

MINUTES OF THE **MEETING OF FOWLMERE PARISH COUNCIL** HELD  
IN THE SCHOOL ROOM, UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, CHAPEL LANE  
**18TH MARCH 2014 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 and Mrs J Wright (Clerk)

IN ATTENDANCE: Dr Howe, Cllr Topping, Mrs Stekly

		<b>Actions</b>
1.	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:</b> There were no apologies	
2.	<b>DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN AGENDA ITEMS:</b> No items were declared.	
3.	<b>MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF 18TH FEBRUARY 2014:</b> The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.	
4.	<b>MATTERS ARISING:</b> The dog bins are in stock at SCDC but they are awaiting for the posts to fix them to.	
5.	<p><b>COUNTY COUNCIL AFFAIRS:</b> Cllr Topping attended the meeting but did not e-mail a report to accompany the meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Roberts will take a look at Dottrell Hall and report back to Cllr Topping as to if there is any progress on the removal of the waste.</p> <p>The Clerk mentioned the Cereals event in June and Cllr Topping asked for a copy of the documentation so the route could be assessed and there are concerns over the tunnel in the High Street.</p> <p>Regarding the 31 bus, Cllr Bottrill updated the PC on the recent meeting and said there were concerns that concessions on the P&amp;R are possibly coming to an end, and parking fees are to be introduced - Cllr Topping to look into this.</p> <p>The pavement between the pavement and the telephone box has been re-surfaced very well - Cllr Topping to pass this on.</p> <p>Ref the traffic bid..... Cllr Topping suggested talking to CCC about the likelihood of having more money available and what <i>they</i> would support. The Clerk to make contact.</p> <p>Cllr Wragg queried about the 'buffer-zone' where the police won't/can't undertake speed checks and moving the 30mph is doing the very bare minimum to protect people and he feels that a speed camera should be allowed to be set up directly at the start of a visible change of speed limit.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Cllr Roberts</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Cllr Topping</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Cllr Topping</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Clerk</p>
6.	<p><b>UPDATE ON THE VILLAGE HALL</b> The minutes of the special meeting regarding the VH are below:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MINUTES OF THE <b>MEETING OF FOWLMERE PARISH COUNCIL</b> HELD IN THE SCHOOL ROOM, UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, CHAPEL LANE <b>11TH MARCH 2014 AT 7.30 PM</b></p> <p>PRESENT: Cllr D Roberts (Chairman), Cllr J Bottrill, Cllr E O'Regan, Cllr J Peacock and</p>	

Mrs J Wright (Clerk)

IN ATTENDANCE: There was no one in attendance

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Apologies were received from Cllr T Bearpark, Cllr P Flynn, Cllr M Sunderland and Cllr Wragg

**2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN AGENDA ITEMS:**

No items were declared.

**3. VILLAGE HALL UPDATE:**

Cllr Roberts explained some of the background to the situation with the Village Hall (VH) and has attended their last 3 meetings. The Social Club has now ceased, the PC having contributed to the associated legal costs in finalising its closure, due to substantial money owed. Cllr Roberts thanked Cllr Peacock and Cllr E O'Regan for coming to the last VH meeting too as the atmosphere within the meeting as a whole was difficult. Cllr Roberts is concerned that the situation does not seem to have moved on.

There is a large debt owed and the VH Committee either have to accept that it will not be voluntarily paid, in which case take it to the small claims court but that may involve action against local people, which they seem unwilling to do and the alternative is to write the debt off and move forward (the Inland Revenue will claim money before the VH anyway and it will need to be explained to the Charity Commission.) Cllr Peacock asked if the VH or even the PC could be liable for unpaid debts? Cllr Roberts would think not but has volunteered to check this at the Citizen's Advice Bureau.

Cllr Roberts has suggested the debt is written off. Cllr Roberts is very concerned about being involved as a PC representative as it is so bogged down in local politics and isn't approached with a business perspective to result in a viable business in place.

There was a bid submitted by the Cricket Club which was submitted quite late before the VH meeting which hasn't been shared, despite Cllr O'Regan asking for it at the meeting and Mr Bates agreeing at the meeting, but refusing at a later date. The PC feel it is very important that this and any similar bids are viewed and given due consideration.

Cllr Peacock said that the PC need to keep involved as to whatever the vacant part of the building turns into and a general hub / community facility with a meeting room, cafe, library etc would be a good solution?

