

MINUTES OF THE **MEETING OF FOWLMERE PARISH COUNCIL** HELD
IN THE SCHOOL ROOM, UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, CHAPEL LANE
17TH DECEMBER 2013 AT 7.30 PM

PRESENT: Cllr D Roberts (Chairman), Cllr J Bottrill, Cllr P Flynn, Cllr L Wragg and Mrs J Wright (Clerk)

IN ATTENDANCE: Dr Howe, Mr Neale, Cllr Topping

		Actions
1.	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies were received from Cllr T Bearpark, Cllr E O'Regan, Cllr J Peacock, Cllr M Sunderland and Cllr N Webb,</p>	
2.	<p>DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN AGENDA ITEMS: No items were declared.</p>	
3.	<p>MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF 19TH NOVEMBER 2013: The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.</p>	
4.	<p>MATTERS ARISING: There were no matters arising not on the agenda.</p>	
5.	<p>COUNTY COUNCIL AFFAIRS: Cllr Topping attended the meeting and gave the following report:</p> <p><i>"Cycleway - I met with the County Council Cycleways Manager over the plans to build cycleways along the A505 connecting Whittlesford Rail station to the Abingtons. I have also been emailed by an Essex County Councillor about how to link Hinxtton to Gt Chesterford by cycleway. There is a lot of interest in connecting all the villages in the far south with north Essex in terms of cycleways. I am going to have a meeting with the cycle team again and also the portfolio holder for transport and will raise this with him too. I don't know if there are cycleways Fowlmere is interested in, such as to Foxton rail station?"</i></p> <p><i>Solar Farm at Thriplow. This is a bid for a 35 hectare solar farm. The bid is currently withdrawn but is due to be re-presented in January. There is an expectation that changes to what sort of agricultural land can be used for solar farms will reduce the number of bids coming forward.</i></p> <p><i>The government has said it will not require the A14 to be a toll road which is good news. Due to start in 2016.</i></p> <p><i>The Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) plant at AmeyCespa's Waterbeach site is once again processing all of the county's household waste. The plant began to process waste earlier this autumn, with the tonnage fed to the facility gradually increasing to ensure that it is operating as it should.</i></p> <p><i>The county council is now moving back to a committee system to replace the Cabinet style of recent years. This should not have an impact on the relationship with the parishes. Of more impact will be the continuing pressure on budgets and front line services.</i></p>	

	<p><i>Street lighting – some villages in the county have expressed dissatisfaction with the repair service provided by Balfour Beattie for street lights. So a need to monitor any repairs in the village and take action quickly if there are any problems.</i></p> <p><i>I have supplied the contact details of the police re traffic surveys. The county council are indicating that they would not support 20mph zones that covered a whole or a substantial part of a village.</i></p> <p><i>I hope to have a discussion on Weds with the local manager of childrens services to understand better the changes to services being proposed. I will report next time."</i></p> <p>Cllr Wragg said that a safe cycle route to Foxton would be of great interest to Fowlmere.</p> <p>Cllr Topping - there is nothing further on Dottrill Hall but he is at CCC tomorrow.</p>	
6.	<p>TRAFFIC IN FOWLMERE:</p> <p>The Clerk updated on the traffic application and said it had been submitted for consideration at CCC. The PC have to contribute 10% of the total cost (max £1000). All agreed that this should be progressed with the budget coming from reserves if necessary but there should be residue in this year's budget, following plot sales at the cemetery. Proposed by Cllr Bottrill and seconded by Cllr Wragg, all agreed.</p> <p>Cllr Roberts had found out that a speeding survey had been undertaken in the middle of last week and she asked the Police if it had been useful. One person would be getting a letter but generally speeding wasn't an issue but it was undertaken in the middle of the village on a bend at 11:00am on a weekday....</p> <p>Dr Howe attended the meeting and was asked to comment at this stage. He reiterated his points about the traffic / speeding problems in the village for the sake of Cllr Topping who was not present at the original meeting. He would like to see a better policy to reduce speed and also a weight restriction. The tunnel has suffered a collapse in the past and may do so again if the weight of traffic continues to increase.</p> <p>Cllr Wragg asked Cllr Topping if a weight restriction would be an effective way of reducing the larger lorries going through the village as it needs managing and enforcing (or could the road be narrowed with chicanes)? Cllr Bottrill said this would impinge on the emergency services and the road is already too narrow. Cllr Topping recommended talking to David Lines for the best way forward. Cllr Roberts suggested he is invited in the new year (February meeting). Dr Howe asked what is the reason for 20mph sections not being a valid solution? Cllr Topping asked for the reason at County level and he hasn't yet received a reply.</p>	
7.	<p>UPDATE ON THE VILLAGE HALL</p> <p>Cllr Roberts reported that the letter sent by the Trustees of the VH to the Social Club was not acknowledged or acted upon. More money became owed (roughly £3000) and at the last meeting of the VH Committee, it was agreed that the PC could support legal representation, up to an amount of £200. A formal closure letter has now been sent by various means and it is believed that the Social Club has now closed (the date was set as 19th December 2013). The PC took advice from CAPALC as to how much money could be given towards the legal process and it was suggested that the PC should not be further involved and no further</p>	

