East of England Regional Assembly to complain about the difficulty people had had in getting onto the website. Their response says, “I am disappointed that the portal did not meet our expectations for all users in this instance, and we will be insisting that improvements are made to the system prior to any future use.” The Chairman of the Regional Planning Panel also assures us that the lessons learned in this consultation will be applied to the next consultation.

Community Transport Plan:

Another consultation which didn’t work as planned. Under the Local Strategic Partnership, the District Council has been the front runner in tying together how we deal with community transport for people without cars and inadequate public transport services. Their web-based consultation elicited 12 replies. I was at a meeting last week which went into a considerable amount of detail as to possible options. The District did say that they had contacted all parish councils on the subject and had received no responses. I suggested they might like to work through ACRE, CPALC and the Neighbourhood Panel process if they really wanted feedback.

Thriplow Tip:

Thriplow Household Recycling Centre modifications should be starting soon. The press office told me last week that they are putting together a press release saying how I welcome it. I do.

Road Noise Reduction:

The Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has designated Cambridgeshire a “noise generating authority” because it looks after roads. Roads carrying more than six million vehicles a year and where traffic noise is in excess of 76 decibels for 18% of the 18 hour working day are considered as major roads. The A505 is one such road. The county is huffing and puffing about the “substantial additional financial implications of undertaking noise alleviation measures.” As it’s the county’s goal to make Cambridgeshire a place where people want to live, it seems only reasonable to ensure we have a quiet environment. As we know, when it comes to highway improvements the answer is all too often, “We can’t afford it.” An interesting challenge.

School transport:

Students attending Hills Road and Long Road Sixth Form Colleges are given help with transport costs. For residents of Fowlmere this means a ticket on the 31 bus, which at present costs £555 a year. A cheaper alternative could be available using Foxton station. The trouble is that the rail companies don’t advertise their fare structures in advance, so the County can’t print booklets giving comprehensive information. Susan van de Ven, county councillor for Melbourn, has been engaged in a campaign to get the County to promote the rail alternative. This is even more crucial for residents of Meldreth and Melbourn because the rail timetable is much more frequent and the station is much more convenient. She has also been campaigning for station improvements.

We have had a couple of meetings in the past week: first with the County’s Head of Passenger Transport and then yesterday with two directors of First Capital Connect and a County team led by the County’s Head of Transport Development. First Capital Connect have gone away to see if they can do as the bus companies do, namely commit now to a student fare structure for the whole of the academic year beginning September 2010. That will allow the County to offer costed alternatives. The preferred option will be the cheapest because it

	<p><i>costs the council taxpayer less, but at least there will be a properly advertised alternative.</i></p> <p>Post Office: <i>Since the Post Office closed in August there has been furious work trying to re-establish a presence, not only for Fowlmere residents but also for Thriplow. When Thriplow Post Office was closed last year the Post Office authorities pointed to Fowlmere as a viable alternative. As we said at the time it wasn't and isn't but that's a different matter. Plans are now well advanced to provide Post Office services from the Queen's Head from 10.00 to 12.00 every day from Monday to Friday. Because you can't move these days without a consultation, there will be one which starts next week and goes on for 14 weeks. It will take four weeks to set up the equipment, do the training and so on so a tentative target date for reopening is the end of March 2010. Let's hope all goes according to plan."</i></p> <p>Cllr Roberts reported on the meeting with the Post Office representative. The PO were very keen to find another place to run a service from and we were asked to give an idea of central locations and the Queen's Head was the first choice, as it has good security from other properties being close by and it's really good that it is every day. The service will be managed by Foxton but run by the Queen's Head which was felt is very public spirited of them.</p> <p>Salt bins – It was confirmed that Ryecroft Lane has very hard salt and a lot of debris in it, Savile Way is clean but empty and the Butts probably just needs re-filling. Cllr Roberts thought it might be a good idea to purchase an additional bin for Ryecroft Lane but Cllr Woods said we've always managed with what we have in the past. Cllr Bates and Cllr Woods to take an additional look at the Ryecroft Lane bin before committing to spending £100. Clerk to ask for Savile Way and the Butts to be refilled.</p> <p>Cassander Close – Cllr Stone attended the meeting with Mike Cooper from Highways. The county is not willing to undertake any additional work but bad design has led to a major puddle at the mouth of the road. Changing the camber of the road is not possible but it will need an additional gulley but the run-off is not ascertained. County will only undertake any work as and when the road has been completed.</p> <p>Cllr Stone will unfortunately be unable to attend the January 2010 meeting but Cllr Roberts thanked him for all his help and support during the past year.</p>	<p>Cllr Bates & Cllr Woods Clerk</p>
6.	<p>PLANNING COMMITTEE:</p> <p>MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOWLMERE PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD IN THE DOROTHY PLUCK ROOM, ST MARY'S CHURCH, ON 1ST DECEMBER 2009 AT 7.30PM</p> <p>PRESENT: Cllr D Roberts (Chair), Cllr A Eades, Cllr P Flynn, Cllr, E O'Regan, Cllr N Schonken, Cllr D Woods and Mrs J Wright (Clerk)</p> <p>APOLOGIES: Cllr M Bates and Cllr W Kohler.</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/1056/09/F – Permission Granted Field Shelter / Hay Store Land to the East of RSPB Wildlife Reserve, Mill Road, Fowlmere Dr M Bruggemann 	