The vacant area will need some money spent on it but generally a good clean would make a huge difference.

The VH need to take some outside independent advice as to what would be viable from a business / community point of view, as whatever the most voted for solution on the village questionnaire may not be a viable option. There are many people on the VH Committee who are too involved in the process to view it independently and outside support in this matter should be sought. It is also imperative that all members of the VH Committee now confirm their agreement to work to a plan as a corporate body rather than as representatives of user groups with their own agendas. A small sub-committee of the VH Committee could be ideally suited to take this forward, with the outside business support in place.

The PC needs to look at the constitution - Clerk to seek it out via the Solicitor.

There is another aspect to this which is that the PC will be receiving some Section 106 money in the near future, an element of which could be used to support the development of the vacant building. This would need to be done with the clear understanding on conditions of

	<p>spend etc, making sure it supports a proposed viable and feasible business plan, making it a separate entity to the VH under the heading of 'off-site provision of community facility space.'</p> <p>The way forward is to view the paperwork if possible from the Solicitors and communicate the concerns to the VH Committee, in order to make swift progress to a successful conclusion for the vacant area at the VH.</p> <p><b>4. OTHER MATTERS:</b>  The date of the next PC meeting is Tuesday 18th March 2014 at 7:30pm at the Chapel.  The meeting closed at 8:20pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*****</p> <p>Further discussion ensued regarding the VH, reiterating the points discussed.</p> <p>Cllr Peacock suggested approaching an Estate Agents for advice on the commercial use of the building. There might be grant funding available.</p> <p>The PC will revisit this once the deeds have been retrieved from the Solicitors. The PC will then further reconvene. There is a huge amount of credit to be given to the existing VH Committee and a letter needs to be written with details of the PC input / way forward.</p> <p>The Clerk updated the PC that she had had a call from the PO who are still keen on a service in the village and Cllr Sunderland was asked to get an update from the Church. Cllr Sunderland asked what specific things the PC could fund and Cllr Wragg has sourced a new branch of grant funding but they will need a business plan in place, following legal advice as a starting point.</p>	
7.	<p><b>PLANNING COMMITTEE:</b>  <b>A) PLANNING MINUTES FROM 18TH FEBRUARY 2014:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOWLMERE PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD IN THE SCHOOL ROOM, UNITED REFORM CHURCH, CHAPEL LANE, FOWLMERE ON TUESDAY 18TH FEBRUARY 2014 AT 7:30PM</b></p> <p>PRESENT: Cllr D Roberts (Chairman), Cllr T Bearpark, Cllr J Bottrill, Cllr P Flynn, Cllr J Peacock, Cllr L Wragg and Mrs J Wright (Clerk)</p> <p>APOLOGIES: There were apologies from Cllr E O'Regan and Cllr Sunderland</p> <p>IN ATTENDANCE: There was no one in attendance.</p> <p><b>1. Declarations of interest (if any)</b>  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><b>2. S/2296/13/FL - Amended Plans</b>  Erection of Dwelling following demolition of existing outbuildings  <b>Charity Hall, Long Lane, Fowlmere, SG8 7TA</b>  <b>Mr Timothy Kenworthy, Heathland Development Ltd</b></p>	

The Parish Council are pleased to see that their recommendation for the height of the building has been taken into consideration and the PC also looks to the Tree Officer at SCDC to support the tree work.

3. S/2548/13/FL & 2548/13/FL - For Information Only - Permission Granted  
Extension to form a new teaching area  
**Fowlmere School, Butts Lane, Fowlmere, SG8 7SL**  
**Fowlmere Primary School**

The Parish Council noted the decision and acknowledged that there had been an amendment (without comment required) according to the materials used to be changed.

4. S/1966/13/FL - For Information Only - Permission Refused  
Removal of condition 4 on planning permission number S/2521/11 restricting retail use to allow unrestricted retail use.  
**Deans Farm, Long Lane, Fowlmere**  
**Mr and Mrs T Deans**

The Parish Council noted the decision

**5. Other Matters and Updates**

Other Matters and Updates (*for information only*)

The Clerk reported she had been contacted by a family looking to change the details on an unidentified piece of land towards the rear of Chapel Lane (following a bereavement), which the family hadn't been able to successfully identify. The PC couldn't add anything to this and the Clerk to go back to the family.