	<p>financial responsibility is felt to be due. There are grants which could be applied for, for community purposes, if the building is to be used for another use. The Chairman for the VH has done a very conscientious job and he is owed a great debt of gratitude.</p>	
8.	<p>PLANNING COMMITTEE: A) PLANNING MINUTES FROM 19TH NOVEMBER 2013:</p> <p>MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOWLMERE PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD IN THE DOROTHY PLUCK ROOM, ST MARY'S CHURCH, FOWLMERE ON TUESDAY 19TH NOVEMBER 2013 AT 7:20PM</p> <p>PRESENT: Cllr D Roberts (Chairman), Cllr T Bearpark, Cllr J Bottrill, J Peacock, Cllr M Sunderland, Cllr I Wragg and Mrs J Wright (Clerk)</p> <p>APOLOGIES: There were apologies from Cllr P Flynn, Cllr E O'Regan, Cllr N Webb</p> <p>IN ATTENDANCE: Mr and Mrs Nolasco, Mr Teasdale, Mr T Neal and Mr S Lester attended the meeting.</p> <p>1. Declarations of interest (if any) Cllr Roberts declared that if an application is later placed before South Cambridgeshire District Council she will approach any new information afresh. Also, because Cllr Roberts is a District Cllr at SCDC, the same applies and she will look at any application, which goes to SCDC, afresh.</p> <p>2. S/1920/13/FL Single Storey Front Extension Lower Farm, Long Lane, Fowlmere, Royston, Cambridgeshire, SG8 7TG Mr Steve Lovatt</p> <p>Cllr Roberts lives quite close by, but cannot see the property and therefore has no interest to declare.</p> <p>The Parish Council in a majority, recommend approval. It is a single story and will not impose on neighbouring properties.</p> <p>3. C/11/40/029 Application to undertake work on trees situated within a Conservation Area Glebe Cottage, Rectory Lane, Fowlmere Mrs Bradshaw</p> <p>The PC has no objections, as long as the Tree Officer at SCDC is in agreement.</p> <p>4. S/2030/13/FL Single storey rear extension 10 Champions Close, Fowlmere, Royston, Cambridgeshire, SG8 7TR Mr G Titmus</p> <p>The Parish Council noted the decision.</p>	

	<p>5. Update on the Ion Science Application. Cllr Roberts thanked Cllr Bearpark for speaking on behalf of the PC and for Cllr Peacock, Cllr Bottrill and Mrs Roskilly for attending the planning meeting at SCDC as well. The application has been refused on planning policy grounds but the Clerk has not yet received any confirmation from SCDC yet. Clerk to chase the paperwork.</p> <p>6. Other Matters and Updates Other Matters and Updates <i>(for information only)</i></p> <p>Nothing has been received regarding the Deans Farm planning application, so again the Clerk to chase.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 7:30pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*****</p> <p>The minutes were agreed and signed.</p> <p>The Meeting was then opened to members of the public.</p> <p>Mr Neal would like to comment on the Royston Weekly and asked Cllr Roberts about the name titles she used, which he says implies that the PC support Cllr Roberts views. Mr Neal also asked if a line in a letter Cllr Roberts wrote to the local paper could be construed as bullying. Cllr Roberts denied this and suggested the conversation was covering items which are now closed and dealt with previously. Mr Neal also had a query about the Thriplow Triangle - he believed that mortgage rates for the part buy units would be lower than the actual affordable housing rental on the purely rental units. Cllr Wragg said this was highly unlikely and asked him for figures to support this. Mr Neal questioned the Ion Science application and Cllr Roberts reiterated the process that had taken place. Cllr Roberts asked Mr Neal to speak about something current, as opposed to going over items which have been passed and agreed.</p>	
9.	<p>BURIAL BOARD:. A) BADGERS Cllr Roberts explained that the PC had been contacted by a funeral web-site regarding the policy the PC has about not allowing wicker burials (this is because 10 years ago a fresh burial with a natural coffin was disturbed by, it seemed at the time, badgers. The grave was then lined with concrete and the problem stopped immediately).</p> <p>The Clerk to respond by saying that the Burial Board will reconsider a change of wording, on the understanding that a concrete cover will be required or there is an indemnity to say the PC is not responsible for any remedial work etc. It was also suggested that Roger Fowle (a local wicker coffin maker) is asked to come and talk to the next Burial Board about natural coffins.</p> <p>It should be stressed that in ten years, the PC has never been approached by a member of the public wanting a wicker coffin and being refused.</p> <p>B) CEMETERY CHAPEL The Chapel is looking very tidy, following several members of the PC cleaning it. Cllr Bottrill also oiled the teak furniture. The Clerk to bring prices to the January meeting for the proposed cupboards in the Chapel.</p>	Clerk