	<p>The Parish Council noted the decision</p> <p>3. S/1142/09F – Permission Granted Extension 20 Chapel Lane, Fowlmere Dr Bobby Agrawal The Parish Council noted the decision</p> <p>4. APP/W0530/D/09/2112377 or S/0773/09/F – Appeal Dismissed Extension 3 Cambridge Road, Fowlmere Mr & Mrs Easto The Parish Council noted the appeal decision</p> <p>5. S/1627/09/F Two Portakabins Ion Science Ltd, The Way Ion Science The Parish Council have no objections as it will not impact on any neighbouring properties and will not cause any undue traffic in the lane. The Parish Council would recommend approval.</p> <p>1. Other Matters and Updates The Clerk reported that the signs at the cemetery had once again been ripped up and dumped. They have been found and are being re-set once again in rapid-setting concrete. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7:45pm</p> <p>It was agreed that these minutes are a true and accurate record.</p>	
	<p>The Meeting is then usually opened to members of the public and press but this was deferred until after item 9.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>BURIAL BOARD: A burial was held for Mrs Pile in November and a headstone erected for Dorothy May Jones.</p> <p>Cllr Roberts reported on the ‘Cemetery Vandal’ who has now ripped the cemetery extension signs out for the third time. Chris Wall has once again kindly attended to their re-fixing. Cllr Roberts requested a notice be put up on cemetery shed and notice boards stating the use of the land, as an extension to the cemetery, for the use of burials.</p> <p>The issue arose over whether we should increase our cemetery fees. This is because of newly increased rates in neighbouring areas. Cllr Roberts was concerned we may have undertakers reporting that Fowlmere may be a cheaper alternative. A meeting of the Burial Board sub-committee to be held soon to discuss. Cllr Eades to take Cllr Bates place if he is absent, and hold a meeting in the New Year – before the January PC meeting. The Clerk to thank Chris for his continued help.</p> <p>The hedging is now all complete on the new cemetery land and the Council’s thanks Chris Wall for his hard work.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>

9.	<p>TREES, GRASS AND HEDGES: a) Update on the Moat: Cllr Bates reported that a Section 17 agreement had been entered into. The Council has opted to enter into the agreement and has placed the order to commence the survey in the new year. Cllr Bates has spoken to Mrs Thornton and Mr Lester, because he needs contact details of all residents for when the survey takes place. The Surveyor will need a personal indication from the residents of which trees appear to need work. The PC is initially paying for the survey (£1250, and the results are valid for 5 years) – we have been assured that the PC should get the refunded funding quickly and that has been guaranteed. The report will address H&S, safety of adjacent properties, long term management and bio-diversity etc.</p> <p>Cllr Bates will collate all the necessary information and will pass it on to Cllr Kohler when he is on holiday.</p> <p>The meeting was then opened to members of the public and press:</p> <p>Mr Lester thanked the Council for the progress and checked that by paying for the survey it will that then produce an action plan? Cllr Bates confirmed that was the case. Several residents also expressed concern that the survey should also include looking at trees which are covering street lights etc. Again Cllr Bates confirmed this would be the case.</p>	
10.	<p>FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES: Cllr Woods reported on community grants which the Council would be eligible for and the best one is a community facilities grant for play equipment – the Council would get up to 25% of the costs which is a good saving towards the already budgeted for swings. The Council were in agreement to progress, especially as the number of swings is currently not sufficient for the number of children using them.</p> <p>Cllr Eades suggested the possibility of gates for the cemetery extension, possibly a single steel bar, given the recent vandalism? He agreed to look into costs to add into the next precept.</p>	Cllr Eades
11.	<p>CORRESPONDENCE: Action List – Ask Cllr Kohler for update on the Bus Shelter project. Clerk to report back to Andrew Lansley about youth provision in Fowlmere. Clerk to further look at the revised Standards for England to determine circulation. Clerk to reply back to resident Mike Sutherland about the possibility of an additional dog waste bin near to Long Lane – Clerk to find out costs. Clerk to ask Chris Wall to quote for removing and replacing the leaning tree near to Champions Close, and to keep an eye on it at present. Clerk to request that Chris Wall does the undercutting of the trees in Savile Way this winter, before the next financial year. Clerk to put up a reminder notice about residents letting their dogs foul the footpath as this is becoming an issue, especially near to the school.</p>	Cllr Kohler Clerk Clerk Clerk Clerk Clerk Clerk
12.	<p>OTHER MATTERS: a) Village Hall. Cllr Roberts opened the debate by mentioning that we have had problems in the past with late requests for money so we asked for any requests to be in writing, in good time. Cllr Roberts reported how the Village Hall is currently suffering with financial problems and has requested assistance with the cost of new cameras (£2000) and also £5000 towards running costs. Cllr Woods replied that we do not have any spare money for the cameras, we have budgeted £850 for a new video recorder only.</p>	

	<p>The Council agreed that they could not get into a situation where they were supporting a venue with revenue funding and the Clerk to report this to the Village Hall. There was felt to be some misunderstanding about the level of support that other Parish Councils were said to support their Village Halls and it was suggested that the Chair and Secretary from the Village Hall be invited to the next PC Meeting so all could discuss other possible ways forward, ie making physical changes to the building (first item on agenda).</p> <p>Cllr Woods reported this level of support would mean a 19.7% increase in the precept for local residents which is simply not possible.</p>	Clerk
13.	<p>CONFIRM DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS: The date of the next meeting is the Finance Meeting at 7:30pm on Tuesday 5th January 2010 in the Dorothy Pluck Room, St Mary's. The next Parish Council meeting is Tuesday 19th January 2010 at the Chapel, Chapel Lane.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Meeting closed at 9:10pm</p>	