The meeting closed at 7:45pm

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The minutes were agreed and signed.

There is no footpath yet at the TT, and the Clerk updated the PC on the details of the hedges into Thriplow Road. Cllr Wragg said the gaps in the hedge appear car-sized ie too big. SCDC need to be advised and the gaps need to be closed. The Clerk to contact Paul Sexton on SCDC about both these points.

**The Meeting was then opened to members of the public.**

Cathy Stekly, from Oakwood in the village attended the meeting and reiterated that the PC needs to move the VH forward as the current committee has too many people at present.

Dr Howe is concerned momentum is not lost regarding traffic and he has concerns regarding the Cereals event in June as well. The Cereals event is a purely commercial event, perhaps cones could be used to help people not being directed down the wrong road etc.

Clerk

8.	<p><b>BURIAL BOARD:</b>  <b>A) CHANGE TO WORDING OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS</b>  The changes in wording were agreed by all regarding natural burials. Funeral Directors to sign a copy of the terms and conditions.</p>	
9.	<p><b>TREES, GRASS AND HEDGES:</b>  <b>A) THE MOAT</b>  Two quotes have been received for the emergency work in the Moat - £4200 plus VAT and £7200 plus VAT. The wood could then be sold for some revenue. The Clerk to chase the last quote.</p> <p>The Clerk needs confirmation from the PC about signing the agreement with NE which will not happen until the PC knows the level of funding in 2014-15. Clerk to ask Natural England.</p> <p>Cllr Bottrill offered to remove a hanging branch in the trees in Dovehouse Close.</p> <p><b>B) PROTECTED VERGES</b>  In response to the request from SCDC, the Clerk to reply to say that the PC would like another year to judge the results of getting the verges professionally cut but would reserve the right to come back to the SCDC arrangement next year if necessary.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Bottrill</p> <p>Clerk</p>
10.	<p><b>FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES:</b>  <b>B) TRAFFIC IN FOWLMERE</b>  This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.</p> <p>Cllr O'Regan mentioned that Barley have Police Speed Watch Signs in their village and the Clerk could try to obtain some for Fowlmere.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
11.	<p><b>CORRESPONDENCE</b>  The correspondence list was noted</p> <p>Cllr Roberts updated that the whole site at Crow's Parlour has been sold. Cllr Roberts asked SCDC Planning and Conservation Officers to attend and assess the situation. An overlooking resident said the ditch had been filled in and it's now partially being restored. Work has now stopped.</p> <p>The Clerk to officially advertise the Cllr vacancy with a deadline of the end of April. All agreed. The Clerk reported she had had an interested party contact her and would advise him of the deadline.</p> <p>The WW1 commemoration needs to be 'suitable' and not at all a celebration. It was suggested inviting the school children to present a wreath at the War Memorial. Cllr Bottrill reminded the PC that we might link this to an open morning at the Cemetery, showing the WW1 war grave. The Clerk to contact the school.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
12.	<p><b>ACTION LIST UPDATE:</b>  The action list was updated accordingly.</p> <p>There were some planting improvements to be made in Savile Way - the Clerk to speak to Lamorna Thomas about a plan.</p> <p>It was agreed to invite Shirley Wittering to the next meeting to talk about progressing the Village map.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
13.	<p><b>OTHER MATTERS:</b>  The date of the next PC meeting is Tuesday 15th April 2014 at 7:30pm at the Chapel.</p>	

	<p>Cllr Flynn asked about the pathway from Jackson's Way to High Street which need reporting on the CCC web-site - Clerk to check..</p> <p>Cllr Peacock asked about if a scheme exists for trimming hedges - SCDC would do that for a Council property and Cllr peacock to see if they're a SCDC resident.</p> <p>Cllr Wragg attended the Duxford meeting. Numbers are down because it had to close due to damage from bad weather.</p> <p>Cllr Bearpark explained a few changes re British Legion as he is the only rep in Fowlmere.</p> <p>Cllr Wragg and Cllr Roberts signed the agreements re Section 106 money.</p> <p>Cllr Roberts reminded residents that sheds and outdoor buildings etc need to be locked up as there have been some recent robberies.</p> <p>Clerk to ask for feedback on Operation Oaklands from the Police where they focussed on Fowlmere as one of the first villages in the programme.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 9:30pm</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Peacock</p> <p>Clerk</p>
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