	<p>Clerk to ask Dave Salmons about stopping water coming in through the door and a door mat was needed both inside and outside.</p> <p>Cllr Roberts reported that spoil had been left at the cemetery and Cllr Bottrill agreed to take some photos to support the current situation and then the PC will closely monitor it. A standard letter should be used - Clerk to revise and prepare for the next meeting.</p> <p>There is to be a burial on 19th for Mr Barnes.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
10.	<p>TREES, GRASS AND HEDGES: Thanks to Cllr Wragg and Phil Ricketts for cleaning up the protected verge arisings, where the orchids grow, for about 100m. The Clerk to thank Mr Ricketts.</p> <p>Cllr Roberts to let SCDC know about the fly-tipped sofa on the road towards the A505.</p> <p>Cllr Bottrill reported that work has been undertaken along the side of Jacksons Way - this wasn't PC work but the pathway has been cleared very well.</p> <p>Re the Moat, it was agreed to ask David Kenney to attend the next meeting because it may be that 100% of the funding is available for remedial tree work. Clerk to progress.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Roberts</p> <p>Clerk</p>
11.	<p>FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES:</p> <p>A) MILESTONES The Clerk explained that it was suggested the stones are washed with cold soapy water and it was agreed it was a job for a sunny day.</p> <p>B) BUS QUESTIONNAIRE A questionnaire has been produced which the Cllr's will deliver. The Clerk to circulate in the New Year.</p>	<p>All</p>
12.	<p>CORRESPONDENCE The correspondence list was noted.</p> <p>Community Awards asking for people to be put forward. All ideas to the Clerk</p> <p>The Wallington Brook has now been cleared Clerk to thank Pat Matthews. CCC have not done the Chapel Lane - Clerk to let Cllr Topping know that it is a major risk factor.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>Clerk</p>
13.	<p>ACTION LIST UPDATE: The action list was updated accordingly.</p> <p>The fence has been removed from the garden in Chapel Lane which was leaning against the fence in the alleyway.</p> <p>The Clerk had been approached by the Community Chest who would be happy to pay for a new pump handle but would like to see the pump shed open more. The PC are happy to see it being used but the metal might be a risk factor for burglary. Perhaps it could be open during the day at the weekend as a compromise? The Clerk to speak with Chris Wall and thank them for their kind offer.</p> <p>The village help leaflet is progressing with Cllr Peacock.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
14.	<p>OTHER MATTERS: Cllr Roberts reported that there have been instances of items being stolen from the church and locally in the village. They were reported to the police and a man had been seen taking a bike with panniers into the church. Thriplow Church has also reported similar activities with a</p>	

	<p>man meeting the same description. Wood and tools have also been stolen from private land in the village. A person has also been seen to roam at very unsociable hours in the village, again of the same description. The Police are involved but Cllr Roberts is very concerned about this individual. Another resident has reported items missing and the Clerk is to check if this resident has reported this to the Police as well. The public in the village need to be aware and be urged to report this to the Police - the police could do this via their e-cops message. A seasonal warning on the bus questionnaire letter is a way to make the public more aware?</p> <p>The date of the next PC meeting is Tuesday 21st January 2014 at 7:30pm at the Chapel.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 9:40pm</p>	(Clerk)
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